

MINUTES – APPROVED
September 16, 2021

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

August 19, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 207, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Microsoft Teams Meeting (916) 318-9542, Conference ID 411 008 259#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Absent: Catherine Willis

1. Public Comments

- Richard Gallo, Ambassador with Access CA – checking in to see the status of everything. Joins meetings for the work he is doing on behalf of Access CA.
- Ludmila Boiko – shared personal story.
- Carol DeCarvalho – involved with NAMI Santa Clara. Support group leader for family members who have loved ones incarcerated or in the court system. Her passion is how to keep loved ones out of jail and incarceration through diversion and give families support. Recommends a training series through NAMI titled “Help Not Handcuffs.” It looks at different models of what communities are doing to make our system better so we can intervene before a crisis.

2. Board Member Announcements

- New Board Member for District 1 – Laura Chatham
- September meeting will be run by Co-chair Erika Miranda-Bartlett

3. Approved meeting minutes for July 15, 2021.

Motion by Antonio Rivas to approve July 15, 2021 MHAB minutes. Second by Valerie Webb.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSTAIN: Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Laura Chatham

ABSENT: Catherine Willis

4. Secretary’s Report

- One Board member needs to complete the Ethics training.
- Reminder from last retreat that the Board agreed to attend at least two trainings per year.
- All members are good on attendance. Agreed that four excused or unexcused absences in a year is excessive. Two unexcused absences in a row without formal notice is grounds for separation from the Board.

5. Standing Board of Supervisors (BOS) Report, Supervisor Greg Caput

- County requiring individuals to wear mask indoors unless eating.
- Veterans Building in Watsonville – building will be closed for the homeless effective tomorrow. All individuals offered vouchers to stay at Roadway Inn in Watsonville.
- Moving forward with negotiations on purchasing 38 acres of park land in South County, close to fairgrounds. First park purchase for South County in the last 40 years. More information at the next MHAB meeting.
- Pajaro River Flood Control Project - goal is to have 100-year flood protection for people in the flood zone in South County. The support needed is the 10% that is supposed to

be locally funded, about \$20 million for Santa Cruz County, and \$20 million for Monterey County. If the 10% can be lowered, then that would lower the assessment on each property owner. Vote will be held June 2022.

6. Standing Reports

- a. MHSA Advisory Committee (Members: Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Antonio Rivas)
 - No report.
- b. Site Visit Committee – (Members: Serg Kagno, Hugh McCormick, Valerie Webb)
 - No report.
- c. SUDSC/MHAB Merger Committee (Members: Xaloc Cabanes, Jennifer Wells Kaupp)
 - Requesting new SUDS Director, Anthony Jordan to present and then move forward with the merger.
- d. Budget Committee (Member: Antonio Rivas)
 - No report.
- e. Community Engagement Committee – (Members: Valerie Webb, Catherine Willis, Laura Chatham)
 - No report.
- f. Law Enforcement and Mental Health Committee (Members: Hugh McCormick, Serg Kagno, Catherine Willis, Jennifer Wells Kaupp)
 - Distributed jail packet which includes information on visitation, commissary, etc. and provides a comprehensive resource for friends and family members of individuals in jail. Packet is posted on NAMI website. Working on partnering with the Sheriff's Office to get the packet in the jail lobby, and with the Probation Department and Behavioral Health Courts. NAMI distributed the jail packet to 2000 individuals.

7. Patients' Rights Reports – by George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate

- View the July Report below.
- Question for George Carvalho – July report states, "This Advocate attended the Local Mental Health Advisory meeting due to the restart of in-person facility monitoring." Requesting clarity on this statement.
- Site Visit/Programs Committee - plans to meet with the Director of Advocacy, Inc. for clarity on reports. More information coming.

8. New Business

- a. Retreat – to be held in the Fall.
- b. Letter regarding CAHOOTS style program
Clarification– Erika to write an informational letter about the Behavioral Health Programs available for mental health emergencies (MERT, ACCESS, MH Liaisons). If the MHAB approves the letter next month, the plan is to send the letter to the Sentinel, Pajaronian and the Good Times. It is not a letter in support of the CAHOOTS style program but is a letter to clarify the Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health Programs.
- c. Letter of support regarding Oversight Committee of Sheriff's Office – Board members to research the proposal of an oversight committee of the Sheriff's Office. Further discussion to be held at the September meeting.

9. Future Agenda Items

- a. Consideration of youth to become Member-At-Large

Motion to adjourn made by Erika Miranda-Bartlett. Second by Serg Kagno. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

PATIENTS' RIGHTS ADVOCATE PROGRAM

JULY 2021

1. Total number of unduplicated clients served this month: 21

Community based: 5

Facility based: 16

Number of clients represented at hearings: 29
(Combined certification and Riese hearing representation)

1. Number of complaints addressed: 9

Dignity and respect 7th Avenue -ongoing

Financial concerns- resolved

Request for assistance with filing a writ, Telecare- Resolved

Assistance with transfer from facility-7th Avenue - ongoing

Assistance with level change -7th Avenue Center

Assistance with contacting the public defender from, 7th Avenue,
resolved

Assistance with obtaining prescribed psychiatric medication, resolved

Assistance with tenant land lord issues (Section 8)-ongoing

Payee concern -resolved

Local Mental Health Advisory Board Meeting:

This Advocate attended the Local mental Health advisory meeting due to the re-start of in-person facility monitoring

Number of Abuse Reports: 6

Allegation of fiduciary abuse by relative: Willowbrook residential (under investigation

Front Street: Unwanted advances by another resident: resolved

4 sets of residents involved in altercation-resolved

6) No in-services provided during the month of July 2021.

7) The following facilities were monitored during the month of July, 2021

George monitored by phone contact:

(Phone contact only)

Telecare PHF

Telecare CSP

(in person contact)

Willowbrook

Wheelock Residential

Telos

Wheelock

Front Street Residential

Opal Cliffs

Casa Pacifica

El Dorado Center

MAA count for the Month of July 2021: Not Applicable

ADVOCACY INC.
TELECARE CLIENT CERTIFICATION AND REISE HEARING/PATIENTS' RIGHTS
REPORT

July, 2021

1. TOTAL NUMBER CERTIFIED	26
2. TOTAL NUMBER OF HEARINGS	26
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTESTED HEARINGS	9
4. NO CONTEST PROBABLE CAUSE	17
5. CONTESTED NO PROBABLE CAUSE	3
6. VOLUNTARY BEFORE CERTIFICATION HEARING	0
7. DISCHARGED BEFORE HEARING	0
8. WRITS	0
9. CONTESTED PROBABLE CAUSE	6
10. NON-REGULARLY SCHEDULED HEARINGS	0

Ombudsman Program & Patient Advocate Program shared 0 clients in this month
(shared = skilled nursing resident (dementia) sent to behavioral health unit or mental
health client placed in skilled nursing facility)

**The usual scheduled hearing days are Tuesdays and Fridays. Due to the pandemic and the shortage of bed availability throughout the state of California hearings can be scheduled throughout the week to accommodate legal requirements that hearings must occur no later than one week of hospitalization.*

The following is an account of activity July 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021 associated with providing representation to clients held at Telecare (Santa Cruz Psychiatric Health Facility) who are facing Reise Hearings.

Total number of Reise petitions filed: 5
 Total number of Reise Hearings conducted: 3
 Total number of Reise Hearings lost: 3
 Total number of Reise Hearings won: 0
 Total number of Reise Hearings withdrawn: 2
 Hours spent on Reise Hearings Conducted: 6
 Hours spent on all Reise Hearings: 8
 Cross Over clients: 0 (Clients in common with the Long Term Ombudsman program)

- Note of explanation: before the Covid pandemic hearing days were set for Tuesday and Friday every week however, this has changed in that the Certification review hearings have breached the confines of the set days. Now, the Patients' Rights Advocacy program can be called upon, generally with a 24 hour notice to provide hearing representation when called upon by the Telecare staff.