

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM)
MINUTES ■ Monday, September 13, 2021

<p><u>BHAB Officers Present</u> Michael Rodriguez, Chair Joe S. Ramirez, 1st Vice Chair Christopher Tejeda, 2nd Vice Chair Janis Gardner, Secretary Nancy Borchard, Member-At-Large Jerry Harris, Member (Chair) Emeritus</p> <p><u>Others Present</u> Ratan Bhavnani, BHAB Gane Brooking, BHAB Stacy Dalgleish Cmdr. James Fryhoff, BHAB Roberta Griego, NAMI Ventura County Mary Haffner, Haffner Law Group Jeffery Hayden, Hayden Consultants Shawna Morris, Casa Pacifica Carolina Rodriguez, Homeland Language Services Mark Stadler, Crisis Intervention Team Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team Liz Warren, Client Network Jerry Weaver</p>	<p><u>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present</u> Dr. Sevet Johnson, Director Dr. Loretta Denering, Substance Use Services Division Chief Cynthia Salas, Equity Services Manager – Office of Health Equity & Cultural Diversity Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief Terri Yanez, Administration Division Chief Vickie Poliquin, Temporary BHAB Assistant</p> <p>NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 11, 2021, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual Meeting Via Zoom</p>
<p><i>Note: The committee has not yet approved these minutes. There may be additions/deletions or corrections before the minutes are accepted in final form.</i></p>	

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
I.	<p>Call to Order Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.</p> <p>Mr. Tejeda advised all attendees of the details on how to access interpretation services.</p>		
II.	<p>Roll Call – Board Executive Committee Attendees Secretary Gardner confirmed that a quorum exists through roll call.</p>		
III.	<p>Approval of the Agenda Mr. Rodriguez asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Gardner moved to approve the agenda as written; Ms. Borchard seconded. The motion carried unanimously through roll call.</p>	The agenda was approved as written. M/S/C	
IV.	<p>Approval of the Minutes Mr. Rodriguez asked for a motion to approve the August 9, 2021, minutes. Ms. Borchard moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Tejeda seconded. The motion to approve the minutes as written carried unanimously through roll call.</p>	The minutes were approved as written. M/S/C	
V.	<p>Welcome and Introductions Mr. Rodriguez welcomed everyone to the meeting and members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves.</p>		
VI.	<p>Public Comments There were no public comments.</p>		
VII.	<p>Chair Comments and Announcements Mr. Rodriguez noted that a draft Board Letter had been submitted to the BHAB Executive Committee members under agenda item XII.B., that the County logo will be updated and that he will welcome questions, comments and suggestions for its finalization.</p>		
VIII.	<p>Director’s Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board of Supervisors recessed in August and will resume meetings on September 14. VCBH has Consent items on the September 14 BOS agenda that were sent out by the Clerk of the Board on September 10. All Health Care workers <u>must</u> be fully vaccinated by October 1 or have an approved exemption due to qualified religious or medical reasons. If workers are not vaccinated due 		

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	<p>to an approved exemption, weekly COVID-19 testing will be required to ensure the workplace is safe for staff and for incoming clients and consumers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CalAIM initiative introduced in October 2019 and put on pause in March 2020, has started back up. A first deliverable, due by January 2022, is Enhanced Case Management and In Lieu of Services (ECM and ILOS). • The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has extended the flexibilities for telehealth services through December 2022. • Simi Valley is offering a Mental Health Forum on September 15. If interested in registering, go to www.simivalley.org and click on Simi Valley News. • Introduced the Interagency Leadership Team (ILT) Committee and Workgroup driven by the Human Services Agency Director, Melissa Livingston whose goal is to re-vision and transform the way youth and families are served. An update will be provided to the Board of Supervisors. • Monthly data requested by the BHAB will be reported at the September 20 General meeting. <p>Mr. Harris asked how the Consent items scheduled on the September 14 Board of Supervisors agenda were transmitted to BHAB members. Dr. Johnson responded that the Consent items were not sent to BHAB members directly, but that BHAB members can subscribe on the County of Ventura’s website through the Clerk of the Board to receive weekly Board of Supervisors meeting agendas that includes access to all Board Letters and their attachments.</p> <p>Ms. Gardner asked when the Interagency Leadership Team plans to present to the Board of Supervisors. Dr. Johnson advised that Melissa Livingston hopes to present by the end of this year.</p>		
IX.	<p>Executive Committee Member Comments and Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Gardner mentioned that September is Suicide Prevention Month and the annual Suicide Prevention Forum, Conversations About Suicide Help & Hope is scheduled virtually on September 23 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM urging BHAB members who are interested to register and attend. • Mr. Ramirez inquired about questions that have been raised at the Transitional Age Youth Committee regarding gaining a better understanding of the purpose of reviewing contracts and what the BHAB is looking for in terms of feedback. Following a brief discussion, it was clarified that Committees can provide generalized or specific feedback, comments or concerns for those contracts that relate to their areas or simply provide a critique conveying support or non-support of a contract. 		
X.	<p>Secretary’s Report</p> <p>Ms. Gardner noted that Mr. Tejeda is on the September 14 Board of Supervisor’s agenda for reappointment to the BHAB and that one other BHAB member’s term is coming up in October.</p>		
XI.	<p>Old Business</p> <p>A. Revision to BHAB Bylaws Mr. Rodriguez advised that this item relates solely to the transition of the Disparities Reduction Workgroup to a BHAB Committee. There was no discussion.</p> <p>B. BHAB Membership Identification Assessment Survey Tool Selection and Logistics Mr. Rodriguez noted that Survey Monkey was selected as the Survey Tool and briefly discussed ideas on how the survey will be conducted. Mr. Rodriguez will coordinate with VCBH staff to assist with the Survey’s development, welcomed Survey language ideas from BHAB members, plans to send the Survey via email to all BHAB members within the next two weeks and is hopeful to provide the Survey results at the October General meeting.</p>		
XII.	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. Evaluate August General Board Meeting to Identify Need for Improvement Ms. Gardner commented that the meeting went great, and Mr. Rodriguez noted appreciation for the two presentations that were provided.</p>		

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	<p>B. Comprehensive Needs Assessment Request for Proposal (RFP) – Board Letter Review and Approval Mr. Rodriguez summarized the content and development of the language within the draft Board Letter and asked if there were any questions, comments, concerns or corrections.</p> <p>Discussion took place on this agenda item however, no action was taken. The agenda item will carry forward to the September General meeting to establish a BHAB Workgroup to revise and prepare a draft Board Letter for the needs assessment.</p> <p>C. Presentation Requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 18 – Homelessness Solutions Update/County of Ventura’s Work Under the Continuum of Care to Fight Homelessness – Tara Carruth, Program Management Analyst. <p>D. Recognition Award Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 20 - Supervisor Linda Parks. 	<p>No action taken. Revised agenda item will carry forward to Sept General Meeting.</p>	
XIII.	<p>Develop Agenda for Virtual General Meeting Scheduled for September 20, 2021 at 1:00 PM Changes were agreed upon as follows:</p> <p><u>PENDING AGENDA ITEM:</u> XIII.B. Presentation of the Disparities Reduction Workgroup to BHAB Committee A brief discussion took place regarding confirming with the Workgroup’s Chair and Co-Chair that the Presentation will take place at the September 20 or October 18 General meeting.</p> <p><u>REVISE FROM:</u> E. NEW BUSINESS 3. Comprehensive Needs Assessment Request for Proposal (RFP) – Board Letter Review and Approval – ACTION (Roll Call) (10 min.)</p> <p><u>REVISE TO:</u> E. NEW BUSINESS 3. Establish a Workgroup to Revise and Prepare a Board Letter for the Comprehensive Needs Assessment Request for Proposal (RFP) for BHAB Executive Committee Review on October 11 (10 min.)</p> <p><u>DELETE:</u> E. NEW BUSINESS 4. BHAB Membership Identification Assessment – Conduct Anonymous Survey (Will be completed via email and the results reported on at October General meeting.)</p>		
XIV.	<p>Public Comments Jerry Weaver made a public comment recommending that the BHAB Bylaws be attached to the BHAB’s Annual Report and voiced opposition to hiring an independent contractor for housing and homelessness. He was unable to finish his public comment due to video technical difficulties on Zoom.</p>		
XV.	<p>Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 PM.</p>		

**Behavioral Health Advisory Board EXECUTIVE Meeting Attendance
2021-2022**

Members 2021-2022	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Michael Rodriguez Chair	X	X	X									
Joe S. Ramirez 1 st Vice Chair	X	X	X									
Christopher Tejeda 2 nd Vice Chair	X	X	X									
Janis Gardner Secretary	X	X	X									
Jerry Harris Member (Chair) Emeritus	X	X	X									
Nancy Borchard Member-At-Large	X	X	X									

Present = X

District 1: Supervisor LaVere

District 2: Supervisor Parks

District 3: Supervisor Long

District 4: Supervisor Huber

District 5: Supervisor Ramirez



Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board

DRAFT

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

Address:

1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93036
Phone: 805-981-1115
Fax: 805-658-4512

September 13, 2021

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

**RE: COMPREHENSIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Dear 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 mental illness cycle through the revolving doors of rehospitalization and incarceration, thereby traumatizing them and their families. To prevent or mitigate against such rehospitalization and incarceration, we request the County of Ventura to engage a qualified independent contractor to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the behavioral health services continuum of care. As you may know, the continuum of care includes treatment, programs and facility and staffing infrastructure to provide appropriate treatment and long-term 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 with severe mental illness, from the least to the most intensive to ensure early identification and appropriate treatment while supporting recovery and independence.

Areas assessed should include:

- Review of services offered by Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) and recommendations to enhance them, such as:
 - Using peer specialist embedded with VCBH or its contracted providers;
 - Implementing behavioral health urgent care centers;
 - RISE, Crisis Team and ASSIST Team; and
 - Other evidence-based programs used elsewhere.
- Recommended number of residential treatment beds, including Inpatient 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 Human Services Agency; and
- The Health Care Agency.

Behavioral health resources are stretched thin. Therefore, the costs associated with this comprehensive needs assessment should not consume resources intended for existing and prospective mental health services but may originate from grants or additional state or federal funding.

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