



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

MINUTES – Approved
July 16, 2026

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

JUNE 18, 2026, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY, 1400 EMELINE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ 95060

MICROSOFT TEAMS (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE 995 733 856#



Salud Mental y
Tratamiento del Uso
de Sustancias

Present: Antonio Rivas, Dan Barnett, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Michael Neidig, Natalie Stott, Rachel Montoya, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
Absent: Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Supervisor De Serpa
Staff: Marni Sandoval, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
 - II. Public Comment – No public comments.
 - III. Board Member Announcements
 - Board member announced that call to mobile crisis team took 7 minutes and the standard time for a call to get dispatched is 4 minutes. BH Director response: CIT training has resumed for the Sheriff's Department, providing 24 hours of crisis intervention and critical response training for officers. The team is also reviewing call tree protocols and further coordination with the city's street outreach teams.
 - Natalie Stott, TAY member announced she will attend UC San Diego this fall.
 - Scarlett introduced herself as a prospective TAY member, highlighting her volunteer work at Friday Night Live, Tobacco Use Prevention Education, and speaker at the Calciano Symposium earlier this year.
 - IV. Approve May 21, 2026 Minutes as amended to add "Updates on MHCAN" to Future Agenda Items.
Motion / Second: Antonio Rivas / Mike Neidig
Ayes: Rivas, Barnett, Kashino, McCormick, Arlt, Neidig, Stott, Webb, Cabanes
Nays: None
Abstain: Montoya
Passed.
 - V. Secretary's Report
 - No attendance or training issues were reported.
 - VI. Patient's Rights Report – George Carvalho, Advocate for Advocacy, Inc.
The May report was provided. George was absent.
 - VII. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Dr. Marni Sandoval, Behavioral Health Director
 1. The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan
 - The plan and associated revisions were approved. Final submission to the State is June 30th.

- Behavioral Health continues preparing for Full-Service Partnership Implementation by the July 1st deadline, including staff training, program development, administrative components and preparing the electronic health record systems.
- 2. Adults System of Care (ASOC) Update
 - Focused on preparing for July 1 for the FSP implementation, both at level I and Level 2 service structures.
 - Continuing planning for Assertive Community Treatment and Forensic Community Treatment.
 - Leadership Update for the Adult System of Care – Jorge Duque was promoted to Senior Behavioral Health Program Manager.
 - Updating contracts to align with new program models and requirements.
 - Bridge House opening delayed due to required fire prevention corrections. Ongoing collaboration with partners to support project completion.
- 2. Child and Youth System of Care (CSOC) Update
 - Continued planning and training for family-centered FSP services, with implementation targeted for July 1.
- 3. Substance Use Disorder Services Update
 - New English and Spanish SUDS flyers are available for the community.
 - Free Narcan are now available in the new vending machines that have been installed at Emeline and Freedom campuses.
- 4. MHCAN Update
 - Received an anonymous \$150K donation for facility repairs.
 - Still working with insurance company to get insurance.
 - BH is working with them toward a three-month startup agreement to support their clubhouse model program.
- 5. Clarification Items
 - Contracted providers will be required to be in the County electronic health records, including after the transition into SmartCare.
 - Children's Services provides integrated family supports. The clinical team conducts outreach and engagement with parents to connect them with needed services and supports.

- VIII. Site Visit Committee Update
 - Juvenile Hall – unable to connect to set up day/time for site visit.
 - Additional site visit opportunities include connecting with mobile crisis, ride-alongs, and Community Connections.

- IX. Funding Ad Hoc Committee
 - The committee postponed its final report to July. The main points are increase of beds, increase funding from the general fund with the revised budget, the June 24th BOS budget meeting, and the November 11th elections.

- X. Jail Packet – Hugh McCormick

Members continued reviewing the jail packet. Discussions included:

 - The jail inmate welfare fund section is still in progress.
 - The need for a separate behavioral health treatment facility from the jail.
 - Funds go to services first, incarceration second.
 - Focus on programs, not the facilities.
 - Emphasized expanding diversion programs, treatment options, and community-based services as alternatives to incarceration.

XI. Establish list of BH Programs Informational Presentations

- Dr. Marni Sandoval offered to coordinate a series of presentations on BH programs, including Full-Service Partnerships, prevention and early intervention initiatives, children's services, MERT, community partnerships and behavioral health services provided in Juvenile Hall.
- Members agreed this approach would support generating an informed letter of recommendation, appear at BOS meetings to make public comment, and influence the future of the budget.
- Information was requested on the development of deep-end programs, with a focus on the service model rather than funding needs. Given the community's needs for these programs, it would be valuable to better understand how they operate and what the client experience in the FSP model looks like from the perspective of those currently building the program.

XII. Future Agenda Items

- Board Retreat
- Members were asked to provide blackout dates for end of July to assist with scheduling.
Potential meeting locations will be explored.
- Board member asked what key information the Board should be aware of and how members can best advocate for and support Dr. Sandoval's priorities.

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:59pm