

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, June 12, 2023, 1:00 – 2:30PM

BHAB Executive Members Present:

Michael Rodriguez, Chair

Janis Gardner, Secretary

Elizabeth R. Stone, Member-At-Large

Guests:

Ratan Bhavnani, NAMI

Rachelle Dean, VC DA

Aaron Kitzman, CIT

Priscila Hazrun, Spanish Interpreter

Mark Stadler, CIT

Lorena Suarez, Spanish Interpreter

Jerry Weaver, Community Member

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

Scott Gilman, Director

Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief

Jakeline De Leon, Management Assistant / Zoom Engineer

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:06PM by Chair Michael Rodriguez. Lorena Suarez and Priscila Hazrun, Spanish Interpreters, introduced themselves and provided instruction on the interpretation services available for the meeting.

- II. **Roll Call to Determine Physical Quorum** – Secretary Janis Gardner confirmed a physical quorum through roll call.

- III. Roll Call of Members with Just Cause – NONE.**
a. State others present in the room over the age of 18.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda –** The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Committee Agenda for June 12, 2023, was approved (Stone/Gardner/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call.
- V. Approval of the May 8, 2023, Minutes –** The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Committee Minutes for May 8, 2023, were approved (Gardner/Stone/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call.
- VI. Welcome and Introductions –** All members of the BHAB Executive Committee introduced themselves.
- VII. Public Comments – NONE.**
- VIII. Director's Updates –** Director Scott Gilman provided Ventura County Behavioral Health updates. Friday, June 9th was the final deadline for all contracts to be turned in to meet the Board of Supervisors agenda. Providers are satisfied with the rates they can brand on, and most rates are working. VCBH has also begun a monthly provider CEO meeting where they meet with top executives of organizations in order to strategize, discuss future legislative issues and services or challenges. The first meeting was held in May with mental health providers which will soon be expanded to other providers. The Front Door project is in process and the target launch date is August 1st. Director Gilman also mentioned VCBH is working with Simi Valley on having a RISE program staff work with the police department and the county has prioritized a crisis stabilization unit (CSU) and a psychiatric hospital facility (PUCK) in east county. Finally, Director Gilman mentioned the board letter for the building in Port Hueneme will be on next month's agenda for Board of Supervisors to authorize the purchase of the Youth Wellness Center. The new Electronic Health record will be going live July 1st as well along with the new payment and contract system.
- IX. Executive Committee Members Comments & Announcements –** Ms. Gardner thanked Chair Rodriguez for his services as chair for the BHAB and informs the community he will continue as chair emeritus. Ms. Stone

commented that she was selected to participate in the training for intentional peer support training and her organization is getting approved to be a referral agency for individuals that are homeless.

X. Secretary's Report / Announcements – Secretary Gardner provided her report and the following announcements. June is national pride month, and the Juneteenth holiday has been approved by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors as a county holiday which means the BHAB General meeting will be taking place on the fourth Monday, June 26. The BHAB Prevention committee meetings have been changed to the fourth Tuesday of every other month. The next Prevention committee meeting will be July 25th at 3:15PM. The full secretary's report will also be attached to these minutes.

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 the chair, Michael.Rodriguez@ventura.org with a brief description of the proposed presentation.

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 the chair, Michael.Rodriguez@ventura.org with a brief description of why the person is worthy of recommendation.

XII. Develop Agenda for Hybrid General Meeting scheduled for June 26, 2023, at 1:00PM

A. Old Business

- 1. Site Visits Resumption – Announcement/Request for Site Visits – Michael Rodriguez, Chair (10 min.)**
- 2. Ombudsman Workgroup Recommendation – Liz Warren (15 min.)**
– *This item will be added as an action item.*

B. New Business

- 1. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Nominating Committee – ACTION (Roll Call) (15 min.)**

2. **Confirm New Member-At-Large to a Six-Month Term – Michael Rodriguez, Chair – ACTION (Roll Call) (5 min.)**
3. **BHAB Committee Reports (follow’s Secretary’s Report/Announcements as separate agenda items)**
 - a) **Prevention Committee (May 9) – Janis Gardner, Chair**
 - b) **Youth & Family Committee (June 14) (Canceled) – Kevin Clerici, Chair**
 - c) **Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Committee (June 21) – Elizabeth R. Stone**
4. **Annual Report Workgroup**
5. **Presentation Requests**
6. **Recognition Award Recommendations**

XIII. Public Comments – NONE.

XIV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 PM by Chair Michael Rodriguez.

Next Meeting Date – July 10th, 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, District 5	X	X	X	e	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Christopher Tejada, 1 st Vice Chair, District 4	e	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	e	X	X	e
Nancy Borchard, 2 nd Vice Chair, District 3	X	X	e	X	e	X	X	X	X		X	e
Janis Gardner, Secretary, District 3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Elizabeth R. Stone, Member-At-Large, District 2	X	X	X	X	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

Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board

June 2023

Secretary's Report-

There is one opening for a new BHAB member in Supervisor Gorell's office.

Secretary's Announcements-

June is National Pride Month

The national holiday, "Juneteenth" was recently approved by the Ventura County Board Of Supervisors as a county holiday. All county offices will be closed each year for this holiday.

BHAB Prevention Committee Meetings have permanently been changed to the **fourth Tuesday of every other month.**

The next Prevention Committee meeting will be held on July 25th at 3:15 p.m. Please note, due to the new Brown Act rules, all BHAB and committee members are required to attend in- person.

In order to establish quorums, we are asking each member of the committees to attend every other month.

Mental Health related information-

Interface Family and Children's Services will hold a 50th Anniversary celebration On July 15th from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the Ventura County Credit Union. There will be live music, games and other activities. Admission is free. Interface Children & Family Services, are focused on making sure every child, teen, parent, and adult in the community has every opportunity to thrive. Founded in 1973, Interface is Ventura County's most comprehensive nonprofit provider of social services, including **mental health & trauma treatment, youth crisis & homeless services, domestic violence & child abuse prevention, human trafficking prevention & intervention, and justice services.**

Mental Health Senate Bill SB 43-

Has passed the Senate Floor and will now go to the Assembly

SB 43 modernizes the definition of “gravely disabled” within the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act to better meet the needs of individuals experiencing severe mental illness.

The current definition and interpretation of gravely disabled does not accurately reflect the realities of what we are seeing in our communities.

SB 43 would update the definition of “gravely disabled” to add:

- “Substantial risk of serious harm to their physical or mental health” as a third criterion of “gravely disabled” and further defines “serious harm” to mean “significant deterioration, debilitation, or illness” due to the person’s failure to meet their need for medical care, nourishment, adequate clothing and shelter, and personal safety.^[L]_[SEP]

In May, VCBH held a countywide “Empower Up” event for

youth to gather information for improving their mental wellness. The day included arts, stories, performances, community connections involving support, resources and inspiration and much more.

Family Justice Centers-

A proposal to develop a family justice center in Thousand Oaks stalled in late May during a Board Of Supervisors meeting.

A proposal to consider adding a family justice center in Thousand Oaks stalled when it failed to get to a vote from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.

"There is no east Ventura County family justice center at this time," said Supervisor Gorell, who represents a district that includes Thousand Oaks. Survivors of family violence in those communities may have to drive up to two hours round trip to go to the Ventura center, he said.

County Supervisors said more work was needed before setting a location and taking those steps. They expressed widespread support for an east county center but said more planning and discussions had to happen and we need to focus on completing the center already underway in Oxnard, they said.

The Carmen Ramirez Family Justice Center in Oxnard takes priority.

District Attorney Erik Nasarenko said he supports efforts to create a center in the east county. Having one would help those from Moorpark, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and nearby unincorporated areas who now have to travel to the Ventura center, he said. Successful centers require multi-agency collaborations and careful planning and deliberation that can take years. For the next 18 months, the Carmen Ramirez Family Justice Center would be the priority for his office, he said. Next month, supervisors will be asked to consider purchasing a \$4.1 million building. Staff then will work on developing programs and making renovations to open the center.

New Housing Complex-

Construction on a 50 unit pre fabricated modular apartment complex on Lewis Road in Camarillo will provide affordable housing to the area's homeless and extremely low income seniors. Thousand Oaks based Many Mansions, the county and additional partners broke ground on the 50 unit project dubbed, "Rancho Sierra Senior Apartments". The \$38 million dollar project is expected to be completed by March. Although applications are not yet available, you can visit the housing authority's website at ahacv.org or call 805 480-9991.

Substance Use related information-

In May, VCBH's Substance Use Services Division held multiple Prescriber's Care events during their 'Prescriber's Care Discussion Series'. Several events were held for county medical and related staff, as well as sessions held for providers around the county to hear and discuss, 'Preventing Overdose and Misuse' and the 'Fentanyl Crisis'.

Topics during the series included, 'What you need to know now', 'Turning risk assessment upside down', 'Illicit Fentanyl: How did we get here, where are we going, where are we headed' and 'Treatment Of Opioid Use Disorders in the Primary Care Setting', amongst others.

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) —

As part of California's \$1 billion plan to tackle the opioid epidemic, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) today awarded more than \$12 million in grants to strengthen the state's opioid response. Today's awards include \$7.9 million to 20 DHCS-licensed residential substance use disorder (SUD) treatment facilities throughout the state as part of the Medication Assisted Treatment ([MAT](#)) Expansion Project, \$3.5 million to 23 organizations through the Tribal Urban Indian Defined Best Practice program, and \$1.05 million to seven organizations through the California Native MAT Network for Healing and Recovery.

“The opioid addiction crisis continues to have devastating impacts on the mental and physical well-being of those

directly impacted, and also on our families, communities, and state. These awards provide vital tools to strengthen the ability of people to sustain recovery,” said **DHCS Director Michelle Bass**.