

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM)
MINUTES ■ Monday, April 11, 2022

<p><u>BHAB Officers Present</u> Michael Rodriguez, Chair Christopher Tejada, 2nd Vice Chair Janis Gardner, Secretary Nancy Borchard, Member-At-Large Jerry Harris, Member (Chair) Emeritus</p> <p><u>Others Present</u> Gane Brooking, BHAB Vanessa Cortez, Pacific Clinics' TAY Tunnel Stacy Dagleish, Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission Ariana Del Zotto, Homeland Language Services Shawna Morris, Casa Pacifica Gina Petrus, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team</p>	<p><u>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present</u> Dr. Loretta Denering, Assistant Director Cynthia Salas, Equity Services Manager Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief Terri Yanez, Administration Division Chief Joanna Peterson, Management Assistant / Zoom Engineer Vickie Poliquin, BHAB Assistant</p> <p>NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 9, 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.	Call to Order Mr. Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Mr. Tejada provided information on how to access interpretation services.		
II.	Roll Call – Board Executive Committee Attendees Secretary Gardner confirmed that a quorum exists through roll call.		
III.	Approval of the Agenda Mr. Rodriguez asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Borchard moved to approve the agenda; Ms. Gardner seconded. Mr. Rodriguez asked that agenda item XII.A be corrected to non-action, noting that it was incorrectly referenced as an action item. The agenda item will be an action item at the General meeting. Ms. Borchard accepted the correction to the agenda; Ms. Gardner seconded approval of the agenda as amended. The motion to approve the agenda as amended carried unanimously through roll call.	The agenda was approved as amended. M/S/C	
IV.	Approval of the Minutes Mr. Rodriguez asked for a motion to approve the March 14, 2022, minutes. Ms. Gardner moved to approve the agenda; Mr. Tejada seconded. The motion to approve the minutes as written carried unanimously through roll call.	The minutes were approved as written. M/S/C	
V.	Welcome and Introductions Mr. Rodriguez introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. All members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves.		
VI.	Public Comments There were no public comments.		
VII.	Chair Comments and Announcements Mr. Rodriguez highlighted the following items from the proposed General meeting agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Jason Canger, Assistant County Counsel, on confidentiality and privacy law applicable to behavioral health; • Recognition of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and announcement of CIT Officers of the Year; • Opening of the Public Comment period for the Mental Health Services Act Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2021-22; and • Appointment of the Nominating Committee. <p>Additional discussion took place regarding the details around conducting site visits when it is safe to do so.</p>		

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
VIII.	<p>Assistant Director’s Updates – Dr. Loretta Denering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sevet Johnson was appointed the Interim Chief Executive Officer for Ventura County. • Dr. Denering will assume the role as Dr. Johnson’s designee and will handle all day-to-day operations during the open recruitment period for the Behavioral Health Director. • VCBH is preparing for budget presentations and conducting meetings with its Community Based Organizations and Contracts staff during as part of contract renewal season. • Provided an update regarding the status of the CARE Court proposal noting that proposed legislation has been developed and that the proposal is currently in-flux at the State level. VCBH will continue to provide updates. • There was discussion on Welfare & Institutions Code 5270, which allows for more extended hospitalization. The WIC 5270 draft Board Letter noting specific challenges will need to be addressed prior to its finalization and presentation to the Board of Supervisors. 		
IX.	<p>Executive Committee Member Comments and Announcements</p> <p>Ms. Borchard Congratulated Ms. Gardner for the editorial letter she submitted to the Ventura County Star.</p>		
X.	<p>Secretary’s Report</p> <p>Ms. Gardner noted that the BHAB will welcome Stephanie Escoto as a new BHAB member at Monday’s General meeting. Ms. Gardner provided the status of BHAB vacancies.</p>		
XI.	<p>Old Business</p> <p>A. Brown Act Public Emergency Allowances / Teleconferences – Requirements for Local Boards and Commissions</p> <p>Mr. Rodriguez asked Terri Yanez for the status of receipt of the new equipment and whether it was projected that BHAB meetings would move to hybrid meetings in May. Terri Yanez responded with the details and noted that it would be unlikely that receipt, set up and testing would be completed in time to begin May hybrid meetings. Ms. Gardner suggested holding a Special BHAB meeting or move up the starting time of a regular meeting by 30-45 minutes to accommodate a training session for the new equipment. VCBH will provide additional updates at the General meeting to assist the BHAB with making its decision when to move to hybrid meetings.</p>		
XII.	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. Appoint the Nominating Committee for Fiscal Year 2022-23</p> <p>Mr. Rodriguez advised that he would appoint a Nominating Committee and that an action item will be placed on the General meeting agenda to confirm the appointment.</p> <p>B. Presentation Requests</p> <p>Ms. Gardner requested a presentation from Substance Use Services (SUS).</p> <p>Dr. Denering advised that the presentation could include an update on the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) which was renewed and is now under the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative.</p> <p>Mr. Tejada asked for an update on the status of the Mental Health Diversion presentation. Mr. Rodriguez advised that the staff person preparing the presentation is engaged in trial and will finalize the presentation once calendars are cleared.</p> <p>There was discussion on Peer training and programming. VCBH will provided a monthly update moving forward.</p> <p><u>CARRY OVER ITEMS – FOR REFERENCE & TRACKING</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental Health Diversion – Effects of Law Changes as of January 1 – Public Guardian’s Office or Multi-Agency (requested by Mr. Bhavnani) Mr. Rodriguez will provide additional information and Agenda placement TBD. 2. State DHCS Report – Assessing the Continuum of Care for Behavioral Health Services in California – Overview of Process Used to Obtain and Verify Report Information and Plans to Correct Data – DHCS staff representative (requested by Ms. Harris) Mr. Rodriguez will reach out to Theresa Comstock of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions for assistance. Agenda placement TBD. 3. Homeless Court and Mental Health Diversion – Public Defender’s Office (requested by Mr. Tejada) Agenda placement TBD. 		

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	<p>4. Stepping Up Initiative – (being coordinated by Cmdr. Fryhoff) Agenda placement TBD.</p> <p>C. Recognition Award Recommendations Mr. Tejeda reminded the Executive Committee of the pending recognition award for Ratan Bhavnani.</p> <p>Ms. Borchard provided some details for the pending recognition award for Jean Farley. Mr. Rodriguez will work with Ms. Borchard to assist with the development of the award and check with Jean Farley on her upcoming availability.</p> <p><u>CARRY OVER ITEMS – FOR REFERENCE & TRACKING</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ratan Bhavnani – Resigned at end of 2/23/22 term (recognition date: July 18, 2022). Jean Farley, Retired Chief Deputy Public Defender (Agenda placement TBD). <p>D. Data and Report Requests There was discussion on data and report requests. These discussions will remain ongoing.</p> <p>There was discussion on the availability of data on the seriously mentally ill population within the jails. Mr. Harris noted that the Sheriff’s Office is amenable to begin collecting the data and suggested generating a formal request for the data. Mr. Rodriguez concurred with this idea. Further discussion ensued regarding the technical and cultural challenges associated with the validity and reliability of the data and Mr. Rodriguez confirmed that VCBH will continue to work to refine the process to obtain reliable data.</p> <p>Ms. Borchard asked Dr. Denering to provide a brief update on the progress of VCBH’s budget. Dr. Denering noted that VCBH, via the Health Care Agency, provides a budget presentation to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) annually where some planned and current programs are listed along with highlighted successes and challenges. Dr. Denering will provide the link to the presentation following the presentation to the BOS.</p>		
XIII.	<p>Develop Agenda for Virtual General Meeting Scheduled for April 18, 2022 at 1:00 PM Changes were agreed upon as follows: <u>UNDER NEW BUSINESS:</u> B.4. Change staff member from Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky, MHSA – Sr. Program Manager to Hilary Carson, MHSA – Sr. Program Administrator</p>		
XIV.	<p>Public Comments There were no public comments.</p>		
XV.	<p>Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 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	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Joe S. Ramirez 1 st Vice Chair	X	X	X	X	e							
Christopher Tejeda 2 nd Vice Chair	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Janis Gardner Secretary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Jerry Harris Member (Chair) Emeritus	X	X	X	e	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Nancy Borchard Member-At-Large	X	X	X		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

DATA AND REPORTS REQUESTED BY THE BHAB

Data Requests

- Written reports (spreadsheets) on CSU and Inpatient Unit Activity. This information is to include admissions, discharges, average daily census, readmissions within 7, 30, 60 and 90 days. This report should be provided to the BHAB at least every other month.
 - **Inpatient Unit Activity: Sheri Block will provide quarterly written reports.**
 - **CSU: We must examine the utility of this request.**
- Data to be requested from the Sheriff's Office on the number of people with severe mental illness that are incarcerated each month. Data elements should include the average daily census, the average length of stay, and the number of inmates on psychiatric medication.
 - **VCBH does not have this data. The Ventura County Sheriff's Office may have this information and they must agree to provide us with this data.**

Monthly Updates

- Progress in hiring staff for the additional CSU chairs and Inpatient beds that will enable making these beds and chairs operational. A target opening date should be projected for each area.
 - **VCBH will provide quarterly reports.**
- Update on a request by VCMC to the local State Licensing office to conduct medical clearances on admissions and enable directly receiving clients from law enforcement.
 - **Sheri Block will provide quarterly reports.**
- Status on the preparation and distribution of the RFP for the Independent Assessment.
 - **This is on the agenda, and I will continue to report on this item.**
- Plan to involve BHAB members in the review of the RFP and assessment process to engage a contractor to perform the assessment.
 - **I will report on this item at the general meetings.**
- Any and all information on additional behavioral health funding that will be made available by the State and Federal governments. This includes funding

DATA AND REPORTS REQUESTED BY THE BHAB

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that the governor indicated would be made available from the State surplus and COVID-19 sources and additional mental health funding that the President mentioned in his State of the Union address.

- **VCBH will continue to provide updates as they receive definitive information regarding federal and state funding. They cannot speculate on funding that has not been allocated.**
- Update on the efforts of the County to establish a CSU in the East County.
 - **VCBH will provide quarterly updates on the status of this item. I am informed and believe that they are engaging in ongoing discussions with potential providers.**
- Update on the progress to construct a MHRC in Camarillo.
 - **Scott Powers provided an update during the February 2022 general meeting. The County will provide quarterly updates.**
- Update on hiring Peer Specialists approved in the budget process by the BOS.
 - **VCBH provided an update during March's report and quarterly thereafter.**

Areas for Future Consideration/Review

- Review the practice of discharging clients from the Inpatient Unit of VCMC without providing them with discharge medication (7 to 10 days) to last until prescriptions can be filled. Not doing so may have a potential negative impact on medication compliance.
 - **We must examine the utility of this request, especially considering medical, legal and logistical issues. A workgroup should be established to research best practices utilized elsewhere, reviewed peer-reviewed research and examine legal/medical issues pertaining to this subject matter.**
- A presentation by County Counsel on HIPPA and LPS privacy and confidentiality provision as they relate to the BHAB.
 - **County Counsel will conduct a presentation regarding *Welfare and Institutions Code § 5328, et seq.* during the April general board meeting.**

Requests were authored by Jerry Harris.

Chair Michael Rodríguez' replies are in red.