

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)

1911 Williams Dr, Training Room (first floor) · Oxnard, CA 93036

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Monday, February 13, 2023, 1:00 – 2:30PM

BHAB Executive Members Present:

Michael Rodriguez, Chair

Chris Tejada, 1st Vice Chair

Nancy Borchard, 2nd Vice Chair

Janis Gardner, Secretary

Elizabeth R. Stone, Member-At-Large

Guests:

Ratan Bhavnani, NAMI Volunteer

Priscila Hazrun, Spanish Interpreter

Mark Stadler, CIT

Scott Walker, COSSAP

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

Scott Gilman, Director

Jakeline De Leon, Management Assistant / Zoom Engineer

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:01PM by Chair Michael Rodriguez. Priscila Hazrun, Spanish Interpreter, introduced herself and provided instruction on the interpretation services available for the meeting.
- II. **Roll Call of Executive Committee Members to Determine a Quorum** – Secretary Janis Gardner confirmed a quorum through roll call.
- III. **Approval of the Agenda** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Committee Agenda for February 13, 2023, was approved (Gardner/Tejada/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call.

- IV. Approval of the January 9, 2023, Minutes** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Committee Minutes for January 9, 2023, were approved (Borchard/Tejeda/Passed). Ms. Stone asked for clarification on agenda item #8, where she commented she would like Foul Weather to be added before “shelter”. Amendment was accepted (Borchard/Tejeda/Passed). Minutes were motioned to approve by majority vote through roll call.
- V. Welcome and Introductions** – All members of the BHAB Executive Committee introduced themselves.
- VI. Public Comments** – A written comment via email was presented by Ms. De Leon from Pete Lafollette. The comment will be attached to these minutes. No other public comments were made.
- VII. Director’s Updates** – Director Scott Gilman provided the Ventura County Behavioral Health updates. He recently had the opportunity to do Open Comments at a Peer Training for the VCBH Peers working in the Community Wellness Centers at Ventura County schools. At this event, he spoke to the staff about an early intervention prevention program called, *Be Nice*, implemented by the students at schools and they will have a presentation on this program at the BHAB Prevention Committee. Ongoing, he announced VCBH has some one-time funding available, and they are planning to announce the availability of \$30,000 dollars for prevention, early intervention grants for organizations that are not providers for VCBH. Another plan is to reach out to current contract providers to assist them with their challenges coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic such as recruitment, retention bonuses and small equipment. The final piece of the plan is evaluating where VCBH needs to consider their fees. He also informed the committee, VCHIP did receive \$6.4 million for a building purchase for a youth wellness center and the deadline for Round 5 is February 13th for emergency services – 2 applicants are the developer for MHRC on Lewis Rd and CMH for an integrated mental health center. Director Scott Gilman informed the committee he will be checking with staff about going back to monthly BHAB subcommittee meetings.
- VIII. Executive Committee Members Comments & Announcements** – Ms. Stone announced that on February 14th there will be a hearing for Care Court

from the Department of Health Care Services Stakeholder groups. Ms. Stone commented on the experiences of housed or unhoused clients and how they can appropriately assist them with the appropriate services.

IX. Secretary's Report / Announcements – Secretary Gardner provided a report. She first congratulated Chair Rodriguez and BHAB member, Marlen Torres, for being reappointed to the VC Behavioral Health Advisory Board. She then announced there is a new member of BHAB, Dianne McKay, from Supervisor Gorell's office and there are two openings for BHAB members in Supervisor Parvin's office. Mike Hopps is hosting a fundraiser taking place on March 17th at 5:30PM at the Consulate of Mexico. Residents and dignitaries celebrated the opening of the the Port Hueneme Teen Center, a collaboration between the City and Port Hueneme. Teens 13-18 can congregate at the center to receive education and career support, character, leadership development and life skill training. The site will also provide social/emotional health for teens to recover from COVID 19 disruptions. The Teen Center is located at the Ovene Community Center and will be open Monday-Friday 3:00-7:00 p.m. Two workers will be employed to assist the teens. An English and math tutor will also be available. On February 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved the 4th amendment to the VCBH memorandum, the MOA services center was funded from MHSA dollars and the agreement for Peer Specialist certification services with CA Mental Health Services Authority. Lastly, Nate's Place Wellness Center will have its grand opening on Thursday, February 23, 2023 from 5PM to 6PM located at 3840 Channel Islands Harbor Blvd, Oxnard, CA.

X. Old Business

A. Needs Assessment: Status Update – Chair Rodriguez provided an update. EvalCorp, will be contacting the Executive committee first and he asked if any members have more information to please inform the committee. Vice Chair Tejeda commented there is an EvalCorp timeline available; Chair Rodriguez asked Vice Chair Tejeda to share the document with him.

B. Site Visits Resumption: Discussion – Last discussed the BHAB members agreed to move forward with the current protocols and forms. Chair Rodriguez will add to the BHAB General Agenda Item – *Site Visit Requests/Announcements*. Vice Chair Borchard suggested discussing sites at the subcommittees as well. Director Scott Gilman will also be taking suggestions from the Latino Disparities Reduction Committee.

XI. New Business

- A. Presentation Requests** – Chair Rodriguez informed members that if anyone has any presentation requests to please send them to bhabadmin@ventura.org and cc Michael.Rodriguez@ventura.org with a brief description of the proposed presentation. Ms. Stone will be providing an update on Peer Services and Certification at the next BHAB General meeting. Secretary Gardner suggested having a presentation from EvalCorp as well and Vice Chair Tejeda requested a presentation on the Stepping Up Initiative.
- B. Recognition Award Recommendations** – Chair Rodriguez informed members that if anyone has recognition award recommendations to please send them to bhabadmin@ventura.org and cc Michael.Rodriguez@ventura.org with a brief description of why the person is worthy of recommendation. Vice Chair Tejeda informed the committee he is finalizing the coordination for Jerry Harris' recognition.

XII. Develop Agenda for Hybrid General Meeting scheduled on February 27, 2023, at 1:00PM – Chair Rodriguez noted they will be adding announcements and requests for site visits and Ms. Stone's presentation.

A. Old Business

- 1. Needs Assessment – Status Update – Michael Rodriguez, Chair (5 min.)**
- 2. Site Visit Resumption – Discussion – Michael Rodriguez, Chair (10 min.)**

B. New Business

- 1. BHAB Committee Reports**
 - a) Disparities Reduction Committee (November 1 & January 3) – Marlen Torres, Chair**
 - b) Adult Services Committee (January 5) – Gane Brooking & Chris Tejeda, Co-Chairs**
 - c) Prevention Committee (January 10) – Janis Gardner, Chair**
 - d) Youth & Family Committee (February 8) – Kevin Clerici, Chair**
 - e) Transitional Age Youth, (TAY) (February 15) – Elizabeth R. Stone, Chair**
- 2. Annual Report Work Group** – Chair Rodriguez provided a brief overview of the annual report work group.
- 3. Presentation Requests**
- 4. Recognition Award Recommendations**

XIII. Public Comments – NONE.

XIV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 PM by Chair Michael Rodriguez.

Next Meeting Date – March 13th, 2023, from 1:00PM – 2:30PM

Behavioral Health Advisory Board EXECUTIVE Meeting Attendance

Members 2022-2023	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Michael Rodriguez, Chair	X	X	X	e	X	X	X	X				
Christopher Tejada, 1 st Vice Chair	e	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Nancy Borchard, 2 nd Vice Chair	X	X	e	X	e	X	X	X				
Janis Gardner, Secretary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Elizabeth R. Stone, Member-At-Large	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

Present = X

- District 1: Supervisor LaVere
- District 2: Supervisor Gorell
- District 3: Supervisor Long
- District 4: Supervisor Parvin
- District 5: Supervisor Lopez

DeLeon, Jakeline

From: pete lafollette <plafollette@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 8:58 AM
To: bhabadmin
Subject: MH Policy Quote: U. S. Senate Finance Committee

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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GENERAL COMMENT VCBH Executive Committee Mtg

----- Forwarded Message -----

“For too long, mental health and physical health have been deeply separated in this country...These policies will begin to allow health care providers to work together more than ever before to connect their patients with the mental health care they need with robust improvements for crisis response and stabilization, which is critical to safeguarding Americans struggling with their mental health...And we will continue working to bring these and other mental health care improvements to Americans in need and to take important steps toward improving care quality and generating cost savings for patients...we look forward to hearing feedback from stakeholders on how we can further enhance these policies.This is a critical step in creating a true continuum of crisis care for mental and behavioral health issues that provides the right services at the right time to those who need them and we won't stop

working until that's a reality for those in mental health crisis and their loved ones, of High-quality care for Americans grappling with a mental health crisis that is an urgent and growing need. This bipartisan legislation will help medical providers merge behavioral health care and primary care services while increasing access to crisis stabilization services, and we are grateful to the committee for their work on this issue.”

-UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Re: your March 12 article, "Grant to fund mental health":

The Ventura County Behavioral Health Department's \$7.6 million state grant to expand services puts the cart before the horse and is padding an already stuffed eight-figure total budget.

The reason the state's Mental Health Services Act contains the word "supports" is so people that are in recovery can use fewer services, thus more cost effective, if they are in the community support system of self -help and peer support.

This has proved to reduce the need for high-end services and allows for a quicker response when there is a need. That's why MHSA is "services and supports."

Many family and clients are in favor of support funding. So many people with mental health challenges have no family, or people run from the only family they have - people need a support system to get and stay well, but most of all, to save lives.

On crisis intervention, more services do help but without support, people in stress - who know they need services - don't get services when needed.

The solution is to reduce the need and increase the access. Right amount of care, for the right amount of time. Most important, offer services when needed - not tomorrow, but today.

With increasing and frequent school shootings, it is vital that mental illness is recognized and treated at early stages and not as retroactive disease after a crisis incident.

Society also needs to be spared the huge expense of institutional, hospitalization and correctional treatment - these lessons can be learned from successful recovery model consumers and by the original intent of the services act.

- Pete LaFollette,

Ojai

The writer is a Mental Health Services Act consumer advocate. - Editor