

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
**ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES ■ Thursday, February 1st, 2018**

<p><b>Present</b>  Nancy Borchard, Committee Co-Chair  Gane Brooking, Committee Co-Chair  David Deutsch, NAMI  Susan Russo, Telecare  Kalie Matissek, Turning Point Foundation  Mark Schumacher, Turning Point Foundation  Dana Secor, Turning Point Foundation  Sheri Valley</p>	<p><b>VCBH Managers/Staff Present</b>  John Schipper, Adult Division Chief  Tina McDonald, EPICS Clinic Administrator  Anna Flores, ADP Manager  Edith Pham, BHAB Assistant</p> <p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b>  <b>Thursday, March 1st, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm</b></p> <p>Ventura County Behavioral Health  1911 Williams Drive, second floor, Oxnard</p>
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Note: The committee has not yet approved these minutes. There may be additions/deletions or corrections before the minutes are accepted in final form.

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
I.	<b>Call to Order</b> Co-Chair Gane Brooking called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.		
II.	<b>Approval of the Agenda</b> Ms. Brooking asked the Committee to review and approve today's agenda. Kalie Matissek moved to approve, Dana Secor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.	The agenda was approved as written. <b>M/S/C</b>	
III.	<b>Approval of the Minutes</b> Ms. Brooking asked the committee to review and approve the minutes of the January 4, 2018 meeting. Mark Schumacher moved to approve, Dr. John Schipper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.	The minutes were approved as written. <b>M/S/C</b>	
IV.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Ms. Brooking welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.		
V.	<b>Chair Announcements</b> Ms. Brooking gave a brief overview of a conference and training she attended in San Diego on January 19 and 20. It was organized by the California Association of Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHBC) and the California Mental Health Planning Council. One of the discussions was on cultural humility as opposed to cultural competence.		
VI.	<b>Public Comments</b> None.		
VII.	<b>Presentation: Empowering Partners through Integrative Community Services (EPICS) – Tina McDonald, VCBH Clinic Administrator</b> Most clients enrolled in EPICS typically have been diagnosed with a psychotic disorder, have a history of multiple hospitalizations and placements (often 50 or more episodes), and are high utilizers of VCBH services. Most live in Board & Care facilities and are amenable to engage in services, although they need support to avail themselves of those services. Some are on conservatorship.  The program is staffed with a multi-disciplinary team. It serves up to 80 clients, who are usually seen once a week and receive help with mental health, physical health, housing, medications.  Referrals are mostly from higher levels of care, from Screening, Triage, Assessment and Referral (STAR), or from VCBH outpatient clinics.  See attached for details.	Information	

VIII.	<p><b>Committee Membership</b></p> <p>Ms. Borchard noted that, following a revision to the BHAB Bylaws, community members can now serve as members on the various BHAB committees.</p> <p>Ms. Matisek suggested to have a place on the sign-in sheet for a member/visitor check mark.</p>		
IX.	<p><b>Members and Participants Comments</b></p> <p>Dana Secor asked for an update on the Growing Works garden that is being planned in Camarillo. Ms. Brooking gave an overview of the program and noted that the Board of Supervisors approved the project recently.</p> <p>Ms. Secor noted that New Vision is accepting new clients.</p> <p>Mark Schumacher noted that Turning Point is taking members to Reins of H.O.P.E. in Ojai, including one member who is blind and some who use a walker. This is an equine-assisted learning and psychotherapy program.</p> <p>Ms. Matisek noted that there are five openings at the transitional housing program that Turning Point operates. At River Haven, five Tough Sheds are replacing domes; financial donations are accepted to replace more domes.</p> <p>David Deutsch announced that the NAMI General meeting will be on February 13 at 7:00 p.m. in Camarillo. Two judges will present on the criminal justice system as it intersects with mental health. There will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions. The NAMI Walk has been postponed to October 13. NAMI will hold a golf tournament on April 6 at River Ridge Golf Club in Oxnard.</p> <p>Susan Russo noted that the Telecare Casas are full. It is anticipated that there will be a few openings very soon. The new clinical director/program administrator is Monica Lang.</p>		
X.	<p><b>Update: Behavioral Health Adult Division – Dr. John Schipper</b></p> <p>A second round of triage grant is under consideration. Funding for RISE is coming to an end at the end of this fiscal year.</p> <p>A stakeholder process to decide what could be added to services showed that law enforcement would like to have VCBH staff ride with them. Future rounds of stakeholder input will focus on Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and the underserved.</p> <p>The External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) is coming in April. It will review performance improvement projects.</p>		
X.	<p><b>Update: Behavioral Health Substance Use Disorders – Anna Flores</b></p> <p>The rates for Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) have been approved by the state. Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP) is working on getting the implementation checklist completed by late April and is planning to start implementing on July 1<sup>st</sup>. At that point, some services that are currently unbillable will become billable. Clients will be able to cross county lines to receive services. There will be limitations on higher levels of care, e.g. there will be a cap on residential stays.</p>		
XI.	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.</p>		

## Mission Statement



The EPICS Program is an intensive, community based program within the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department. We work toward improving the quality of life and to empower individuals toward wellness and recovery. We assist individuals who are transitioning out of locked placements, safely maintain individuals in community placement and help move them into independent living through the provision of intensive field based services. We offer close, supportive monitoring to ensure consumers are integrated safely into the community and are successfully supported in the least restrictive and recovery-focused environment.



*For after-hours and weekend emergencies, please call (866) 998-2243 for crisis services*



*"Resiliency, Recovery,  
Collaboration, Hope"*

# EPICS

## Program

## EMPOWERING PARTNERS through INTEGRATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES

County Of Ventura  
Health Care Agency

Behavioral Health Department  
Adult Division

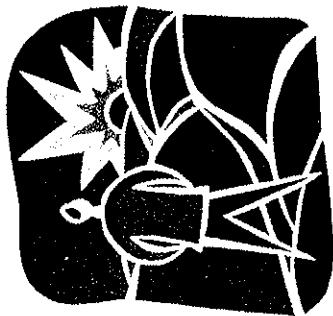
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County Of Ventura  
Health Care Agency

Behavioral Health Department  
Adult Division

# THE EPICS PROGRAM



**EPICS**  
(Empowering Partners through Integrative Community Services) represents a significant transformation in

Ventura County Behavioral Health's services. Through the Mental Health Services Act planning process, community stakeholders identified the need for an intensive field-based program, and EPICS was designed to meet that need. The program provides a continuum of Full-Service Partnership services to adult behavioral health consumers with SMPI (Severe & Persistent Mental Illness), most of whom had been underserved or unserved by traditional mental health system. EPICS serves up to 80 consumers with the most intensive needs, and highest rates of hospitalizations, through a comprehensive, integrated Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model. Services include mental health treatment, psychiatric care and medication management, intensive case management and psychoeducation. All staff are also trained Health Navigators, helping EPICS members to navigate the physical health care system. Staff also provide life skills training (e.g. money-management, daily living skills, anger management), and provide advocacy regarding criminal justice, social services, benefits, peer support, pro-social activities and housing supports.

## Goals of program

- ◆ To strengthen and empower individuals on their path to wellness and to recovery
- ◆ To help people understand and manage their mental health issues
- ◆ To prevent/minimize out of county placement and hospitalizations
- ◆ To meet basic needs and improve quality of life
- ◆ To improve functioning in social and employment roles
- ◆ To enhance an individual's ability to live independently in his/her own community
- ◆ To strengthen family and personal relationships
- ◆ To provide equal opportunities
- ◆ To advocate and empower

*Through the continuum of Full Service Partnership (FSP) services provided through EPICS, consumers receive the type and intensity of services that best promotes each individual's wellness and recovery, in a manner that is comprehensive and seamless...*

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*Visit us on line at:  
[www.vchca.org](http://www.vchca.org)*



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