

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

**ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES ■ Thursday, November 3, 2022**

<p><b>Members Present</b>                  Nancy Borchard, Co-Chair                  Gane Brooking, Co-Chair                  Ratan Bhavnani, NAMI Volunteer                  Mary Haffner, Community Advocate                  Farrah Hooshmand, Ventura County Area Agency on Aging                  Michael Rodriguez, BHAB                  Elizabeth R. Stone, BHAB                  Chris Tejeda, BHAB                  Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team                  Liz Warren, BHAB</p> <p><b>Others Present</b>                  Clarisa Cajiau, Interpreter                  Leora Lopez, Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura                  Tyler Nash, Turning Point Foundation Wellness Center                  Jenn Rodriguez, Turning Point Foundation (Growing Works)</p>	<p><b>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers/Staff Present</b>                  Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief                  Hilary Carson, MHSA Sr. Program Administrator                  Jessica Davis, Substance Use Services Behavioral Health Manager                  Courtney Lubell, Special Projects Manager                  Joanna Peterson, Management Assistant / Zoom Engineer                  Dr. Mike Rodriguez, Adult Services Behavioral Health Manager                  Cynthia Salas, Office of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity, Equity Services Manager                  Susan White Wood, Behavioral Health Housing Manager                  Vickie Poliquin, BHAB Assistant</p> <p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b>  <b>Thursday, January 5, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</b>  <b>Zoom Meeting:</b>  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87680728818?pwd=b3dCdjBNcGszRUJ4VzM2TXY1clJlJT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87680728818?pwd=b3dCdjBNcGszRUJ4VzM2TXY1clJlJT09</a>  <b>Meeting ID:</b> 876 8072 8818  <b>Password:</b> 156974  <b>Dial-in:</b> 669-900-9128</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 Nancy Borchard called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM following the instructions and guidelines provided by Joanna Peterson on how to access interpretation services.		
II.	<b>Roll Call</b> Ms. Borchard announced that Cheryl Heitmann has resigned from the Adult Services Committee and has joined the Youth & Family Committee. Ms. Borchard conducted roll call and determined a quorum exists.		
III.	<b>Approval of the Agenda</b> Ms. Borchard asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Warren moved to approve; Ms. Haffner seconded. The motion to approve the agenda as written carried unanimously.	Agenda approved as written. <b>M/S/C</b>	
IV.	<b>Approval of the September 1, 2022, Minutes</b> Ms. Borchard asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bhavnani moved to approve; Ms. Warren seconded. The motion to approve the minutes as written carried by majority vote. Mr. Rodriguez abstained.	Minutes approved as written. <b>M/S/C</b>	
V.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Ms. Borchard welcomed everyone, and attendees introduced themselves.		
VI.	<b>Public Comments</b> There were no public comments.		
VII.	<b>Chair Announcements</b> No Chair announcements were provided by Ms. Borchard.		
VIII.	<b>Updates and Presentations</b> A. Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure (BHCIPI) Program Round 2 Discussion- Courtney Lubell, VCBH Special Projects Manager, provided specific background information and a brief update on the infrastructure planning grant (\$149,916) with its focus on the development of Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) in East County. Ms. Lubell shared three guiding principles from the State of California that support the needs for this level of care: (1) increase community care options for vulnerable county residents; (2) address urgent gaps in care and reduce barriers related to location; and (3) provide an alternative for police officers interacting with persons with mental ill that enhances the opportunities for treatment.		

	<p>County staff are assessing potential sites and working with the representatives of the East County communities. Ms. Lubell and Dr. John Schipper responded to a variety of questions and provided additional information regarding the details around the infrastructure planning for an adult CSU/PHF in the East County.</p> <p><b>B. Mental Health Diversion and Mental Health Court Programs</b>  Dr. Mike Rodriguez, VCBH Behavioral Health Manager, provided an overview of the array of forensics program. These included Basic Jail Mental Health Services, Mental Health Court (MHC), Mental Health Diversion (MHD), and Misdemeanant Incompetent to Stand Trial (M-IST). He noted that VCBH clients that are placed into jail remain VCBH clients however their while in custody becomes the responsibility of Sheriff’s contractor, WellPath. VCBH provides a full-time staff member within the jail to ensure both continuity of care and coordinated planning around release. Dr. Rodriguez described basic services and provided a detailed overview of each specific program within the Forensics Program.</p> <p>Dr. Mike Rodriguez responded to several questions from members of the Committee. Ms. Stone spoke regarding her coordination efforts to assist people who are released from incarceration who may be unhoused and inquired about the best way to connect and refer people to available services. Dr. Rodriguez will follow-up with Ms. Stone to discuss methods to bridge people to services. Michael Rodriguez clarified some information regarding the details within the Mental Health Diversion program and expressed his deep appreciation for the tremendous work that Dr. Rodriguez does within the MHC and MHD. Mr. Tejada provided his perspective MHD, noting that many aspects of the screening process has improved and advocated for ensuring that people are connected, as quickly as possible.</p>		
<b>IX.</b>	<p><b>Public Comments</b>  Ms. Stone spoke to share that the Therapeutic Inmate Management Unit (TIMU) has 200 beds and advised that the contract has been signed for the Friends In Deed peer organization that she is helping in conjunction with the Continuum of Care. She noted that the project dedicates one third of the funding for stipends and other kinds of remuneration for people who have recent or current experiences of being unhoused. Ms. Stone noted that people can contact her to learn more about the project.</p>		
<b>X.</b>	<p><b>Discuss Committee’s Focus and Prioritize Items for Discussion/Investigation for Upcoming Year</b>  Due to lack of time, this agenda item was tabled to the next Committee meeting.</p>		
<b>XI.</b>	<p><b>Member and Participant Comments</b>  Due to lack of time, this agenda item was tabled to the next Committee meeting.</p>		
<b>XII.</b>	<p><b>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Updates</b>  A. Adult Services Operations – Due to lack of time, this agenda item was table to the next Committee meeting.  B. Substance Use Services – Due to lack of time, this agenda item was table to the next Committee meeting.</p>		
<b>XIII.</b>	<p><b>Contracts Review – September 2022</b>  Due to lack of time, this agenda item was table to the next Committee meeting.</p>		
<b>XIV.</b>	<p><b>Items for Next Meeting Agenda</b>  Due to lack of time, this agenda item was tabled to the next Committee meeting.</p>		
<b>XV.</b>	<p><b>Adjourn</b>  The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.</p>		



VENTURA COUNTY  
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November 3, 2022

# MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE IN VENTURA COUNTY JAIL

Presentation to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board – Adult Services Committee

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**Mike Rodriguez, PsyD**  
VCBH Manager II, Adult Division

# Mental Health Treatment Options for People in Ventura County Jail



- Basic Mental Health Services.
- Mental Health Court (MHC) – Post-Adjudication
- Mental Health Diversion (MHD) – Pre-Adjudication
- Misdemeanant Incompetent to Stand Trial (M-IST), and other special cases.

# Basic Services While in Jail



- The VCSO contracts with a private provider (WellPath) to provide all basic services (medical, dental, and mental health)
- This includes access to licensed staff 24-hours a day.
- VCBH employs a full-time “Jail Liaison” who is embedded at the jail to coordinate treatment of VCBH clients, assist in discharge planning for inmates who have been included in mental health services while in jail.
- The VCSO has developed and runs a Therapeutic Inmate Management Unit (TIMU) with specially trained staff, additional resources, and other intentional differences.

# Mental Health Court



- Two decades of successful collaboration between the DA, PD, Sheriff, Court and VCBH.
- This is a Post-Adjudication program that requires a guilty plea to participate.
- Participants get credit for their time in treatment (instead of being in jail), and are guided through treatment by VCBH, probation and the VCBH forensics team.
- The program is designed to last for 18-24 months, and participants who remain in compliance will graduate with a ceremony.
- The program operates under a memorandum of understanding developed and signed by the offices of the DA, PD, Probation, and VCBH.
- There are usually about 30 participants enrolled in MHC.

# Mental Health Court continued



- VCBH Forensics has staff dedicated to facilitate MHC.
- Our MHC social worker (clinician) coordinates care, collaborates with treatment providers, and communicates treatment progress and obstacles to the Court.
- Our jail liaison (LVN) connects providers to clients who are in the jail, coordinates medication management, and prepares referral packets for placement options outside of the jail.
- Our forensics “Community Services Coordinator” assists the MHC team by tracking clients using our electronic health record, collaborating with placements, providers, and other stakeholders.

Read an account of a successful Mental Health Court graduate:

[www.keystorecoverynewspaper.com/digital/110122/#page=14](http://www.keystorecoverynewspaper.com/digital/110122/#page=14)

# Mental Health Diversion



PC 1001.36 created an unfunded “Mental Health Diversion” option for participants who meet the following:

- Qualifying mental illness & will likely respond to treatment
- Adequate treatment plan
- A nexus between the charged offense and mental illness
- Not a significant risk to the community
- Agree to participate
- Not charged with DUI, Murder, or Rape

# Mental Health Diversion continued



The MHD program length is 1 year for misdemeanor charges and 2 years for felony charges.

- Participants utilize their outpatient provider to qualify (VCBH, Kaiser, BlueShield, etc.).
- The defense attorney is responsible to gather all pertinent mental health records, demonstrate that a participant is not a risk, and file a motion requesting MHD.
- The District Attorney's office is given the opportunity to state any opposition to the motion.
- The judge has sole discretion as to who is granted MHD.
- Currently there are over 100 participants in MHD, about half being VCBH clients

# Mental Health Diversion continued



The Department of State Hospitals has awarded the County of Ventura a \$2.9 million grant to divert 22 clients from the DSH waitlist to be treated in community-based settings. VCBH has utilized these resources to:

- Hire a full-time social worker to assess, develop meaningful treatment plans, place, and support MHD Grant participants through their 2-year program.
- Hire a Community Services Coordinator to screen potential candidates, collaborate with court partners, and to assist with intensive case management.
- Acquire additional placements for treatment resistant participants (dual-diagnosis, residential, etc.).
- Grant participants require a specific diagnosis, additional treatment planning, and regular reporting to the DSH regarding status.
- Currently we have 12 Grant MHD participants enrolled.

# M-IST and Other VCBH related cases



VCBH is responsible to opine regarding the status and potential placement of PC 1368 Incompetent to Stand Trial misdemeanants.

- We employ 1 full-time, licensed clinical psychologist to screen, assess, and coordinate treatment for this population.
- Recent changes in the law have significantly shortened the time M-IST defendants stay in jail.
- Other potential clients VCBH contact in jail include:
- Inmates who are or have become gravely disabled in jail.
- Inmates who are being released that have been identified as needing mental health services (and who are not current VCBH clients).
- Inmates that return from a state hospital who are deemed not likely to be restored to competency (felony cases).



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# QUESTIONS?

[Mike.Rodriguez@ventura.org](mailto:Mike.Rodriguez@ventura.org)

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**Mike Rodriguez, PsyD**  
VCBH Manager II, Adult Division

**Ventura County Behavioral Health**  
**Board Letter Summary of Contracts for September 2022**

Board Date	Contractor	Amount	Term	Description
9/13/2022	California Health and Human Services Agency	\$0	Effective January 31, 2023	<b>Data Sharing Agreement with the California Health and Human Services Agency.</b> The California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program (BHQIP) is a California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) incentive payment program to support Mental Health Plans (MHP), Managed Care Plans (MCP), Drug Medi-Cal State Plans (DMC), and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery Systems (DMC-ODS) to prepare for changes to the delivery and payment of mental health and related services as part of the implementation of the CalAIM initiative and other Newsom Administration priorities. Under the CalAIM BHQIP, VCBH is eligible for a portion of the incentive payments provided that VCBH achieves certain milestones related to its ability to exchange client and patient data for the implementation of CalAIM. In order to receive 100% of the available CalAIM BHQIP incentive funds, VCBH must demonstrate that it has begun to improve its data exchange capabilities by September 30, 2022, specifically by preparing and executing a data sharing agreement that commits VCBH to sharing certain records and information through an electronic health record system that meets certain operability standards. In recent communication with DHCS regarding how to fulfill the requirements of this milestone, DHCS informed VCBH that it must specifically sign the Data Exchange Framework DSA established by CalHHS. The Data Exchange Framework DSA was developed by CalHHS, DHCS, and other stakeholders in response to state legislation requiring, among other things, improved data exchange between MHPs, MCPs, DMCs, and DMC-ODSs. The DSA is intended to facilitate data exchange between the participants in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local health privacy laws and regulations, including but not limited to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), federal law governing the confidentiality of substance use disorder records, and Welfare and Institutions Code section 5328. The goal is to prepare a single data sharing agreement that establishes a common set of policies and procedures that governs the exchange of health information among California MHPs, MCPs, DMCs, and DMC-ODSs for the implementation of CalAIM. There is no fiscal impact for this Agreement.
9/20/2022	DHCS	\$0	July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027	<b>Standard Agreement with DHCS for the Provision of Specialty Mental Health Services to Medi-Cal Beneficiaries.</b> VCBH is designated as Ventura County's local mental health plan (MHP) administrator by DHCS and is responsible for providing or arranging for the provision of specialty mental health services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries in Ventura County. The Standard Agreement with DHCS specifies the federal and state requirements that VCBH must meet to participate as a MHP and be reimbursed for all medically necessary covered services provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The Standard Agreement includes terms and conditions related to: (1) scope of services, (2) financial requirements, (3) management information systems, (4) quality improvement system, (5) utilization management program, (6) access and availability of resources, (7) provider network, (8) documentation requirements, (9) coordination of continuity of care, (10) information requirements, (11) beneficiary problem resolution, (12) program integrity, (13) reporting requirements, (14) peer support services, (15) budget and payment provisions, and (16) other general terms and conditions related to the services. New terms and conditions incorporated into the Standard Agreement include: (1) criteria for beneficiaries to access specialty mental health services, (2) provisions and guidelines for the delivery of Medi-Cal peer support services, (3) MEDSLITE Access account and data management requirements, and (4) additional electronic and IT accessibility non-discrimination requirements. There is no change to the amount of the Standard Agreement; it remains at zero dollars. DHCS determined that this amount made the most sense because the funding that is used to pay for specialty mental health services flows through different payment mechanisms (realignment distributions and estimated total cost of the Federal Financial Participation); the Standard Agreement is not the method by which those funds are paid to counties. In addition, the zero dollar amount eliminates the need for future amendments to change funding amounts based on actual or estimated expenditures. There is no fiscal impact for this Agreement.
9/20/2022	Dennis M. Giroux & Associates, Inc. (DMG)	\$466,924	July 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023	<b>Eighth Amendment to the Agreement with DMG for the Provision of DMC-ODS Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services.</b> DMG provides outpatient DMC-ODS SUD treatment services to adults involved in the criminal justice system at various locations in Ventura County, including Oxnard, Ventura, and the Todd Road County Jail as well as in the Juvenile Justice Facility. DMG is also completing contingency management pilot program start up services for VCBH for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with stimulant use disorder. DMG uses the following evidence-based practices: matrix, seeking safety, and moral reconnection therapy. In April 2022, VCBH conducted a site review audit of DMG to review their FY 2021-22 program, utilization review, fiscal, staffing, and physical plant operations. The site review process, designed to ensure that DMG is in compliance with the requirements specified in the contract and all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations, resulted DMG being issued a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) that identified various issues that require remediation. Because of these issues, VCBH limited its FY 2022-23 extension of its contract with DMG to a three-month term, specifically July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022, pending review and finalization of the site review audit CAP. VCBH requires additional time to complete its review and finalize the DMG site review audit CAP process. The Eighth Amendment extends the agreement with DMG at existing terms for an additional four months ending January 31, 2023 and increases the maximum agreement amount accordingly to allow VCBH to complete its review and audit process. This agreement is funded by Drug Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (DMC FFP), Realignment, AB 109 funds and DHCS BHQIP funds.