

VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

April 19, 2021

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, May 17, 2021

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

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.

BHAB Members Present

Claudia Armann
Ratan Bhavnani, 1st Vice Chair
Nancy Borchard
Gane Brooking
Kevin Clerici
Jose Estrada
Jesse Finkbeiner
Janis Gardner, Chair Emeritus
Jerry Harris, Chair
Carol J. Keavney
Supervisor Matt LaVere
Patricia Mowlavi
Joe S. Ramirez, 2nd Vice Chair
Michael Rodriguez, Member-At-Large
Elizabeth R. Stone
Chris Tejeda
Carol Thomas
Marlen Torres

BHAB Members Absent

Soledad Barragán
Cmdr. James Fryhoff
Jennifer Morrison

Others Present

Dawn Anderson, Ventura County Office of Education
Sherri Block, VCMC/Inpatient Psychiatric Unit
Lindsay Bond
Brian Brennan, Supervisor LaVere's Office
Herman Cortez, Pacific Clinics
Michelle Dusick, San Bernardino County BH
Roberta Griego, NAMI
Robbie Hidalgo, Groundworks Foundation
Sue Hughes, County Executive Office
Martha Johnson, Health Care Agency
Maya Lazos, Vista del Mar Hospital
Erik Nasarenko, Ventura County District Attorney
Erin Olivera, VCMC/Inpatient Psychiatric Unit
Chrissy Ortega, Chief Executive Office
Kiran Sahota, Concepts Forward Consulting
Ezequiel A. Sanchez
Carole Shelton
Jeanne Spencer, Idea Engineering
Lorena Suarez, Homeland Language Services
Jeanette Villanueva, Vista del Mar Hospital
Dr. Casey Wake, Telecare
Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team
Tina Wang, County Executive Office
Liz Warren, Client Network
Miles Weiss, District Attorney's Office
Efan Wu, Ventura County Public Defender's Office
Patrick Zarate, Behavioral Health Concepts - EQRO
Barry Zimmerman, Health Care Agency Director

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers and Staff Present

Dr. Sevet Johnson, VCBH Director
Wendi Amezquita, Crisis Team Clinic Administrator
Sloane Burt, Quality Improvement Behavioral Health Manager
Hilary Carson, MHSAs Innovations Program Administrator
Tina Coates, Patients' Rights Advocate
Dr. Loretta Denering, Substance Use Services Division Chief
Leisa Donovan, Senior Accounting Manager
Julie Glantz, Adult Services Senior Behavioral Health Manager
Dan Hicks, Prevention Behavioral Health Manager
Courtney Lubell, Policy & Procedure Unit Program Administrator
Sal Manzo, Adult Services Behavioral Health Manager
Dina Olivas, Youth & Family Services Division Chief
Joanna Peterson, Management Assistant
Nadeera Ranawaka, Accounting Manager II
Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky, MHSAs Senior Manager
Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief
Susan White Wood, Housing Behavioral Health Manager
Terri Yanez, Administrative Services Division Chief
Vickie Poliquin, Temporary BHAB Assistant

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
I.	Call to Order Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.		
II.	Roll Call First Vice Chair Bhavnani conducted the calling of the roll and confirmed that a quorum of the Board members exists.		
III.	Welcome and Introductions Chair Harris welcomed members of the community, VCBH staff, Board members and new BHAB members, Jose Estrada representing District 5 and Christopher Tejada representing District 4.		
IV.	Approval of the Agenda Mr. Harris asked the Board to review and approve the agenda. Ms. Stone moved to approve; Ms. Armann seconded. Mr. Harris noted that two BHAB members need to leave the meeting early and requested an amendment to the motion to move all action items to follow agenda item XI. Ms. Stone restated her motion to approve moving the legally mandated agenda items XVI.A, B, C and D to follow agenda item XI. Ms. Armann agreed and seconded the amended motion. The motion to approve the agenda as amended carried unanimously through roll call.	Agenda approved as amended. M/S/C	
V.	Approval of the Minutes Mr. Harris asked the Board to review and approve the minutes of the March 15, 2021 meeting. Mr. Finkbeiner moved to approve; Ms. Gardner seconded. The motion to approve the minutes as written carried unanimously through roll call.	General Meeting minutes approved as written. M/S/C	
VI.	Public Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lindsay Bond spoke on behalf of a loved one to advocate for assistance from VCBH and the Board of Supervisors to garner locked placement and conservatorship. Carole Shelton spoke to advocate for equal and equitable access to crisis services for individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). Written public comment by Laila Keller received for the meeting record. 		
VII.	Presentation Perspective of Ventura County's New DA – Erik Nasarenko, District Attorney Mr. Nasarenko shared his professional and personal background and gave a comprehensive overview of his vision, plan and focus on finding alternatives to incarceration and reducing recidivism within the criminal justice system for people with severe mental illness and took questions from the BHAB.		
VIII.	Recognition Mr. Harris presented a Certificate of Commendation to Kiran Sahota, previous Senior Behavioral Health Manager – Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).		
IX.	Chair Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Harris advised that he feels the BHAB's contract review process may not meet the review responsibility outlined in the Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) pursuant to Section 5650. Mary Haffner's term expired and is no longer a member of the BHAB. 	Add Contract Review Process Improvement Discussion to next Exec. Committee agenda.	VICKIE POLIQUIN
X.	Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Johnson provided an overview of the Board letters presented to the Board of Supervisors since the last General meeting noting that they are also contained in the agenda packet in matrix and narrative form. Dina Olivas provided a detailed update on the eight high school wellness centers noting that the wellness centers are unique in that that are driven and staffed mainly by youth peers. Dr. Loretta Denering provided an update on Substance Use Services and the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). 		

<p>XI.</p>	<p>Board Members Comments and Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Stone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Committee will meet on April 22 at 10:30 AM. Part of the meeting will consider changes to make the Committee more inclusive for people in the TAY age range, changes to the meeting time and providing an overview of some of the State level initiatives impacting Ventura County. • Ms. Gardner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided information regarding a flyer from the Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) advertising that shopping trips at Target stores, online and voting for MICOP will trigger a donation to the Indigenous migrant communities. 		
<p>XII.</p>	<p>Secretary's Report Mr. Harris advised that the office of Secretary is currently vacant and Secretary reports will resume in July following the election of officers.</p>		
<p>XIII.</p>	<p>BHAB Committee Reports A. Youth & Family Services Committee – Kevin Clerici, Chair 1. Mr. Clerici was absent. The Committee report was deferred to the May meeting.</p>		
<p>XIV.</p>	<p>BHAB Workgroup Update A. Disparities Reduction Workgroup – Gane Brooking and Marlen Torres, Co-Chairs 1. Marlen Torres reported that the Workgroup continues to meet and the next meeting is scheduled for April 20 at 4:30 PM.</p>		
<p>XV.</p>	<p>Old Business A. Revised Lanterman, Petris, Short (LPS) Reform Workgroup Cover Letter – Review and Approval Mr. Harris provided information regarding the revisions that County Counsel requested to the cover letter and advised that the LPS Report and revised cover letter can be sent to the Board of Supervisors. He asked for a motion to approve the revised cover letter. Mr. Bhavnani moved to approve; Ms. Borchard seconded. The motion to approve the revised cover letter carried by majority vote through roll call. Ms. Stone voted no. B. Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program (ASSIST) – Follow-Up Report Dr. John Schipper reported that he and Julie Glantz have conducted training with the Rapid Integrated Support and Engagement (RISE) and ASSIST teams and are in the process of developing vignettes to use in test calls.</p>	<p>LPS Reform Workgroup cover letter approved, as amended, to move forward to the BHAB. M/S/C</p>	
<p>XVI.</p>	<p>New Business A. Presentation: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Project Mobile Mental Health <i>(For reference: The agenda was amended to hear agenda items XVI.A, B, C and D following agenda item XI.)</i> Hilary Carson provided a presentation summarizing the community planning process, research, results and budget details for the Mobile Mental Health Innovation project specifically targeted for underserved communities of Ventura County. B. Public Hearing to End 30-day Public Comment Period: Innovation Project Mobile Mental Health Mr. Harris opened the Public Hearing and asked for comments. Ms. Stone made a public comment recommending that in addition to website access, Instagram be considered for those that have difficulty connecting. Robbie Hidalgo made a public comment on the size and overall appearance of the vehicle and asked whether the program was designed to be a rapid response Innovation program versus a clinic on wheels. Mr. Estrada made a public comment advising that he did not have a clear understanding of the Innovation Project. Ms. Stone provided a translated response to assist him. With no additional comments, Mr. Harris requested a motion to close the Public Hearing to end the 30-Day public comment period. Ms. Stone moved to approve; Ms. Borchard seconded. The motion carried unanimously through roll call. C. Open 30-day Public Comment Period on Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Update</p>	<p>Approval to Close the Public Hearing to End the 30-day Public Comment Period. M/S/C</p>	

	<p>Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky read the posting for the opening of the 30-day Public Comment Period for the MHSA FY2020-21 Annual Update noting that the report is now posted on the website and feedback and comments are being accepted for the next 30 days. Public comments are posted on the website or you can be emailed to MHSA@ventura.org. Mr. Harris requested a motion to Open the 30-day Public Comment Period. Ms. Gardner moved to approve; Mr. Ramirez seconded. The motion carried unanimously through roll call.</p> <p>D. Appointment of Nominating Committee Mr. Harris advised that the Executive Committee approved the recommendation to appoint the following BHAB members to the Nominating Committee and requested a motion to confirm the appointments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kevin Clerici 2. Jesse Finkbeiner 3. Carol J. Keavney 4. Marlen Torres <p>Ms. Gardner moved to approve; Ms. Stone seconded. Ms. Stone asked whether serving on the Nominating Committee precludes being nominated. Following discussion, it was determined that the Bylaws do not specifically preclude a member of the Nominating Committee from being nominated. It was noted that it is past practice that members of the Nominating Committee indicate that they are not interested in running for office. The motion was restated and carried unanimously through roll call.</p> <p>E. BHAB Fiscal Year 2019-20 Annual Report – Review and Approve for Submission to Board of Supervisors Mr. Harris asked for a motion to approve the BHAB Fiscal Year 2019-20 Annual Report and send it to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Gardner moved to approve; Ms. Borchard seconded. The motion carried unanimously through roll call.</p> <p>F. Presentation Requests Ms. Gardner noted that the Executive Committee approved a presentation from Dan Hicks from Substance Use Services (SUS) on “Emerging Local Risks: Fentanyl” for the May General meeting.</p> <p>G. Recognition Award Recommendations Mr. Harris noted that Ms. Haffner will be added to the list of previous BHAB members to be recognized.</p>	<p>Approval to Open 30-day Public Comment Period. M/S/C</p> <p>Approval to Appoint the Nominating Committee members. M/S/C</p> <p>Approval of the FY 2019-20 Annual Report to send to the BOS. M/S/C</p>	
XV.	<p>Contracts No questions were asked and no comments were made.</p>		
XVI.	<p>Public Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carole Shelton spoke in support of the updated MOU between Tri-Counties Regional Center and VCBH that was presented to the BOS. Ezequiel Sanchez spoke to apologize for his behavior at recent BHAB meetings noting that he has been going through difficult times, however expressed that the treatment he has received from the Chair and 1st Vice Chair is unacceptable and plans to file a formal complaint. He stated that people are not listening to consumers and described his struggles with high functioning mental illness challenges. 		
XVII.	<p>Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.</p>		

Behavioral Health Advisory Board GENERAL Meeting Attendance

2020-21	Terms	Members	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
District 1	3/11/21 – 3/10/24	Claudia Armann	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
District 5	9/15/20 – 9/15/23	Soledad Barragán			X	X	e	X	X	X	X			
District 2	2/24/19 – 2/23/22	Ratan Bhavnani	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
District 3	1/26/21 – 1/26/24	Nancy Borchard		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
District 3	1/13/19 – 1/12/22	Gane Brooking	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
District 1	10/7/18 – 10/6/21	Kevin Clerici	X	e	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
District 5	3/23/21 – 3/22/24	Jose Estrada												
District 4	4/7/20 - 10/13/21	Jesse Finkbeiner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
LE	9/10/19 – 9/10/22	Cmdr. James Fryhoff	X		X	X	X		X	X	X			
District 3	4/15/21 – 4/14/24	Janis Gardner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
District 1	4/8/18 – 4/7/21	Mary Haffner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
District 4	9/17/19 – 9/17/22	Jerry Harris	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
District 2	7/21/20 – 1/7/22	Carol J. Keavney		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
BOS	1/1/21 – 12/31/21	Supervisor Matt LaVere							X	X	X	X		
District 4	2/9/21 – 2/9/24	Jennifer Morrison								X	X			
District 2	3/15/20 – 3/15/23	Patricia Mowlavi	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
District 3	12/1/20 – 12/1/23	Joe S. Ramirez	X	X		X	X	e	X	X	X	X		
District 5	1/25/20 – 1/24/23	Michael Rodriguez	e	e	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
District 1	9/1/20 – 5/7/21	Elizabeth R. Stone			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
District 4	4/13/21 – 9/17/21	Christopher Tejeda												
District 2	9/17/19 – 9/16/22	Carol Thomas	X	e	X	e	e	X	e	X	X	X		
District 5	1/11/20 – 1/24/23	Marlen Torres	X	X	e	X	X	e	X	X	X	X		
District 1		VACANT												

Present = X

District 1: Supervisor LaVere

District 2: Supervisor Parks

District 3: Supervisor Long

District 4: Supervisor Huber

District 5: Supervisor Ramirez



Ventura County

Behavioral Health Advisory Board

April 5, 2021

Members:

Claudia Armann

Soledad Barragán

Ratan Bhavnani, 1st Vice Chair

Nancy Borchard

Gane Brooking

Kevin Clerici

Jose Estrada

Jesse Finkbeiner

Cmdr. James Fryhoff

Janis Gardner, Chair Emeritus

Mary Haffner, Secretary

Jerry Harris, Chair

Carol J. Keavney

Matt LaVere, Supervisor

Jennifer Morrison

Patricia Mowlavi

Joe S. Ramirez, 2nd Vice Chair

Michael Rodriguez, Member At Large

Elizabeth R. Stone

Carol Thomas

Marlen Torres

Dr. Sevet Johnson, Director
Ventura County Behavioral Health

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: LPS REFORM WORKGROUP REPORT

Dear Supervisors,

The members of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) would like to take this opportunity to thank your Board and the County management team for the outstanding job that has been done to protect the citizens of our county from COVID-19. This has not been an easy task. Please express our appreciation to all that has been involved.

Attached you will find a report on the need to reform provisions of the Lanterman-Petrus-Short (LPS) Act. The members of the LPS Reform Workgroup spent seven months reviewing pertinent documents, personal family member experiences and public comments made over the past several years at BHAB meetings. The BHAB believes the members of the Board of Supervisors should have an opportunity to review the report to understand some of the problematic provisions of the LPS Act that create difficulties for people with serious mental illness and their families in Ventura County. Most of the members on the Workgroup were consumers and family members that have personally experienced the frustration associated with being confronted by these problematic issues.

The primary motivation of the BHAB and the LPS Reform Workgroup members in pursuing this subject area is the belief that people with serious mental health issues deserve to receive high quality, appropriate care when that care is needed. Delays in the receipt of service, unfortunately results in increasing the amount of time required for these individuals to achieve wellness and recovery.

Background

In early 2019, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board received and reviewed the LPS Reform Task Force II Report (March 2012) that was developed by an independent group in Los Angeles County. After reviewing the report, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board approved the creation of an LPS Reform Workgroup at its regular meeting on June 17, 2019, since it was believed that many of the areas of concern contained in the 2012 Report were currently being experienced by clients and families in Ventura County.

Address:

1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93036
Phone: 805-981-1115
Fax: 805-658-4512

The BHAB Workgroup met from July 2019 through January 2020. A report was prepared and adopted by the full BHAB at its regular Meeting on April 27, 2020 with the intent that the report be sent to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) by the Behavioral Health Department (VCBH) immediately thereafter. Following required County administrative reviews, the report was not, however, received back until July 2020. Although the BHAB believed this delay was excessive, it understood that business as usual was no longer possible due to COVID-19.

There are some individuals that believe that the Welfare and Institution code does not give the BHAB authority to engage in legislative matters or to advocate in support of legislation. Based on that assertion, the BHAB was asked to revise its report to eliminate anything relating to legislation. For a number of reasons, many BHAB members do not agree with this assertion. The BHAB is aware of, and clearly understand the provisions of the County's Legislative Coordination and Advocacy Policy (Policy No. Chapter 11-7). It has always been the BHAB's intent to strictly adhere to this policy and have, in fact, done so several times in the past.

The BHAB does not agree with this assertion for the following reasons:

- Although Section 5604.2 does not specifically give Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions the authority to address legislative matters, it does not specifically state that they do not have the ability to do so. The BHAB Bylaws states, "The purpose of the BHAB, provided in the Welfare and Institutions Code (W&I Code) Section 5604.2, includes, but is not limited to..." A through J as contained in the BHAB Bylaws and W&I Code.
- WIC 5604.2 (a) describes the duties of mental health boards. Number 3 under this section states, in part, "Advise the governing body and the local mental health director as to any aspect of the local mental health program. Furthermore, Number 1 states, "Review and evaluate the community's public mental health needs, services, facilities, and special problems in any facility within the county or jurisdiction where mental health evaluations or services are being provided, including, but not limited to, schools, emergency departments, and psychiatric facilities." There are no limitations placed on mental health boards identified in either of these sections that excludes legislative issues impacting mental health services.
- The County's Administrative Policy on Legislative Coordination and Advocacy Policy (Policy No. Chapter 11-7) provides guidelines for County Boards to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors relative to supporting or not supporting legislation. So, on the one hand County Counsel says that the BHAB does not possess this authority, but County Policy clearly states that the BHAB does have this authority so long as it complies with the County's Policy on legislative matters.
- Item number 8 in the Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 5604.2(a) states, "Nothing in this part shall be construed to limit the ability of the governing body to transfer additional duties or authority to a mental health board."

Members of the BHAB strongly believe that behavioral health legislation is an integral part of its ability to address and work to resolve the needs of the behavioral health system of care in Ventura County. This is particularly important in today's environment as State and Federal Legislators are receptive to the unmet needs of people with mental health challenges. Adopted legislation has recently included enhancements to behavioral health funding, delivery and support services which, are in desperate need of financial assistance and improvement. To this extent, the BHAB is asking that your Board consider giving the BHAB the authority to review legislation that directly

impacts behavioral health services in Ventura County and report its findings to your Board in accordance with the County's Legislative Coordination and Advocacy Policy (Policy No. Chapter 11-7) as it has done several times in the past.

Summary and Conclusion

The BHAB is providing your Board with copies of the BHAB's LPS Reform Workgroup Report for your information and possible action. Members of the BHAB hope you find the content of the report to be enlightening. The BHAB has substantially modified its initial report and recommendations since the six-month delay in providing the report to your Board has made some of the BHAB's recommendations no longer valid following the release of the State Auditor's report on the LPS Act. Despite the fact that the conclusion of the State Audit team was that the LPS Act does not need to be changed, many counties throughout the state do not concur with this conclusion.

Recommendations

The BHAB recommends that the following actions be taken by your Board:

1. Adopt the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code § 5270.10 et seq. (Article 4.7 of Chapter 2 of the Lanterman-Petris-Short [LPS] Act) (hereinafter WIC § 5270) in order to provide better care for people requiring acute psychiatric treatment longer than that currently afforded under Welfare and Institutions Code § 5250, and to avoid the costly and unnecessary filings of Temporary Conservatorship petitions. If adopted, a WIC § 5270 hold allows an individual with serious mental illness to be held for up to an additional 30 days, but if the person in question is stabilized, the hospital can discharge that person earlier without approval from the court or a conservator.
2. Instruct the Health Care Agency, working in collaboration with the Behavioral Health Department, to develop a co-occurring disorder treatment program at Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital.
3. Continue to actively support the need for the State to apply for a waiver to the Institutions of Mental Health Disease (IMD) Exclusion that would allow Medicaid to pay for in-hospital beds at psychiatric hospitals and facilities beyond the current 16-bed limitation.
4. Instruct the Health Care Agency to develop an innovative approach to performing screening/clearances of individuals being evaluated for involuntary holds that is based on the use of qualified staff who are specifically trained to evaluate and treat people who are experiencing a mental health crisis, while at the same time seek a waiver from the State Licensing Agency to be able to perform these functions on site at the IPU/CSU.
5. Intensify efforts to increase the number of Crisis Stabilization and/or Psychiatric Emergency Service chairs/slots to a total of 15 in the east county and 15 in the west county as quickly as possible utilizing either county resources or public/private partnerships.
6. Instruct the Health Care Agency to develop an estimate of the number of inpatient Psychiatric Hospital beds needed in Ventura County to effectively treat people having serious mental illness within the county.
7. Develop and implement a data reporting system that includes performance outcome measures and client dispositions for inpatient facilities, clinics, community hospital emergency departments and people with mental illness in county jails.

April 5, 2021

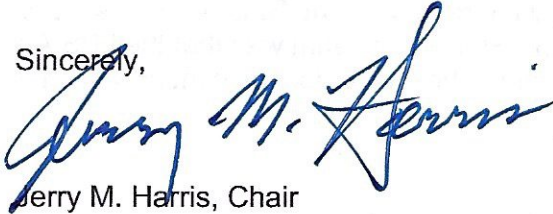
LPS REFORM WORKGROUP REPORT

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8. To the extent that proposed legislation is inextricably intertwined with behavioral health planning, oversight and service delivery, consider assigning an additional duty and responsibility to the BHAB to review and report back to your Board on proposed legislation that directly and significantly impacts the provision of behavioral health services in Ventura County as provided in the Duties and Responsibilities section of the Welfare and Institutions code (W & I Code Section 5604.2 number 8). Applicable County Policy will be followed by the BHAB in performing this additional responsibility.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry M. Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jerry" being particularly prominent.

Jerry M. Harris, Chair

c: Michael Powers, County Executive Officer

MHSA 20-21 Annual Update Public Posting

Find the full document after the 30-Day Public Comment Period starts on April 19, 2021 linked at:

[Mental Health Services Act - Ventura County Behavioral Health \(vcbh.org\)](http://vcbh.org)

On the website, scroll down to:

MHSA Documents

Mental Health Services (MHSA) Annual Update FY 2020-2021



WELLNESS • RECOVERY • RESILIENCE

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

Annual Update 2020-2021



Sevet Johnson, PsyD

Director, Ventura County Behavioral Health

Jason Cooper, M.D.

Medical Director, Adult and Youth & Family Divisions



Ventura County

Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Members: April 19, 2021

Claudia Armann

Soledad Barragán

Ratan Bhavnani, 1st Vice Chair

Nancy Borchard

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Kevin Clerici

Jose Estrada

Jesse Finkbeiner

Cmdr. James Fryhoff

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Carol J. Keavney

Matt LaVere, Supervisor

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Dr. Sevet Johnson, Director
Ventura County Behavioral Health

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1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93036
Phone: 805-981-1115
Fax: 805-658-4512

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Supervisors,

As required by the Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 5604.2, attached you will find the Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board's (BHAB) Fiscal Year 2019-20 Annual Report. The report provides you with a summary of the BHAB's accomplishments and the work that it has been involved in during the last fiscal year. In addition, it also includes an overview of the accomplishments and work of each of the BHAB's Committees.

The last six months of the of the fiscal year proved to be a challenge for the BHAB due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the Director of Behavioral Health, Dr. Sevet Johnson, management and staff, the Board was able to continue its monthly meetings and the Committees were able to meet on a bi-monthly basis. This has enabled the Board to continue its duties and responsibilities.

One last, but important matter I would like to address is the BHAB members. Each of you have appointed excellent Board members who represent each of your offices and the residents of our county in a highly competent and professional manner. They show compassion and empathy in their efforts to improve the lives of people with severe mental illness and those with substance use issues.

We look forward to improved health and safety as we all work to end this terrible pandemic.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

Jerry M. Harris, Chair

c: Michael Powers, County Executive Office

COUNTY OF VENTURA

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
ADVISORY BOARD**



JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Oxnard, CA 93036

(805) 981-1115

www.vchca.org/behavioral-health-advisory-board-bhab

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2020

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

District 1	Supervisor Matt LaVere
District 2	Supervisor Linda Parks
District 3	Supervisor Kelly Long
District 4	Supervisor Bob Huber
District 5	Supervisor Carmen Ramirez

Ventura County Behavioral Health Administration

Director	Sevet Johnson, Psy.D.
Medical Director	Jason Cooper, M.D.
Substance Use Services Division Chief	Loretta Denering, DrPH, MS
Adult Services Division Chief	John Schipper, Ph.D.
Youth and Family Services Division Chief	Dina Olivas, L.C.S.W.
Administrative Services Division Chief	Terri Yanez

Behavioral Health Advisory Board Officers

Chair	Jerry M. Harris
1 st Vice-Chair	Ratan Bhavnani
2 nd Vice-Chair	Joe S. Ramirez
Secretary	Mary Haffner
Member-At-Large	Michael Rodriguez
Chair Emeritus	Janis Gardner

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VENTURA COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER 2019-2020

<u>District</u>	<u>BHAB Members</u>	<u>Term Dates</u>
District 1	Claudia Armann	03/11/18 – 03/10/21
	Kevin Clerici	06/12/18 – 10/06/21
	Mary Haffner	04/08/18 – 04/07/21
	Gina Petrus	05/08/18 – 05/07/21
District 2	Jamie Banker	01/08/19 – 01/07/22
	Ratan Bhavnani	02/24/19 – 02/23/22
	Patricia Mowlavi	03/14/17 – 03/14/20
	Carol Thomas	09/17/19 – 09/16/22
District 3	Nancy Borchard	01/27/18 – 01/26/21
	Gane Brooking	01/13/19 – 01/12/22
	Janis Gardner	04/15/18 – 04/14/21
	Joe S. Ramirez	04/09/19 – 12/01/20
District 4	Jesse Finkbeiner	04/07/20 – 10/13/21
	Jerry M. Harris	09/17/19 – 09/17/22
	Denise Nielsen	09/18/18 – 09/17/21
	Sheri Valley	02/06/18 – 02/06/21
District 5	Margaret Cortese	01/11/18 – 01/10/21
	Monique Garcia	09/24/17 – 09/23/20
	Michael Rodriguez	11/19/19 – 01/24/23
	Marlen Torres	01/10/17 – 01/10/20
Governing Body	Supervisor Linda Parks	01/01/19 – 12/31/21
Law Enforcement	Capt. James Fryhoff	09/10/19 – 09/10/22

COUNTY OF VENTURA

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MISSION

The mission of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board is to advocate for members of the community living with mental illness and/or substance use disorders and their families. This is accomplished through the assessment of data, support, review and evaluation of evidence-based treatment services provided and/or coordinated through the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department, with consumers, community and stakeholder involvement.

VISION

A society where equity exists in the provision and funding for behavioral health services. Mental wellness is achieved by Ventura County Behavioral Health's commitment to ensure that every client receives appropriate housing, whole person care which includes, but is not limited to, behavioral health services, a primary care physician, preventive and dental care, and the elimination of the stigma that surrounds Behavioral Health clients.

PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The BHAB exists under the authority of the California Legislature by its enactment of Section 5604 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The BHAB, as provided in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5604.2, shall do, but not be limited to, all of the following:

- A. Review and evaluate the community's public behavioral health needs, services, facilities, and special problems in any facility within Ventura County where mental health evaluations or services are being provided, including, but not limited to, schools, emergency departments, and psychiatric facilities.
- B. Review any Ventura County agreements entered into pursuant to Section 5650. The BHAB may make recommendations to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors (herein referred to as Board of Supervisors) regarding concerns identified within these agreements.
- C. Advise the Board of Supervisors and the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department Director (herein referred to as Director) as to any aspect of the local mental health program. The BHAB may request assistance from the local patients' rights advocates when reviewing and advising on mental health evaluations or services provided in public facilities with limited access.
- D. Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process. Involvement shall include individuals with lived experience of mental illness and their families, community members, advocacy organizations, and mental health professionals. It shall also include other professionals that interact with individuals living with mental illnesses on a daily basis, such as education, emergency services, employment, health care, housing, law enforcement, local business owners, social services, seniors, transportation, and veterans.
- E. Submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors on the needs and performance of Ventura County's mental health system.
- F. Review and make recommendations on applicants for the appointment of the Behavioral Health Department Director. The BHAB shall be included in the selection process prior to the vote of the Board of Supervisors.
- G. Review and comment on Ventura County's performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council.
- H. This article does not limit the ability of the Board of Supervisors to transfer additional duties or authority to the BHAB.

- I. As part of its duties pursuant to this Article, the BHAB shall assess the impact of the realignment of services from the state to Ventura County, on services delivered to clients and on the local community.
- J. Special MHSA Requirements. The BHAB shall conduct a public hearing on the draft three-year program and expenditure plan and annual updates at the close of the 30-day comment period required by Welfare and Institutions Code section 5848. The BHAB shall review the adopted plan or update and make recommendations to VCBH for revisions. VCBH shall provide an annual report of written explanations to the Board of Supervisors and the State Department of Health Care Services for any substantive recommendations made by the BHAB that are not included in the final plan and update.

For purposes of this section "Substantive recommendations made by the BHAB" means any recommendation that is brought before the board and approved by a majority vote of the membership present at a public hearing of the BHAB.

BOARD OBJECTIVES 2019-20

Adult Services Committee

Advocate for the expansion of the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) at the Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital to the maximum approved number of chairs (12) including the capability of conducting medical screening examinations on-site, and for the reactivation of the 12 inpatient beds currently not in use.

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Committee

Advocate for increased housing options for TAY.

Youth & Family Committee

Follow the continuum of crisis care for children covered by Medi-Cal and children with private insurance. Provide feedback to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB), Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) and community providers.

Prevention Committee

Promote vaping and cannabis education and awareness, and advocate for banning flavored vaping products.

Ongoing Areas of Concern:

1. Advocate for increased supported housing, and partner with cities to open year-round housing with integrated services for the for people with serious mental illness.
2. Advocate for integrated programs and residential settings for those in all age groups with mental health, suicidal ideations, and addiction challenges.
3. Advocate for additional local treatment facilities for inmates within the Justice system in order to expedite their treatment to help them regain trail competency and return them to court for adjudication.
4. Advocate for the older adult population with mental illness and physical issues.

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Fiscal Year 2019/2020 proved to be a very challenging year for the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) as it was for the County as a whole. The BHAB's March meeting had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the cooperation and support of the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department (VCBH) management, the BHAB was able to resume General Board Meetings on a monthly basis and Committee Meetings on a bi-monthly basis. We are grateful to the VCBH Director for her assistance to help make sure BHAB meetings continued throughout the pandemic. Although Zoom kept us going, there is really no substitute for in-person meetings. The bottom line is that we have persevered and continued to make progress in carrying out our Welfare and Institutions Code (W&I Code) duties and responsibilities.

Understanding that progress is made on an incremental basis over time, the philosophical approach used by the BHAB members continues to emphasize that we can do better in improving services to people with serious mental health challenges and individuals with substance use disorders in Ventura County. This approach is consistent with the Continuous Quality Improvement underlying philosophy in that it is based on the concept that no matter how well we do today, we can do better tomorrow. To this extent, progress in achieving its objectives is primarily accomplished by the BHAB through its advocacy efforts. Given the fact that progress is achieved on an incremental basis over time, BHAB members are tireless in advocating for improved services and supports.

The progress that has been achieved would not, however, have been possible without the BHAB's ongoing, close working relationship with VCBH management and the cooperation and assistance provided by VCBH staff.

The BHAB acknowledges the efforts of the management and staff of VCBH and the valuable service they provide to our County's communities. The BHAB's ongoing, collaborative relationship with the Director of the Behavioral Health Department (VCBH) remains, and continues to be, extremely supportive, respectful and cooperative. The board members have a deep respect for the Department's Director and management staff. The VCBH staff has been extremely open and transparent with the members of the board, providing requested information in a thorough and timely manner. It has been a pleasure working with the VCBH management and staff.

The BHAB continues to advocate for further integration of mental health and substance use disorder services along with access to general medical and dental services for the target population. Moreover, its commitment to whole person care has again been a benchmark of its work throughout the past year.

On a more global level, the BHAB is also concerned about the behavioral health implications in the following areas:

- The safety and protection of adults, transitional age youth and children within their homes, their communities and their schools.
- Addressing the needs of older adults. It has been predicted that the older adult population in California is expected to surge within the next several years. To this extent, efforts must be intensified to plan to address the growing needs of individuals age 60+ that are forecast to increase by 73 percent in Ventura County by 2030 as compared to 2010. Specific emphasis should be placed on the behavioral health needs of this growing population, including provision of inpatient psychiatric beds for older adults in Ventura County.
- There must be a way to ensure that most people with serious mental illness are diverted from the criminal justice system and receive treatment rather than incarceration when the reason for their crimes is a direct result of their mental health condition. If incarcerated, services and supports must be provided to these individuals to avoid and/or reduce recidivism.
- A humanitarian effort must continue to be made to provide housing for the homeless population of Ventura County.
- Prevention and early intervention are critical to avoiding hospitalization and incarceration.

BHAB members were able to conduct one site visit prior to the onset of the pandemic. Once the pandemic hit, it was determined that it was not safe for BHAB member to conduct any on-site visits. When it has been determined by Public Health to be safe to do so, site visits will resume.

Many of the BHAB's objectives require ongoing efforts over time and cannot be accomplished in one year. Much work is still needed to address the complex needs of the individuals with serious mental illness, people with substance use disorders and people with co-occurring conditions. By its very nature, solving the numerous problems faced by these populations and their families will take many more years and a great deal of resources. It is the hope of the BHAB that progress will continue to be made. In doing so, hope for the future can be something that those with serious mental illness or substance use disorders, their families, and citizens in our communities can look forward to with eager anticipation.

The BHAB has four committees whose job it is to address issues relating to age-specific populations, collect information and data, have presentations on relevant topics to gain an understanding of important issues and programs and make recommendations to the BHAB. In addition, the committees also assess services provided in the County to age specific populations and identify gaps in service that need to be addressed. The four committees are as follows:

Youth and Family Committee – This committee advocates for services and supports for youth with mental health and substance use disorders, including housing.

Transitional Age Youth Committee (TAY) – This committee advocates for the mental health, wellness and recovery of youth ages 16 through 25 and for other services and supports, including housing.

Adult Services Committee - This committee advocates for a full continuum of care that supports the wellness and recovery of individuals with mental health and substance use issues and for other supports, including housing.

Prevention Committee – This committee advocates for greater community awareness of behavioral health risks for individuals with mental illness, a dual diagnosis or substance use disorder.

Included in the Annual Report are individual committee reports that detail the work and accomplishments of each committee.

The BHAB diligently works to include a broad range of stakeholders as participants and members of the advisory board and its committees. The board continues its efforts to have a diverse membership that represents the population of the county as a whole. It is important to the work of the board that community members, family members, consumers, and providers interested in advocating for these target populations collaborate on ways to better serve those individuals with unique needs. The BHAB is very interested in everyone’s insight regarding perceived or real gaps in services, particularly in the areas of housing, employment, legal issues, general medical and dental care, education, vocational rehabilitation, crisis intervention and evidence-based practices. Current committee participants include BHAB members, consumers, VCBH contract providers, family members, community-based service representatives, interested community members and VCBH staff.

Perhaps the most critical function of the BHAB is to review and evaluate the community’s behavioral health needs and identify gaps in service within the County’s behavioral health system of care. BHAB members pay particular attention to this key function and direct a great deal of effort to identifying unmet needs and advocating for solutions to meet those needs. The BHAB firmly believes that a full range of behavioral health services should be available to residents within Ventura County, to the fullest extent possible. As a result of its review, the following represents the unmet needs identified by the BHAB:

- Appropriate housing for people with serious mental health issues and people with substance use disorders continues to remain as the number one unmet need in Ventura County.
- The need for the increase in the number of chairs within the Crisis Stabilization Unit in the IPU to mitigate the inpatient adult psychiatric bed shortage in the County.
- There is an immediate need to find an alternative to the use of community hospital emergency rooms to receive individuals on involuntary holds. People are on an involuntary hold for the purpose of receiving behavioral health evaluation and treatment. Due to the lack of expertise of emergency room staff in this area, their first priority is to transfer these people to an inpatient psychiatric hospital, which is generally out of county. This is not to fault emergency room staff since their mission is to treat life threatening medical emergencies.
- The availability of an adequate number of psychiatric inpatient beds for adults, children and adolescents, and older adults within Ventura County to address the needs of the community. This has been an ongoing unmet need for many years. The adult inpatient bed crisis can be somewhat mitigated if there were more appropriate placement options available within the community for discharged inpatients. Although this would help make more beds available, it will not fully solve the problem.

- The availability of a sufficient number and levels of supportive care and placement options to address the needs of the community. These include but are not limited to:
 - Residential care for youth and adults.
 - Adequate community supports and housing options for people with serious mental illness and those having substance abuse disorders.
 - Co-occurring treatment included at the Psychiatric Inpatient Unit (IPU), Ventura County Medical Center.
 - A psychiatric inpatient facility to address the needs of older adults.
 - Crisis residential services for youth.
- Ensure that a sufficient number of services and supports are available within the county for consumers discharged from inpatient hospitalization and/or the county jails to help prevent revolving door situations.

The following is an overview of the BHAB's achievements and activities for the past fiscal year.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Formation of a Legislative Workgroup to review and advise the BHAB of behavioral health legislation impact the delivery of services in Ventura County.
- A 2019 Data Notebook Workgroup was Formed to work with VCBH staff to complete the questions contained in the Notebook.
- The BHAB continues to monitor the use of local community hospital emergency rooms to house clients on involuntary holds pending the location of available inpatient psychiatric beds for transferring these clients.. Board members believe this does not meet the needs of clients and families and results in a disservice to the community. In addition, continued use of this system creates problems for emergency room staff and law enforcement personnel who are frequently asked to provide security in the emergency rooms, thereby eliminating units from patrol responsibility in the community.
- The BHAB hosted the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Awards and Susan Luckey Mental Health Professional Award Presentations. Doing so shows support to Law Enforcement Officers use of CIT techniques.
- The 2019 Data Notebook was approved by the BHAB for Submission to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council.
- The BHAB Fiscal Year 2018-19 Annual Report Was approved for submission to the Board of Supervisors.
- The BHAB initiated the process to revise the Bylaws to reflect changes in the Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) relating to the Duties and responsibilities of local mental health boards and commissions.
- Approval of the Housing Workgroup Report and Letter reflecting the Housing Workgroup's research into housing shortage locations in order to develop methods to decrease shortages as well as raise awareness of those shortages. The most prevalent housing shortages exist within the Board and Care facilities due to lack of sufficient funding to continue operations or build new facilities. The Workgroup's main goal was to raise awareness with local Legislators in order to leverage possible

corporate partnerships or other ideas, to work and meet with cities and counties to express the Board's view to locate appropriate properties and to work on legislation to increase current reimbursement rates at the State level.

- Approval of Lanterman, Petris, Short (LPS) Reform Workgroup Report. A review of the Workgroup's intensive work reviewing a very large number of documents, receiving input, and putting a lot of thought and effort into developing the recommendations, which includes the experience of family members and consumers.
- A plan was developed and implemented to continue BHAB committee meeting on a bi-monthly rotational basis effective July 2020.
- Mr. Bhavnani provided a verbal report and explanation of the documents regarding the Housing Workgroup's research into housing shortage locations in order to develop methods to decrease shortages as well as raise awareness of these shortages. Mr. Bhavnani noted that the most prevalent housing shortages exist within the Board and Care facilities due to lack of sufficient funding to continue operations or build new facilities. The Workgroup's main goal is to raise awareness with local Legislators to leverage their contact through possible corporate partnerships or other ideas, to work and meet with cities and counties to express the Board's view to locate appropriate properties and to work on legislation to change current reimbursement rates at the State level.
- As a result of ongoing advocacy by the BHAB, the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-21 Ventura County Budget includes doubling the CSU chairs from 4 to 8 and increasing the IPU beds from 30 to 36.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

July 2019

Presenter: William Foley, Health Care Agency Director
Topic: Health Care Agency Update

August 2019

Presenter: Dr. Kathleen Van Antwerp
Topic: Trauma-Informed Care

September 2019

Presenter: Diana Mueller, Program Coordinator, **Public Administrator/Public Guardian**
Topic: Overview of the duties and responsibilities of the Public Guardian/Public Administrator.

October 2019

Presenter: Michael Powers, County Executive Officer
Topic: Update on Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) Exclusion Medicaid Waiver, Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) financial issues, potential for a public-private partnership to pay for additional beds at the IPU, and the County and City of Ventura partnership on the first-ever permanent year-round shelter in Ventura.

November 2019

Presenter: William Foley, Health Care Agency Director
Topic: Health Care Agency (HCA) Update

Presenter: Leisa Donovan, VCBH Fiscal Manager
Topic: VCBH Fiscal Update

January 2020

Presenter: Dan Powell, VCMC Mental Health Operations Supervisor Inpatient Unit, and Felicia Skaggs, VCBH RISE Program Clinic Administrator

Topic: Ventura County Medical Center Inpatient Psychiatric Unit, Crisis Stabilization Unit (VCMC IPU/CSU) and VCBH Rapid Integrated Support and Engagement (RISE)

February 2020

Presenter: William Foley, Health Care Agency Director and Barry Zimmerman, Chief Deputy of the Health Care Agency

Topic: Health Care Agency Update, review of Medi-Cal Healthier California for All, at a meeting with community hospitals, the ideas of expanding the Inpatient Psychiatric Unit (IPU) and Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and of the other hospitals participating in the cost of that expansion was introduced, and town hall meetings in Fillmore and Santa Paula were held to inform the community of the services provided at the Santa Paula Hospital and clinics.

April 2020

Presenter: Dan Powell, Mental Health Operations Supervisor, IPU and CSU

Topic: Inpatient Unit/Crisis Stabilization Unit Update. Areas discussed included the IPU and CSU are participating in a weekly call with other IPU's and CSU's throughout the State to keep in contact with what others are doing regarding best practices and patient care in response to COVID-19, a review of COVID-19 screening protocols that take place when patients transfer from hospitals to the IPU or CSU, the approval of the CSU for a Psychiatry Residency Program, and a summary of data on referrals, length of stays, and disposition of patients upon admission and discharge for the IPU and CSU since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

May 2020

Presenter: Don Cleland, Regional Director and Lilia Simakova, Program Director of the CRT

Topic: Crisis Residential Treatment Center (CRT) Update

SIGNIFICANT TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

July 2019: The Mental Health and Safety Task Force that was created after the Borderline shooting has identified the lack of acute psychiatric inpatient beds as an issue.

Concern was voiced about medical clearances for admission to the CSU being done at the Community Hospital Emergency Departments.

The need for an Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) Exclusion Waiver.

The creation of a proposed Housing Workgroup.

The inability of law enforcement no longer being able to bring individuals on involuntary holds directly to the IPU for evaluation; instead, they have to take them to hospital Emergency Departments.

August 2019: Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) Exclusion Waiver Meeting Update. A request to invite Sue Hughes to the next BHAB meeting to discuss this matter further. *IS SECOND SENTENCE HERE CORRECT?*

September 2019: The duties and responsibilities of Workgroup chairs and membership.

October 2019: Progress of the County of Ventura Task Force on Mental Health & Safety.

Changes to the WIC affecting Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions Duties and responsibilities, as listed in the Fall 2019 Newsletter of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHB/C).

November 2019: County efforts to develop public-private partnerships with community hospitals to fund Inpatient Unit Acute Psychiatric beds and CSU Chairs.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three-Year Plan Update.

Medical Screening/Psychiatric Emergency Service (PES) vs. Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), Emergency Room (ER) data, the need for more inpatient acute psychiatric beds at the IPU and the need for more CSU chairs in the County.

January 2020: On January 21, the County of Ventura Mental Health & Safety Task Force Report was accepted by the Board of Supervisors. The composition of the Task Force along with the objectives of the Task Force and the 13 VCBH-focused recommendations were presented and discussed.

February 2020: Cal/AIM/Medi-Cal Healthier California for All was discussed and a five-page handout from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), titled “Medi-Cal Healthier California for All, High Level Summary” was reviewed.

April 2020: Dr. Sevet Johnson provided BHAB members with an overview of the work that VCBH has accomplished to continue to provide services and care to VCBH consumers and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Sevet Johnson described how VCBH was able to quickly shift its services and leverage its technology in order to provide in-person services, via telehealth or services by telephone in order to adhere to “Stay at Home” orders as well as the need for physical distancing. BHAB members recognized and thanked VCBH staff on their efforts to continue to provide services during the current public health crisis.

A very lively and lengthy discussion of the contents and recommendations of the Lanterman, Petris, Short (LPS) Reform Workgroup Report took place.

May 2020: A lengthy discussion took place regarding the need to continue Committee meetings during the pandemic. BHAB members presented a proposal to start committee meeting in July vial Zoom on a rotational basis with 2 committee meetings each month. This proposal was supported by Dr. Sevet Johnson commencing July 2020.

A discussion took place regarding the need to revise the BHAB Bylaws necessitated by changes to the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) and other modifications that the BHAB would like included.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

July 2019

William “Bill” Shilley, posthumously presented to his daughter Kristin, for his life of service, particularly as a founding member of the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Educators (CAADE) and a teacher and Chair of Oxnard College’s Addictive Disorders Studies program.

Edwin Solano, a VCBH clinician at the Santa Paula Adult Clinic for inspiring clients, their families and his coworkers through his commitment and empathy.

September 2019

Edith Pham for her outstanding work as the BHAB Assistant, kindness and willingness to help.

October 2019

Kay Wilson-Bolton for founding the non-profit Spirit of Santa Paula, which feeds 600 people weekly and is a drop-in center for the homeless, and for receiving the Good Neighbor Award from the National Association of Realtors.

November 2019

Deborah Thurber, MD, for spearheading the drive to open the David Holmboe Crisis Stabilization Unit and for being a champion for children and their families.

January 2020

Sandra Wolfe for serving on the BHAB for four years and for her life-long involvement in the mental health and substance abuse fields.

The BHAB hosted the **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)** Awards Presentation Ceremony in which nine officers were recognized as well as two officers were announced as CIT Officers of the Year.

February 2020

Arcenio J. López, Executive Director, MICOP, for his work in support of indigenous immigrant rights, anti-discrimination campaign, and launching two mental health studies, "Healing the Soul" and "Living with Love".

June 2020

Superior Court Judge Frederick H. Bysshe for his work as the first judge to preside over the Assisted Outpatient Treatment program, which has earned him the respect of professionals, attorneys and the clients and their families.

SITE VISIT REPORTS

March 2, 2020

Crisis Residential Treatment Center (CRT) **Note:** A copy of the Site Visit Report is attached.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2019-2020 Annual Report

Submitted by Jerry Harris, Chair Emeritus

Committee Members 2019--20

Janis Gardner	Chair	Gina Petrus	Secretary
Ratan Bhavnani	1 st Vice-Chair	Jerry Harris	Chair Emeritus
Gane Brooking	2 nd Vice Chair	Carol Thomas	Member-At-Large

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The primary responsibility of the Executive Committee is to conduct the administrative functions of the BHAB. In this capacity, the Executive Committee plans the agendas of the BHAB General Board Meetings. The Executive Committee may take emergency action on issues that arise between regularly scheduled monthly Board meetings when there is not time for the Board as a whole to act, as well as carry out any responsibilities delegated to it by the BHAB. Any such actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be in compliance with the Brown Act.

OVERVIEW

The Executive Committee is comprised of the Chair, 1st Vice-Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, Chair Emeritus, and a Member-at-Large designated by the Chair. The Board officers are responsible for ensuring that all actions of the BHAB are implemented as authorized by a majority of the BHAB members, and that the Bylaws are strictly adhered to. The Committee is supported by the Ventura County Behavioral Health Director, Sevet Johnson, Psy.D., or one of her representatives should she be unable to attend, and by a Management Assistant.

In addition to planning the agendas, the Executive Committee spends a portion of its time discussing membership and attendance issues. The Executive Committee is also involved in planning and scheduling presentations for the BHAB General Board Meetings and discussing potential candidates for recognition awards.

2019-2020 OBJECTIVES

The Executive Committee shall continue to encourage BHAB members to identify potential candidates for consideration by members of the County Board of Supervisors for appointments to the BHAB. Executive Committee members help to bring information to the BHAB members that will enable them to make informed decisions and credible recommendations to the Behavioral Health Department and Board of Supervisors. The Executive Committee members monitor progress on the achievement of BHAB Objectives and encourage committees to bring forth issues to the full board for consideration.

YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE

2019-2020 Annual Report

Submitted by Denise Nielsen, Chair

Committee members

Denise Nielsen, Committee Chair
Scott Abeson, Ventura County Probation
Tyler Baker-Wilkinson, Seneca
Ariann Bulger, Seneca
Marika Collins, Casa Pacifica
Heather Davidson, First 5 Ventura County
Dr. Steven Graff, Tri-Counties Regional Center
Laurie Jordan, Rainbow Connection

Lori Litel, United Parents
Ken McDermott, Children's Family Services
Martie Miles, Aspiranet
Danielle Shaw, M.D.
Carole Shelton, Rainbow Connection
Marlen Torres, BHAB
Joelle Vessels, Interface

Participants

Ventura County Behavioral Health

Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team

MISSION

The BHAB Youth & Family Committee advocates for the continuum of care and development in the delivery of services for youth and their families, believing that addressing the unique needs of minors and their caregivers is essential to the health of the community.

INTRODUCTION

The BHAB Youth & Family Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 10:00 to noon at the Ventura County Behavioral Health Administration building in Oxnard. Attendance and participation are open to the families of youth receiving mental health services from Ventura County Behavioral Health, service providers, Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) members, and anyone with an interest in the children and youth residing in Ventura County. The Youth and Family Committee is responsible to look into the needs, programs and services for children and youth, and to report to the BHAB on these matters.

2019-20 OBJECTIVES

1. Continuum of Care

- a. Follow and evaluate the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). Identify further needs or gaps in services to children in foster care.
- b. Monitor the Crisis Stabilization Unit. Identify remaining gaps in the continuum of crisis services for both children covered by Medi-Cal and children with private insurance.
- c. Advocate for the availability of psychiatric hospital beds in the county for the pediatric population. Ensure communication and care coordination of medical information between care providers.

2. Community and Parent Outreach

- a. Engage community agencies to schedule presentations regarding the role and activities of this Committee.
- b. Recruit community members to serve on the Committee and inform families about mental health services available.
- c. Create innovative strategies to learn about parents/caregivers' needs and concerns.

- d. Raise awareness of alcohol and drug use information. Actively disseminate alcohol and drug use prevention information to the community partners, including community-based organizations (CBOs), law enforcement, and school districts.
- e. Maintain the availability of relevant materials on the Ventura County Behavioral Health's wellnesseveryday/saludsiempre website.
- f. Continue to oversee the development of the family resource app.
- g. Raise awareness of services for children ages 0-5 and access to those services.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic were addressed by Behavioral Health and every other agency to continue to deliver services without interruption.
2. The committee received regular updates on the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), its successes and challenges.
3. The number of children and youth placed outside the home, either in foster care or Juvenile Justice, has been reduced thanks to early intervention and Trauma-Informed Care.
4. The Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit has continued to prevent the hospitalization of about half the children and youth who were assessed.
5. VCBH and providers provided outreach and engagement in psychoeducation to help parents learn to describe what their children are experiencing and to help reduce stigma.
6. Dr. Shaw reached out to primary care physicians (PCPs) and mental health providers to increase their awareness of the mental health services available and create a collaborative care network.
7. Continued support was provided to the community following the Borderline shooting.
8. Ongoing collaboration between various agencies and VCBH continues to improve the services available.
9. Eating disorders program was developed within the VCBH Youth & Family clinics.
10. The continuum of crisis care has been strengthened.

PRESENTATIONS

September 2019: Youth Homeless Shelter, presented by Ralph Reyes, Director and Mayra Tamayo, Manager, Interface Housing Support Services.

November 2019: Neighborhoods for Learning (NFL), presented by Elizabeth Hardin, Director and Andrew Huizar, Associate Director, Interface Early Child and Family Development.

February 2020: Diversity Collective Ventura County presented by Grace Stephenson.

March 2020: Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Update presented by Gabriela Aguila and Lauren Nagel.

CHALLENGES

1. Barriers exist in the process of placing youth coming from outside Ventura County.
2. Additional foster families are needed.
3. Reunification for children and youth in foster care or group homes is problematic.
4. Respite care for parents and caregivers is desperately needed, especially until the COVID-19 pandemic is resolved.
5. A Children's CSU is needed in the East County.
6. Increasing the number of parent partners is needed.
7. A curriculum to train Peer Specialists must be developed.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Funding will become available during the next couple of years to implement new Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue to work toward developing an Innovation project that focuses on children ages 0-5.
2. Design an Innovation project focusing on identifying the early signs of possible mental illness in its early stages.
3. Consider implementing a tool for threat assessment on school campus that is applicable to students and adults alike and standardized across school campuses and law enforcement agencies.

2020-21 OBJECTIVES

1. Continuum of Care

- a. Follow the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). Identify further needs or gaps in services to children in foster care.
- b. Follow the continuum of crisis care for children covered by Medi-Cal and children with private insurance. Provide feedback to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB), Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) and community providers.
- c. Ensure communication and care coordination of health record information between care providers.

2. Community and Parent Outreach

- a. Engage community agencies to schedule presentations regarding the role and activities of this Committee.
- b. Recruit community members to serve on the Committee and inform families about mental health services available.
- c. Create innovative strategies to learn about parents/caregivers' needs and concerns.
- d. Raise awareness of alcohol and substance use resources. Actively disseminate alcohol and substance use prevention resources to the community partners, including community-based organizations (CBOs), law enforcement, and school districts.
- e. Maintain the availability of relevant materials on the Ventura County Behavioral Health's [wellnesseveryday/saludsiempre](#) website.
- f. Continue to explore the use of technology to enhance access to services and resources.
- g. Identify and address system barriers for access to service needs for children ages 0-5. Advocate for improvement in the continuum of services.

TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH (TAY) COMMITTEE

2019-2020 Annual Report

Submitted by Dr. Margaret Cortese

Committee members

Dr. Margaret Cortese, Committee Chair
Ratan Bhavnani, BHAB
Gane Brooking, BHAB
Laura Estrada, Children & Family Services
Stuart Fiedler, The Client Network
Lorena Guereca, Vista Real
Anna Guerin, Casa Pacifica

Jerry Harris, BHAB
Erin Locklear, Interface
Anthony Marron, TAY Tunnel
Cathy Nye, Ventura County Office of Education
Georgia Perry, NAMI
Joe Ramirez, BHAB

Participants

Ventura County Behavioral Health

Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team

MISSION

The BHAB TAY Committee promotes effective mental health and substance abuse disorder services, wellness and recovery for youth ages 16 through 25. The committee focuses on these youth in their efforts to become healthy and productive adults.

INTRODUCTION

The BHAB TAY Committee is routinely scheduled to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the Williams Street Behavioral Health offices. Membership is open to:

- BHAB members appointed by the BHAB chair;
- Community agencies that provide services to TAY age persons; and
- Members of the TAY community and their families.

GOALS / OBJECTIVES / ACHIEVEMENTS

The TAY Committee chose to focus its goal for the year 2020 to the housing needs of youth. The Committee had begun to survey the incidence of homelessness of its target group. The Chair attended a meeting of the Oxnard City Homeless Commission and had encouraged the members to do so also. The Committee had planned to invite the Housing Director of the City of Oxnard to present Oxnard's plans for homeless housing, but the COVID restrictions inhibited the effectiveness of the Committee in 2020 in meeting its goals.

PRESENTATIONS

Staff reports on housing for TAY.

COMMENTS

1. There are 8 agency members. The regular attendees provided valuable information and perspective.
2. The COVID-19 restrictions published in March 2020 forced use of virtual (zoom) meetings, after which the TAY committee only met twice.

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ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE

2019-2020 Annual Report

Submitted by Nancy Borchard and Gane Brooking, Co-Chairs

Committee members

Nancy Borchard, Committee Co-Chair
Gane Brooking, Co-Chair
Ratan Bhavnani, BHAB
Shirley Brandon, NAMI Ventura County
Stuart Fiedler, The Client Network
Lynn Gibbs, Community Member
Roberta Griego, NAMI Ventura County
Jerry Harris, BHAB

Barbara Keller, Housing Authority City of San Buenaventura
Michael Rodriguez, BHAB
Mark Schumacher, Turning Point Foundation
Dana Secor, Turning Point Foundation
Elizabeth R. Stone, MHSOAC-CFLC
Sheri Valley, BHAB
Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team
Gray Wilking, Area Agency on Aging

Participants

Ventura County Behavioral Health

MISSION

The BHAB Adult Services Committee advocates for continuum of care in the development and expansion of mental health and addiction services that support the stabilization and recovery of adult and older adult clients.

The committee's monthly meetings provide a forum for discussion of current department activities regarding Adult Services as well as an opportunity for collaboration with community-based providers and stakeholders. We seek to ensure integrated services for clients seeking mental health and substance abuse services. By educating ourselves and the community, the stigma associated with mental health and substance abuse will be reduced.

INTRODUCTION

The BHAB Adult Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Ventura County Behavioral Health Administration Building in Oxnard. Attendance, participation and membership are open to individuals who receive mental health and /or substance use services through Ventura County Behavioral Health, family members of consumers, service providers, BHAB members, and anyone with an interest in the adult and older adult population. The Adult Committee reviews the needs, programs and services for this population and reports on these matters to the BHAB at the monthly General Meeting.

The Adult BHAB committee attempts to go deeper into subjects concerning clients and the ways they receive service. Things such as access to services and housing, new programs and how they function as well as review of current practices affecting adults and older adults. We try to integrate what is going on in the broader community regarding mental health services and needs. We invite outside providers to explain what sort of work they do and always seek ways in which we can advocate to spread the news that help is available to those within and outside the VCBH Department.

2019-20 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. Advocate for the expansion of the Crisis Stabilization Unit at the Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital to the maximum approved number of chairs (12) including the capability of conducting medical clearance examinations on-site and the ability to receive people in mental health crisis directly from law enforcement officers.

2. Advocate for the reactivation of the 12 inpatient beds at the Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital currently not in use.
3. Advocate for the Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) facility to be used for both a crisis prevention unit to avoid hospitalizations and as a step-down from Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital or other intensive service.
4. Advocate for access to increased inpatient, community-based and in-home services to the older adult population.
5. Advocate for the development of a CSU supported by community hospitals in Ventura County.
6. Participate in all efforts to establish affordable and supportive housing for individuals who live with mental health and or substance use disorder challenges that includes additional VCBH staff to provide supportive services associated with NO Place Like Home or other potential supportive housing developments.
7. Advocate to have in-County services available for those seeking and needing substance use disorder and mental health services to avoid having Ventura County residents sent out of county when they need services.

ADVOCACY ISSUES RESULTS

The Crisis Stabilization Unit at Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital will be increasing the number of chairs from 4 to 8. The decision was made but not implemented to date.

The reactivation of 8 inpatient beds at Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital has been approved but not made operational at this time.

Approval of a new program, Pearls, for Older Adults to help them in their own homes, funded by MHSA. This is a friendly outreach with the goals of helping clients be more involved in the community thereby reducing depression and anxiety often experienced by this population. The suicide rate in this population is higher than average for other age groups.

St. John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard has developed plans to provide Empath (CSU – like) services in the Oxnard community. Finalizing a MOU with Ventura County Behavioral Health regarding billing capacity. Will be operated by Vista del Mar Psychiatric Hospital.

Dr. Schipper reported that in July changes were made on the way data is collected from clients and staff. VCBH is looking into creating a portal for clients to access their own records.

The Arch at Ventura opened a year-round shelter for adults in February, a long sought and worked for dream to help those who are homeless.

The Spirit of Santa Paula opened a homeless shelter in Santa Paula and collaborates with VCBH to secure services and help to transition to permanent housing. This was started by a former BHAB member, Kay Wilson Bolton and the opening was attended by several BHAB members.

PRESENTATIONS

November 2019

Dr. Sandra Caldera who was appointed to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. This council is tasked with identifying and ensuring the availability of appropriate services for those with intellectual disabilities and mental illness. The organization is trying to partner with behavioral health services to set up collaborations to provide comprehensive services treating all needs. This subject has come before our

BHAB many times. How to treat both DD and Mental Illness. An updated MOU between VCBH and the Regional Center is pending at this time.

UCLA/VA Veterans Family Wellness Center – Gabi Alejos, Resilience Trainer. Ms. Alejos described the grant funded program offered for Veterans and their families who have experienced trauma. This is a free program which offers holistic healing regardless of discharge status and all information is confidential. This is an outgrowth of Focus a project established in 2004 by Patricia Lester to help veterans and families.

December 2019

Crisis Residential Treatment operated by Golden State contractor. This is a short-term inpatient program that is unlocked. Average stay is 7-10 days. Focus is symptom reduction and relapse prevention. Referrals come mainly from Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital or Vista Del Mar Psychiatric Hospital. Between June 1 and December 4, 2019, 164 clients were served. Since inception, this facility was also meant as a stable place to prevent hospitalization. On-site medical clearance would facilitate immediate acceptance if provided.

February 2020

Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura (HACSB) – Denise Wise CEO and Karen Flock Deputy Director Real Estate Development

This agency has two primary functions. 1. Public Housing – HACSB manages funds provided by HUD as operating subsidy and capital funds used mostly for maintenance and improvements. 2. Section 8 or housing choice voucher program. In both programs, tenants do not pay more than 30% of their income for rent. In 2013 HUD started a Renter Assistance Demonstration Program. HACSB has made over \$200 million in improvements to the housing stock which is now over 1,000 units. HACSB tries to work with APS, Crisis Intervention Team and VCBH to help those in danger of being evicted due to behavioral issues that are problematic. HACSB contracts with VC Area Agency on Aging for mental health service with good results in the past 5 years. This agency houses over 2,500 people and has a wait list of over 10,000.

CHALLENGES

Desperate need for supportive housing beds and facilities for placing clients with mental health issues as well as substance use issues.

We hear repeatedly that finding placement for people who need time to recover is most difficult in Ventura County especially with our high housing costs. Regarding special licensed homes or facilities, there needs to be an improvement in licensing regulations and rules that are less complex than they are now and to be consistent throughout the State.

Develop programs to use peers who are certified. Peer support was cut from several programs in past budget cuts and should be restored as a proven “best practice”.

Support of the IMD Waiver so more beds can be made available for larger facilities.

Need to increase spending within MHSA whose focus is now on treatment for incarcerated, homelessness and drug treatment for K-12 students.

Some MHSA programs may need to be sunset.

PREVENTION COMMITTEE

2019-2020 Annual Report

Submitted by Janis Gardner, Chair

Committee members

Janis Gardner, Chair	Maya Lazos, Vista del Mar Hospital
Vanessa Alva, Straight Up	Lori Litel, United Parents
Claudia Armann, BHAB	Lisa Miller, Conejo Valley Unified School District
Javier Bautista, TAY Tunnel	Patricia Mowlavi, BHAB
Yaacov Cahnman, Saving Lives Camarillo	Theresa Plante, Casa Pacifica
Stuart Fiedler, The Client Network	Gabe Teran, Ventura County Office of Education
Vicky Gonzales, Ventura County Public Health	Sandra Tovar, Logrando Bienestar
Melissa Hannah, United Parents	Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team
Katherine Kasmir, BRITE	Liz Warren, The Client Network

Participants

Ventura County Behavioral Health	Community Coalition United
Ventura County Probation	Conejo Valley Unified School District
Ventura County Public Health	Mixteco Indigena Community Organization Project
Ventura County Sheriff's Office / CIT	Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel

MISSION

To promote measures which prevent mental illness and/or substance use issues from becoming destabilizing components in the lives of Ventura County residents. Our aim is to collaborate and help support education, prevention and early intervention efforts with particular emphasis on community health, engagement and the interaction of mental health and substance use challenges.

INTRODUCTION

The BHAB Prevention Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 3:15 to 4:30 PM. Participating members in the Prevention Committee include individuals who have an interest in helping to mitigate mental illness and substance use challenges for adults, transitional aged youth and children who reside in Ventura County. Its participants and partners include persons from various entities around the county including, but not limited to, persons from multiple county agencies, stakeholders, contract providers, VCBH staff, health care professionals, law enforcement, consumers and members of the community-at-large.

The Prevention Committee brings forward to the BHAB issues and risk factors facing our community as well as current and proposed measures to limit or prevent community harm. Therefore, advocacy for community action and support, along with VCBH interaction, are key to the work of the Prevention Committee.

2018-19 OBJECTIVES

1. Support and collaborate with VCBH and the BHAB in helping to prevent the onset of substance use and mental illness amongst multi-generational populations.
2. Promote vaping and cannabis education and awareness and advocate for banning of flavored vaping products.

2020-21 OBJECTIVES

Support education and prevention efforts. Help to destigmatize perceptions in regard to mental illness, substance use concerns and wellness for young people and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) in collaboration with community and family members.

GOALS ACHIEVED

- The Prevention Committee added numerous new stakeholders and community participants.
- Supported the VC County Board of Supervisors on the Adoption of an Urgency Ordinance of the County of Ventura regarding the Prohibition of the Sale of Certain Flavored Vaping Products and Certain Flavored Vaping Products Paraphernalia and of Urgency and Exemptions from the California Environment Quality Act.
- Advocated for and supported prevention efforts surrounding Suicide Prevention.
- Attended the annual Suicide Prevention Conference.
- Advocated and supported the “Bartenders As Gatekeepers” program and pioneered MHSA funding.
- Advocated for mitigation efforts on Vaping, E-Cigarettes and flavored tobacco and retail licensing.
- Supported Latino Community Outreach efforts.
- Supported and participated in VCOE’s Mental Health Youth Conference.
- Supported Prevention Services Pharmaceutical Disposal Bins programs.
- Advocated for BRITE (formally “Straight Up) Reality Parties” and SUS Education for Parents.
- Supported Prevention Services “Medication Safety At Home”, “Tapering Opioid for Chronic Pain” guides and “Prescription Drop Off” efforts.
- Advocated and participated in VCOE’s “Teens Kick Ash “Conference.
- Participated in MHSA Community Input meetings.
- Supported VCBH/ADP Naloxone distribution program.
- Supported Cannabis education and awareness for youth.
- Advocated for mental health and substance use prevention and early intervention programs, including those in collaboration with providers and contractors.
- Advocated and supported Opioid and Fentanyl mitigation programs and educational efforts.

PRESENTATIONS

BHAB Prevention Committee Presentations are carefully selected. These presentations allow BHAB Prevention committee members, stakeholders and providers to learn about and oftentimes collaborate concerning current research, educational opportunities and trends within the Ventura County community. The BHAB Prevention Committee participants share community campaign efforts, projects and resources with one another. They in turn, bring relevant information to their staff, clients and various agencies who then further disseminate this information throughout Ventura County and into the community-at-large.

June - Gabe Teran, VCOE and Katherine Kasmir, “Straight Up” shared multiple student created Public Service Announcement videos (PSA’s) which included videos on vaping, the danger of underage alcohol usage dangers and addiction.

July - Dan Hicks, VCBH Prevention Services Manager, showed a video regarding the Ventura County Overdose Prevention Program - <https://venturacountyresponds.org/en/news-and-updates/countdown-to-the-national-rx-drug-abuse-heroin-summit-in-atlanta-april-22-25-2019-atlanta-ga>.

August - Alma Ixta, ADP Prevention Services Community Coordinator presented a PowerPoint entitled, “Latino Community Outreach, which included information on efforts in the Latino community, events, prevention efforts, presentations, materials, meetings and additional outreach information.

September - Vicky Gonzales, Project Coordinator, Ventura County Public Health presented a PowerPoint entitled, "Ventura County Public Health Tobacco Policy Program-An Overview" that included information on the benefits of The Ventura County Action on Smoking & Health (VC Ash) program.

November - Dan Hicks, Prevention Services Manager gave a presentation on, "Top Five Things You Should Know About Teens and Vaping" which included statistics on youth vaping, "Vaping is a misnomer", lung diseases and deaths due to vaping, education efforts and current information available on Mjfactcheck.org.

January - Katherine Kasmir, Executive Director and Vanessa Alva, Prevention and Mental Health Specialist from BRITE gave a presentation on their programs which engages with youth and young adults to reduce underage and binge drinking. BRITE provides education through fun and educates parents during Reality parties.

February - Public Service Announcements Video Clips- Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel, Saving Lives Camarillo and VCBH ADP presented clips on, "No Opioids or not Many", Grandma's Meds as well as a clip on The Opioid Crisis, (overdose responders use naloxone kits to save lives).

March - Clara Barron of VCBH/MHSA presented a PowerPoint on, "Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention (MHSA PEI) Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Results and FY 2019/2020 Updates. Information was shared on MHSA programs and the demographics of people who receive services provided by Prevention Early Intervention programs. Beginning FY 2019-2020, MHSA is focusing on childhood trauma, early psychosis, older adult and cultural competence.

The Prevention Committee did not take place in April, May or June 2020, due to COVID-19.

CHALLENGES

1. Concerns about increased access to highly potent opiates such as Fentanyl within Ventura County.
2. Concerns regarding underage Cannabis usage and accessibility in Ventura County.
3. To date, there is not a men's residential substance use facility in Ventura County.
4. There needs to be an increase in access to prevention services that serve indicated higher risk populations.
5. Continued concerns about suicides amongst various age groups
6. Continued prevention efforts concerning suicide prevention and populations with mental health challenges.
7. Increase mental health and substance use services in public and private hospitals for mental health inpatient and crisis stabilization.
8. Continue monitoring vaping, vape products and flavored tobacco public policies and ordinances.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
OBJECTIVE 2019-2020**

Develop a comprehensive list of gaps in services and identify areas of concern that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board will work on.

ADULT SERVICES DIVISION			
Program	Address	Phone	Clinic Administrator
Benefits	5740 Ralston St., Vta. 93003	289-3203	Peter Schreiner
EPICS/ARS	1911 Williams Dr, #110, Ox. 93036	981-9240	Tina McDonald
Conejo Adult Outpatient	125 West Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 500	777-3500	Traci Khan
Simi Valley Adult Outpatient	1227 E. Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley	582-4075	DeAnne Bender
Santa Paula Adult Outpatient	725 East Main, Santa Paula, 93060	933-8480	Virna Lozada
Ventura Adult Outpatient	4258 Telegraph Rd., Vta. 93003	477-5700	Nancy Springer/Leah Roylance
Oxnard Adult Outpatient	1911 Williams Dr., #110, Ox. 93036	981-4200	Mary Burau
South Oxnard Adult Outpatient	2500 S. 'C' Street, Suite C, Ox., 93033	385-9420	Michael Colton/Marcus Lopez
Transitional Age Youth (TAY)	1911 Williams Dr. #120, Ox. 93036	981-9270	Wendi Amezquita
Forensics/Mental Health Court/ MARRT	4258 Telegraph Rd., Vta. 93003	477-5775	Nancy Springer
Older Adults	5740 Ralston St., Ste. 200, Vta. 93003	289-3203	Peter Schreiner
RISE/Assist (AOT)	1911 Williams Dr. # 165, Ox,93036	981-4233	Felicia Skaggs
STAR Program	1911 Williams Dr., #165, Ox. 93036	981-4233	Ana Magbitang
CRISIS TEAM (CIRT)	1911 Williams Dr., #165, Ox. 93036	981-9260	Robin Boscarelli
YOUTH & FAMILY DIVISION			
Program	Address	Phone	Clinic Administrator
Oxnard Youth & Family Clinic	1911 Williams Dr., #150, Ox. 93036	981-8460	Heather Guilin
South Oxnard Youth & Family	2500 S. 'C' Street, Suite D, Ox., 93033	385-9460	Alfonso Gutierrez
Ventura Youth & Family Clinic	5740 Ralston St., Vta. 93003	289-3100	Cindy Simental
Child Welfare Subsystem	5740 Ralston, Suite 201, Vta. 93003	339-3753	Maria Di Battista / Hayle Hodge-Ettelson / Jason Lee
CalWorks	5740 Ralston Suite 201, Vta 93003	289-3349	Deanna Ruiz
Santa Paula Youth & Family Clinic	725 East Main, Santa Paula, 93060	933-8440	Angelina McCormick Soll
Fillmore Youth & Family Clinic	828 Ventura St., Suite 240, Fillmore 93015	524-8660	Angelina McCormick Soll
Juvenile Justice	4333 Vineyard Ave., Ox. 93036	981-5581	Laura Nagle
Conejo Youth & Family Clinic	125 West Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 600	777-3505	Heather L Johnson
Simi Valley Youth & Family Clinic	1227 E. Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley	582-4080	Allyson Moncada
Phoenix School	500 Airport Way, Camarillo	388-4230	Stephanie Cowie
SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES DIVISION			
Program	Address	Phone	Clinic Administrator
Oxnard SUS / Prop 36	1911 Williams Dr., #190, Ox 93036	981-9200	Eileen Corona
Ventura SUS	24 E. Main St., Vta 93003	652-6919	Chris Huey
Simi Valley SUS	3150 Los Angeles Ave., Simi 93063	577-1724	Cris Ford

SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES DIVISION - continued

Program	Address	Phone	Clinic Administrator
Fillmore SUS	828 Ventura St., Suite 250, Fillmore	524-8644	Chris Huey
A New Start for Moms	1911 Williams Dr., #140, Ox 93036	981-9250	Richard LaPerriere
Prevention Services	1911 Williams Dr., Ste 210, Ox 93036	662-1870	NA
Oxnard DUI Programs	1911 Williams Dr., #190, Ox. 93036	981-9210	John Rivera
Ventura DUI Programs	5850 Thille St., Suite 105, Vta 93003	662-1840	Sharon Gassett
Thousand Oaks DUI Programs	125 West Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 400	777-3506	Shahram Shafa
Simi Valley DUI Programs	3150 E. Los Angeles Avenue, Simi 93065	520-0305	Cris Ford
Fillmore DUI Programs	828 Ventura St., Suite 250, Fillmore	524-8645	Sharon Gassett

Mental Health Services Contractors

Provider Name and Service Location Address	Phone Number	Administrator	Hours of Operation	Program and Services Provided
Aspiranet 5284 Adolfo Road, Suite 100 Camarillo, CA 93012	805-289-0120	Martie Miles	8 am-5 pm	Youth Outpatient Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT), and Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) mental health and case management services
Aspiranet 5284 Adolfo Road, Suite 100 Camarillo, CA 93012	805-289-0120	Martie Miles	8 am-5 pm	Youth Outpatient Collaborative Education Services (COEDS) mental health and case management services
Aspiranet 5284 Adolfo Road, Suite 100 Camarillo, CA 93012	805-289-0120	Martie Miles	8 am-5 pm	Youth Outpatient Intensive Home-Based Services/Therapeutic Behavioral Services/ Intensive Care Coordination EPSDT - mental health and case management services
Aurora Vista del Mar Hospital, LLC 801 Seneca St. Ventura, CA 93001	805-653-6434	Dan Powell	24/7	Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital Services for children and adolescents
Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families 751 E Daily Drive Suite 320 Camarillo, CA 93010	805-366-4040	Shawna Morris, CEO	24/7	Wraparound, Youth and Family Intensive Outpatient mental health and case management services
Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families 751 E Daily Drive Suite 320 Camarillo, CA 93010	805-366-4040	Shawna Morris, CEO	24/7	Intensive Services for Foster Care (ISFC) EPSDT mental health and case management services
Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families 1722 South Lewis Road Camarillo, CA 93012	805-366-4040	Shawna Morris, CEO	24/7	Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP), Youth Inpatient Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT), mental health, group rehab, case management, medication support, and crisis intervention services
Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families 1722 South Lewis Road Camarillo, CA 93012	805-366-4448	Shawna Morris, CEO	8 am-3 pm	Non-public School (NPS), Youth Outpatient EPSDT, mental health, case management, medication support, and crisis intervention services
Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families 751 E Daily Drive Suite 320 Camarillo, CA 93010	805-366-4040	Shawna Morris, CEO	24/7	Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS), Youth Outpatient EPSDT, Therapeutic Behavioral Services, mental health and case management services
For the Future 4955 Alta St. Simi Valley, CA 93063	805-791-3725	Maral Pushian Sultanian, PhD, LMFT	24/7	STRTP providing EPSDT mental health, case management, medication support, and crisis intervention services.

Mental Health Services Contractors - continued

Provider Name and Service Location Address	Phone Number	Administrator	Hours of Operation	Program and Services Provided
Golden Hillmont House MHRC, LLC 1750 S Lewis Rd Camarillo, CA 93012	805-702-2930	Carly Ellis	24/7	Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) Program. Adult and Transitional Aged Youth (TAY ages 18-25) MHRC mental health, nursing, rehabilitation, therapy, case management, medication support, and crisis intervention
Golden Ventura CRT, LLC 350 Hillmont Avenue Ventura, CA 93003	805-233-7750	Lilia Simakova	24/7	Crisis Residential Treatment Program. Adult and TAY (ages 18-25) Short-Term Crisis Residential acute treatment and support services to avoid hospitalization
Interface Children & Family Services 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd Suite I Camarillo, CA 93012	805-485-6114 or 805-696-2130	Joelle Vessels	8 am-8 pm	Youth Outpatient EPSDT - mental health and case management services
Interface Children & Family Services 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd Suite I Camarillo, CA 93012	805-485-6114 or 805-696-2130	Joelle Vessels	24/7	Youth Outpatient EPSDT, Family Preservation (Homebuilders) Program, mental health and case management services
Kids & Families Together 864 E. Santa Clara Street Ventura, CA 93001	805-643-1446	David Friedlander	8:30a-7p	Youth Outpatient EPSDT mental health and case management services
Kids & Families Together 864 E. Santa Clara Street Ventura, CA 93001	805-643-1446	David Friedlander	8:30am-7pm Saturdays occasionally	Therapeutic Visitation Center EPSDT mental health and case management services
New Dawn Counseling & Consulting, Inc. 2200 Outlet Center Drive, Room #430 Oxnard, CA 93036	805-604-5437	Claudia Rucker	9 am-5 pm	Youth Outpatient EPSDT, mental health, case management, and crisis intervention services
Pathpoint 501 Marin Street Suite 100 Thousand Oaks, CA 91360	805-413-0350	Linda Farhat	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Adult Outpatient Social Rehabilitation Program. Mental health, case management, and crisis intervention services
Seneca Family of Agencies 2130 N. Ventura Road Oxnard, CA 93036	805-289-8000	Tyler Baker-Wilkinson	24/7	Children's Stabilization Unit (CSU) mental health services
Seneca Family of Agencies 2130 N. Ventura Road Oxnard, CA 93036	805-289-8000	Tyler Baker-Wilkinson	24/7	Children's Comprehensive Assessment and Stabilization Services (COMPASS) mental health services
Telecare Corporation 5810 Ralston Street, 2nd Floor Ventura, CA 93003	805-425-0382	Vacant (Cindy Doust, filling in)	8:30-5pm	AB 109 VOICE ACT Program. Adult Outpatient mental health, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), case management, medication support, and crisis intervention

Mental Health Services Contractors - continued

Provider Name and Service Location Address	Phone Number	Administrator	Hours of Operation	Program and Services Provided
Telecare Corporation 1750 B South Lewis Road Camarillo, CA 93012	805-703-5225	Chris Blum	24/7	Casa De Esperanza Y Suenos Casa B Program. Adult and TAY Residential Social Rehabilitation Services
Telecare Corporation 1750 C South Lewis Road Camarillo, CA 93012	805-703-5225	Chris Blum	24/7	Casa De Esperanza Y Suenos Casa C Program. Adult and TAY Residential Social Rehabilitation Services
Telecare Corporation 1750 D South Lewis Road Camarillo, CA 93012	805-703-5225	Chris Blum	24/7	Casa De Esperanza Y Suenos Casa D Program. Adult and TAY Residential Social Rehabilitation Services
Telecare Corporation 1750 E South Lewis Road Camarillo, CA 93012	805-703-5225	Chris Blum	24/7	Casa De Esperanza Y Suenos Casa E Program. Adult and TAY Residential Social Rehabilitation Services
Telecare Corporation 333 Skyway Drive Camarillo, CA 93010	805-383-1155 x119	Lindsey Cunningham	24/7	Horizon View Mental Health Rehabilitation Center Program. Adult mental health residential services within a locked setting
Telecare Corporation 5810 Ralston Street, 2nd floor Ventura, CA 93003	805-425-0382	Vacant (Cindy Doutt, filling in)	9am-3pm	VISTA XP2 ACT Program. Adult Outpatient mental health, ACT, case management, medication support, and crisis intervention
Turning Point Foundation 1065 East Main Street Ventura, CA 93001	805-652-0029	Dana Secor	9 am-2 pm	Adult Outpatient Rehabilitation Program. Mental health, case management, and crisis intervention services
Turning Point Foundation 426 W. Fifth Street Oxnard, CA 93030	805-247-0750	Dana Secor	9 am-2 pm	Adult Outpatient Rehabilitation Program. Mental health, case management, and crisis intervention services
Turning Point- Growing Works Program. Medical Site Location: 2697 Saviers Road, Oxnard, CA 93033 Program Location: 1736 South Lewis Rd, Camarillo, CA 93012	805-653-5045	Mark Schumacher	Mon-Fri 8am-4pm (Currently by appointment only due to pandemic)	Adult Outpatient Rehabilitation Program. Mental health, case management, and crisis intervention services

Board and Care Services Contractors

Board and Care Provider Name and Service Location Address	Phone Number	Administrator	Hours of Operation	Program and Services Provided
Brown's Board and Care 1337 W. Hill Street Oxnard, CA 93033	805-483-9618	Bettina Brown	24/7	Board and Care 10 beds
Cottonwood Residential Care 1417 Lirio Avenue Saticoy, CA 93004	805-647-1353	Floro Cortes	24/7	Board and Care 24 beds
Elms Manor Corporation 67 Barnett Ventura, CA 93001	805-643-2175	Fe Eborah-Higgins	24/7	Board and Care Residential Care Facility for the Elderly 54 beds
Hickory House (Pacific West Homes LLC) 50 Oak Street Camarillo, CA 93010	805-484-1115	Paul Morales	24/7	Board and Care Residential Care Facility for the Elderly 36 beds
Saundra Jarmon's Board and Care 1240 Lookout Drive Oxnard, CA 93035	805-985-1772	Saundra Jarmon	24/7	Board and Care 6 beds
Sunrise Manor, LLC 441 West Channel Island Blvd Oxnard, CA 93033	805-840-7600	Chris Medina	24/7	Board and Care 60 beds
Thompson Place (Turning Point Foundation) (formerly La Siesta) 1681 East Thompson Blvd Ventura, CA 93002	805-652-0000	Rena Sepulveda	24/7	Board and Care 26 beds

Substance Use Services Treatment Contractors

Provider Name and Service Location Address	Phone	Manager	Hours of Operation	Program and Services Provided
A New Start For Moms 1911 Williams Drive #140, Oxnard, CA 93036	805-981-9250	Richard LaPerriere	Mon - Thurs 8 AM - 6 PM Friday 8 AM - 5 PM	Perinatal Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Services for Women, Mental Health Services, Medication Assisted Treatment, Recovery Services
Aegis Treatment Centers 2055 Saviers Road #A, Oxnard, CA 93033	805-483-2253	Maria Meza	Mon - Fri 5AM - 6:30PM Sat - Sun 5 AM - 9 AM	Narcotic Treatment Program/ Medication Assisted Treatment
Aegis Treatment Centers 625 E. Main St., Santa Paula, CA 93060	805-525-4669	Tamara Lemalu	Mon - Fri 5AM - 1:30PM Saturday 6 AM- 9 AM	Narcotic Treatment Program/ Medication Assisted Treatment
Aegis Treatment Centers 660 E. Los Angeles Ave. #B2, Simi Valley, CA 93065	805-522-1844	Deborah Winters	Mon - Fri 5 AM - 1:30 PM Saturday 6 AM - 9 AM	Narcotic Treatment Program/ Medication Assisted Treatment
Aegis Treatment Centers 5225 Telegraph Road, Ventura, CA 93003	805-765-6495	Anne Calica	Mon - Fri 5 AM - 1:30 PM Sat - Sun 6 AM - 9 AM	Narcotic Treatment Program/ Medication Assisted Treatment
Alternative Action Programs 314 W. 4th St, Oxnard, CA 93030	805-988-1112	Mike Juarez	Mon - Fri 9 am - 8:30 PM	Outpatient, Medication Assisted Treatment, Recovery Services
DMC-ODS Access Line 1911 Williams Drive #190; Oxnard, CA 93036	844-385-9200	Anita Catapusan	Substance Use Services - Access Line is available 24/7	Assisting clients in Accessing Substance Use Treatment Services and Coordination of Care
HealthRIGHT 360 - Prototypes Women's Center 2150 N. Victoria Ave., Oxnard, CA 93036	805-382-6296	Angelic Valdevia	24/7	Withdrawal Management (Detox) Residential Treatment for Pregnant/Women's Services
Tarzana Treatment Centers 18646 Oxnard St., Tarzana, CA 91356	800-996-1051	Keith Star	24/7	Withdrawal Management (Detox) Residential Treatment
Tarzana Treatment Centers 4447 N.10th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534	661-726-2630	Alesia Ping-DiFiore	24/7	Residential Treatment for Youth
Tarzana Treatment Centers 2101 Magnolia Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806	800-996-1051	Lauren Dibbs	24/7	Residential Treatment Services- Adult

Substance Use Services Treatment Contractors - continued

Provider Name and Service Location Address	Phone	Manager	Hours of Operation	Program and Services Provided
The Fillmore Center 828 W. Ventura St. #250, Fillmore, CA 93015	805-524-8644	Chris Huey	Mon - Thurs 8 AM - 6 PM Friday 8 AM - 5 PM	Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Services for Youth and Adult, Medication Assisted Treatment, Recovery Services
The Oxnard Center 1911 Williams Drive #190, Oxnard, CA 93036	805-981-9250	Eileen Corona	Mon-Thurs 8 AM - 6 PM Friday 8 AM - 5 PM	Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Services for Youth and Adult, Medication Assisted Treatment, Recovery Services
The Simi Valley Center 3150 E. Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley, CA 93065	805-577-1724	Cris Ford	Mon - Thurs 8 AM - 6 PM Friday 8 AM - 5 PM	Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Services for Youth and Adult, Medication Assisted Treatment, Recovery Services
The Thousand Oaks Center 125 W. Thousand Oaks Blvd. #400, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360	805-777-3570	Shahram Shafa	Mon - Thurs 8 AM - 6 PM Friday 8 AM - 5 PM	Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Services for Youth and Adult, Medication Assisted Treatment, Recovery Services
The Ventura Center 5850 Thille St. #205, Ventura, CA 93003	805-652-6919	Chris Huey	Mon - Thurs 8 AM - 6 PM Friday 8 AM - 5 PM	Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Services for Youth and Adult, Medication Assisted Treatment, Recovery Services
Western Pacific Medical Group 955 E. Thompson Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001	805-641-9100	Andrea Howard	Mon - Fri 5:15AM - 12:30PM Sat - Sun 6 AM - 9 AM	Narcotic Treatment Program/ Medication Assisted Treatment

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)

Board Letter Summary of Contracts for March 2021

Board Date	Contractor	Amount	Term	Description
3/9/2021	Evalcorp	\$ 558,050.00	January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	<p>Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Second Amendment to the Agreement for Substance Use Prevention Services with Evalcorp. Evalcorp develops appropriate process and outcome measures, tailored data collection protocols, and corresponding data and performance outcome reports. Through the amendment for FY 2020-21, Evalcorp will provide increased research and evaluation services, statistical analysis and data collection to address vaping and drug trends, marijuana and prescription drug initiatives, alcohol, tobacco and add additional qualitative research services associated with local methamphetamine, fentanyl and polydrug use, informing new digital messaging campaigns while enhancing VCBH's ability to provide technical assistance in the application of the State-required Strategic Prevention Framework, with particular emphasis on local research and evaluation activities. This agreement is funded with Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) funds and U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program grant funds. The Second Amendment to the Agreement for Substance Use Prevention Services with Evalcorp, to increase the maximum agreement amount from \$498,050 to \$558,050 (an increase of \$60,000), of which \$163,415 was for the service period of January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 and \$394,635 (inclusive of the \$60,000 increase) will be for the service period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.</p>
3/9/2021	Idea Engineering, Inc.	\$ 490,500.00	January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	<p>FY 2020-21 Second Amendment to the Agreement for Substance Use Prevention Services with Idea Engineering, Inc. Idea Engineering, Inc. provides VCBH with communication materials and graphic design services, a custom and localized image library to support various program priorities (e.g., prescription drug abuse and heroin prevention initiative, impaired driving prevention, opioid overdose prevention and rescue efforts) using a range of media channels to aid community education efforts. Through the proposed amendment for FY 2020-21, Idea Engineering, Inc. will provide increased marketing, media and prevention messaging services in support of all prevention services initiatives. Additional funds will make possible population-specific marketing and media services to reach targeted groups locally, consistent with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Strategic Prevention Framework, and will specifically enhance prescription drug misuse prevention, methamphetamine and fentanyl awareness, new stigma reduction and access-to-care messaging in support of VCBH's expanded drug treatment services, now available via the Access Line operating on a 24/7 basis. This Agreement is fully funded with SABG funding. The Second Amendment to the Agreement for Substance Use Prevention Services with Idea Engineering, Inc., to increase the maximum agreement amount from \$396,000 to \$490,500 (an increase of \$94,500), of which \$132,000 was for the service period of January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 and \$358,500 (inclusive of the \$94,500 increase) will be for the service period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.</p>

3/23/2021	Turning Point Foundation	\$0	November 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.	<p>FY 2020-21 First Amendment to the Agreement for Psychiatric Rehabilitation-Oriented Services with Turning Point Foundation. Turning Point Foundation's Growing Works program is a nursery/horticultural peer job readiness program that uses established recovery principles to provide job readiness training to VCBH clients. The First Amendment to the Agreement with Turning Point Foundation revises the payment terms to: (1) add a line item budget, in the amount of \$52,673, to reimburse for start-up related services for the period of November 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021 and (2) revise the budget for Medi-Cal reimbursable services, to a new amount of \$147,327, for the period of February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. There is no change to the Agreement's maximum contract amount of \$200,000, for the term of November 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. This agreement is funded with Short Doyle Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation and Mental Health Services Act funding.</p>
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Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)

Board Letter Summary of Contracts for March 2021

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