

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, October 11, 2021, 1:00 – 2:30 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Zoom Participation

The following information referenced below is provided to you in support of your attending the upcoming BHAB Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom:

Join the zoom meeting in the following way:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81014411236?pwd=KzJwU2phdVlxZkt4akJjajUwVGRDQT09>

Meeting ID: 810 1441 1236

Password: 785009

Dial-in: 669-900-9128

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call of Executive Committee Members to Determine a Quorum
- III. Approval of the Agenda – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- IV. Approval of the September 13, 2021 Minutes – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- V. Welcome and Introductions
- VI. Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)
- VII. Chair Comments and Announcements (5 min.)
- VIII. Director’s Updates – Dr. Sevet Johnson (10 min.)
- IX. Executive Committee Member Comments and Announcements (10 min.)
- X. Secretary’s Report – Janis Gardner (5 min.)
- XI. Old Business
 - A. Revision to BHAB Bylaws - Discussion
- XII. New Business
 - A. Evaluate September General Board Meeting to Identify Need for Improvement (10 min.)
 - B. Brown Act Public Emergency Allowances / Teleconferences – Requirements for Local Boards and Commissions – Michael Rodriguez, Chair – **ACTION** (Roll Call) (10 min.)
 - C. 2021 Data Notebook – Due November 30th
 - D. BHAB Membership Identification Assessment – Survey Results Status
 - E. Needs Assessment Board Letter Workgroup Report Discussion – Michael Rodriguez, Chair
 - F. Presentation Requests
 - G. Recognition Award Recommendations
- XIII. Develop Agenda for Virtual General Meeting scheduled on October 18, 2021 at 1:00 PM
 - A. *Presentation: Homelessness Solutions Update/County of Ventura’s Work Under the Continuum of Care to Fight Homelessness – Tara Carruth, Program Management Analyst (15 min.)*

Members of the public making oral presentations to the Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total time not to exceed (5) minutes for all of their oral presentations at such meeting unless otherwise provided. Public comments on agenda items must be made prior to board member deliberations of agenda items. The entire public comment period is limited to no more than (20) minutes total for all speakers. NOTE: The Chair may limit the number or duration of speakers on a matter. In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Behavioral Health Administration at (805) 981-6830. Reasonable advance notification of the need for accommodation prior to the meeting (48 hours advance notice is preferable) will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

- B. *Presentation: Transition of the Disparities Reduction Workgroup to BHAB Committee – Gane Brooking and Marlen Torres (20 min.)*
- C. *Old Business*
 - 1. *Revision to BHAB Bylaws – Discussion*
- D. *New Business*
 - 1. *BHAB Committee Reports (follows Secretary’s Report as separate agenda item)*
 - a) *Youth & Family Services Committee (reporting on October 13 meeting) – Kevin Clerici, Chair*
 - 2. *Transition of the Disparities Reduction Workgroup to BHAB Committee – Gane Brooking and Marlen Torres – ACTION (Roll Call) (10 min.)*
 - 3. *Needs Assessment Board Letter Workgroup Report – Michael Rodriguez, Chair*
 - 4. *Needs Assessment Funding Sources Review Workgroup Report – Claudia Armann, Chair*
 - 5. *Comprehensive Needs Assessment Request for Proposal (RFP) - Board Letter Review and Approval – ACTION (Roll Call) (10 min.)*
 - 6. *BHAB Membership Identification Assessment – Survey Results*
 - 7. *Announcements – Janis Gardner (5 min.)*
 - 8. *Presentation Requests*
 - 9. *Recognition Award Recommendations*

XIV. Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)

XV. Adjourn

Next Meeting: November 8, 2021

All agenda reports and supporting data, including those filed in accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5 (b) (1) and (2) are available from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board Assistant at bhabadmin@ventura.org or in person at Ventura County Behavioral Health, 2nd Floor, 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, California. The same materials will be available and attached with each associated agenda item, when received, at the following website: www.vcbh.org/en/behavioral-health-advisory-board-meetings.

Welcome to the meeting of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board of the County of Ventura. The following information is provided to help you understand, follow, and participate in the Board meeting:

Join the Zoom meeting by clicking the link provided on the agenda at the scheduled time and date. Zoom will initially start with a **waiting room** — you will be admitted into the meeting room when the meeting starts. All participants are muted upon entry to minimize any unintended disruption of background sounds. Please keep yourself on mute unless you are speaking.

Note: The meeting is recorded.

Members of the public making oral presentations to the Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total time not to exceed (5) minutes for all of their oral presentations at such meeting unless otherwise provided. Public comments on agenda items must be made prior to board member deliberations of agenda items. The entire public comment period is limited to no more than (20) minutes total for all speakers. NOTE: The Chair may limit the number or duration of speakers on a matter. In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Behavioral Health Administration at (805) 981-6830. Reasonable advance notification of the need for accommodation prior to the meeting (48 hours advance notice is preferable) will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Public Comments

- The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) welcomes comments from the community, consumers and family members.
- The BHAB operates under the Brown Act. This requires that all meetings be open meetings, with the agenda and minutes posted. A public comment period will be provided on all meeting agendas.
- Due to confidentiality laws, the Board is unable to respond directly to a public comment or to discuss client-specific issues without proper releases from the individuals concerned.
- At all BHAB meetings, the BHAB Assistant provides a Grievance Form for individuals who have concerns. The form is reviewed promptly by VCBH Quality Management. Individuals can also contact the BHAB Assistant to request a VCBH Grievance Form outside a BHAB meeting or call 1-888-567-2122.
- Individuals who have further concerns are welcome to return to the BHAB for assistance.

Public comments may be provided using one of the following options:

Email or Mail Public Comment in Advance of the Meeting

To make a public comment, you must send an email to bhabadmin@ventura.org, with the specific agenda item or topic, if a general comment, by no later than 10:00 AM on the day of the BHAB meeting. Your public comment may also be submitted in writing and mailed to:

BHAB Assistant
1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93036

Please indicate in the subject line the agenda item number (e.g., Item No. 9) on which you are commenting. Your email will be distributed to the BHAB Members and placed into the item's record of the meeting.

Video Public Comment using Zoom

You may use the raise hand feature when the Chair invites public comments in the following ways:

If you are running an older version of Zoom, you can raise your hand by clicking on the Participant button at the bottom of the Zoom screen and then click on the raise hand feature in that participant window.

If you are running the most current version of Zoom (5.4.9 and above) you can raise your hand by clicking on the Reactions button and then clicking on raise hand feature. Your hand will appear in the upper left-hand corner of your individual Zoom window as well as the participant window.

Members of the public making oral presentations to the Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total time not to exceed (5) minutes for all of their oral presentations at such meeting unless otherwise provided. Public comments on agenda items must be made prior to board member deliberations of agenda items. The entire public comment period is limited to no more than (20) minutes total for all speakers. NOTE: The Chair may limit the number or duration of speakers on a matter. In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Behavioral Health Administration at (805) 981-6830. Reasonable advance notification of the need for accommodation prior to the meeting (48 hours advance notice is preferable) will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Call-In Public Comment using Zoom

If you are joining the meeting by telephone only, you can join the comment queue by pressing *9. When it is your turn to make your comment, press *6 to unmute and then again to mute yourself after speaking.

Note: Your raised hand will appear TO THE HOST in the order it was received.

Comments are taken in the order they are received in the queue/participant window. When it is your turn to make a comment, you will be asked to unmute yourself. **Public comments may be up to 3 minutes during the public comment periods, or before an agenda item, with a cumulative total time not to exceed 5 minutes.** The assigned timekeeper will track each public comment time as well as the total time per speaker. When your time is up, the timekeeper will interrupt to let you know that you have reached the 3-minute maximum as well as when you have reached your total allotted time. At the end of the three minutes and/or allotted time, the next person in the comment queue will be invited to speak.

REMINDER: In order to minimize distractions during public meetings, all personal communication devices should be turned off or put in a non-audible mode.

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To: Board of Supervisors
County Executive Office
Clerk of the Board

From: Dr. Robert Levin, Ventura County Health Officer

Date: September 21, 2021

Re: Recommendation regarding Social Distancing and Continued Remote Meetings of
Legislative Bodies

Robert Levin

I strongly recommend that physical/social distancing measures continue to be practiced throughout our Ventura County communities to minimize the spread of COVID-19, including at meetings of the Board of Supervisors and meetings of other legislative bodies of the County of Ventura.

California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) caution that the Delta variant of COVID-19, currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>). Additionally, the CDC has established a “Community Transmission” metric with 4 tiers designed to reflect a community’s COVID-19 case rate and percent positivity. Ventura County currently has a Community Transmission metric of “high” which is the most serious of the tiers.

Whether vaccinated or not, positive individuals are contracting the Delta variant and infecting others in our communities. Social distancing and masking are crucial mitigation measure to prevent the disease’s spread. Remote meetings of legislative bodies of the County, including but not limited to the Board of Supervisors, are a recommended form of social distancing that allows for the participation of the community, staff, presenters, and legislative body members in a safe environment, with no risk of contagion. It is recommended that legislative bodies of the County continue to implement 100% remote meetings.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me.



DRAFT

Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board

October **, 2021

Members:

- Claudia Armann
- Soledad Barragán
- Ratan Bhavnani
- Nancy Borchard, Member At Large
- Gane Brooking
- Kevin Clerici
- Jose Estrada
- Jesse Finkbeiner
- Genevieve Flores-Haro
- Cmdr. James Fryhoff
- Janis Gardner, Secretary
- Jerry Harris, Chair Emeritus
- Cheryl Heitmann
- Carol J. Keavney
- Matt LaVere, Supervisor
- Jennifer Morrison
- Patricia Mowlavi
- Joe S. Ramirez, 1st Vice Chair
- Michael Rodriguez, Chair
- Christopher Tejada, 2nd Vice Chair
- Carol Thomas
- Marlen Torres

Dr. Sevet Johnson, Director
Ventura County Behavioral Health

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Comprehensive Behavioral Health Needs Assessment

Dear Ventura County Supervisors:

The Ventura County Behavioral Health Department has effectively and creatively utilized existing resources to provide behavioral health services to Ventura County residents. However, far too many people suffering from severe mental illness cycle through the revolving doors of rehospitalization and incarceration, thereby traumatizing them and their families. Accordingly, we respectfully request the County of Ventura engage a qualified independent entity to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the behavioral health services continuum of care without consuming resources allocated for mental health services. As you may know, the continuum of care includes treatment, programs, facility and staffing infrastructure to provide appropriate treatment, as well as long-term and transitional housing supports.

As you may also know, other California counties have hired independent contractors to conduct similar behavioral health needs assessments because of their global and outside third-party perspectives. Effective pre-crisis treatment significantly reduces the need for crisis care. Accordingly, our requested needs assessment should include every level of care required by people affected by mental illness, from the least to the most intensive to ensure early identification and appropriate treatment while supporting recovery and independence.

Address:

1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93036
Phone: 805-981-1115

Areas assessed may include:

- Review of services offered by Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) and recommendations to enhance them, such as:
 - Using Peer Support Specialists embedded with VCBH or its contracted providers;
 - Implementing behavioral health urgent care centers;
 - STAR, RISE, Crisis Team and ASSIST Team;
 - Housing and supportive care;
 - Linguistically and culturally appropriate services; and
 - Other evidence-based programs used elsewhere.
- Recommended number of residential treatment beds, including Intensive Psychiatric Units (IPU), Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT), Board and Care and other step-down facilities.

As the cycle of rehospitalization and incarceration span several departments and systems, the evaluator(s) may require data and information from other departments/agencies, including:

- The Sheriff's Department;
- The District Attorney's Office;
- The Public Defender's Office;
- The Probation Agency;
- The Human Services Agency, including the Public Guardian; and
- The Health Care Agency.

RECOMMENDATION: The BHAB formally requests the Board of Supervisors to take the following actions:

- Approve and implement the recommendation for the County of Ventura to engage a qualified independent entity to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the behavioral health continuum of care pertaining to individuals experiencing mental illness and substance use disorders;
- Instruct the Health Care Agency to develop an RFP to hire a qualified independent entity to conduct the needs assessment; and
- The costs associated with this comprehensive needs assessment should not consume resources intended for existing and prospective mental health services but originate from grants, foundation or additional local, state or federal funding. Examples of potential funding sources are attached in Appendix "A".

DRAFT

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Michael Rodríguez, Chair
Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board

cc: Michael Powers, County Executive Officer

encl.