

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
Disparities Reduction Committee Meeting Minutes

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)
1911 Williams Dr, Training Room (first floor) · Oxnard, CA 93036

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, March 7th, 2023, 4:30PM – 5:30PM

Members Present:

Marlen Torres	Genevieve Flores-Haro
Michael Rodriguez	Elizabeth Stone

Guests:

Priscila Hazrun, Spanish Interpreter Carol C.J. Keavney, BHAB Member

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

Cynthia Salas, Office of Health Equity & Cultural Diversity, Equity Services Manager
Estela Ortega, Office of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity
Jakeline De Leon, BHAB Management Assistant / Zoom Engineer

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 4:41PM by Chair Marlen Torres. The Spanish Interpreter, Priscila Hazrun, introduced herself and provided instruction on the interpretation services.

- II. **Roll Call to determine Physical Quorum** – Ms. De Leon confirmed a physical quorum through roll call.

- III. **Roll Call of Members with Just Cause** – NONE.
 - a. **State others present in the room over the age of 18**

- IV. **Requests for Emergency Circumstances** – No requests; therefore, no action necessary.

- V. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chair Torres welcomed everyone in the meeting, no introductions were necessary.
- VI. **Approval of the Agenda** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Disparities Reduction committee agenda for March 7, 2023, was approved (Stone/Rodriguez/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call.
- VII. **Approval of the May 3, 2022, Minutes** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Disparities Reduction committee minutes for May 3, 2022, were approved (Flores-Haro/Stone/Passed). The minutes were motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call.
- VIII. **Approval of the July 19, 2022, Minutes** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Disparities Reduction committee minutes for July 19, 2022, were approved (Flores-Haro/Rodriguez/Passed). The minutes were motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call. Ms. Stone abstained.
- IX. **Approval of the November 1, 2022, Minutes** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Disparities Reduction committee minutes for November 1, 2022, were approved (Rodriguez/Torres/Passed). The minutes were motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call. Ms. Stone and Ms. Flores-Haro abstained.
- X. **Public Comments** – Ms. De Leon announced that the identified priorities of the CPP process have been posted to the VCBH website, feedback is being accepted until March 17th, 2023. Feedback can be sent to MHSA@ventura.org. The Community Mini Grant Program has launched as a result of the CPP process and VCBH's long-term goal in making the grant finding available is to develop more non-clinical contract providers, therefore, this opportunity is open to community partners that are not currently contracted with VCBH. Applications details can be found on the VCBH website and are due April 4th, 2023. This announcement was made on behalf of MHSAs Program Administrator, Katie Stefl.
- XI. **Chair Comments** – Ms. Torres commented that the plan is to have Ms. Salas do her presentation then have a discussion of other presentation requests as well as outreach efforts.

XII. Presentation: Overview on Progress to Address Health Disparities – Ms. De Leon shared her screen with the committee and Ms. Salas provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Overview on Progress to Address Health Disparities. The presentation will be attached to these minutes.

XIII. New Business

A. Outreach Efforts to Increase Participation – Ms. Stone began the discussion and suggested conducting the meetings in Spanish to reduce barriers. Regarding the time, Ms. Flores-Haro commented it depends on the demographics or who they are trying to reach, they may need to look into a different time for the meetings. Ms. Stone and Ms. Flores-Haro suggested reaching out to different organizations that are working on the same efforts to reduce disparities in resource sharing. Ms. Salas commented that she believes it is an excellent idea to have the contracted providers come to the meeting to share how their programs implement disparities reduction as well as their challenges. Ms. Stone suggested inviting organizations first to get to know one another and then sharing different resources and learning about their efforts. Ms. Salas also mentioned Director Gilman has been getting to know different contractors that do not partner with VCBH, learning about their efforts and now feel comfortable contacting him.

B. Discuss Future Presentations – Ms. Torres requested to have a presentation on CalAim. Ms. Salas suggested reaching out to the CalAim team and having them present at the BHAB General meeting first then to the subcommittees. Ms. Stone requested to have a presentation from Gold Coast first.

XIV. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned 5:51PM by Chair Marlen Torres.



V E N T U R A C O U N T Y

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency



VENTURA COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency

June 22, 2021

CULTURAL COMPETENCY PLAN

Moving from Updated to Living Document

Cynthia Salas

Office of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity

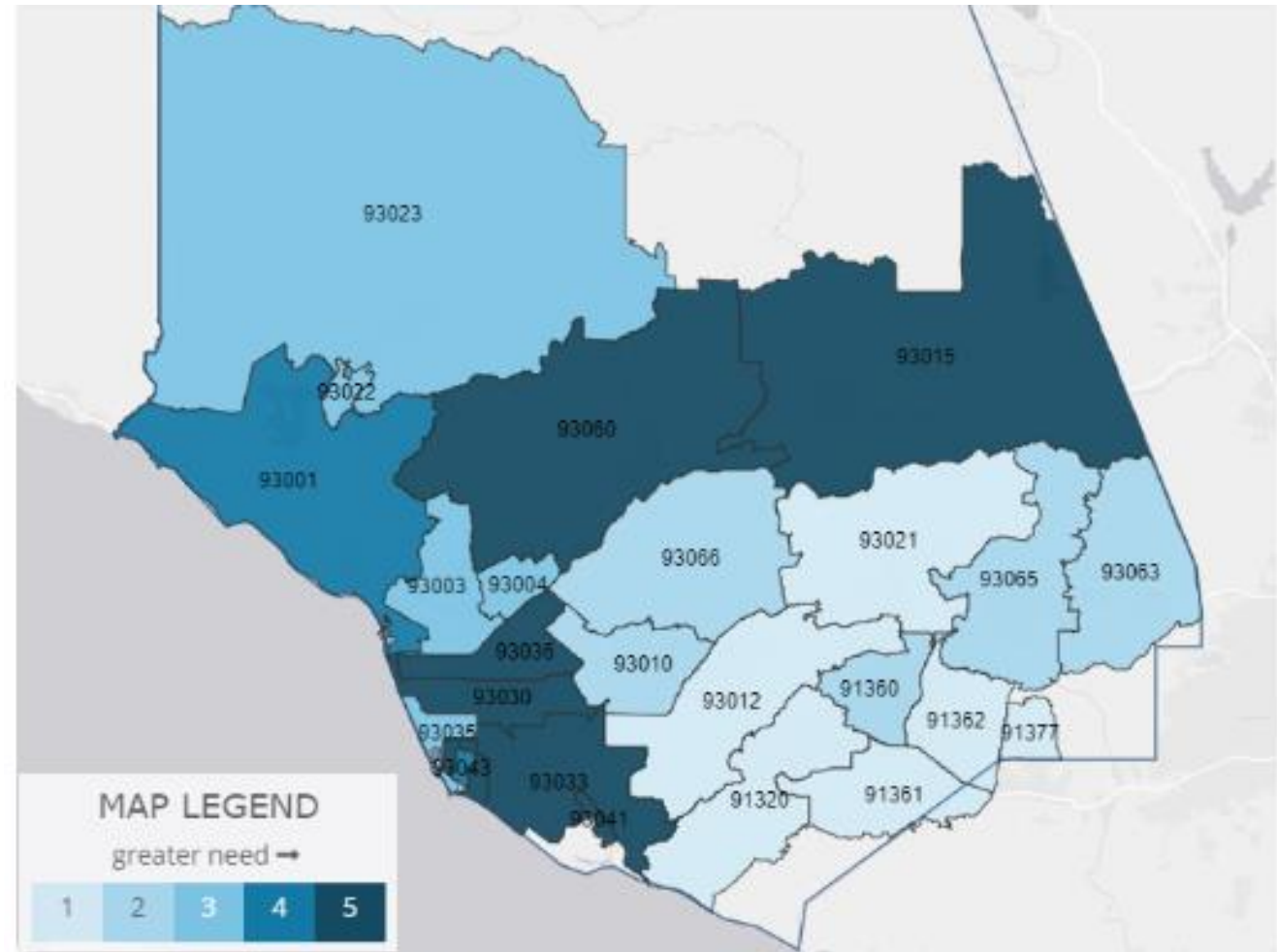
HEALTH EQUITY INDEX, VENTURA COUNTY, 2021

Areas within the county that have the highest socioeconomic needs have a lower average life expectancy than the Ventura County average of 81.4 years.

- Oxnard (93030, 93033 and 93036)
- Santa Paula (93060)
- Fillmore (93015)

Areas with lower socioeconomic needs have life expectancies of 84+ years

- Oak Park (93777)
- Thousand Oaks/Westlake (91361 and 91362)



Source: Health Matters in Ventura County

Department Efforts and Discussion

- Logrando Bienestar Pilot
- Community Walk Through
- Community Training
- Department Workforce
- Community Planning Process
- Office of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity Efforts
- Other Efforts

Thank you

Cynthia Salas –Equity Services Manager
Estela Magdaleno-Ortega- Administrative Assitant
Ohet@ventura.org
805-816-4277