

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, November 13, 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

Guests:

Ratan Bhavnani, NAMI

Nancy Borchard, BHAB Member

Cece Casey, Community

Marry Haffner, Advocate

Aaron Kitzman, CIT

Martha Knutson, County Counsel

Pete LaFollette, MHSA Advocate

Lourdes, Spanish Interpreter

Moira, Spanish Interpreter

Mark Stadler, CIT

Maria Torres, Community

Scott Walker, VC COSSUP

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

Dr. Loretta Denering, Acting Director

Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief

Hilary Carson, MHSA Sr. Program Administrator

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 1:02PM 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 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 November 13, 2023, was approved (Rodriguez/Warren/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call.
- VI. **Approval of the October 9, 2023, Minutes** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Committee Minutes for October 9, 2023, were approved (Rodriguez/Warren/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 that the soaring rise in fentanyl addiction across Ventura County has led to the start of the region’s first inpatient hospital detoxification program which will accept Medi-Cal. Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) has launched a 9-bed program designed to clear fentanyl, alcohol, and other substances. Thousand Oaks’ first emergency homeless shelter received approval from the city’s planning commission. In January 2024, Khepera House, a substance use residential facility for men is set to return to the VCBH network with 16 beds. Lastly, on January 14th there will be another Facing Down Fentanyl town hall in Oxnard, more information on this town hall is to come soon.
- VIII. **Director’s Update** – Acting Director Dr. Loretta Denering provided the Ventura County Behavioral Health updates. She attended the CA Behavioral Health Director’s Association Strategic Planning meeting in late October. In the last fiscal year, VCBH focused on working with the State on the justice involved piece of the CalAIM waiver. It has been focused on working with Law Enforcement and the Health Care Agency. VCBH opted in to participate in

contingency management which has been delayed by the State but will continue in the next year. Chief Raena West has been working directly with the State and UCLA for the project evaluation. VCBH has also been participating in various CalAIM behavioral health administrative integration workgroups. VCBH will be going live with administrative integration ahead of the requirement for 2027 which combines mental health and substance use under one contract as early as 2025. VCBH is also currently analyzing the impacts of SB43, and many counties will be delaying implementation until 2025 or 2026 due to the infrastructure requirements. To conclude, Dr. Denering mentioned that some new priorities are also part of the CalAIM-related payment reform and there were some significant changes to rates which require more consulting and hiring actuaries at the State level. The State is still moving toward the goal of having a capitated payment model.

- IX. Public Comments** – Cece Casey commented on the importance of having well-educated staff to communicate with each other on treatment plans to reduce stress and be more effective.
- X. Executive Committee Board Member Comments** – Ms. Morrison commented she really likes Casa Esperanza, however, sees a big gap in not preparing clients for independent living, and would like to see more preparation for independent living. Second Vice Chair Stone commented that she attended the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council meeting and the CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions meetings, and she would like to institute having reports from these meetings. Second Vice Chair Stone also commented she would like the committee to consider having some meetings in the evening. First Vice Chair Warren commented she would welcome the formation of an outreach workgroup. Chair Emeritus Rodriguez commented he encourages folks to take specific issues to the committee level and then have a presentation or facilitated discussion at the general board meeting.
- XI. Secretary’s Report/Announcements** – Ms. Morrison reported an update on the East County Crisis Stabilization Unit and a potential location.
- XII. New Business**
 - A. Discussion of Process of Notice to BHAB Regarding VCBH Contractor Notice of Action** – The committee agreed to establishing or creating a formula for determining a threshold.

B. 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 there will be a Veterans presentation at the General meeting and Dr. Denering will be presenting in December for the Behavioral Health Services Act reform of SB 326, AB 531, and SB 43 legislation. Second Vice Chair Stone requested a presentation on the Point in Time Count from Jenn Harkey.

C. 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 November 20, 2023, at 1:00PM

- 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 October 16, 2023 Minutes – ACTION (Roll Call)*
- VII. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)*
- VIII. Presentation – Heroes: Transitioning Back to the Community – Carlos M. Garcia, MPA Police Lieutenant Department C.I.T Coordinator, Naval Base Ventura County Police Dept. – (20 min.)*
- IX. Public Hearing and End 30-day Public Comment Period on the MHSA 3-year Plan Midyear Adjustment – Janis Gardner, Chair – ACTION (Roll Call)*
- X. Chair Announcements (10 min.)*
- XI. Director’s Report – Dr. Loretta Denering, Acting Director (10 min.)*
- XII. BHAB Committee Reports (5 min each)*
 - a. Youth & Family Committee (October 11) – Janis Gardner, Chair*

- b. Transitional Age Youth (TAY) (October 25) – Elizabeth Stone, Chair*
 - c. Adult Services Committee (November 2) – Chris Tejada, Chair*
 - d. Disparities Reduction Committee (November 7) – Marlen Torres, 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. Data Notebook Workgroup – Liz Warren, Chair*
 - c. Ombudsman Workgroup – Liz Warren, Chair*
 - d. BHAB Committee Goal Submissions – Janis Gardner, Chair & BHAB Members*
- 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 2:55 PM by Chair Janis Gardner.

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