

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, August 14, 2023, 1:00 – 2:30PM

BHAB Executive Members Present:

Janis Gardner, Chair

Liz Warren, 1st Vice Chair

Elizabeth R. Stone, 2nd Vice Chair

Michael Rodriguez, Chair Emeritus

Jennifer Morrison, Secretary

Soledad Barragan, Member-at-Large

Guests:

Ratan Bhavnani, NAMI

Nancy Borchard, BHAB Member

Priscila Hazrun, Spanish Interpreter

Jeffery Hayden, Community Member

Pete LaFollette, Client Network

David McGrill, Miramar Health

Steven, Miramar Health

Lorena Suarez, Spanish Interpreter

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

Scott Gilman, Director

Andrea Wallace, Assistant to the Director and Assistant Director of VCBH

Jakeline De Leon, Management Assistant / Zoom Engineer

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:02PM by Chair Janis Gardner. Lorena Suarez and Priscila Hazrun, Spanish Interpreters, introduced themselves and provided instruction on the interpretation services available for the meeting.

- II. **Roll Call to Establish Physical Quorum & Introductions** – Ms. Morrison confirmed a physical quorum through roll call and all members and attendees introduced themselves.
- III. **Roll Call of Members with Just Cause** – NONE.
 - a. **State others present in the room over the age of 18.**
- IV. **Requests for Emergency Circumstances** – NONE.
- V. **Approval of the Agenda** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Committee Agenda for August 14, 2023, was approved (Warren/Morrison/Passed). Mr. Rodriguez requested to move agenda item 9 after item 6. It was motioned to approve as amended carried by majority vote through roll call.
- VI. **Approval of the July 10, 2023, Minutes** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Committee Minutes for July 10, 2023, were approved (Morrison/Warren/Passed). 1st Vice Chair Warren commented page 3 under New Business letter B, in the last sentence she would like it to say, “recognizing Supervisor Carmen Ramirez posthumously for the month of August.” It was motioned to approve as amended by majority vote through roll call. Mr. Rodriguez abstained.
- VII. **Chair Comments** – Chair Gardner announced on September 12th, the 8th Annual Suicide Prevention Conference entitled, “Pathways to Hope and Healing” will take place from 4PM to 8PM at the Oxnard College Performing Arts building, 4000 S Rose Avenue, Oxnard, CA with Spanish and ASL interpretation. She also announced the “Walk with Us Out of Darkness to Prevent Suicide” will take place at Promenade Park at the Ventura Peer on September 23rd and check in time is 9AM. On September 27th from 6PM to 7:30PM at the Ventura County Office of Education at 5100 Adolfo Rd in Camarillo, CA, VCBH and the superintendent of schools, Dr. Cesar Morales, will be hosting a “Facing Down Fentanyl” town hall. Lastly, she commented to streamline the agenda, beginning in the August 21st BHAB General meeting, board member comments and announcements will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker, Round Robin, and any information longer than 3 minutes can be emailed to Chair Gardner and BHAB assistant, Ms. De Leon.
- VIII. **Public Comments** – None.

- IX. Director's Updates** – Director Scott Gilman provided the Ventura County Behavioral Health updates. There has not been a town hall scheduled for the reason being that MHSR reform senate bill 326 is changing quickly and new amendments are being introduced. One issue is that a certain amount of funding needs to be used for substance use programs. Director Gilman also provided a handout on Senate Bill 326 to the committee presenting VCBH to be elected with data/numbers. VCBH is in the early stages of kicking off Care Court planning and kicking off a stakeholder process. An anecdotal of the decentralization of Star will be presented soon and there will be a meeting with the Police Chiefs association on the week of August 14th to discuss their needs and/or concerns about crisis services in the community as well as open lines of communication. Lastly, Director Gilman announced the detox beds in Ventura County Medical Center will start in December, there will be 8 beds for detox and individuals to be eligible need to have a medical problem.
- X. Executive Committee Members Comments & Announcements** – The committee discussed limiting board member comments and announcements to 3 minutes per speaker. Chair Gardner clarified it is 3 minutes at a time, time allowing; a Round Robin approach. If anyone would like to discuss specific topics in the meeting, an email can be sent to the BHAB assistant, Ms. De Leon and Chair Gardner. Ms. Stone commented she will be bringing proposals to the meeting and bylaws as well as requests for term limits and meetings in the evenings. Ms. Morrison suggested adding topics to the agenda that members would like more discussion on. Ms. Stone suggested inviting public comments on each agenda item. Ms. Barragan suggested all members bring headphones to the meetings in order for interpretation to be quicker.
- XI. Secretary's Report / Announcements** – Secretary Morrison announced there is still one opening in Supervisor Gorell's office, District 2.
- XII. New Business**
- A. Presentation Requests** – Chair Gardner informed members that if anyone has any presentation requests to please send them to bhabadmin@ventura.org and cc the chair, janis@panacea-ent.com with a brief description of the proposed presentation. Ms. De Leon announced upcoming presentations are EvalCorp in the August General meeting, Substance Use Chief, Raena West, beginning September and bi-monthly, TAY Tunnel, and Gold Coast regarding CALAIM. Secretary Morrison requested a presentation for the Stepping Up Initiative. 2nd Vice Chair Stone suggested subcommittee chairs provide a written report in order to streamline the agenda.

B. Recognition Award Recommendations – Chair Gardner informed members that if anyone has recognition award recommendations to please send them to bhabadmin@ventura.org and cc the chair, janis@panacea-ent.com with a brief description of why the person is worthy of recommendation.

XIII. Develop Agenda for Hybrid General Meeting scheduled for August 21, 2023, at 1:00PM – Second Vice Chair Stone has requested to add all agenda items for the General Meeting to the Executive agenda moving forward.

A. Old Business

1. Site Visits Resumption – Announcement/Request for Site Visits – Janis Gardner, Chair (10 min.)

B. New Business

1. Time Certain Presentation – 1:30 p.m. – “Preliminary Findings from Provider KSIs and Listening Sessions” – Dustin Anderson, Kristen Donovan, & Rae Hanstad (20 min.) – “EvalCorp”, will be added to this agenda item.

2. Time Certain – 2 p.m. – Supervisor Carmen Ramirez (posthumous) BHAB Recognition Award – Liz Warren (10 min.) – This will no longer be a time certain. 1st Vice Chair Warren and 2nd Vice Chair Stone suggested bringing refreshments. 1st Vice Chair Warren stated she will be paying for the refreshments. This item time was changed to 2:30 p.m.

3. BHAB Committee Reports (follow’s Secretary’s

Report/Announcements as separate agenda items)

a) Prevention Committee (July 25) – Janis Gardner, Chair

b) Youth & Family Committee (August 9) – Kevin Clerici, Chair

c) Transitional Age Youth (TAY) (August 16) – Elizabeth R. Stone, Chair

4. Annual Report Workgroup

5. Presentation Requests

6. Recognition Award Recommendations

XIV. Public Comments – NONE.

XV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 PM by Chair Janis Gardner.

Next Meeting Date – September 11, 2023, from 1:00PM – 2:30PM

Behavioral Health Advisory Board EXECUTIVE Meeting Attendance

Members 2023-2024	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Janis Gardner, Chair, District 3	X	X										
Liz Warren, 1 st Vice Chair, District 5	X	X										
Elizabeth R. Stone, 2 nd Vice Chair, District 2	X	X										
Jennifer Morrison, Secretary, District 4	e	X										
Soledad Barragan, Member-At-Large, District 5		X										
Michael Rodriguez, Chair Emeritus, District 5	e	X										

Present = X

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

**Senate Bill 326 (MHSA Reform) Ventura County Behavioral Health Responses for
Assemblymember Irwin**

The new funding formula in SB 326 represents a significant reduction to *ongoing* to county funding for Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) services. This reduction is before funds from mental health are redirected to serve a new population of clients with substance use disorders. Funding for 30+ core outpatient, crisis, and outreach and engagement services currently allocated under the existing General System Development (GSD) category would be reduced from \$44,096,869 to \$9,646,977 and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services would be reduced by at least 50% due to new regulatory requirements.

For context, current VCBH MHSA Budget for FY24-25 are as follows:

CURRENT COMPONENTS						
CSS: FSP	CSS: GSD	PEI	INN	CFTN	WET	Total
5,259,742	45,460,690	13,291,391	2,132,189	-	158,235	66,302,247
(157,792)	(1,363,821)	(398,742)	(63,966)	-	(4,747)	(1,989,067)
5,101,950	44,096,869	12,892,649	2,068,223	-	153,488	64,313,180
8%	69%	20%	3%	0%	0%	100%

Under the proposed model, the new categories will be reflected as follows:

NEW CATEGORIES						
FSP 35%	BH Services & Supports 30%		Population-based Prevention 5%	Housing 30%		Total
	Minimum 50% to Early Intervention	Remaining %		Minimum 50% to Chronically Homeless	Remaining %	
22,509,613	9,646,977	9,646,977	3,215,659	9,646,977	9,646,977	64,313,180
35%	15%	15%	5%	15%	15%	100%

- Shifting to a 30% allocation for Behavioral Health Services and Supports will result in reductions for non-Full Services Partnership (FSP) services. The majority of non-FSP services including non-FSP VCBH adult outpatient mental health clinics, crisis services (including the County Crisis Team, Crisis Stabilization Unit, and law enforcement Crisis Intervention Team) and outreach programs such as the Rapid Integrated Support and Engagement (RISE) homeless response services will be significantly reduced or eliminated.
- Shifting the Full-Services Partnership (FSP) allocation to 35% will be a significant increase. The County currently spends \$5 million year in this area. After shifting a proportion of clients

into higher-level FSPs under the proposed model, non-FSP outpatient caseloads will remain at or above industry standard thus requiring the need to maintain existing staffing levels. To adhere to the FSP Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model, staffing will need to be increased significantly to serve the estimated new 1000-1500 clients served in this level of care.

- Shifting to 5% population-based health from PEI category will all but eliminate our prevention efforts including potentially significant reductions to the Logrando Bienestar program:
 - Logrando Bienestar is unique to Ventura County and is designed to help the Latino community understand the importance of mental health and wellness/access services. Through outreach, advocacy, and education, staff work with local schools, community organizations, homes, ranches, and County of Ventura “high touch” agencies to increase the number of Latino and Mexican Indigenous individuals/families who seek mental health services through the VCBH system of care.
- Shifting 30% to Housing will be a significant increase which will come from treatment services dollars. This shift will result in a significant loss of funds to be used for federal match.

Finally, the rigidity of the new funding “buckets”, including sub-categories around chronically homeless and early intervention, will make it difficult to manage the system in a flexible way that compensates for evolving funding availability and local Ventura County community needs. Efforts to expand the treatment continuum with new facilities (e.g., Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers, Psychiatric Health Facilities) and to continue serving underserved communities through programs such as the Diversity Collective and Growing Works-Supportive Employment will be in jeopardy, as core mandated services would be prioritized. Youth services including the Ventura County Office of Education Wellness Centers would also be significantly impacted as they would need to find alternate funding sources under this model.