

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM)  
**MINUTES** ■ **Monday, January 10, 2022**

<p><b><u>BHAB Officers Present</u></b>  Michael Rodriguez, Chair  Christopher Tejada, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  Janis Gardner, Secretary  Nancy Borchard, Member-At-Large  Jerry Harris, Member (Chair) Emeritus</p> <p><b><u>Others Present</u></b>  Ratan Bhavnani, BHAB  Gane Brooking, BHAB  Vanessa Cortez, Pacific Clinics-TAY Tunnel  Stacy Dagleish, Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission  Ariana Del Zotto, Homeland Language Services  Roberta Griego, NAMI Ventura County  Mary Haffner, Haffner Law Group  Elizabeth Rice  Mark Stadler, Crisis Intervention Team  Elizabeth R. Stone, Peer Advocate  Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team  Liz Warren, Client Network</p>	<p><b><u>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present</u></b>  Dr. Sevet Johnson, Director  Dr. Loretta Denering, Substance Use Services Division Chief  Joanna Peterson, Management Assistant/Zoom Engineer  Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief  Terri Yanez, Administration Division Chief  Vickie Poliquin, BHAB Assistant</p> <p>NEXT MEETING:  Monday, February 14, 2022, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual Meeting Via Zoom</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 Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.		
II.	<b>Roll Call – Board Executive Committee Attendees</b> Secretary Gardner confirmed that a quorum exists through roll call.		
III.	<b>Approval of the Agenda</b> Mr. Rodriguez asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Borchard moved to approve the agenda as written; Ms. Gardner seconded. Mr. Tejada offered and provided all attendees with the details on how to access interpretation services. Mr. Rodriguez restated the motion and it carried unanimously through roll call.	The agenda was approved as written. <b>M/S/C</b>	
IV.	<b>Approval of the Minutes</b> Mr. Rodriguez asked for a motion to approve the December 13, 2021, minutes. Mr. Harris moved to approve; Mr. Tejada seconded. The motion to approve the minutes as written carried unanimously through roll call.	The minutes were approved as written. <b>M/S/C</b>	
V.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Mr. Rodriguez welcomed everyone to the meeting. The members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves.		
VI.	<b>Public Comments</b> There were no public comments.		
VII.	<b>Chair Comments and Announcements</b> Mr. Rodriguez advised what the courts are experiencing due to the pandemic noting that courtrooms have been consolidated to minimize the number of people entering the courthouse while maintaining access to the justice system to keep everyone safe.		
VIII.	<b>Director's Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the current COVID surge, VCBH continues to closely monitor the number of impacted staff and all staffing levels through daily rosters.</li> <li>• All VCBH clinics are open, and the 24-hour Crisis line will continue to respond to calls as appropriate and needed.</li> <li>• The Inpatient Psychiatric Unit (IPU) is open and serving clients.</li> <li>• There is a mandate for all healthcare workers to have their booster shot by February 1. Staff not able or willing to get the booster due to medical or religious exemptions will be</li> </ul>		

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	<p>required to follow a testing protocol of either once or twice per week. Test kits are being distributed to comply with the mandate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active recruitments for the Chief and Assistant Director positions continue.</li> <li>A Grief and Loss Webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) that is part of a series that started in late December. All members of the community are welcome to tune in to learn more about this subject.</li> <li>The California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative went live January 1 with a successful rollout of changes to Medical Necessity.</li> </ul>		
IX.	<p><b>Executive Committee Member Comments and Announcements</b></p> <p>Mr. Harris:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spoke regarding SB 221 effective January 1 regarding parity in service that impacts insurance companies and insurers by requiring that initial and follow-up visits be completed within 10 days. Requested that VCBH provide the BHAB with appointment time data for all clinics for both mental health and substance use disorders.</li> <li>Asked that Dr. Johnson continue to include, within the Director’s Report, explanations of departmental changes, how those changes are handled and how they impact VCBH.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Rodriguez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asked about Medi-Cal coverage for someone experiencing both a mental health challenge and drug and alcohol addiction and seeks services for each. Dr. Johnson advised that someone can be dually serviced by both mental health and substance use services teams simultaneously and is fully reimbursable.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Tejada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asked about the feasibility of developing a Board Letter requesting that the BHAB be approved to provide feedback on contracts prior to BOS approval. Mr. Rodriguez noted that he is open to discussion on this and welcomed VCBH feedback as well. Mr. Harris noted that this is one of the recommendations within the Lanterman, Petris, Short (LPS) Report that is with the BOS.</li> <li>Asked about the current follow-up process regarding questions that are raised by members of the BHAB. Mr. Rodriguez responded with a suggestion that when issues are raised or questions asked, that the item be added to the next agenda to trigger a reminder to VCBH to address the issue and/or answer the question.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Harris:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asked about the status of the Needs Assessment Board Letter going to the BOS. Mr. Rodriguez advised that it is pending placement on the BOS agenda.</li> </ul> <p>Elizabeth R. Stone made a public comment reminding people of the many items that are readily available online and of the access provided by the Board of Supervisors that allows people to address the BOS.</p> <p>Ms. Gardner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mentioned that CalAIM and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) has comprehensive information available online including all legislative bills that are easily accessible and noted that Mr. Rodriguez agreed to provide links to these sites for BHAB members to click and research.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Harris:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressed his personal belief that part of the BHAB meeting structure is to be able to ask questions and ask VCBH for information and be provided with the answers without the need to look the information up online themselves.</li> </ul>		
X.	<p><b>Secretary’s Report</b></p> <p>Ms. Gardner reported that there are two openings on the BHAB—one in District 3 and one in District 4. She noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair position is available. Mr. Rodriguez advised that his preference is to keep the position vacant. Ms. Gardner added that the Nominating Committee will be appointed in April and voiced agreement to hold off appointing a new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair until the annual elections take place.</p>		

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<b>XI.</b>	<p><b>Old Business</b></p> <p>A. Brown Act Public Emergency Allowances / Teleconferences – Requirements for Local Boards and Commissions Mr. Rodriguez reported that based upon Dr. Levin’s last communication and given the present surge in COVID cases, the recommendation is to continue to hold all BHAB meetings remotely. This requirement must be reviewed and renewed every thirty days and will be included on the January General meeting agenda for review and action.</p> <p>B. 2021 Data Notebook – Discuss Workgroup Progress Mr. Rodriguez advised that the Workgroup meetings have not yet started and will follow-up with Workgroup members and VCBH subject matter experts knowledgeable in the various information being requested.</p> <p>C. BHAB Membership Identification Assessment – Update on Number of Responders Mr. Rodriguez reported that 14 of 22 BHAB members responded to the Survey, noted that some BHAB members identified in more than one category equating to 23 identified categories from 14 members. Mr. Rodriguez will work with VCBH staff to discuss finalizing the preliminary Report for inclusion with the General meeting materials.</p> <p>Prior to agenda item XIV., Mr. Tejada suggested researching the process that other Counties follow to determine the composition of their advisory board membership and to ask whether their Board of Supervisors and/or Clerks of the Board maintain this information. Ms. Borchard asked to review the application form that is used to apply for BHAB membership. Vickie Poliquin was asked to send the application form and online link to all BHAB members.</p>		
<b>XII.</b>	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p>A. Presentation Requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writ Process for People on Conservatorships – Public Guardian’s Office (requested by Ms. Morrison who is following up – date TBD).</li> <li>• Navigating the Criminal Justice System and Pre-Trial Diversion Programs – How to Reduce the Revolving Door of Going In and Out of Jail for People Experiencing Mental Illness and to Identify Areas for Improvement (report being developed by the District Attorney’s Office – Mr. Tejada provided reminder for this topic and suggested a presentation to the BHAB – date TBD).</li> <li>• Screening, Triage, Assessment &amp; Referral (STAR) Team Evaluation – Report &amp; Presentation on Conclusions and Recommendations (requested by Ms. Borchard – Dr. Johnson noted that when the current pandemic situation priorities subside, Quality staff can devote time to generate this Report and presentation – date TBD).</li> </ul> <p>B. Recognition Award Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan Lucky “Mental Health Professional” Award – Scott Walker, Program Assistant – Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) (January 24 General meeting)</li> <li>• Elizabeth R. Stone – Peer Advocate (recognition date TBD)</li> <li>• Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) (recognition date TBD)</li> <li>• Angela Riddle, Behavioral Health Manager – Training &amp; Workforce Development (recognition date TBD)</li> <li>• Jean Farley, Retired Chief Deputy Public Defender (recognition date TBD)</li> </ul>		
<b>XIII.</b>	<p><b>Develop Agenda for Virtual General Meeting Scheduled for January 24, 2022 at 1:00 PM</b></p> <p>Changes were agreed upon as follows: <u>ADD UNDER OLD BUSINESS:</u></p> <p>B.3. BHAB Bylaws Amendment – Confirming Approval by Board of Supervisors – Michael Rodriguez, Chair (5 min.)</p> <p>B.4. Needs Assessment Board Letter – Update on Status to Board of Supervisors – Michael Rodriguez, Chair (5 min.)</p>		
<b>XIV.</b>	<p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <p>There were no public comments.</p>		

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<b>XV.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b> The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 PM.		

**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	X	X	X	X					
Joe S. Ramirez 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair	X	X	X	X	e							
Christopher Tejada 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Janis Gardner Secretary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Jerry Harris Member (Chair) Emeritus	X	X	X	e	X	X	X					
Nancy Borchard Member-At-Large	X	X	X		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