



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

**MINUTES – Approved
September 21, 2023**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

AUGUST 17, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE AVENUE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

Microsoft Teams (831) 454-2222, Conference 633 220 968#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Stella Peuse
Excused: Michael Neidig, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
Staff: Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, James Russell, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
 - BJ Nadeau – stated the need for same day or next day appointments with clinicians trained to treat the thoughts and the drivers that make people want to end their lives, as appointments in an outpatient setting that has early intervention can potentially avoid crisis situations. BJ said the board may wish to consider inviting Bill McCabe to discuss the effectiveness of the CANS treatment model to learn how to encourage other healthcare systems in our county to provide suicide focused evidence-based treatment.
 - Richard Gallo – stated he sent an email about the amendment to SB326 relating to the Mental Health Services Modernization Act. Richard said it's unfortunate that the counties are stuck with this and how the state is handling this, especially with the changes of the Mental Health Services Act which was not intended for Care Court. Richard said it is going to take away money for current programs that are being funded by MHSA and less funding for the counties. Richard announced that he will be joining the rally on August 22nd supporting better changes.
 - Coral Brune – asked the following questions: 1) How many were held on 5150 holds from January 1, 2022 to the present? 2) How many requested Riese hearings? 3) How many Riese hearings were held? 4) What were the outcomes of these hearings, such as how many were granted the right to refuse or modify medication? 5) How many requested writs of habeas corpus hearings? 6) How many of these were held? 7) How many were released by the court, by psychiatric authorities before the 5150's, 72-hour hold? 8) How many clients were transferred out of the county, but how many was this an involuntary action? *George Carvalho stated he will provide the data.*
 - George Carvalho – suggested that the lobby at 1400 Emeline should have postcards with the 211 number making it available for clients.
 - Perry Spencer – stated that the August 4th event was a busy day with amazing healing.
- III. Board Member Announcements
 - New Mental Health Advisory Board Member – Dean Kashino, retired physician.
 - Chair clarified AB2449 states board members can attend meetings virtually if there is an emergency circumstance or just cause.

- Chair provided clarity on RI – County did not go out to find RI. MHSOAC contracted with RI in 2019 to provide technical assistance to the county when proposals were approved by the MHSOAC. Tiffany Cantrell-Warren added: The services that RI have provided to the County so far have been paid for through the state or the MHSOAC. The state provided this opportunity through RI as a way for the County to look at the current crisis system and to develop a stronger model.

IV. Business / Action Items

A. Approve July 20, 2023 Minutes

Motion/Second: Jeffrey Arlt / Valerie Webb

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes

Abstain: Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick

Absent: Michael Neidig, Supervisor Hernandez

Motion passed.

B. Approve August 1, 2023 Minutes

Motion/Second: Jeffrey Arlt / Celeste Gutierrez

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Xaloc Cabanes

Abstain: Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Laura Chatham, Valerie Webb

Absent: Michael Neidig, Supervisor Hernandez

Motion passed.

V. Presentation: Building Hope & Safety Santa Cruz Grant and Suicide Prevention Activities - Carly Memoli, Program Director of Applied Crisis Training and Consulting, Inc.

- The original intent of the SAMHSA Grant was to implement a couple of the key areas of the strategic plan, including providing rapid follow-up services through the county's Rapid Connect program, conducting screening and assessment activities, providing a wide range of trainings, working on public awareness of and access to crisis level resources, including the newly minted suicide crisis line become 988. One of the features of this grant is that it provided and required about 25% of funds be spent and dedicated to supporting populations that are at disproportionate risk for suicide. This included not only suicide loss survivors, but in particular services for survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence, child abuse and their dependents.
- One of the strategies that was utilized through the grant is looking at some of the resources that could be drawn in from the state. Separate from Building Hope and Safety, Santa Cruz was selected as a grant recipient from the CA Department of Public Health and their comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program. Several of the resources that are on the landing page of the Striving for Zero Learning Collaborative were used, which Santa Cruz County continues to receive, in addition to support and technical assistance through at least June of 2024.
- The SAMHSA grant is a training heavy grant which was very prevention, education, connection services focused. Eight safeTALK trainings were done during the grant period. Ten trainings of the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) were provided during the grant period, which is step two after safeTALK. Mental Health First Aid was another component in the contract and provided four trainings. The Counseling on Access to Lethal Means training was also provided.
- The Striving for Safety website is a resource both for community members and professionals that is a soft introduction to means and safety. There is useful information on firearm safety and different resources related to overdose. Through the current grant with the CA Dept of Public Health, there is access to toolkits to help engage local pharmacists as supporters for suicide prevention.
- Another component of the grant included developing a more robust approach to how support is provided to those who have lost loved ones to suicide. Through this grant, Loss packets were produced, which is a collection of helpful information, materials and resources for folks who have recently lost someone to suicide.
- Currently, Santa Cruz Behavioral Health's goal is putting in place some ways to utilize the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale and the safety plan in the

electronic health record system. At minimum, they are looking at ways to ensure that the training is available ongoing and on demand for folks. The second round of Loss packets have been produced and distributed along with cards for folks which inform where somebody should be sent if they need support. The host of trainings and mean safety activities are also continuing.

[Click here to view the presentation slides.](#)

VI. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- No attendance issues.
- No recent training has been recorded for any of the Board members.
- SB326 – Jeffrey reported that it is an important piece of legislation that will be taking 3% of the funding away from MHSA funds and changing the structure, bringing in substance use disorder as a service that must be provided when it is not a co-occurring disorder. Jeffrey stated there's a reduction in funding and an increase of services that must be provided. Jeffrey advised that folks look at the Legislative Office of Analysis to see what they are recommending.

B. Report from Celeste Gutierrez, on behalf of Supervisor Hernandez

Celeste mentioned the Point-In-Time has gone down by 21.5% in Santa Cruz County. All cities and unincorporated areas have shown a decline except for Watsonville, which shows an increase of 15%, and an increase of people that identify as Hispanic/Latino. Nearly one quarter have been in the foster care system and reported having substance use disorder, emotional, PTSD or physical disability and more than one fourth are currently unemployed. The City of Santa Cruz received \$14 million from the state, and no other city last year in the entire county received that money. Celeste said she is mentioning this because sometimes issues are addressed that are only visible and in the City of Santa Cruz, some of those issues are a lot more visible, whereas in Watsonville, it often ends up not getting noticed unless you live in Watsonville.

C. Behavioral Health Report: Close Public Comment for MHSA Innovation Project Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Behavioral Health Director

Tiffany opened Public Comment on the MHSA Plan.

–No comments were made on the MHSA Plan.

Tiffany shared some of the capacity issues and what Behavioral Health is currently facing. Tiffany reminded everyone that County Behavioral Health is a managed care health plan. The primary mandate and obligation is to provide specialty mental health services and substance use disorder services to Medi-cal beneficiaries who are diagnosed with a severe mental illness, and where funding allows, the County also serves clients in crisis regardless of their financial resources. This fiscal year, there will be a need for more funding than last year because of the transition to CalAIM payment reform implementation. This means that the County is no longer reimbursed for the cost of services, but will be reimbursed for the actual services provided, which is based on the type of staff or licensure of the person who is providing the service. Tiffany said Behavioral Health would be relying on County general funds or other reserves just to meet the budget.

Tiffany also mentioned that the Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) 23-025, which is a directive from the Department of Health Care Services, is a mandate to implement a mobile crisis response for Medi-cal beneficiary by January 1, 2024. This allows for reimbursement by Medi-cal for crisis services that are provided to Medi-cal beneficiaries. Tiffany stated that CAHOOTS does not adequately address this BHIN and the County would not be able to be reimbursed for Medi-cal for the services provided. If this model was used, then it would have to be mostly funded by non-billable sources and grants. The innovation funding can't be used for CAHOOTS because it doesn't comply with the BHIN.

D. Ad Hoc Committees

The board did not have time to discuss the Ad Hoc Committees. Discussion to be held next month.

E. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate

A report was not provided due to technical difficulties. George attended the meeting. George mentioned he will look into posting this report on the Advocacy, Inc. website so folks can easily access the information.

VII. New Agenda Items – none.

VIII. Future Agenda Items – none.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.