

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, October 9, 2023, 1:00 – 2:30PM

BHAB Executive Members Present:

Janis Gardner, Chair

Elizabeth R. Stone, 2nd Vice Chair

Michael Rodriguez, Chair Emeritus

Soledad Barragan, Member-at-Large

Jennifer Morrison, Secretary

Guests:

Ratan Bhavnani, NAMI

Ronna Bright, VCSO

Cece Casey, Community

Marry Haffner, Advocate

Aaron Kitzman, CIT

Martha Knutson, CoCo

Pete LaFollette, MHSA Advocate

Lourdes, Spanish Interpreter

Moira, Spanish Interpreter

Mark Stadler, CIT

Maria Torres, Community

Caridad Vazques, Community

Scott Walker, VC COSSUP

Liz Warren, Client Network

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

Dr. Loretta Denering, Acting Director

Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief

Sara Sanchez, Access and Outreach Division Chief

Cheryl Fox, Youth & Family Division Chief

Andrea Wallace, Assistant to the VCBH Director and Assistant Director

Jakeline De Leon, BHAB Management Assistant / Zoom Engineer

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:03PM by Chair Janis Gardner. Lourdes, Spanish Interpreter, introduced herself and her colleague, Moira, 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 October 9, 2023, was approved (Rodriguez/Barragan/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call.
- VI. **Approval of the September 11, 2023, Minutes** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Committee Minutes for September 11, 2023, were approved (Morrison/Barragan/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written by majority vote through roll call. Second Vice Chair Stone abstained.
- VII. **Chair Comments** – Chair Gardner shared October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, LGBTQ+ history month, and National Prevention of Bullying month. As of October 1st, Ventura County Memorial Hospital will transfer pediatric patients that require hospital admission to another facility based on their clinical need. On September 27th, the Ventura County Office of Education hosted the “Facing Down Fentanyl” town hall, and it was very successful. The Board of Supervisors approved the \$3.7 million Opioid Settlement spending plan which will expand education, treatment, prevention, and law enforcement programs.
- VIII. **Public Comments** – A written public comment was submitted by Pete LaFollette, it will be attached to the minutes.

- IX. Director's Updates** – Acting Director Dr. Loretta Denering provided the Ventura County Behavioral Health updates. As acting Director of Behavioral Health, Dr. Denering has issued a notice of action suspending the LPS designation for the Aurora Vista Del Mar Hospital (VDM) effective October 16th, 2023, due to repeated violations of patient rights. The local mental health director has the responsibility to protect patients' rights to prompt medical care and treatment to be free from harm, abuse, and neglect. These violations of patient's rights constitute negligence of duty and endanger community safety. On June 22nd, VCBH issued a notice of patient rights violations requiring VDM to submit a written plan addressing and correcting the violations. Upon review of the submitted plan and investigation of adherence to that plan, Dr. Denering has determined that VDM failed to produce evidence of progress to her satisfaction. As indicated in the Notice of Violation, Dr. Denering is executing her authority to suspend VDM's designation and authorization to evaluate and treat involuntary patients to protect the county's mental health patient population.
- X. Executive Committee Members Comments & Announcements** – Second Vice Chair Stone commented she will be attending the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council next week., The CA Association of Mental Health Peer Run organization is doing a 5 and 5 statewide tour of Peer Run organizations, therefore, they will be visiting the organization she co-founded on October 23rd. The TAY committee will be rescheduled to October 25th at 3:30 PM in the training room.
- XI. Secretary's Report/Announcements** – Secretary Morrison announced Soledad Barragan's re-appointment has been reconfirmed by the Board of Supervisors and there is still an open position for Supervisor Gorell's office.
- 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. Chair Gardner announced next month in November, they will have a Veteran presentation by Lieutenant Carlos Garcia. Dr. Denering will be presenting in December for the Behavioral Health Mental Health Services Act reform of SB 326, AB 531, and SB 43.

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 October 16, 2023, at 1:00PM – Dr. Denering requested to add an agenda item to open a public hearing for the MHSA 3-year plan mid-year adjustment. Ms. Stone commented she does not feel comfortable with what she perceives as insufficient and sufficient time for opportunity for greater community participation.

- I. Call to Order*
- II. Quorum Roll Call & Introductions*
- III. Roll Call of Members with Just Cause*
 - a. State others present in the room over the age of 18*
- IV. Requests for Emergency Circumstances – ACTION (Roll Call)*
- V. Approval of the Agenda – ACTION (Roll Call)*
- VI. Approval of the September 18, 2023 Minutes – ACTION (Roll Call)*
- VII. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)*
- VIII. Presentation – EvalCorp – (Dr. Ycaza Herrera) (15 min.)*
- IX. Chair Announcements (10 min.)*
- X. Director’s Report – Dr. Loretta Denering, Acting Director (10 min.)*
- XI. BHAB Goals and Priorities (10 min)*
- XII. BHAB Committee Reports (5 min each)*
 - a. Prevention Committee (September 26) – Janis Gardner, Chair*
 - b. Disparities Reduction Committee (October 3) – Marlen Torres, Chair*
 - c. Youth & Family Committee (October 11) – Kevin Clerici, Chair*
- XIII. Board Member Comments and Announcements (3 min. per speaker, Round Robin)*
- XIV. Secretary’s Report – Jennifer Morrison (5 min.)*
- XV. Old Business*
 - a. Site Visits Resumption – BHAB Members (5 min.)*
 - b. Annual Report Update – Michael Rodriguez*

- XVI. New Business**
 - a. Presentation Requests*
 - b. Recognition Award Recommendations*
- XVII. Contracts**
- XVIII. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)**
- XIX. Adjourn**

XIV. Public Comments – NONE.

XV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM by Chair Janis Gardner.

Next Meeting Date – November 13, 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	X	X								
Liz Warren, 1 st Vice Chair, District 5	X	X	X	e								
Elizabeth R. Stone, 2 nd Vice Chair, District 2	X	X	X	X								
Jennifer Morrison, Secretary, District 4	e	X	e	X								
Soledad Barragan, Member-At-Large, District 5		X	X	X								
Michael Rodriguez, Chair Emeritus, District 5	e	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

From: pete lafollette <plafollette@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 8:11 PM
To: DeLeon, Jakeline <Jakeline.DeLeon@ventura.org>
Subject: Executive Committee Meeting PC

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Peers must be a part of MH policy formation- no one else can articulate as factually, historically, organically, our movement. It is a futile effort? Only if the measure is allowed to pre-empt and erase our historical progress in the process. Am wondering about starting a mainstream publicity campaign, enlisting a PAC/other MHSA pro-consumer affiliated CA group. Otherwise the opponent is too powerful and not a close contest.

MHSA Modernization ballot passage will be like revoking self determined diversion programs- negatively changing recovery progress for life. The contrast with the services act could not be any wider, of real people in recovery and wellness verses cold raw institutions, embezzlement and larceny on a scale not seen since the robber baron days. That will be all that's left of the MHSA and not the pure vision, Infinite hope, and demonstrated results from the Survivor Culture- where it all originated. Changes in MH funding head towards forced treatment and away from peer sourced recovery and support. If you didn't follow the SB43 it is setting up for a huge step backwards in process and administration in MHSA funding.- many agencies who usually register MHSA status quo weigh in SB43 having a chilling effect for progress, with the BIG agencies like NAMI CA being in support, or others who's budget's stand to be padded by the bill. But the overall curve of consumer testimony for "Modernization" goes against it as it is written and calls for amendments to be made, or it stands to become a quagmire as MHSA already is, to be further co-opted.

TRANSLATION:

Los pares deben ser parte de la formación de la política de MH, nadie más puede articular de manera tan objetiva, histórica y orgánica nuestro movimiento. ¿Es un esfuerzo inútil? Solo si se permite que la medida se anticipe y borre nuestro progreso histórico en el proceso. Me pregunto acerca de iniciar una campaña publicitaria convencional, reclutando a un PAC / otro grupo de CA afiliado a favor del consumidor de MHSA
. De lo contrario, el oponente es demasiado poderoso y no es una competencia reñida.

La aprobación de la boleta electoral de modernización de MHSA será como revocar los programas de desvío autodeterminados, cambiando negativamente el progreso de la recuperación de por vida. El contraste con la ley de servicios no podría ser más amplio, de personas reales en recuperación y bienestar frente a instituciones frías y crudas, malversación y hurto en una escala que no se veía desde los días del barón ladrón. Eso será todo lo que quede de la MHSA y no la visión pura, la esperanza infinita y los resultados demostrados de la Cultura Sobreviviente, donde todo se originó. Los cambios en la financiación de la MH se dirigen hacia el tratamiento forzoso y se alejan de la recuperación y el apoyo entre pares. Si no seguiste la SB43, se está preparando para un gran paso atrás En el proceso y la administración de la financiación de la MHSA.- muchas agencias que suelen registrar el statu quo de la MHSA sopesan que la SB43 tiene un efecto escalofriante para el progreso, con las GRANDES agencias como NAMI CA que están a favor, u otras cuyo presupuesto se ve favorecido por el proyecto de ley. Pero la curva general del testimonio de los consumidores a favor de la "Modernización" va en contra de ella tal como está escrita y exige que se hagan enmiendas, o se convertirá en un atolladero como ya lo es MHSA, para ser cooptada aún más.
