

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

DISPARITIES REDUCTION COMMITTEE (IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM)

MINUTES ▪ Tuesday, July 19, 2022

<p>Members Present Genevieve Flores-Haro, BHAB Michael Rodriguez, BHAB</p> <p>Others Present Carol C.J. Keavney, BHAB Vanessa Magana, Cal Lutheran University Fellow Lorena Suarez, Interpreter Phin Xaypangna, DEI Officer, County Executive Office</p>	<p>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers/Staff Present Estela Magdaleno-Ortega, Office of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity, Administrative Assistant Joanna Peterson, Management Assistant / Zoom Engineer Cynthia Salas, Office of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity, Equity Services Manager Sandra Tovar, Office of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity Program Administrator Vickie Poliquin, BHAB Assistant</p> <p>NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM</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.	Call to Order Michael Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:37 PM following the instructions that were provided by Joanna Peterson on how to access interpretation services.		
II.	Roll Call Vickie Poliquin conducted the calling of the roll and confirmed that a quorum of the Committee members did not exist.		
III.	Welcome and Introductions Mr. Rodriguez introduced himself and advised that he will Chair the meeting for Marlen Torres who is unable to attend today’s meeting. All meeting participants introduced themselves.		
IV.	Approval of the Agenda Mr. Rodriguez tabled this agenda item to the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.	Agenda item tabled.	
V.	Approval of the April 12, 2022 Minutes Mr. Rodriguez tabled this agenda item to the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.	Agenda item tabled.	
VI.	Public Comments There were no public comments.		
VII.	Chair Comments Mr. Rodriguez provided the following information on behalf of Ms. Torres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Committee will continue to meet every other month. ▪ Asked that people promote attendance at the Committee and explore ways to recruit community members to join the meetings. ▪ Requested members and attendees submit ideas for future presentations that would benefit the Committee and members of the public. <p>Mr. Rodriguez suggested the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Council provide a presentation at a future meeting. DEI Council Chair, Cynthia Salas, responded that a presentation can be developed. Ms. Flores-Haro mentioned there is additional interest in collaborating with the Public Safety Racial Equity Group and the Health Equity Advisory Committee to share information. Phin Xaypangna, along with Cynthia Salas, the Co-Chair of the Public Safety Group and the Co-Chairs of the Health Care Advisory Group, will plan to provide a DEI presentation to the Committee at a future meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Keavney asked about the subject matter for presentations and whether they must be related to County mental health activities or services. Mr. Rodriguez responded there is flexibility however presentations should include subjects on how disparities can be reduced. Ms. Keavney provided information about a presentation she attended from the Social Justice Fund for Ventura County (SJFVC). She described examples of projects created by Fellows in the program. One, a community outreach project to address food insecurity or lack of access to fresh produce and lifestyles in Saticoy which resulted in the creation of a combination farmer’s</p>		

	<p>market and craft sale and another to provide assistance for monolingual parents whose children are English learners to increase navigating school protocols and systems to prevent suspensions or other disparities due to language barriers. Ms. Keavney will contact Ms. Torres to discuss the idea of contacting the SJFVC to ask about their interest in providing a presentation to the Committee.</p> <p>Cynthia Salas shared that the Latino Disparities Reduction Committee and other committees have requested presentations from VCBH Divisions to learn more about its' programs and suggested that this Committee request similar presentations to learn more about VCBH structures and regulations that will help members address any inequities and disparities within VCBH programs.</p> <p>Mr. Rodriguez concurred with receiving these types of presentations and expressed the importance of the Committee's outreach and engagement efforts within the community to assist with broadening the awareness of available services. He asked that Committee members and participants contact Ms. Torres or himself with any other ideas for presentations and noted, for information, that the Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) will present its "Living with Love Program" funded by the California Reducing Disparities Project at the September 19 BHAB General meeting.</p>		
<p>VIII.</p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. Outreach Efforts to Increase Participation Mr. Rodriguez asked for ideas to increase outreach efforts to the community and mentioned that the BHAB formed a Media & Communications Outreach Workgroup at its July 18 General meeting. Outreach effort ideas can be emailed to Ms. Torres or Mr. Rodriguez.</p> <p>B. Meeting Cadence Mr. Rodriguez will contact Ms. Torres to clarify the purpose of this agenda item. No discussion took place other than noting that the Committee currently meets bimonthly.</p> <p>Cynthia Salas shared that she has reached out to east county community members and other communities to promote attending this Committee and other BHAB Committee meetings to assist with additional representation from the community. She noted that staff from the Office of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity are also attending BHAB meetings in support of efforts to communicate the importance of sharing information to all members of the community and to listen for opportunities to provide feedback and be engaged with the efforts of the BHAB.</p> <p>Ms. Flores-Haro suggested reviewing whether the Committee should consider holding its meetings "virtually only" versus hybrid until a quorum of the Committee is reached to save VCBH staff set-up and coordination time. Mr. Rodriguez agreed that converting back to virtual meetings would save VCBH staff resources however protocol for converting meetings back to virtual meetings would need to be checked at the State level and possibly with County Counsel to ensure compliance with the Government Code.</p> <p>Cynthia Salas advised that flyers in English and Spanish are available for the new "988" National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline System launched on July 16. People may contact Cynthia Salas directly for copies.</p> <p>Cynthia Salas suggested connecting with various organizations within communities to encourage them to embed the BHAB meetings link on their websites and to TV waiting rooms to increase attendance and participation and provide information about services available at VCBH. She offered to provide her assistance with reaching out to various organization if the BHAB is interested in pursuing this means of advertising.</p> <p>Mr. Rodriguez will provide Ms. Torres with the suggested presentation requests and advertising ideas and will discuss with VCBH staff and County Counsel, if necessary, regarding the suggestion for BHAB meetings to continue either virtually or hybrid.</p>		
<p>IX.</p>	<p>Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM.</p>		