

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES ■ Monday, December 18, 2017**

<p><u>BHAB Officers Present</u> Jerry Harris, Chair Ratan Bhavnani, 1st Vice Chair Kay Wilson-Bolton, 2nd Vice Chair Nancy Borchard, Secretary Gane Brooking, Member-At-Large Janis Gardner, Chair Emeritus</p> <p><u>Others Present</u> Michael Redard, Casa Pacifica Dahlia Kindschi, Aspiranet Sally Harrison, County Executive Office Jerry Weaver</p>	<p><u>VCBH Staff Present</u> Patrick Zarate, Acting Director Sevet Johnson, Adult Services Sr. Manager Kathy Mulford, DUI Manager Dina Olivas, Youth & Family Division Sr. Manager Pete Pringle, Youth & Family Division Chief John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief Brian Taylor, MD, Medical Director Michael White, North Oxnard Youth & Family Clinic Administrator Terri Yanez, Administrative Division Chief Edith Pham, BHAB Assistant</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
I.	<p>Call to Order Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.</p>	
II.	<p>Approval of the Agenda Mr. Harris dispensed with approving today's Special Meeting agenda as there is only one item.</p> <p>Mr. Harris welcomed everyone and asked for self-introductions.</p>	
III.	<p>The Thomas Fire and Its Implications – Discussion Mr. Harris noted that Patrick Zarate had requested the special meeting to discuss the Thomas Fire.</p> <p>Mr. Zarate thanked all for attending. He gave a recapitulation of the fire, which began in the evening of December 4th north of Santa Paula and has already burned over 270,000 acres and destroyed more than 400 homes in Ventura alone.</p> <p>VCBH had recently activated its disaster response team, which had been set up several years ago in order to respond to the needs of the larger community.</p> <p>Mr. Zarate distributed and reviewed several handouts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incident Command System (ICS) presentation from Sonoma County, which experienced a disastrous fire in October; - An article from The Press Democrat titled Board of Supervisors sounds alarm over potential mental health crises caused by Sonoma County fires; - A VCBH handout listing Thomas Fire resources related to behavioral health. <p>Mr. Zarate reviewed the various ways in which VCBH has been responsive to the community, e.g. internet, press inquiries. Early on, he designated Terri Yanez as the response lead and Michael White as the coordination manager. Mr. Zarate has been in contact with various agencies. VCBH is looking at outside help so that staff can continue to care for all clients. Although some clinics were impacted by the fire, VCBH is working hard to prevent any lapse in patient care.</p> <p>Vista Del Mar Hospital lost several buildings and had to evacuate its 67 clients, who have been placed in other facilities, the farthest one being in Bakersfield. VCBH has been supportive of Vista Del Mar's staff.</p> <p>Mr. Zarate introduced Michael White, who provided information on VCBH's response to the disaster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At 7:00 a.m. on Day 1 (12/5/17), a VCBH Command Center assessed clinics' capacity and identified staff willing to help at the shelters. By evening, VCBH staff were present at all shelters except in Ojai due to unsafe conditions. The Ventura and Santa Paula clinics closed briefly due to 	


	<p>mandatory evacuations. The Older Adult Program checked on its clients. Staff were added to the Crisis Team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing morning and evening briefings continued to take place to assess the needs and coordinate the response. Throughout the previous two weeks, VCBH continued to maintain bilingual staff teams at all shelters, including during the week-ends. Staff with a specialty in youth and family, Alcohol and Drug Program, and Rapid Integrated Support and Engagement (RISE) were working together. At the Ventura fairgrounds, staff responded to some overdoses, intravenous drug use, and trained Red Cross staff to use the injectable naloxone kit. VCBH received positive feedback from the Ventura Police Department and Ventura City Council members for its help. - VCBH communicated with the Red Cross and its national chief, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, and other agencies. - VCBH coordinated with the Human Services Agency regarding the foster children who were displaced. It was in contact with all school districts to assist school staff and administrators find ways to help the students when they return to school. - Over 300 staff in 85 teams were deployed over 15 venues, providing over 2,000 hours of service. - VCBH provided outreach through radio stations and Ready Ventura website. It coordinated with the Employee Assistance Program to debrief staff as they return from their assignments. <p>Mr. Zarate noted that in the past, VCBH has been asked to do debriefing work with police officers, emergency medical technicians and firefighters. VCBH expects to do this again with the current disaster.</p> <p>VCBH is assessing the mutual aid needs, the needs of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and of the community, including those who are temporarily staying with friends and families rather than shelters. It is looking at ways to assist Vista Del Mar Hospital.</p> <p>In response to questions, Mr. Zarate noted that VCBH has been engaging the homeless, many of whom have now accepted services. VCBH will continue to monitor the homeless population over the next several weeks.</p> <p>Mr. Zarate also reviewed the psychological process that people who lost their home are likely to go through. VCBH is planning some community forums for the next several months, the first one being tentatively planned for December 21st. Mr. Zarate noted that most people who are impacted by the fire have a good support system and are not likely to become VCBH clients.</p> <p>BHAB members present thanked Mr. Zarate and VCBH staff for the impressive work they have been doing.</p>	
IV.	<p>Public Comments None.</p>	
V.	<p>Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.</p>	

Behavioral Health Advisory Board EXECUTIVE Meeting Attendance 2017-2018

Members	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Jerry Harris Chair	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Ratan Bhavnani 1 st Vice Chair	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Kay Wilson-Bolton 2 nd Vice Chair						X						
Nancy Borchard Secretary	X		X		X	X						
Gane Brooking Member At Large	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Janis Gardner Member Emeritus	X	X	X	X	X	X						

Present = X

District 1	Supervisor Bennett
District 2	Supervisor Parks
District 3	Supervisor Long
District 4	Supervisor Foy
District 5	Supervisor Zaragoza









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

December 18, 2017

VCBH RESPONSE TO THE VENTURA COUNTY THOMAS FIRE

Thomas Fire

-  Began Monday, December 4, 6:30 p.m., near Highway 150 north of Santa Paula
-  Has burned over 270, 000 acres.
-  Ventura, Ojai, Santa Paula, Fillmore and unincorporated areas of Ventura County and Matilija Canyon all effected
-  Over 10,000 people evacuated
-  More than 1000 structures destroyed or damaged





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VCBH Response: Day One (12/5/17)



This slide features an orange header with the title "VCBH Response: Day One (12/5/17)". Below the header, three circular images are arranged vertically on the left, connected by a thin orange line. Each image is paired with a blue text box on the right. The first image shows a control room with multiple computer monitors. The second image shows a group of people in blue shirts standing outdoors. The third image is a portrait of a man in a blue shirt. At the bottom left is the Ventura County Behavioral Health logo, and at the bottom right is the number "3".

-  Command Center established at Williams Building by 7AM.
-  Rapid Response Team developed and deployed in community to address crisis and emergent needs
-  VCBH Team deployed to Fairgrounds by 9 am establishing contact with Red Cross and assessing need for MH services.


 VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH 3

VCBH Response: Day One (12/5/17)




This slide features an orange header with the title "VCBH Response: Day One (12/5/17)". Below the header, four circular images are arranged vertically on the left, connected by a thin orange line. Each image is paired with an orange text box on the right. The first image shows a fire with thick smoke. The second image shows people in a shelter. The third image shows staff interacting with clients. The fourth image shows a meeting room. At the bottom left is the Ventura County Behavioral Health logo, and at the bottom right is the number "4".

-  Ventura Adults, Older Adults, Benefits, and Santa Paula Adult clinics closed due to fire / smoke – staff deployed to shelter
-  VCBH Staff scheduled for deployment to the Santa Paula and Oxnard shelters (Unable to access Ojai Shelter due to fire / smoke)
-  VCBH Older Adults Staff checking in on older adult clients in community and at various board and cares to ensure safety
-  Evening debriefings established to review days events and plan next steps

 VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH 4


VCBH Response: Week 1-2

- Established Department-wide Communication Network / Situation Debriefing calls 2x / day
- EMS collaboration to identify BH staffing and service needs for coming week
- Secured BH staffing at Shelters and various Town Halls with full bilingual capabilities
- Reopened all BH Clinics and established a Thomas Fire Call Bank to accommodate increased access calls
- Consultation with Sonoma County re: disaster response and Mutual Aid process
- Staffed Temple Beth Tora weekend Re-Entry Program to provide counseling, support and resource referrals
- Established School-based team to provide support for districts




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Early Response Numbers At A Glance



- Over 300 Staff from All BH Programs Offered Time to Assist 7 Days a Week
- 85 Teams involving more than 260 staff deployed providing and provided over 2000 hours of service
- BH Deployed Staff to 15 Venues to Provide Crisis Services, Counseling, Support and Referrals
- BH Collaborated with over 20 City, County and State Entities to Ensure Appropriate Provision of Services and Supports.



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Going Forward



- Continued Services with Assist from CBOs and possible Mutual Aid
- Ongoing Community Outreach and Resource Referrals
- Staff Support and Debriefing
- Community Forums to Assess Ongoing Needs and Provide Support

 VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

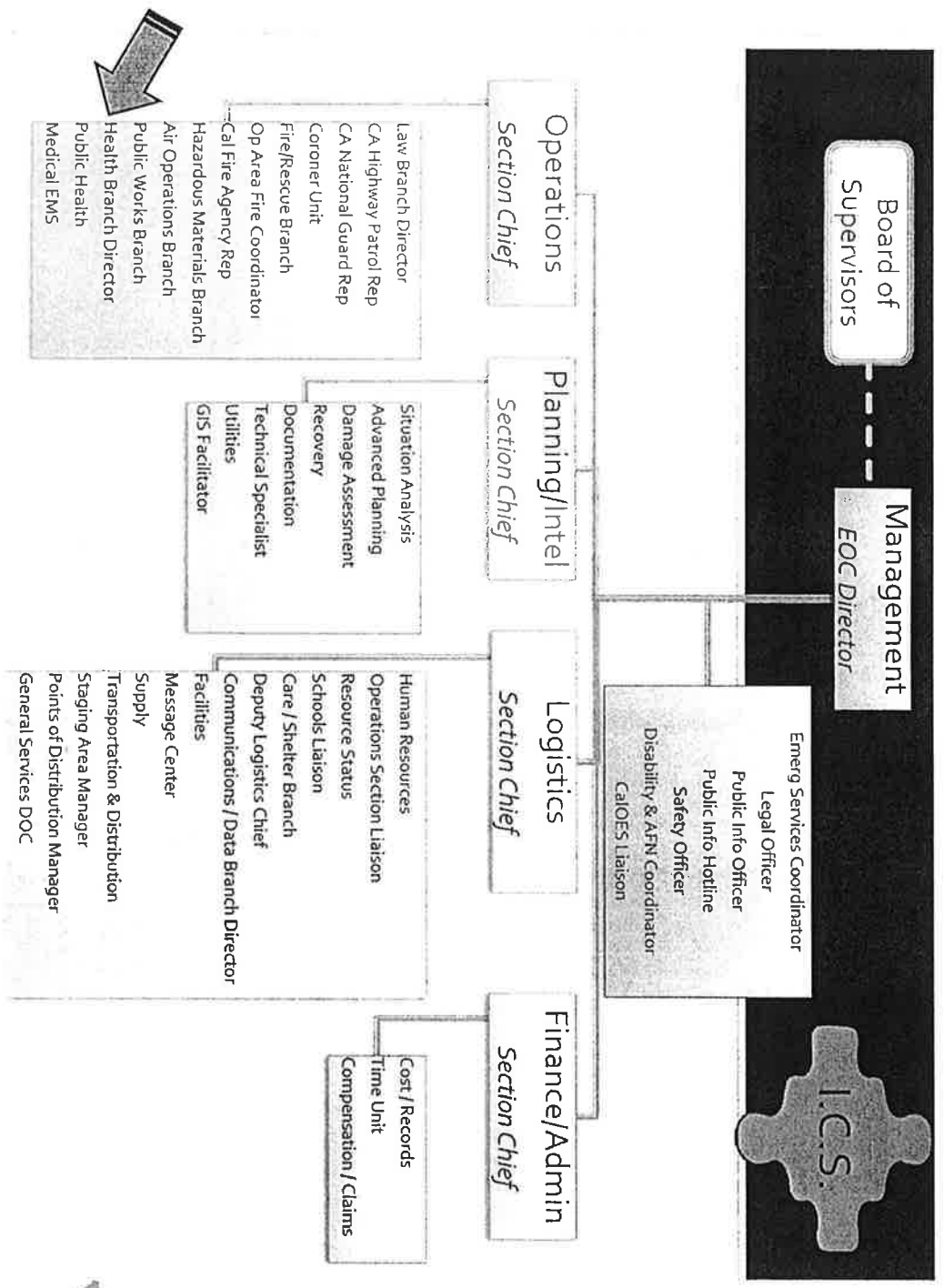
7

What A Team!



 VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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The Incident Command System (ICS) is a standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of **emergency response** providing a common hierarchy within which responders from multiple agencies can be effective.

ICS is the approach used by Sonoma County to respond to emergencies and disasters.

The Behavioral Health Division has an important role to play in the ICS. Employees of public governmental agencies are “disaster service workers” as defined by California Government Code 3100.



Behavioral Health Operations

Monday October 9th through Friday November 3rd

DOC Behavioral Health

Branch Director

Behavioral Health

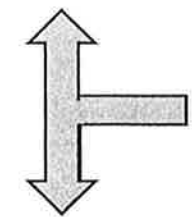
Services Liaison

Behavioral Health

Staff Coordinator

Site Coordinators

Road Dawgs



Deployed Behavioral
Health Staff

Situation Room

Funnel information from the DOC Behavioral Branch Director to deployed staff to ensure consistency of operations; report changes; identify needs, evaluate resources; gather information from Site Coordinators to communicate demand and requests to and from EOC/DOC.

Manage, track, deployed staff resources at various locations, maintain updated contact information, update staffing schedule, gather census, determine staffing needs.

Primary contact for deployed staff to provide clinical guidance and staff support. Report resource needs and operational issues to Liaison, deploy supplies, resources, etc.



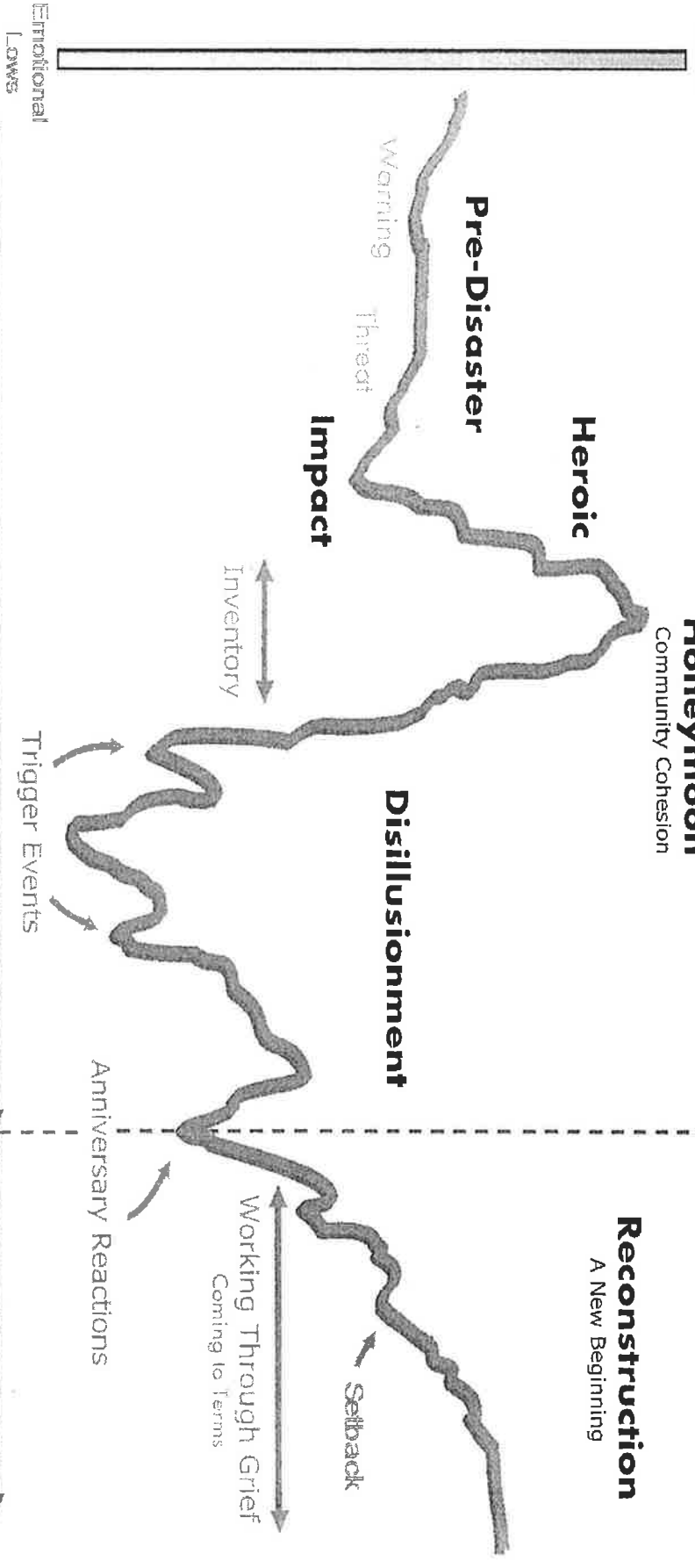
sonoma county
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

Emotional
Highs

TYPICAL PHASES OF DISASTER

Honeymoon
Community Cohesion

Reconstruction
A New Beginning



Up to One Year After Anniversary

Source: Zuning/Meyers, as cited in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2000). *Training manual for mental health and human service workers in major disasters* (DHHS Publication 90-538). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services.

SONOMA COUNTY STRONG

After Anniversary

SONOMA COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

SHELTER DEPLOYMENT & RE-ENTRY SITES

- By 9:30 AM on 10/9/2017 (Day 1) BH had over 40 staff deployed to 26 sites
- By 10/10/2017 (Day 2) BH had over 100 staff deployed to 22 sites.
Essential outpatient mental health services resumed by Day 2, while services at the Crisis Stabilization Unit were never interrupted
- At the “height” of the BH deployment, BH had 125 staff deployed at 18 sites
- Between 10/9/2017 and 11/8/2017 BH had an average of 40 staff deployed in the field each day.
- Between 10/9/2017 and 11/8/2017 BH worked over 13,000 hours toward disaster relief in the shelters and re-entry sites.



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER & DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS CENTER

Support:

- From 10/9/2017 to 10/18/2017 Behavioral Health staffed the EOC with a Safety Officer **24 hours per day for a total of 216 hours.**
- From 10/19/2017 to 11/2/2017 Behavioral Health staffed the EOC with a Safety Officer **12 hours per day for a total of 180 hours.**
- Since 10/9/2017, Behavioral Health has staffed the Department's Operation Center (DOC) with a Behavioral Health Disaster Director

Board of Supervisors sounds alarm over potential mental health crises caused by Sonoma County fires

J.D. MORRIS

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT | November 14, 2017



Sonoma County supervisors raised concerns Tuesday about the damaging effects of the October firestorm on residents' mental health, particularly the impacts on the thousands of people whose homes burned.

In a wide-ranging conversation about the region's recovery from last month's natural disaster, supervisors conveyed a desire to marshal public resources to help fire victims manage their collective trauma.

Warning of the possible long-term mental health consequences that fire victims could experience, the Board of Supervisors urged staff to conduct strong public messaging about the county's mental health resources and asked to hear a more detailed presentation from a medical professional next month.

Tuesday's board discussion was prompted in part by the death of Greg Peter Mlynarczyk, a well-known dentist whose rural Santa Rosa home was destroyed in the fires. His body was found Saturday morning at the ruins of his Amber Lane home, where he had shot himself, according to the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office.

Referencing Mlynarczyk's death, Supervisor Shirlee Zane said county officials need to pay close attention to their mental health efforts in the aftermath of the fires.

"Now more than ever, we can rise to a whole different level in terms of destigmatizing it (mental health crises) and really taking care of people and preventing those tragic losses of life," said Zane, the board chairwoman. "Grief is normal, but a lot of people are experiencing overwhelming grief. ... It's not just losing an item, losing things. It's losing a life that you built with your family, and that's a profound loss."

There are signs that stress levels have increased in the county since the fires. Michael

Kennedy, the county's mental health director, said his division had recently seen about double its normal volume of phone calls from residents possibly experiencing problems such as anxiety and depression.

The county is set to receive about \$900,000 in federal grant funds that will help cover mental-health-related costs incurred after the fires, when officials sent Behavioral Health Division staff to emergency shelters, neighborhood re-entry points and the local assistance center, Kennedy said.

County health officials intend to seek additional grant money for various "longer-term community healing" programs, he said in an interview.

Staff members in Kennedy's division also have received training from specialized psychologists on how to provide more targeted services to residents experiencing disaster-induced trauma. Zane asked if one of them could make a presentation at the board's Dec. 5 meeting about caring for constituents' mental health following a disaster.

"This is a really important part of the recovery process," said Supervisor Susan Gorin, whose Oakmont home was destroyed. "Up to this point, we haven't really focused on our mental health. ... It can affect the best of us at the most unexpected times."

You can reach Staff Writer J.D. Morris at 707-521-5337 or jd.morris@pressdemocrat.com. On Twitter @thejdmorris.

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NOT SURE WHERE TO START?	2-1-1	For information about resources dial 211 or call 1-800-339-9597 or visit www.211ventura.org . Text "ThomasFire" to 898-211 for up-to-date fire information.
	Ventura County Recovers	Official recovery information for Ventura County fires: www.venturacountyrecovers.org
	Thomas Fire Help	Continuously updated community-based list of resources: www.thomasfirehelp.com
	Ready. Ventura County	For regularly updated incident information call the public information line at (805) 465-6650 or visit www.readyventuracounty.org
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Crisis Helpline	In emotional distress? The Ventura County Crisis Team is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Help is available in English, Spanish, and other languages. Call 1-866-998-2243 .
	Ways to Cope	After a disaster, coping with stress and trauma is important. There are many things you can do to help care for yourself or a loved one. See www.wellnesseveryday.org
	Helping Children	Caring for Children in a Disaster – CDC website: www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters See more resources at www.wellnesseveryday.org
	Alcohol & Drugs	Stay alert – don't overdo alcohol or use other drugs as a way to cope with stress. Learn more about the risks at www.venturacountylimits.org
MORE RESOURCES	National Disaster Distress Helpline	For anyone experiencing emotional distress related to disasters such as wildfires. Call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. Available 24/7.
	After the Fire: Tip Sheet	After the Fire: Your Emotional and Physical Well-Being – Common reactions to stress, and how to cope and stay healthy. www.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/pdf/afterfire.pdf
	Taking Care of Your Emotional Health	After a disaster – fact sheet from the American Red Cross: www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4240142_EmoionalHealth.pdf