

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES ■ Monday, July 8, 2019**

<p><b><u>BHAB Officers Present</u></b> Janis Gardner, Chair Ratan Bhavnani, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Gane Brooking, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Gina Petrus, Secretary Jerry Harris, Chair Emeritus</p> <p><b><u>Others Present</u></b> Joe S. Ramirez, BHAB Kevin Janeway, Client Network Stuart Fiedler, PE Bob Wickham, NAMI</p>	<p><b><u>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present</u></b> Sevet Johnson, Director Edith Pham, BHAB Assistant</p> <p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b> <b>Monday, August 12, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) 1911 Williams Drive, Lake Cachuma Room (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> Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. She thanked Mr. Harris for his leadership during his two years as BHAB Chair.		
II.	<b>Approval of the Agenda</b> Ms. Gardner asked the Committee to review and approve today’s agenda. Ratan Bhavnani moved to approve, Jerry Harris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.	The agenda was approved as written. <b>M/S/C</b>	
III.	<b>Approval of the June 10, 2019 Minutes</b> Ms. Gardner asked the committee to review and approve the minutes of the June 10 meeting. Mr. Harris moved to approve, Mr. Bhavnani seconded. The motion passed unanimously.	The minutes were approved as written. <b>M/S/C</b>	
IV.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Ms. Gardner welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.		
V.	<b>Chair Announcements</b> Ms. Gardner noted that two members have recently been appointed to the BHAB: Joe S. Ramirez and Ezequiel A. Sánchez. She asked Mr. Ramirez to share some information about himself. He noted that he is a retired educator and school administrator; his career has been related to students and their health, including student counseling.		
VI.	<b>Public Comments</b> Stuart Fiedler referred to his comment of the June 10 BHAB Executive meeting. He requested that his name be listed as Stuart Fiedler, PE. He also spoke about restitution.  Kevin Janeway noted that an article in the July 7 Ventura County Star talks about the year-round homeless shelter that the city of Oxnard is working to open.		
VII.	<b>Board Members Comments and Announcements</b> Gane Brooking noted that the renovations on the Knoll Drive, Ventura homeless shelter have started. Mercy House has a contract to manage both the Ventura and Oxnard shelters.		
VIII.	<b>Director’s Updates – Dr. Sevet Johnson</b> A. The VCBH leadership team will hold a Strategic Planning meeting on July 9. It will map out its Five-Year Plan, with the help of Dr. Jennifer Wortham, Health Care Agency’s Chief Deputy Director Strategy and Growth. B. As of July 1 <sup>st</sup> , Traditions is the VCBH provider for psychiatric services, and Dr. Jason Cooper is the Interim Medical Director. C. Pete Pringle, VCBH Youth & Family Division Chief, will be honored at the Fainer/Tauber, MD Awards/Night of Stars event that will be held on August 8. D. Recently, VCBH conducted a staff survey, which was anonymous. The Quality Assurance division is preparing a summary of the findings.		

	E. Dr. Johnson received an email from a family member thanking Edwin Valdez, a clinician at the Santa Paula Adult clinic, for his work with their loved one. She proposed presenting him with a BHAB recognition. The Executive board agreed.	Recognize E. Valdez at a future General meeting	
IX.	<p><b>Secretary's Report – Gina Petrus</b></p> <p>Jamie Banker is excused from the July 15 General Meeting as she will be out of the country.</p> <p>Gane Brooking asked about Marlen Torres as she has missed some meetings. Ms. Gardner agreed to contact her.</p>	Contact M Torres	J. Gardner
X.	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p>A. Formation of a Legislative Workgroup Ms. Gardner requested that Mr. Bhavnani resume the meetings of the Legislative Workgroup; he agreed to this and to chairing these meetings. Ms. Brooking agreed to attend, and Mr. Bhavnani will contact the members who had participated earlier.</p> <p>B. Housing Workgroup Ms. Brooking noted that funding for Board &amp; Care facilities is needed. Mr. Bhavnani noted that the Adult Services Committee is focused on local housing. Ms. Brooking agreed to include Housing on the committee's agendas, and she will contact Susan White Wood, VCBH Housing Manager. It was agreed that no housing workgroup will be formed at this time.</p> <p>C. IMD Exclusion Waiver Ms. Gardner thanked Mr. Harris and Mary Haffner for their work on this topic. Mr. Harris noted that he brought this topic to the attention of the Executive Director of the California Health Planning Council, but the association is concerned that this may increase the number of beds used for clients on involuntary holds. He noted that, per Supervisor Parks' recommendation, the BHAB sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in support of the State applying for the Waiver, but the BOS has not acted on it. Additionally, Sue Hughes of the County Government Affairs has stated that the BOS will review the California 1115 Waiver in its entirety sometime in late summer. Ms. Haffner will meet with Ms. Hughes on July 17 to discuss this.</p> <p>D. California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards &amp; Commissions (CALBHB/C) Update Mr. Harris noted that he attended the California Behavioral Health Planning Council meeting on June 21. He brought back some materials that may be of interest to the committees. The Council also provides trainings on the duties of the local board members' duties and role, and Mr. Harris encouraged members to attend.</p> <p>E. Member At Large Ms. Gardner asked Mr. Ramirez if he was interested in this voting position, and he voiced his interest. Mr. Harris noted that other members may be interested and suggested that the entire board be surveyed at the upcoming General meeting. Ms. Gardner agreed.</p> <p>F. New Member Orientation Ms. Gardner is planning to provide an orientation to Mr. Ramirez and Mr. Sánchez on July 15 at noon. She will contact Mr. Sánchez about this. Mr. Harris and Mr. Bhavnani agreed to participate.</p> <p>G. Events and Announcements Ms. Gardner asked Mr. Bhavnani if he would be willing to share the events and announcements during the General Meetings. He agreed but also suggested asking the full board for other volunteers. Ms. Gardner agreed.</p> <p>H. Bill Foley, HCA Director, Visit at the General Meeting</p>	Resume meetings of the Legislative Workgroup	R. Bhavnani

	<p>Ms. Gardner noted that Mr. Foley has volunteered to address the BHAB at the July General meeting. He will be available at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Harris requested that Mr. Foley address the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and Inpatient Psychiatric Unit (IPU) in light of the financial concerns that the Health Care Agency is facing. Mr. Bhavnani suggested inviting Dr. Fankhauser, HCA Chief Medical Officer.</p> <p>I. Off-Site Participation in BHAB Meetings Ms. Gardner noted that the BHAB Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Committee discussed off-site participation. Its Chair, Margaret Cortese, has informed Ms. Gardner that this idea is currently on hold as it cannot be done in the VCBH clinics due to confidentiality. Mr. Harris and Mr. Bhavnani agreed that this would be burdensome to implement due to Brown Act requirements. Mr. Harris noted that if the TAY Committee wants to pursue this in the future, it should send a formal recommendation to the BHAB Executive board. The board agreed to not put this on the agenda of the upcoming General meeting.</p>		
<p>XI.</p>	<p><b>Old Business</b></p> <p>A. Lanterman, Petris, Short (LPS) Reform Workgroup – First meeting: July 8, 3:00 p.m. Mr. Harris noted that he will chair the first meeting that afternoon, and a Chair will be selected at that time.</p> <p>B. Preparation for Annual Report – Timeline of Objectives, Mission Statement, Vision Ms. Gardner will ask the committees to work on their objectives and mission statements during their next meetings.</p> <p>C. Future Presentations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gina Petrus noted that Dr. Kathleen Van Antwerp will give a presentation on Trauma-Informed Care at the August General meeting. Dr. Johnson noted that VCBH staff have been trained on this.</li> <li>2. Ms. Gardner noted that she and the BHAB have been invited by Ventura County Law Enforcement to tour their facility at the Camarillo Airport, but the public is not allowed to attend. A discussion took place regarding the Brown Act requirements and the appropriateness of a presentation that may not be directly related to mental health. It was agreed to request a presentation that will address the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). Mr. Harris suggested looking into the Brown Act requirements for a social gathering.</li> <li>3. Mr. Bhavnani reminded the Chair that several months prior he had suggested a presentation on the Public Guardian/Public Administration office. However, no one from that office has replied to the BHAB Assistant’s request for a presentation. Dr. Johnson agreed to follow up with Dr. Schipper.</li> </ol> <p>D. Future Recognitions William (Bill) Shilley and Edwin Valdez.</p>	<p>Research Brown Act requirements for social gathering</p> <p>Follow up on scheduling a Public Guardian’s presentation</p>	<p>E. Pham</p> <p>Dr. Johnson</p>
<p>XII.</p>	<p><b>Develop Agenda for the General Meeting – Discussion</b> The Executive Team reviewed the proposed agenda. The following changes were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remove: Housing Workgroup</li> <li>- Add: Review of Budget Presentation - Discussion</li> </ul>		
<p>XI.</p>	<p><b>Public Comments</b> Bob Wickham suggested scheduling a future presentation on crisis communication. At the recent NAMI California Conference, Sgt. John Wilson had presented on how the California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers handle stress. The Executive team agreed.</p> <p>Kevin Janeway passed around the table a brochure called “WISE” (Workforce Integration Support and Education), from NorCal Mental Health America. He noted that sometimes the peer culture gets assimilated, but it should remain distinct.</p>	<p>Schedule presentation on law enforcement and stress</p>	<p>E. Pham</p>
	<p><b>Adjourn</b> The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.</p>		

## Behavioral Health Advisory Board EXECUTIVE Meeting Attendance 2019-2020

Members 2019-2020	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Janis Gardner Chair	X											
Ratan Bhavnani 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair	X											
Gane Brooking 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	X											
Gina Petrus Secretary	X											
Jerry Harris Chair Emeritus	X											

Present = X

- District 1      Supervisor Bennett
- District 2      Supervisor Parks
- District 3      Supervisor Long
- District 4      Supervisor Huber
- District 5      Supervisor Zaragoza



# What We Do

## Meaningful Inclusion is What We're All About

We meet agencies where they're at, listen to their needs and what they want to accomplish, and find ways to help them reach their goals. We do this through:

- COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND MUTUAL SUPPORT
- INDIVIDUALIZED ASSESSMENTS OF WORKPLACE NEEDS
- IN-PERSON AND ON-CALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- CUSTOM ONLINE AND INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAININGS
- RELEVANT RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
- NETWORKING AND SOCIAL CONNECTIONS



W.I.S.E is a program of NorCal MHA



W.I.S.E is administered by OSHPPD



WELLNESS • RECOVERY • RESILIENCE

W.I.S.E is funded by Prop 63



Workforce Integration Support and Education

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[WWW.NORCALMHA.ORG/WISE](http://WWW.NORCALMHA.ORG/WISE)



Workforce Integration Support and Education

STRENGTHENING CALIFORNIA'S  
PEER WORKFORCE,  
ONE WORKPLACE AT A TIME





## OUR EXPERIENCE IS OUR EXPERTISE

**WISE**, which stands for **W**orkforce **I**ntegration **S**upport and **E**ducation, is a new program of NorCal MHA funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA/Prop 63) and administered by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). **Our goal is simple: to help employers in California's public mental health system recruit and retain qualified consumer and family member staff through genuine workforce integration.**

We understand the constraints and issues you're facing because we've been there. In fact, we **are** there. Over 90% of our staff identify as consumers and/or family members, including our entire Executive Leadership team and all of our program managers. Just like you, we strive to put the MHSA's vision and values into practice by promoting and advancing peer employment. We've learned that successful incorporation of consumers and family members requires the convergence of many factors, which include:

- A recovery-oriented work culture
- Dedicated and influential workplace leaders
- Supportive managers and supervisors
- Ongoing training, coaching, and peer mentoring
- Adequate oversight, evaluation, and feedback for peers
- Clearly-defined core competencies and peer roles
- Genuine opportunities for career advancement
- Collaborative working relationships
- Continuity and growth of peer programs
- Opportunities for peers to interact and learn together
- Flexible workplace policies and procedures

Employers have achieved varying levels of progress in each of these areas. We can all use assistance with reinforcing our strengths and mitigating our weaknesses. Just as peers need support from one another to encourage growth and continual improvement, our employer partners also benefit from sharing their successes and challenges with one another in a non-judgmental environment. We are passionate about providing these services and helping our partner agencies realize their specific organizational objectives.

## FAQs

**Why should employers care about workforce integration?**

The MHSA requires agencies that receive Prop 63 funding to meaningfully include mental health clients and their family members in the creation and delivery of public mental health services. This is frequently accomplished by hiring peer staff to provide direct support and recovery services to public mental health clients and their family members.

While the MHSA's mandate to hire and retain consumer and family member staff is clear, the path to successful implementation of this mandate remains elusive. If employers do not prepare and plan for the hiring of peers or do not adequately support them once hired, the success, growth, and continuity of peer-run services is at risk. We help employers get it right no matter where they're at in this process.

**Do you offer services for peer staff too?**

YES! While primarily focused on organizational leadership, **WISE** also provides career coaching, mentoring, training, skills building, and other supportive resources to help peers achieve success in their roles.