

VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

May 17, 2021

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, June 21, 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
Soledad Barragán
Ratan Bhavnani, 1st Vice Chair
Nancy Borchard
Gane Brooking
Kevin Clerici
Jose Estrada
Jesse Finkbeiner
Genevieve Flores-Haro
Cmdr. James Fryhoff
Janis Gardner, Chair Emeritus
Jerry Harris, Chair
Cheryl Heitmann
Carol J. Keavney
Supervisor Matt LaVere
Jennifer Morrison
Patricia Mowlavi
Joe S. Ramirez, 2nd Vice Chair
Michael Rodriguez, Member-At-Large
Chris Tejeda
Carol Thomas
Marlen Torres

Others Present

Sherrí Block, VCMC/Inpatient Psychiatric Unit
Brian Brennan, Supervisor LaVere's Office
Anyssa Cisneros, Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing
Project (MICOP)
Marika Collins, Casa Pacifica
Dr. Margaret Cortese
David Deutsch, Cal State University-Northridge
Cindy Douth, Telecare
Angel Garcia, Supervisor Ramirez's Office
Rosa Gonzalez, Chief Executive Office
Roberta Griego, NAMI Ventura County
Sue Hughes, County Executive Office
Martha Johnson, Health Care Agency
Tim Lanquist
Lori Litel, United Parents
Erin Olivera, VCMC/Inpatient Psychiatric Unit
Robert O'Riley, Supervisor Ramirez's Office
Chrissy Ortega, Chief Executive Office
Gail Parker, Drug Enforcement Admin-LA Field Office
Chris Ridge, Ventura County Office of Education
Ezequiel A. Sanchez
Lourdes Solorzano, Supervisor LaVere's Office
Mark Stadler, Crisis Intervention Team
Elizabeth R. Stone
Lorena Suarez, Homeland Language Services
Dr. Casey Wake, Telecare
Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team
Tina Wang, County Executive Office
Liz Warren, Client Network
Jerry Weaver
Barry Zimmerman, Health Care Agency Director

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers and Staff Present

Dr. Sevet Johnson, VCBH Director
Tina Coates, Patients' Rights Advocate
Dr. Loretta Denering, Substance Use Services Division Chief
Dan Hicks, Prevention Behavioral Health Manager
Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief
Vickie Poliquin, Temporary BHAB Assistant

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
I.	<p>Call to Order Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson explained the purpose of the added information provided with the agenda that provides members of the public with alternative ways of making public comments. The following email has been created to allow members of the public to send their public comments to the BHAB by no later than 10:00 AM on the day of the BHAB meeting: bhabadmin@ventura.org.</p>		
II.	<p>Roll Call Chair Harris conducted the calling of the roll and confirmed that a quorum of the Board members exists.</p>		
III.	<p>Welcome and Introductions Chair Harris welcomed members of the community, VCBH staff, Board members and new BHAB members, Genevieve Flores-Haro and Cheryl Heitmann both representing District 1.</p>		
IV.	<p>Approval of the Agenda Mr. Harris asked the Board to review and approve the agenda. Ms. Armann moved to approve; Ms. Gardner seconded. The motion to approve the agenda as written carried unanimously through roll call.</p>	Agenda approved as written. M/S/C	
V.	<p>Approval of the Minutes Mr. Harris asked the Board to review and approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021, meeting. Mr. Bhavnani moved to approve; Ms. Gardner seconded. The motion to approve the minutes as written carried unanimously through roll call.</p>	General Meeting minutes approved as written. M/S/C	
VI.	<p>Public Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elizabeth R. Stone expressed appreciation for having been a BHAB member. ▪ Liz Warren made comments regarding a recent newspaper article about the new additions to the BHAB. ▪ Roberta Griego noted that May is Mental Health Awareness month and highlighted two events taking place this week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Third Annual Sound Mind Music Festival – Thursday, May 20 (Ventura Co. Fairgrounds) will be held in-person or via Zoom from 6pm to 10pm. ▪ NAMI Ventura County Virtual NAMIWalk – Saturday May 22 (live stream: 10AM – 1 PM). 		
VII.	<p>Presentation “Emerging Local Risks: Fentanyl” – Dan Hicks, SUS Prevention Services Manager Dan Hicks provided a detailed presentation on “Emerging Local Risks: Fentanyl”.</p>		
VIII.	<p>Recognition / Certificates of Commendation Presentation Mr. Harris presented a Certificate of Commendation to Dr. Margaret Cortese, Denise Nielsen and Sheri Valley. Mr. Harris noted that Ms. Haffner requested that she receive her recognition certificate at the June General meeting.</p>		
IX.	<p>Chair Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Harris advised that the LPS Reform Workgroup Report and the Annual Report are scheduled on the June 15 Board of Supervisors agenda. • Mentioned two reports that he recently provided to BHAB members—one from Alameda County regarding reform in the jail system and one from San Francisco County regarding a consultant that conducted a needs assessment of inpatient beds and step-down facilities for San Francisco. 		
X.	<p>Director’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May is Mental Health Month and participated in a NAMIWalk along with Public Health. Developed an “I’m Talking About My Mental Health” campaign to encourage talking about mental health. • Welcomed the BHAB’s newest members, Genevieve Flores-Haro and Cheryl Heitmann. • Work is being done on the final stages of the STAR evaluation Report. Once the Report is finalized, it will be provided to the BHAB. • VCBH clients will be moving into Thompson Place, the Board and Care facility which was shut down after being sold by the owners and which will now be operated by Turning Point Foundation. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 29, staff from Logrando Bienestar presented a series entitled, “Ask the Expert” that talked about COVID’s impact on children’s mental health. • On May 12, a presentation was provided to the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) and Student Services Collaborative consisting of a cross-system partnership between VCBH, the Human Services Agency, Tri-Counties Regional Center, Probation and VCOE. • On May 24, VCBH will present at VCOE’s first Equity Conference and will address diversity, equity and inclusion practices and is open to the community at large. • The “Meth – Don’t Buy the Lie” Prevention campaign has launched and focuses on young adults who might find themselves attracted to first-time use and runs across several channels from April to June. • Saturday Substance Use Treatment services, telehealth assessments and group services have resumed virtually with increasing demands. • The Driving Under the Influence Program is currently undergoing a clinic-wide Department of Health Care Services audit at four of five sites. Ventura County was one of the few counties in the State that kept programs open and fully operational in 2020-21 even with the challenges of COVID-19. 		
<p>XI.</p>	<p>Board Members Comments and Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Harris asked new BHAB members to introduce themselves and say a few words regarding their background—all did so. • Ms. Barragán noted that she has worked closely with parent volunteers to urge parents to become more involved in their child’s education and has worked within the school systems to advocate for mental health education. • Mr. Estrada noted that education is important for children and young people and has advocated for school studies and healthy lifestyles. • Ms. Flores-Haro noted that she currently serves as the Associate Director for the Mixteco organizing project. Outside of the Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP), she is the Board President for the Diversity Collective of Ventura County, a nonprofit serving the LGBTQ population. • Mr. Tejeda noted that his experience comes as a consumer who has gone through the jail system, treatment processes and, with the assistance of a family support system, made progress to improve and move forward. • Ms. Heitmann noted that she is a licensed clinical social worker with a long career starting as a probation officer in Chicago and worked in residential treatment centers for children as well as the Los Angeles County USC Medical Center Psychiatric Hospital. • Ms. Gardner welcomed the new BHAB members and thanked Ms. Flores-Haro, Mr. Estrada and Mr. Tejeda for recently completing their BHAB Orientations. • Ms. Armann thanked Mr. Harris for forwarding the San Francisco report that provided the optimal number of mental health beds in their community and that the BHAB will be discussing the report at its June meeting. She requested two pieces of data be provided in preparation for the discussion – average wait times and a chart that provides the different types of beds for Ventura County. • Mr. Finkbeiner provided a “shout out” for the districts of Moorpark and Simi Valley regarding Adventist Hospital’s past detox program and described the workings dedicated to detox wings that are successful or not successful. He noted the importance of providing additional dedicated crisis stabilization services in the East County. • Ms. Borchard shared good news that the faith community, through the past garden project work done by Georgia Perry and her husband and Ms. Perry’s legacy, is promoting mental health awareness through church bulletins that reaches over 3,000 people that includes links to resources and local services to assist with erasing the mental health stigma. • Ms. Morrison spoke about the Assertive Community Treatment Plan—a service that is part of the Integrative Community Services Program (EPICS) that provides wrap-around services for people being treated at home or at different locations other than hospitals and is called “the hospital without walls”. She requested that VCBH provide a future presentation on the program. Mr. Bhavnani clarified that the BHAB Adult Services Committee has completed Part I of this presentation and Part II is planned for the next Committee meeting. • Cmdr. Fryhoff advised that the Sheriff’s Department has also formed a NAMIWalk team and held a walk in Thousand Oaks on May 14. 		

XII.	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.		
XIII.	BHAB Committee Reports A. Adult Services Committee – Nancy Borchard and Gane Brooking, Co-Chairs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussions were held regarding jail suicides based upon information provided from the Sheriff's office on protocols and safety precautions. 2. Questions were answered about how VCBH clients who are in jail are recognized. 3. Discussion took place regarding jail safety rooms. 4. Lengthy discussions were held regarding the difficulties in finding housing for high acuity level clients who are referred from the psychiatric inpatient unit (IPU), county and out-of-county hospitals and Vista del Mar Hospital. 5. Jessica Davis gave a presentation about the services provided by Substance Use Services and provided information about a women's 30-day inpatient treatment program in Oxnard and Tarzana that includes recovery treatment and follow-up. 6. The EPICS program will be discussed at the next meeting and Ms. Borchard will provide information to Ms. Morrison regarding her previous question regarding the Assertive Community Treatment Plan within the EPICS program. B. Prevention Services Committee – Janis Gardner, Chair <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heard from staff regarding posters, flyers and other information distributed throughout the county in support of May is Mental Health Month. 2. Heard information from the Wellness Centers that are in the works and a presentation will be provided at the September meeting. 3. BHAB member, Jesse Finkbeiner, of Aspire Counseling Services, provided a presentation and shared two very impactful videos in addition to sharing his personal journey. 4. Mark Stadler will provide a presentation on prevention efforts within the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) in July. Youth & Family Services Committee – Kevin Clerici, Chair <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee will provide its report following its next meeting scheduled in June. 		
XIV.	BHAB Workgroup Update A. Disparities Reduction Workgroup – Gane Brooking and Marlen Torres, Co-Chairs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Workgroup met over the past several months and has determined the importance of transitioning the Workgroup to a BHAB standing committee. 		
XV.	Old Business A. VCBH Response to the Identified Gaps in Service – Update/Discussion Dr. Johnson reported that the data points were received and the items that do not belong to VCBH were sent out to other entities for their responses. Dr. Schipper and his team have been working consistently with the data points, have compiled information and advised that a small workgroup setting would work best to further analyze the information prior to presenting to the full BHAB. B. Mobile Mental Health Innovation Proposal Update – Hilary Carson, MHSAs Innovations Program Administrator Dr. Johnson provided the update for Hilary Carson advising that the budget and timeline for the proposal has been modified from a 3-year to a 4-year program. The total cost of the program has not changed and the end date has not been affected. The van will be purchased in fiscal year 2022 in addition to conducting a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the program services and evaluation.		
XVI.	New Business A. Public Hearing to End 30-day Public Comment Period: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Update – Jerry Harris Mr. Harris opened the Public Hearing. No comments were made. Ms. Gardner moved to end the 3-day Public Comment Period. Mr. Ramirez seconded. The motion to approve closing the 30-day public comment period carried unanimously through roll call.	Approval to Close the Public Hearing to End the 30-day Public Comment Period. M/S/C	

<p>B. Nominating Committee Report and Recommendations Mr. Harris noted that the members of the Nominating Committee are Kevin Clerici, Jesse Finkbeiner, C.J. Keavney and Marlen Torres.</p> <p>1. Presentations of Slate of Officer for Fiscal Year 2021-22 The Nominating Committee’s spokesperson, Mr. Finkbeiner, provided a summary of how the Committee derived its decisions and announced the following slate of officers: Chair: Michael Rodriguez 1st Vice Chair: Joe S. Ramirez 2nd Vice Chair: Christopher Tejeda Secretary: Janis Gardner Member-At-Large: Nancy Borchard Mr. Finkbeiner asked for clarification whether the Chair Emeritus position is elected or automatically is the former Chair. Comments were made and Mr. Harris clarified that, according to the Bylaws, the Chair Emeritus position is an elected position that is filled by the former Chair and declared that he will not accept the position at this time.</p> <p>2. Accept Nominations from the Floor Mr. Finkbeiner briefly described the criteria, process and openness to accept nominations from the floor. No nominations from the floor were received.</p> <p>C. Appoint Chair for the Data Elements Workgroup Mr. Harris asked if any BHAB members were interested in serving as the Chair of the Data Elements Workgroup, formerly held by Mary Haffner. No BHAB members voiced an interest in serving as Chair.</p> <p>D. Appointment Chair for the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Committee Mr. Harris asked if any BHAB member was interested in serving as the Chair of the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Committee. Mr. Ramirez expressed an interest. Mr. Harris made the appointment. Ms. Armann moved to confirm the appointment. Ms. Keavney seconded. The motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Ramirez as the Chair of the TAY Committee carried unanimously through roll call.</p> <p>E. Appoint Chair for the Peer Specialist Workgroup Mr. Harris asked if any BHAB members were interested in serving as the Chair of the Peer Specialist Workgroup, formerly held by Elizabeth R. Stone. With no responses, Mr. Harris asked that BHAB members further consider their interest and that this item will be on the June agenda for reconsideration.</p> <p>F. BHAB Membership Identification Assessment – Discuss Approval to Conduct an Optional, Anonymous Zoom Poll at the July 2021 General Meeting (REF: BHAB Bylaws Article III.E.) Ms. Gardner moved to approve creating a Zoom Poll for all BHAB members to opt to respond with their membership status. Mr. Rodriguez seconded.</p> <p>Elizabeth R. Stone made a public comment asking Dr. Johnson for clarification on the Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) percentage requirements for people who identify as clients, consumers and whether the numbers that have been reported monthly to the State and whether the requirement has been met. Dr. Johnson responded that the WIC requires the BHAB consist of 20% consumers which equates to 5 members of the 23-member BHAB.</p> <p>Supervisor LaVere expressed that he fully supports conducting the Zoom Poll and cataloguing the information and asked if what is provided becomes public information. Dr. Johnson responded that if someone self-identifies in their application for BHAB membership, that the information is public, but an applicant is not required to self-identify in the application.</p> <p>The stated motion carried unanimously through roll call.</p> <p>G. Adopt Language Interpretation Best Practices Mr. Harris introduced the item and Ms. Armann provided a summary of the purpose and background of the Best Practices noting that it was derived from a Santa Barbara organization that has a language justice initiative that trains interpreters, government officials and nonprofit leaders on how to create equity supportive environments for those who speak other languages. Further discussion ensued regarding clarification if the BHAB</p>	<p>Approved appointment of Mr. Ramirez as Chair of the TAY Committee. M/S/C</p> <p>Approved conducting an anonymous Zoom Poll at the July 2021 General Meeting. M/S/C</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>would require two interpreters as stated in the Best Practice document or remain with one interpreter.</p> <p>Mr. Bhavani addressed the importance of speaking clearly and slowly to assist with interpretation as well as following the recommendation for meeting participants to use headsets and microphones.</p> <p>Ms. Flores-Haro recommended holding a training or presentation prior to adopting the Best Practice in order to gain a better understanding of what is being adopted and to sort out other specifics.</p> <p>Ms. Barragan provided detailed feedback regarding the proposed adoption of the Interpretation Best Practices.</p> <p>Mr. Harris recommended that VCBH review whether it is fiscally feasible to hire two interpreters and briefly discussed a possible funding source. Clarification was made that the request for two interpreters would pertain to all BHAB public meetings. The item will be brought back for review at the June General meeting.</p> <p>H. Contract Review Process Improvements</p> <p>Mr. Harris reviewed the purpose of the request to recommend changing the contract review process. He proposed a more thorough review of one existing contract every month or every other month requesting that VCBH provide a copy of "Attachment A" containing all deliverables from the contract providers. A motion was not made and no action was taken. Mr. Harris stated that the current contract review process will continue.</p> <p>I. Presentation Requests</p> <p>EPICS Presentation – Ms. Morrison Wellness Program Presentation – Ms. Barragán</p> <p>J. Recognition Award Recommendations</p> <p>Mr. Harris noted that a recognition award will be presented to Elizabeth R. Stone in June. Supervisor LaVere thanked the BHAB for providing her with the upcoming recognition noting that she has been an incredible peer advocate setting the example for vocal and fearless leadership.</p>	<p>No action taken. Item will be brought back for review at the June General meeting.</p>	
XVII.	<p>Contracts</p> <p>Questions regarding Tri-Counties Regional Center (TRCS) MOU were raised and answered. Please view Zoom recording for specific details discussed at https://vcbh.org/en/general-meeting?own=0.</p>		
XVIII.	<p>Public Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ezequiel A. Sanchez requested clarification regarding the use of translation services at BHAB meetings noting that mono-lingual community members should be able to hear the meeting in Spanish and BHAB members should be reminded to switch to English when mono-lingual BHAB members are speaking for ease in understanding what is being said. ▪ Liz Warren shared several resources in follow-up to Dan Hick's presentation: "Emerging Local Risks: Fentanyl". These resources will be provided to members of the BHAB and will be made a part of the minutes. She also requested that the Chair be more specific when calling for public comments to avoid confusion by stating, "are there any Board member comments". 		
XIX.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 3:46 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	X	
District 5	9/15/20 – 9/15/23	Soledad Barragán			X	X	e	X	X	X	X		X	
District 2	2/24/19 – 2/23/22	Ratan Bhavnani	X	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	X	
District 3	1/13/19 – 1/12/22	Gane Brooking	X	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	X	
District 5	3/23/21 – 3/22/24	Jose Estrada											X	
District 4	4/7/20 - 10/13/21	Jesse Finkbeiner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
District 1	4/27/21 – 4/26/24	Genevieve Flores-Haro												
LE	9/10/19 – 9/10/22	Cmdr. James Fryhoff	X		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	X	
District 4	9/17/19 – 9/17/22	Jerry Harris	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
District 1	5/11/21 – 5/10/24	Cheryl Heitmann												
District 2	7/21/20 – 1/7/22	Carol J. Keavney		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
BOS	1/1/21 – 12/31/21	Supervisor Matt LaVere							X	X	X	X	X	
District 4	2/9/21 – 2/9/24	Jennifer Morrison								X	X		X	
District 2	3/15/20 – 3/15/23	Patricia Mowlavi	X	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	X	
District 5	1/25/20 – 1/24/23	Michael Rodriguez	e	e	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
District 4	4/13/21 – 9/17/21	Christopher Tejeda											X	
District 2	9/17/19 – 9/16/22	Carol Thomas	X	e	X	e	e	X	e	X	X	X	X	
District 5	1/11/20 – 1/24/23	Marlen Torres	X	X	e	X	X	e	X	X	X	X	X	
Optional: Practicing Psychiatrist		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
A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency

May 17, 2021

EMERGING LOCAL RISK: FENTANYL

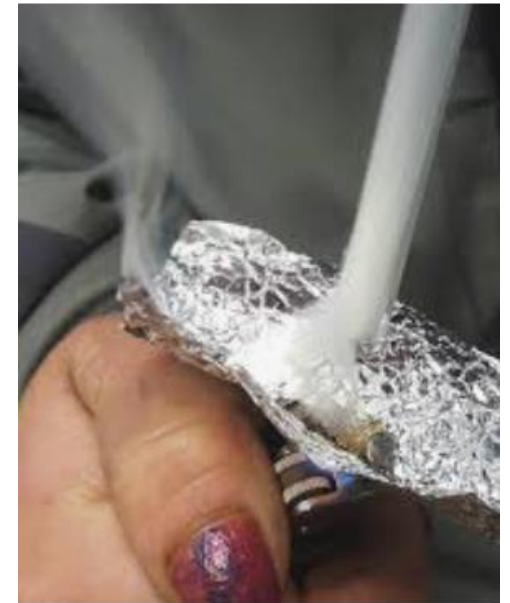
The deadliest wave of the opioid crisis so far
has arrived in Ventura County

Daniel Hicks, Manager
Substance Use Services - Prevention

Indicators of the Challenge - nationally

CDC on February 11, 2021, highlights the scope of the problem.

- In 2019, 70,630 drug overdose deaths occurred in the US (21.6 per 100 000) representing a 4.3% increase over the 2018 rate.
- Among these, approximately 71% involved opioids and 52% specifically synthetic opioids excluding methadone—Fentanyl now predominates
- No state had significant decrease in synthetic opioid death rate between 2018 and 2019, & West census region had largest relative (68%) and absolute (1.9 per 100 000) increase.



Indicators of the Challenge - nationally

The Moving Target began in the 1990s

Rx Drugs and Heroin → Synthetics and Analogs → Fentanyl & Meth

- Since 2013, deaths involving synthetic opioids surged largely due to illicitly made fentanyl & analogs (e.g., acetelfentanyl, carfentanil).
- As fentanyl became more ubiquitous, overdose deaths increased in all ages, both sexes, across races/ethnicities, urbanization levels, across majority of US states.



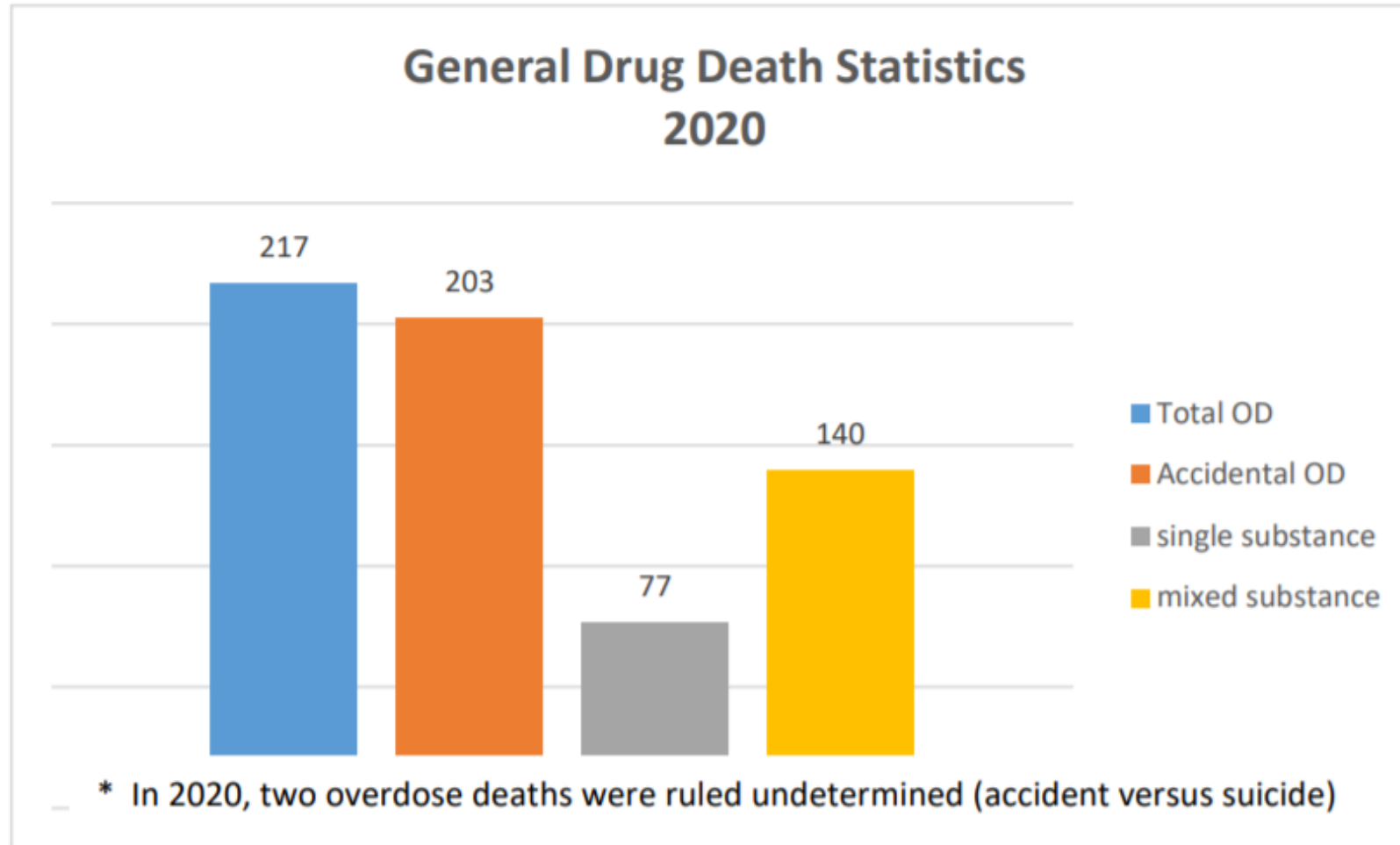
Indicators of the Challenge – Ventura County

Medical Examiner Special Report – 2020 Overdose Deaths

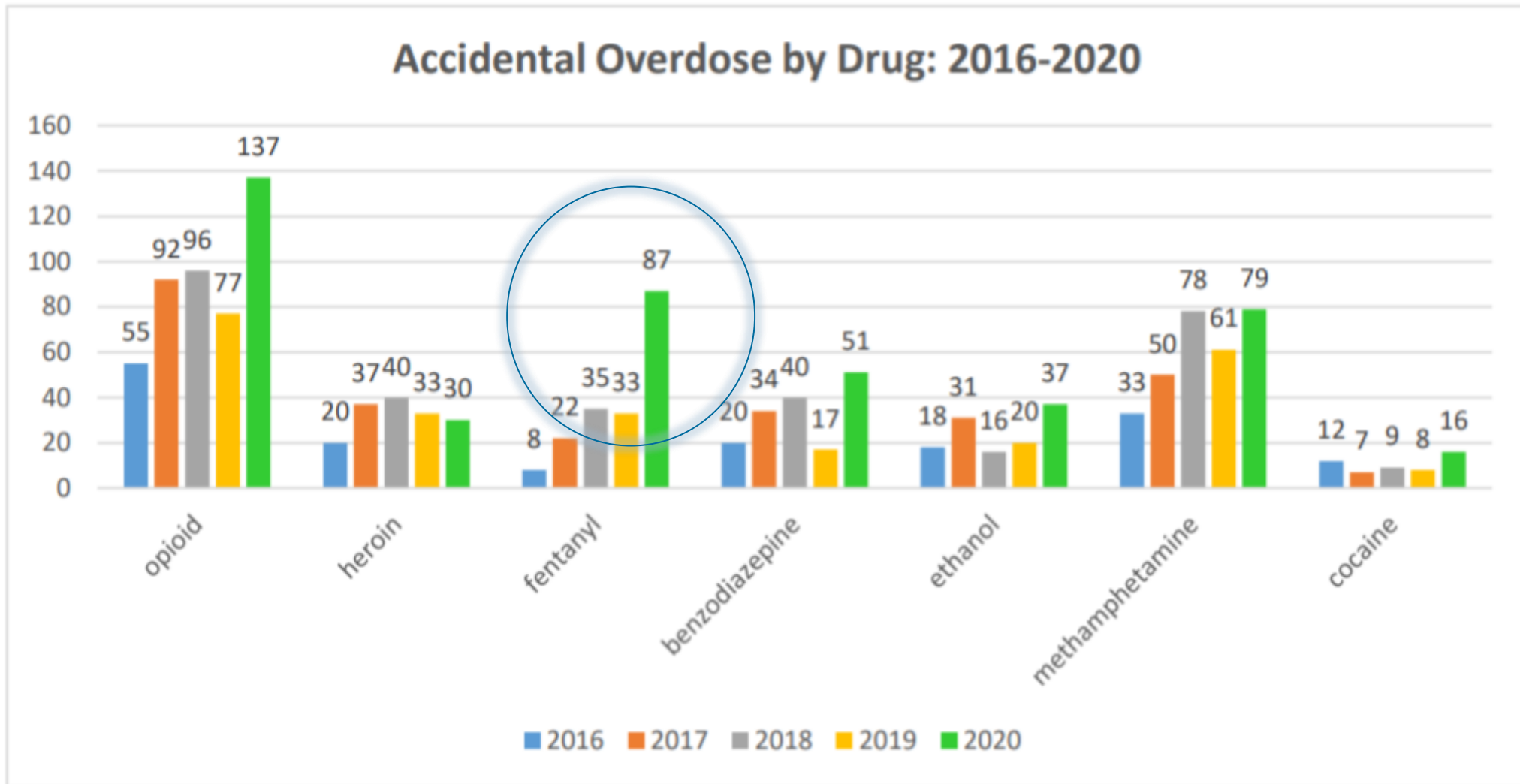
Noteworthy trends:

- 1) Overdose deaths between 2019 and 2020 increased by 68 (45.6% increase). Compared to the previous year, accidental overdoses for 2020 increased by 75 while suicidal overdoses decreased by 5.
- 2) Fentanyl and benzodiazepine deaths increased significantly in 2020 compared to 2019. Fentanyl contributed to 54 more deaths than the previous year. Benzodiazepines contributed to 34 more deaths than the previous year.
- 3) The highest number of overdose deaths in 2020 were between ages 31 to 40 years (49 deaths) and of these deaths, 24 involved fentanyl.

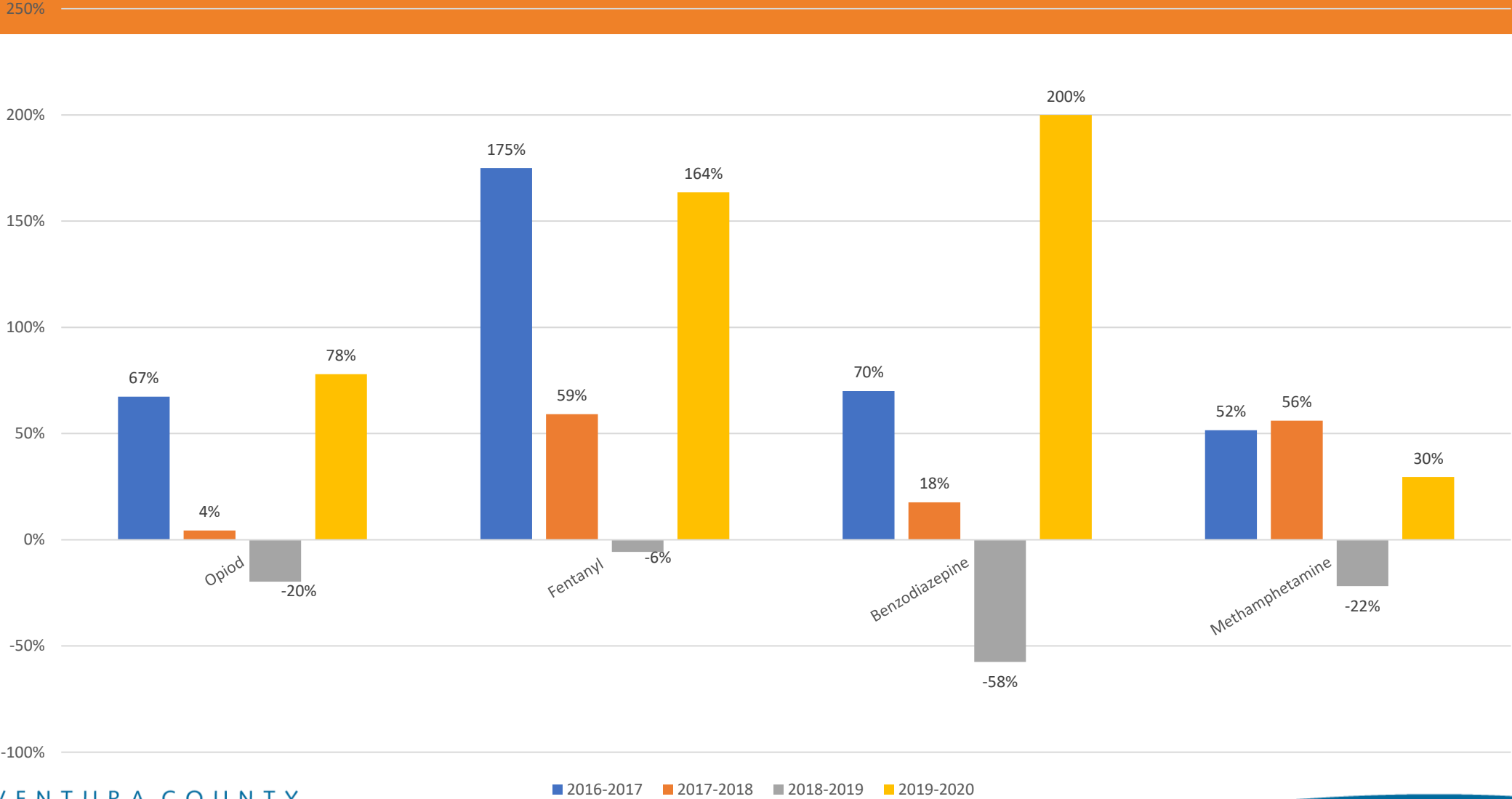
Of 706 Postmortem Exams, 203 were Accidental ODs



Fentanyl significant in Fatal OD increase 2020



Accidental Overdose by Drug Percent Change: 2016-2020



Anticipating the Challenges

In response to significant challenges, VCBH took specific steps:

- We fortified efforts to warn residents at-risk of OD and supported all law enforcement, countywide, with with life-saving naloxone.
- During the same time period (CY 2020), we distributed 890 Overdose Rescue Kits to clients, and documented 317 reversals of overdose; that is, 317 lives saved.
- We expanded fentanyl warning messages throughout the community, with the Public Health department's collaboration.
- Our COAST Opioid Data Dashboard is updated for the public, with treatment, syringe replacement, and drug disposal information.



Street Fentanyl Surges In Western U.S ...

Community Posters



DID YOU KNOW

that our community is AT RISK from fentanyl?

Anyone who takes a drug that isn't prescribed for them may accidentally take fentanyl.

- Our local opioid epidemic has been worsened by a recent influx of illegal fentanyl, which is sometimes mixed in with other drugs.
- If your doctor didn't prescribe medication for you or a family member, there's no way to know what's really inside a pill.
- Fentanyl is so strong that even a tiny amount can lead to overdose and death for people of any age.

Did you know that you could save a life with an Overdose Rescue Kit?

Call 1-805-667-6663. It's confidential and free.

 LEARN MORE:
www.VenturaCountyResponds.org





¿SABÍAS QUE...

nuestra comunidad se encuentra EN PELIGRO debido al fentanilo?

Cualquier persona que consume una droga que no se le ha sido recetada puede estar accidentalmente consumiendo fentanilo.

- La epidemia local de los opioides ha empeorado debido a un reciente flujo de fentanilo ilegal, el cual a veces es mezclado con otras drogas.
- Si su doctor no le recetó medicamentos a usted o a un miembro de familia, no hay manera de saber lo que realmente hay dentro de una pastilla.
- El fentanilo es tan fuerte que incluso una cantidad pequeña puede resultar en sobredosis y muerte para personas de cualquier edad.

¿Sabías que puedes salvar una vida con un Kit de Rescate?

Llame al 1-800-667-663. Es gratis y confidencial.

 APRENDA MÁS:
www.VenturaCountyResponds.org/es



Community Messaging

OVERDOSE – could it happen to someone you care about?

If prescription pain medicines are misused, they could lead to an overdose.

And our local opioid epidemic has been worsened by a recent influx of illegal fentanyl, which is sometimes mixed in with other drugs, including heroin. Fentanyl is so strong that even a tiny amount can lead to overdose and death for people of any age.

DID YOU KNOW
that you could save a life
with a free Rescue Kit?

CALL 1-800-667-6663

LEARN MORE:
www.VenturaCountyResponds.org



SOBREDOSIS – ¿le podría pasar a alguien importante para usted?

Si los medicamentos recetados para el dolor son usados indebidamente, esto puede resultar en una sobredosis.

Además, la epidemia local de los opioides ha empeorado debido a un reciente flujo de fentanilo ilegal, el cual a veces es mezclado con otras drogas, incluyendo la heroína. El fentanilo es tan fuerte que incluso una cantidad pequeña puede resultar en sobredosis y muerte para personas de cualquier edad.

¿SABÍAS QUE
puedes salvar una vida
con un Kit de Rescate gratis?

LLAME AL 1-800-667-6663

APRENDA MÁS:
www.VenturaCountyResponds.org/es



Near Horizon

Enhancing OD Prevention Program's design

- Rescue kits to hold three (3) doses of Naloxone, instead of current two (2)
- Training for OD response to include information of Fentanyl-specific symptoms
- Paperless OD reversal questionnaire; more useful data in shorter time

Harm Reduction Messaging to People Who Use Drugs – Public Health

- Stigma reduction messaging efforts, Opioid Use Disorders (OUD)
- On-site availability of drug check strips; safety education and ACCESS line info
- Educating family members and partners – Opioid Agonist Therapy v. abstinence (e.g., buprenorphine) as relapse more life-threatening (after jail, in treatment)

Considering what did NOT happen

“While we recognize that fatal ODs have reached a new high point, we are confident that the death toll could have been even higher were it not for the collaborative prevention and overdose rescue efforts – including the 317 documented reversals in 2020—which were the result of our Overdose Prevention Program”

- Dr. Loretta Denering

Visit www.VenturaCountyResponds.org

Sources and Citations

Special Report: 2020 Fatal Overdoses; Christopher Young, MD, Chief Medical Examiner: February 21, 2021; County of Ventura Office of the Medical Examiner. <https://meo.ventura.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/OD-Report-2020.pdf>

Continued Increases in Overdose Deaths Related to Synthetic Opioids: Implications for Clinical Practice; Grant T. Baldwin, PhD, MPH¹; Puja Seth, PhD¹; Rita K. Noonan, PhD; Division of Overdose Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA; [JAMA. 2021;325\(12\):1151-1152. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.1169](#)

Fentanyl, Inc.: How Rogue Chemists Are Creating the Deadliest Wave of the Opioid Epidemic; Ben Westhoff, Atlantic Monthly Press: September 2019;
ISBN 978-0-8021-2743-3

Working with Interpreters *Best Practices*

Interpreters orally or visually relay a message, between 2 or more people that do not have a common language without adding, deleting, or changing the content or intent of the message.

Interpreter

- Interpreter explains basic rules and process
- Interpretations will be made in 1st person
 - *If the interpreter speaks for him/herself it will be in 3rd person*
- Impartiality
- Confidentiality
- All communication will be interpreted
 - *Including negative comments, obscenities, objectionable declarations, any comments by anyone that are heard*

Participant/Conversational Etiquette

- One person speaks at a time
- Speak loudly and clearly
- Speak at a moderate pace
 - *Please be careful not to speak too fast so interpreter can keep up*
- Speak directly to one another, not to the interpreter
- Observe interpreter signals, to stop, slow down...
- Jokes/idioms/inside jokes are often not interpretable; avoid when possible
- Avoid side conversations
 - *They are distracting, disrespectful, and lead to missed information*

Considerations

- Avoid dual roles for interpreters
 - *The rapid mental processing, attention, and focus required of interpreters does not allow them to effectively conduct a secondary role.*
- Any event longer than an hour requires 2 interpreters
- Provide pertinent information and documents to interpreter in advance

Ventura County Behavioral Health
Board Letter Summary of Contracts for April 2021

Board Date	Contractor	Amount	Term	Description
4/13/2021	Dennis M. Giroux & Associates	\$519,166	July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	<p>Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 First Amendment to the Agreement with Dennis M. Giroux & Associates (DMG). DMG provides outpatient SUD treatment services to adults involved in the criminal justice system at various locations in Ventura County, including Oxnard, Ventura, and the Todd Road County Jail. DMG uses the following evidence-based practices: matrix, seeking safety, and moral reconnection therapy. From July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, DMG served 215 clients funded through AB109 funds and 324 clients funded through Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) funds. Since July 1, 2020, DMG has served 78 clients funded through AB109 funds and 390 clients funded through DMC funds. DMG expects to serve a total of 128 clients funded through AB109 funds and 550 clients funded through DMC funds. The amendment to the existing agreement with DMG reflects an increase of \$19,931 due to an upward trend in DMC clients resulting in an increase in outpatient services. This agreement is funded by DMC Federal Financial Participation (FFP), Realignment, and AB 109 funds.</p>
4/13/2021	Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc.	\$2,117,713	July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	<p>FY 2020-21 Second Amendment to the Agreement with Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc. (Tarzana). Tarzana provides multiple levels of residential substance use disorder (SUD) and residential withdrawal management treatment services for adults and youth. From July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, Tarzana served 200 inpatient withdrawal management clients with a completion rate of 77%, 112 clients in adult residential with a completion rate of 71%, and 13 clients in youth residential with a 31% completion rate. Since July 1, 2020, Tarzana served 139 inpatient withdrawal management clients with a completion rate of 73%, 60 clients in adult residential with a completion rate of 58%, and 6 clients in youth residential with a 0% completion rate. Tarzana expects to serve a total of 238 inpatient withdrawal management clients, 103 clients in adult residential, and 15 clients in youth residential by the end of this fiscal year. The amendment to the existing agreement with Tarzana reflects an increase of \$200,000 due an upward trend in clients as well as the expansion of SUD treatment services to Lancaster and Long Beach. In Lancaster, four (4) additional residential beds have been added; and in Long Beach, six (6) additional residential beds have been added for withdrawal management SUD treatment services. This agreement is funded with DMC FFP, Substance abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) discretionary, 2011 Realignment and AB 109 funds.</p>

4/13/2021	Tri-Counties Regional Center	\$0	July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022	<p>FY 2020-21 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tri-Counties Regional Center (TCRC). TCRC is a private, non-profit corporation that contracts with the California Department of Development Services to provide or arrange for a continuum of diagnostic and support services to persons with developmental disabilities. Most services and support are free, regardless of age or income, and the majority of persons serviced are Medi-Cal recipients. The MOU with TCRC establishes a non-binding, cooperative working relationship between TCRC, Ventura County Medical Center Inpatient Unit (VCMC-IPU) and Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) to improve the quality of mental health outcomes for individuals dually diagnosed with mental illness and developmental disability. The MOU also provides provisions for reimbursement for services when a TCRC client, who is admitted to the VCMC-IPU, no longer meets inpatient medical necessity criteria for psychiatric hospital services and there is difficulty discharging the patient back to their support system. If an appropriate placement cannot be found after a patient has been determined to no longer meet medical necessity for inpatient hospitalization, then the MOU sets forth that TCRC will: (1) compensate VCMC-IPU on a daily basis at the administrative sub-acute rate based on the county interim rate that is established by the State, (2) remit payment for medication costs at a rate of \$100 per day if there is no medical insurance that will pay for medication costs, and (3) assume financial responsibility for any needed one-to-one patient monitoring and transportation to the patient's next placement. The MOU with TCRC establishes a cooperative relationship between the Regional Center and HCA mental health agencies consisting of VCMC-IPU and VCBH, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.</p>
4/27/2021	All Languages Interpreting and Translating, Inc.	\$0	July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	<p>FY 2020-21 Fifth Amendment to the Agreement with All Languages Interpreting and Translating, Inc. (ALIT). ALIT provides interpreting and translating services for VCBH and VCBH clients. The Fifth Amendment to the Agreement with ALIT adds video remote interpreting services as well as minimum rates and cancellation fees for both video remote and telephone line interpreting services. The Fifth Amendment clarifies the scope of video remote and telephone line interpreting services by adding a specific video remote interpreting service description and corresponding rates as ALIT has been charging VCBH the telephone line interpreting rates for all video remote interpreting provided to date. Additionally, the Fifth Amendment adds a 30-minute minimum rate and a cancellation fee based on 30 minutes of the assigned language rate to the agreement as ALIT is experiencing a difficult time covering VCBH service assignments without such fees being included in the agreement. The addition of these rates will ensure that interpreting service providers can be obtained and retained for future service needs. These changes are effective March 1, 2021 onwards.</p>

4/27/2021	Health Care Foundation Ventura County	\$128,150	July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	<p>FY 2020-21 Third Amendment to the Agreement with the Health Care Foundation for Ventura County, Inc. (HCFVC). HCFVC is a non-profit public benefit corporation whose exclusive purpose is to provide financial and other forms of support for the benefit of the Ventura County Health Care Agency. HCFVC provides administration and disbursement services for the following VCBH Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funded activities: (1) internship stipends for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students pursuing a mental health degree and interning with VCBH; and (2) Full-Service Partnership (FSP) and Rapid Integrated Support and Engagement (RISE) program basic needs payment services for clients in immediate crisis, such as clothes, food, and housing. The rates and requirements associated with these activities are detailed in the Program Description and Payment Terms of the HCFVC agreement. The Third Amendment to the agreement with HCFVC reinstates intern stipends and provides additional funding for administration services increasing the contract maximum from \$49,500 to \$128,150 (an increase of \$78,650), effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The increase provides stipends for 19 interns and covers the administrative costs associated with the disbursement. The stipends encourage students to intern at VCBH and increase the likelihood that they will be available to hire when they complete their internship. The Basic Needs FSP/RISE program portion of the agreement remains in place at the same budget amount of \$49,500. The agreement is funded with MHSA funding.</p>
4/27/2021	Health Care Foundation Ventura County	\$242,000	July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	<p>FY 2021-22 Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with HCFVC for MHSA Funded Educational Stipends and Basic Needs Program Supports and Administrative Services. The Fourth Amendment for MHSA funded educational stipends and basic needs program funding supports and administration services with HCFVC will extend the term of the agreement from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and increase the contract maximum from \$128,150 to \$242,000 (stipends program \$192,500 and basic needs program \$49,500). The amount reflects an increase to the stipends program in the amount of \$113,850 from prior fiscal year and this will allow up to 42 interns to participate.</p>