

**VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES**

**June 15, 2015**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Monday, July 20, 2015  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

Ventura County Behavioral Health Administration  
1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200 ♦ Oxnard, CA 93036  
Training Room

Note: The Behavioral Health Advisory Board has not yet approved these minutes. There may be additions/deletions or corrections before the minutes are accepted in final form.

## June 15, 2015 Meeting Attendance Roster

### Members Present:

Janis Gardner, Chair  
 Karyn Bates  
 René Beauchesne, LCSW  
 Jerry Harris, Secretary  
 McKian Nielsen  
 Beverly Wisotsky, LMFT  
 Sandra Wolfe  
 Dr. Irene Pinkard

Larry Hicks  
 Mary Haffner  
 Sidney White  
 Nancy Borchard  
 Carol Thomas, 1st Vice-Chair  
 Daniel Jordan  
 Denise Nielsen

### Members Absent:

John Zaragoza, Supervisor  
 Kay Wilson-Bolton  
 Irene Mellick, LCSW  
 Monique Garcia  
 Anita Ranade

A list of staff members present is available by request.

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS /ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
I.	<b>BHAB Call to Order</b>		
	Ms. Gardner called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.	Information.	
II.	<b>Approval of the June 15, 2015 Agenda (Action)</b>		
	The agenda was approved as written.	The agenda was approved. <i>M/S/C.</i>	
III.	<b>Approval of the May 18, 2015 Minutes (Action)</b>		
	The minutes were approved as written.	The minutes were approved. <i>M/S/C.</i>	
IV.	<b>Oath of Office - New Members</b>		
	Gabriel Ibarra, BHAB Admin, administered the Oath of Office to new Board member Mary Haffner.  Ms. Gardner reminded the Board members of the Ethics Training requirement and referred them to Mr. Ibarra for additional instructions.	Information.	
V.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>		
	Ms. Gardner welcomed the Board. Introductions were completed around the table.	Information.	
VI.	<b>Recognition Awards</b>		
	Ms. Gardner presented Meloney Roy, on behalf of the Board, with a recognition award for her years of dedicated service to the department, the BHAB, and the community through her various roles with the Behavioral Health Department and the Health Care Agency. Various Board members and department staff commented on her achievements.	Information.	
VII.	<b>Election of BHAB Officers (Action)</b>		
	Ms. Borchard announced the two possible slate of officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slate 1:</li> </ul>	The Board voted for the new slate	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair - Janis Gardner</li> <li>○ 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair - Carol Thomas</li> <li>○ 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair - Beverly Wisotsky</li> <li>○ Secretary - Sandra Wolfe</li> <li>● <b>Slate 2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair - Janis Gardner</li> <li>○ 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair - Carol Thomas</li> <li>○ 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair - Beverly Wisotsky</li> <li>○ Secretary - Jerry Harris</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Board, by majority vote, elected Slate 2 as the officers for the upcoming year.</p>	of officers.	
VIII.	<b>Chair Announcements – 5 mins.</b>		
	1. Ms. Gardner announced that the department is currently in escrow for the facility that will house the new Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit.	Information.	
IX.	<b>Board Member Comments &amp; Announcements – 5 mins.</b>		
	None.	Information.	
X.	<b>Public Comments – 3 mins. per speaker (20 mins.)</b>		
	<p>Ms. Gardner requested that public comments be limited to 2 minutes per speaker due to time constraints.</p> <p>Ratan Bhavnani - Mr. Bhavnani spoke on his involvement with the BHAB Laura's Law Workgroup, the history, and his support for Laura's Law implementation.</p> <p>Lucrecia Campos-Juarez - (Inaudible)</p> <p>Mike Ford - NAMI-Voice concerns about Laura's Law helping people get treatment; recommend Laura's Law to Board of Supervisors</p> <p>Bob Wickham - Parent-Laura's Law will provide help for families and I support that.</p> <p>Brian Stachkunas - I have a 20 year old son...in Ventura County jail. He is now experiencing son harassing him. The son is argumentative and threatening; he can't get treatment or medication because he is an adult. He needs help from VCBH and that's why I support Laura's Law.</p> <p>Cece Casey - Thank you to the Laura's Law Workgroup. It will address the need for SPMI and is an effective tool for needy people to get treatment. Please recommend without delay and forward Laura's Law to Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>Cary Davis - Family Member - Expressed his support for Laura's Law</p> <p>Jerry Weaver - Expressed his support Laura's Law -</p> <p>Joan Wiggins - Family Member-support for Laura's Law</p> <p>Sonna Gray - Family Member r - Support for Laura's Law - was on Laura's Law Committee; good cross section of stakeholders; Recommend to Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>Kevin Clerici - Support Laura's Law - another important tool for all of us.</p> <p>Peter Brown - Support Laura's Law is the right thing to do for all.</p>	Information.	

	<p>Cheryl Heitmann - Support for Laura's Law</p> <p>Clyde Reynolds - Previous Turning Point Director-Advocated for Involuntary Outpatient Treatment. He said that assertive outreach and engagement services offered by caring trained mental health staff establishes trusting relationships and is what leads persons to accept treatment and begin their recovery. Involuntary coercion creates resistance which damages the therapeutic relationships. Case managers are the keys to recovery. Mr. Reynolds asked for support for the \$1.25M expenses that Laura's Law does not cover.</p>		
<b>XI.</b>	<b>Director's Report – 5 mins.</b>		
	<p>Ms. Crandall, BHD Director, thanked everyone for taking the time to provide comments on the Laura's Law discussion today.</p> <p>Children's Crisis Center is in escrow and we're .hoping to open doors in November 2015.</p> <p>MHRC RFP went out and additional questions were sent out to providers in order to make a proper decision.</p> <p>Ms Crandall responded to a question on the 1115 Waiver which allows people to be served and allow for clinics to be federally qualified to receive reimbursement. Hoping to provide more preventative measures' rather it does now. Targeting the "whole person" health/integration of services.</p>	Information	
<b>XII.</b>	<b>Alcohol and Drug Programs Update – 5 mins.</b>		
	<p>Mr. Zarate presented. Marijuana usage is number one drug for teen adolescents. We need to have involvement from those who enact policy to be lead author here in Ventura County. Marijuana use effects changes in the brain. Senator's office has asked us to provide input to the Marijuana Blue Ribbon Commission in Sacramento. V.C. STAR article address Marijuana concerns. Mr. Zarate discussed ADP/DUI involvement. Local issues will be addressed at another time.</p>		
<b>XIII.</b>	<b>BHD Contract Review – 10 mins.</b>		
	<p>A) ADP Contracts Review</p> <p>Board Agenda - June 16, 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fiscal Year 2015-16 ADP Treatment Amendments</li> <li>2. Fiscal Year 2015-16 ADP Prevention Agreements</li> <li>3. FY 2014-15 Linda Gertson, Ph.D. First Amendment</li> </ol> <p>Board Agenda - July 7, 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fiscal Year 2015-16 Linda Gertson, Ph.D. Second Amendment</li> </ol> <p>B) MH Contract Review <i>(Action)</i></p> <p>Board Agenda - June 16, 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Various Mental Health Agreements</li> <li>2. Telecare Corporation EDIPP Sixth Amendment</li> </ol> <p>Board Agenda - July 7, 2015</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fiscal Year 2015-16 Pacific Clinics, Roadrunner Shuttle, and ILRC Agreements</li> </ol>	<p>Information.</p> <p>The Board approved the MH contracts as submitted.</p> <p><i>M/S/C.</i></p>	

	<p>The Board discussed the contracts presented. A motion was made and seconded to approve the mental health contracts as submitted. The Board voted to approve the contracts as submitted.</p>		
XIV.	<p><b>Old Business – 5 mins.</b></p>		
	<p>A) Appointment of Chair to the Budget Committee  B) Appointment of Member-at-Large</p> <p>Ms. Gardner announced the update of the BHAB Bylaws to include the above modifications and appointments. This will need to go to the Board of Supervisors after finalizing at BHAB.</p>	<p>Information</p>	
XV.	<p><b>New Business – 45 mins.</b></p>		
	<p>A) <b>Laura's Law Discussion and Recommendation (<i>Action</i>)</b></p> <p>Ms. Gardner stated that the Board of Supervisors requested a letter be sent with the recommendation of the BHAB and the Workgroup on Laura's Law.</p> <p>The BHAB were asked to give a recommendation on three options: (A) Recommendation to implement Laura's Law (B). Recommend not to implement Laura's Law (C) Recommend to implement a voluntary program using an assertive treatment model. A model that has fidelity with an ACT model program of a 1:10 ratio and available 24/7. A motion was made and the vote was unanimous, "To implement Laura's Law (<i>corrected</i>) with an 18 month review following the collection of data and outcome measures to ensure the program is achieving the results expected". A second motion was made and the vote was unanimous, to "Have the Board of Supervisors fund Laura's Law". The BHAB had concerns and wanted to know what MHSA funds might be available to fund Laura's Law. Currently no funds from direct services can be used. A question was how many other MHSA funded programs would have to be cut or disbanded to fund LL. The BHAB would need to know what funds are available.</p> <p>Other comments were that the BHAB was challenged with this. (See below some of the comments of the BHAB):</p> <p>My heart goes out to SPMI. Why do you think court ordered treatment works with a non-compliant prisoner? What is different?</p> <p>The BHAB was informed of a 5% dropout rate in the Laura's Law program in Los Angeles. Does this help get many people off the streets? Consumers would get 24/7 attention. It boils down to 2-3 years down the road to see what the data says, if it works. If you can keep 2-3 people out of prison that would be worth it.</p> <p>But what if they're not involved here and they're not compliant - how do we get the numbers?</p>	<p>Information</p> <p>Motion 1 - M/S/C</p> <p>Motion 2 - M/S/C</p>	

The theory behind it is just a compelling amount of power when a Judge sits in his black robe and tells you, you must do this; I don't know if it works or not, but that's the theory.

I have been to the workgroup meetings since last October and one of the things as a Board is to go over all that the Workgroup has gone over; does it work? And if so, why does it work in that county? We're talking about someone with SPMI crisis... it allow us to develop a relationship with these people. We think they need that kind of push to keep to the program, having someone really talk to them and develop a relationship with a counselor; they have time to empower themselves.

What' is the action plan, I just don't know...so when I see mixed evidence, ...doubtful evidence, what I'm hearing is a very conservative punishment approach vs. humanistic approach...and black gowns coming down in a symbolic manner. I don't have good feeling about this thing. I have two ideas - voluntary vs. mandatory (Laura's Law approach) ...is it possible to try and have a mix of both?

Funding...not quite sure how that's going to work-when a BHAB member talked about programs that may be cut due to Laura's Law. There was also a comment about the Supervisors themselves - would they fund?

We have no idea how the Board of Supervisors will come up with funding, if at all.

How the process will work, is that part of our charge? When we pass the resolution/recommendation are we recommending that programs will be cut? So do we make a solid recommendation along those lines? Maybe an adjunct to the resolution is needed.

Another thing I wanted to comment about is, is Laura's Law voluntary vs. involuntary. Thought a part of Laura's Law would be voluntary, is it? Thought a voluntary program was already in existence.

Laura's Law seems to be in the realm of traditional.

I think we owe it to the parents or NAMI to do something and to recommend this as a help to family members who have to deal with some of these issues, don't know about funding; that is something that Administrative officers may have to make a recommendation about, our path is to decide to make this something to offer to the community.

But when we talk about the complexity of implementing Laura's Law .... I have to think this is something to give them a chance for. The hope of coming back to a level of

normal functioning, we have to do it - it's something we owe as a chance to people who have a mental illness and their families. It's an investment.

People who go from homelessness and hospital to hospital, they are locked in jail. It gives hope to the community. But there needs to be help to buy the SMI, housing. I think it's a good thing.

In the budget given, did it include housing? As a consumer I don't see this as an either/or proposition- we'll have 1:10 ratio of people developing trust, care, a desire to get well, all the while having people come back because we have to realize that even in involuntary processes, they're going to be nurtured, followed, etc. They're not going to be dropped - that's not my understanding of how Laura's Law works.

Funding is not part of our job, but an issue for some people. The estimated costs given does not include housing, public defender costs, court costs, or extra costs, this will be much more expensive than what is projected.

I worked in the Mental Health field for 4 years in County - on the Crisis Team. I have seen SMI people; seen significant improvement and treatment. It's terrible to have SMI people live homeless. I think it's unethical; think we need to pass Laura's Law all the way. It's not a panacea but it will help.

Ms. Gardner stated that the BHAB needed to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors today if we can do it.

A member pointed out that when we compare counties, we already have a lot in place; we have Mental Health courts, R.I.S.E., CIT, officers assigned to that population. We have somewhere people can go for evaluation, we have a lot of efforts in our community.

There was concern about courts regarding: substance abuse problems. For many people courts save their lives, getting them off the streets but it doesn't work for everybody. Arguments are compelling. Families need another options. People fall thru the cracks and have no options....I have great respect for civil rights in our US Constitution, however it is inhumane and unconscionable to watch someone deteriorate and be dangerous to themselves and others. This should not be allowed to happen. What they haven't looked at is the savings through the jail systems and hospitalizations. We can't allow these things to happen. We need to do something. I recommend that Laura's Law be adopted and move that we recommend to Board of Supervisors that Laura's Law be implemented in Ventura County as a pilot for six months to one year.

XVI.	Adjourn		
	The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.	Next meeting: July 20, 2015 1:00 - 3:00 PM	

## Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting Attendance 2015

District	Member	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July
District 1 Sup. Bennett	Karyn Bates	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Daniel Jordan, PhD, ABPP			X	X			X
	Sidney L. White, AICP				X		X	X
	Mary Haffner							X
District 2 Sup. Parks	Janis Gardner	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Irene Mellick, LCSW			X				
	Carol Thomas	X						X
	Beverly Wisotsky, LMFT	X		X	X	X	X	X
District 3 Sup. Long	Nancy Borchard	X		X	X			X
	David Holmboe	X		X	X			
	Kay Wilson-Bolton				X	X	X	
	Larry Hicks				X	X	X	X
District 4 Sup. Foy	Jerry Harris	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Denise Nielsen	X		X	X	X	X	
	McKian Nielsen	X		X	X			X
	Anita Ranade			X	X	X	X	
District 5	René Beauchesne, LCSW	X		X	X	X	X	X
Sup. Zaragoza	Monique Garcia	X			X	X	X	
	Dr. Irene Pinkard	X		X		X	X	X
	Sandra Wolfe	X		X	X	X	X	X
Gov. Body	John Zaragoza, Supervisor	X			X			

Present = X