

# **2020-2021 Winter Homeless Shelters**

## **COVID-19 TESTING INFORMATION**

Anyone experiencing symptoms of Coronavirus, including fever, cough and/or shortness of breath, will not be admitted into shelter without consulting with public health for an evaluation and COVID-19 testing.

Please contact the Backpack Medicine team at 805-652-6694.

**Please Note: Disorderly persons will not be admitted to the shelters. Please note that due to the clientele we serve, guests must also pass a National Sex Offender’s Public Records search. Shelters are operated primarily by volunteers and donations. Please recognize both their generosity and some limitations.**

## **TB TESTING INFORMATION**

➤ **All guests over the age of one year old must show evidence upon entry of a negative TB test taken within the past 90 days.** To protect the health of all guests, no exceptions will be made. TB tests can be obtained free of charge at the following locations:

- **One Stop** – Tuesdays 10am – 12:30pm @ 3147 Loma Vista Dr., Ventura (Public Health Building).
- **AFMC Urgent Care**, 300 Hillmont Ave., Ventura. (805) 652-6500 Hours: M-F 9am-6pm; Sat. 9am-4pm  
\*Must be registered with one stop\*
- **Fillmore Family Medical Group**, 828 Ventura St., Fillmore. (805) 524-2000  
Hours: M-F 8am-5pm.; Sat – Sun Closed
- **Las Islas Urgent Care**, 325 W. Channel Islands Blvd., Oxnard (805) 204-9500  
Hours: M-F 9am-6:00pm; Sat-Sun 9am-3:30pm
- **Magnolia Urgent Care**, 2240 E. Gonzales Rd. Suite 120, Oxnard. (805) 981-5181  
Hours: M-W 9am-7pm; Sat-Sun 8am-5pm
- **Sierra Vista Clinic**, 1227 E. Los Angeles Ave, Simi Valley (805) 582-4000  
Hours: M-F 8am-5:00pm
- **West Ventura Urgent Care**, 133 W. Santa Clara St, Ventura. (805) 641-5620  
Hours: M-F 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-5pm;
- **Homeless Clinic**, 3147 Loma Vista Rd., Ventura; M-F 8am-5pm (805) 652-6694

**Ojai Valley Family Shelter:** For information call (805) 804-7094

**Location:** Ojai Valley Grange Hall, 381 Cruzero St., Mira Monte

**Open:** December 1 – March 31

**Serves:** Ojai residents **only** (requires proof of residency for 6 months or more in the Ojai Valley and proof became homeless in Ojai Valley in last 6 months)

**Services:** Hot meal, place to sleep, and shower

**Check In:** 6 p.m – 7AM

**Capacity:** TBD

**Simi Valley P.A.D.S.** (805) 579-9166 (For information call Monday –Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm)

**Rotating Meal Sites** – Year Round, Call Samaritan Center (805) 579-9166 for locations & times

**Location:** Samaritan Center, 280 Royal Ave, Simi Valley

**Open:** December 1 – March 31

**Serves:** Adult singles and couples only; Simi Valley residents **only!** Must be a client of Samaritan Center/do intake at entry

**Check In:** 7:30 p.m. (No early arrivals)

**Capacity:** approx. 20

**Services:** Place to sleep. **(Note: Drug & Alcohol Screening prior to shelter entry)**

**Conejo Valley Winter Shelter:** For information call (805) 464-3533 ext. 104

**Operated by Harbor House**

**Not Currently Operating during COVID 19 Pandemic**

In the process of organizing motel vouchers for winter months (Dec – March) with the County and the City of Thousand Oaks. Not Yet Confirmed. Call the number listed for more information.

# Year Round Shelters

## Ventura

**Our Place Safe Haven:** 536 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura, (805) 652-2151

**Open:** Year Round

**Serves:** Homeless mentally ill/single men and women, residents only

**Services:** Place to sleep, shower, meals, laundry facilities, mail and phone. Case management required.

**Capacity:** 10

**Operated by:** Turning Point Foundation

**Must do intake interview:** Call 211 for referral, One Stop and complete application or contact 805-652-2151 Ext 307

**ARCH Ventura:** For more information call “211”

**Open:** Year Round Beginning late Jan., 2020

**Serves:** Singles

**Check In:** via Coordinated Entry System

**Capacity:** 32 persons

**Services:** Meals for shelter guests, place to sleep, showers; connection to social services/housing options

**Santa Paula Winter Shelter:** For information call Kay Wilson-Bolton (805) 340-5025

**Operated by the SPIRIT of Santa Paula**

**Location:** 1498 E. Harvard Blvd, Santa Paula (intersection of E. Main St., east side of town)

**Open:** Year Round

**Serves:** Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru residents ONLY!

**Check In:** Call ahead for an assessment or walk in

**Capacity:** 42

**Services:** Place to sleep and hot meal

## Oxnard

**Oxnard Navigation Center:** For more information call “211”

*“All entry into this program is made by referral only, call case manager or 211”*

**Open:** Year Round

**Serves:** Singles

**Check In:** via Coordinated Entry System

**Capacity:** 110 persons

**Services:** Meals for shelter guests, place to sleep, showers; connection to social services/housing options

**Ventura County Rescue Mission:** 234 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Oxnard (805) 487-1234

**Open:** Year Round

**Serves:** Single men

**Services:** Place to sleep, hot meal, and shower

**Check In:** 5:00 PM.

**Capacity:** 10-15

**Operated by:** Ventura County Rescue Mission

**Policy:** After sheltering for 10 nights, must vacate for 5 nights before returning

**Lighthouse for Women & Children – Emergency Shelter:** 104 N. Hayes (805) 385-7200

**Open:** Year Round

**Services:** Place to sleep, hot meal, showers, and laundry. Case management required.

**Check In:** Call first to confirm space

**Capacity:** 21

**Operated by:** Ventura County Rescue Mission

**Kingdom Center (Gabriel’s House) Women’s Shelter:** 1450 S. Rose Avenue (805) 487-3445

**Open:** Year Round

**Serves:** Single women and women with children (*currently only accepting women who are transferring from another shelter or have tested negative for COVID within a week.*)

**Check In:** Call first to confirm space

**Capacity:** 20

**Operated by:** The Kingdom Center / Harbor Church

**This information was compiled and distributed by the Ventura County Human Services Agency, Homeless Services Program (805) 385-1800. Please advise if inaccurate information is discovered.**

11/25/2020

November 17, 2020

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

**Mike Pettit**  
Assistant County Executive Officer

**Kaye Mand**  
County Chief Financial Officer

**Shawn Atin**  
Assistant County Executive Officer/  
Human Resources Director  
Labor Relations

**Subject:**

**Receive and File Status Report on the Recommendations of the Mental Health & Safety Task Force.**

**Recommendation:**

That your Board receive and file the status report on the County of Ventura's Mental Health & Safety Task Force.

**Fiscal/Mandates Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation.

**Discussion:**

On January 21, 2020 your Board received the Mental Health & Safety Task Force report and approved its recommended actions that were spurred by the horrific tragedy that occurred at the Borderline Bar and Grill on November 7, 2018.

The horrible tragedy brought attention to safety concerns of residents and law enforcement, the accessibility of firearms, identification and coordination of services for persons suffering from mental illness, and the provision and availability of mental health services throughout the entire county.

It is important to note that the report did not assert a causation of mental illness in the borderline event. For the County of Ventura, the incident inspired the creation of the Mental Health & Safety Task Force.

The report presented to your Board contained 26 specific recommendations. The participants on the task force represented County agencies and community organizations whose focus for the report was on four central objectives:

1. Identify potential opportunities for improvements to law enforcement safety, access to firearms, access to mental health services and treatment programs, and coordination of mental health and safety services;
2. Identify legislative opportunities to further reduce access to firearms by persons suffering from mental illness or who are prohibited from owning a firearm, and to enhance mental health services and community safety;
3. Build upon the existing strengths of services throughout the County including, but not limited, to crisis-intervention trained law enforcement, the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT), the Screening, Triage, Assessment & Referral (STAR) team, the Rapid Integrated Support & Engagement (RISE) team, the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), the Inpatient Psychiatric Unit (IPU), youth programs, and educational programs;
4. Identify financial resources, grant opportunities and collaborative relationships that can help support public safety, and the provision of mental health services throughout the County.

Since the issuance of the task force report, leaders within several County agencies, primarily the Sheriff’s Department, Behavioral Health Department, County Executive Office and Health Care Agency have been overseeing the efforts to address and fulfill the recommendations as provided in the report.

Based on your Board’s action, a steering committee comprised of the County Executive Office, Health Care Agency and Sheriff’s Department was formed to guide and monitor the implementation of the recommendations. Even with the impacts of COVID-19, work towards implementing the task force’s recommendations continued as a priority.

Of the 26 recommendations identified in the task force report, 15 have been implemented, 9 are actively being worked on and two recommendations are in the planning stages for future actions. The following chart provides a summary of the status for the recommendations by focus area:

Recommendation Areas	Total Number of Recommendations	Number of Completed Recommendations
1. Early Identification of and Intervention with Persons Suffering from Mental Illness	5 – Recommendations	4 out of 5 Completed (1 in-progress)

2. Crisis Response and Coordination	4 – Recommendations	3 out of 4 Completed (1 in-progress)
3. Initial Treatment and Services	3 – Recommendations	0 out of 3 Completed (2 in-progress, 1 in planning)
4. Long-Term Treatment and Case Management	7 – Recommendations	3 out of 7 Completed (3 in-progress, 1 in planning)
5. Ongoing Engagement with Community-Based Organizations and the Public	7 – Recommendations	5 out of 7 Completed (2 in-progress)

The presentation to your Board today is a synopsis of the status for each of the recommendations contained in the report and is not intended to be a comprehensive report on all of the programs, partnerships and activities conducted by the County that may support or align with the recommendation areas contained in the report.

This important work will continue. We will work to complete the remaining recommendations, monitor their effectiveness and continuously strive to improve the coordination and effectiveness of these critical mental health and safety programs. We thank you for your Board’s unwavering support of these efforts and the resources needed to implement them.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller’s Office. If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Barry Zimmerman, at 805-677-5105.



Barry L. Zimmerman  
 Chief Deputy Director Health Care Agency



Michael Powers  
 County Executive Officer

# Mental Health & Safety Task Force Report Update

Board of Supervisors  
Presentation  
November 17, 2020

# Task Force Report Summary

## Areas of Focus:

1. Early Identification and Intervention – 5 Recommendations
2. Crisis Response and Coordination – 4 Recommendations
3. Initial Treatment and Services – 3 Recommendations
4. Long-term Treatment and Case Management -7 Recommendations
5. On-going Engagement – 7 Recommendations

## Summary

- Presented to Board of Supervisors – January 21, 2020
- 5 Focus Areas - 26 recommendations
- 15 have been completed/on-going
- 9 in-progress
- 2 in the planning stage

## Early Identification of and Intervention with Persons Suffering from Mental Illness

### Recommendation

1. Expand offerings of the “Threat Assessment training offered by the Sheriff’s Office to all Ventura County schools in a variety of different formats. Train additional law enforcement personnel to provide the training. Supplement the training with online resources and a toolkit for schools. Offer the training to the greater community including businesses and community-based organizations

### Status

Completed

### Key Activities

- Ventura PD: Training Officers. School resource officer (SRO) lead in training at schools. Bi-annual training for the community.
- Oxnard PD: SRO provide training to all schools, including “early warning signs”. Active shooter training for the community.
- Simi PD: Provides in school training as well as community training
- FBI’s online Active Shooter Resource Library is utilized and used as a resource.

## Early Identification of and Intervention with Persons Suffering from Mental Illness

### Recommendation

2. Update and expand the mobile phone app incident reporting system (iCop) used by law enforcement for tracking encounters. Explore methods to encourage all law enforcement agencies within Ventura County to submit crisis contact card electronically. Create a way to flag persons who receive multiple crisis contact cards, and to share this information with the Behavioral Health Department, in order to provide additional real-time outreach and referrals to supportive mental health services.

### Status

In Progress

### Key Activities

- Finalizing data sharing agreement with Behavioral Health
- Assessing upgrade to iCOP and electronic crisis contact card information
- Crisis Intervention Team is able to identify multiple crisis contact events and notify Behavioral Health

## Early Identification of and Intervention with Persons Suffering from Mental Illness

### Recommendation

3. Promote communication with all Ventura County schools regarding the availability of mental health services, the recognition of early warning signs and available reporting options. List all available services and resources on all school websites. Provide information for and/or have Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) employees attend Back-to-School nights.

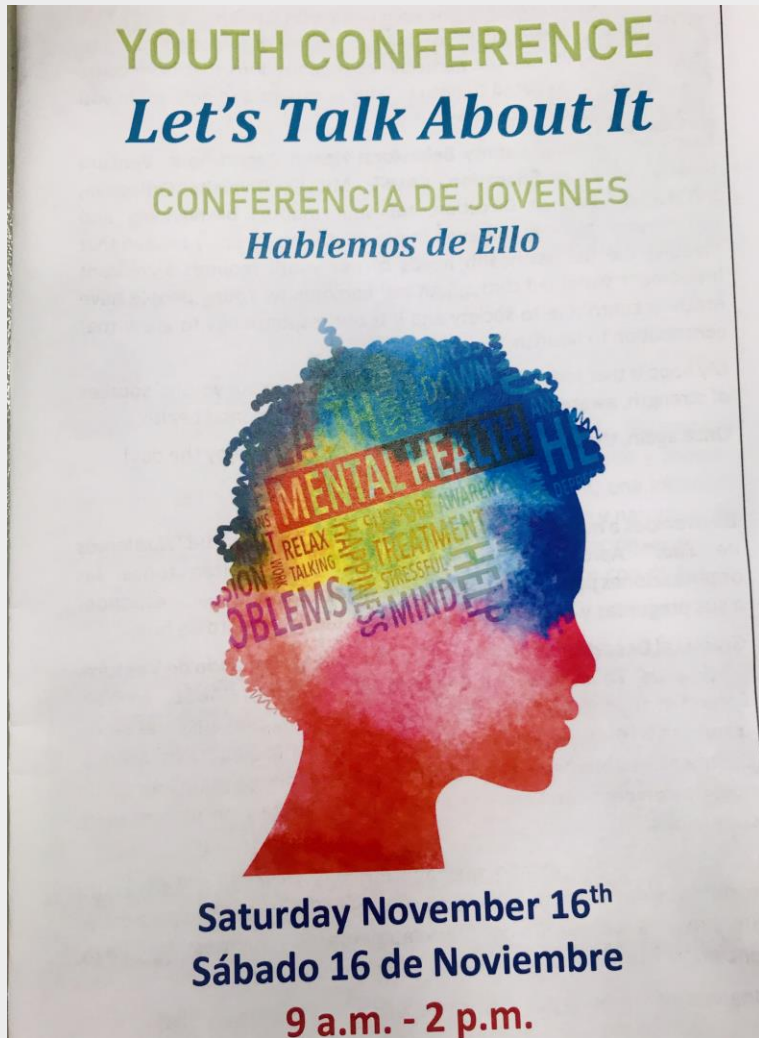
### Status

Completed

### Key Activities

- Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) website has been updated with behavioral health information and process as it pertains to crisis care in Ventura County for youth

## Youth Wellness Outreach



- Youth are encouraged to refer themselves or others for services using the two Access Lines ran by Behavioral Health.
- Outreach materials with website and access line info is provided at all outreach events in the community, at school sites, and with community service providers.
- This will be even more available given the collaboration with VCOE to create and run Wellness Centers (virtually initially) for High School Students through \$6 million in mental health service grant funds.
- Programs such as The Youth Mental Health Conference hosted with Assembly member Jacqui Irwin last fall and VCOE, showcase ways that students are targeted and outreached to in engaging and informative platforms.



## Early Identification of and Intervention with Persons Suffering from Mental Illness

### Recommendation

4. Update all Health Care Agency websites to provide links to information about the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), Inpatient Unit (IPU) and the 5150/5585 mental health hold process and criteria.

### Status

Completed

### Key Activities

- HCA/VCMC/PH Websites updated (7/6/20)
- Legal process for 5150/5585 to be incorporated online (11/1/20)
- Additional enhances to BHD webpage regarding crisis intervention with the Crisis Team.

# Access from Multiple Sources

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.vchca.org/>. The browser tabs include "PeopleSoft session expired", "Benefits Plan Year 2021 - Vent...", and "Health Care Agency". The website header features a large banner image of a coastal landscape with the text "VENTURA COUNTY HEALTH CARE AGENCY". A search bar on the right of the banner is highlighted with a red box and contains the text "search our site". Below the banner is a blue navigation bar with the following menu items: HOME, ABOUT HCA, HOSPITALS, DEPARTMENTS, PUBLIC INFORMATION, EVENTS, CONTACT US, and PATIENT PORTAL.

The main content area is divided into three columns:

- HEALTH CARE AGENCY:** Features a "Coronavirus Information" section with a red and white virus particle image and a "get your Flu Shot" section with a blue background and a syringe graphic.
- SERVICES:** Includes a "HAVING A BABY? TOUR OUR HOSPITAL" section with a blue background and a "SEE SCHEDULE" link. Below this is a red circle highlighting a text block: "For 24/7 Access to Mental Health services and/or if you are experiencing a Mental Health Crisis please call Ventura County Behavioral Health Access & Crisis Team at 1-866-998-2243." Below that is another text block: "For 24/7 Access to Substance Use services, please call Ventura County Behavioral Health Substance Use Treatment Services".
- DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:** Features a photo of a man in a suit and a text block: "The Health Care Agency oversees a wide variety of divisions, doing extraordinary things, and I am humbled to be at the helm, where employees continually strive for excellence and innovation....". Below this is a "Read More..." link and a "VENTURA COUNTY HEALTH CARE AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT" section with a blue background and the agency logo.

## Early Identification of and Intervention with Persons Suffering from Mental Illness

### Recommendation

5. Engage in public education related to the following topics:
  - a) “See something, say something” and early recognition of warning signs;
  - b) Availability of mental health services;
  - c) 5150/5585 mental health holds including requirements, restrictions and use;
  - d) CSU/IPU functions, operations and general information;
  - e) Use and restrictions of Gun Violence Restraining Orders; and
  - f) Availability of the Veteran’s Crisis Line.

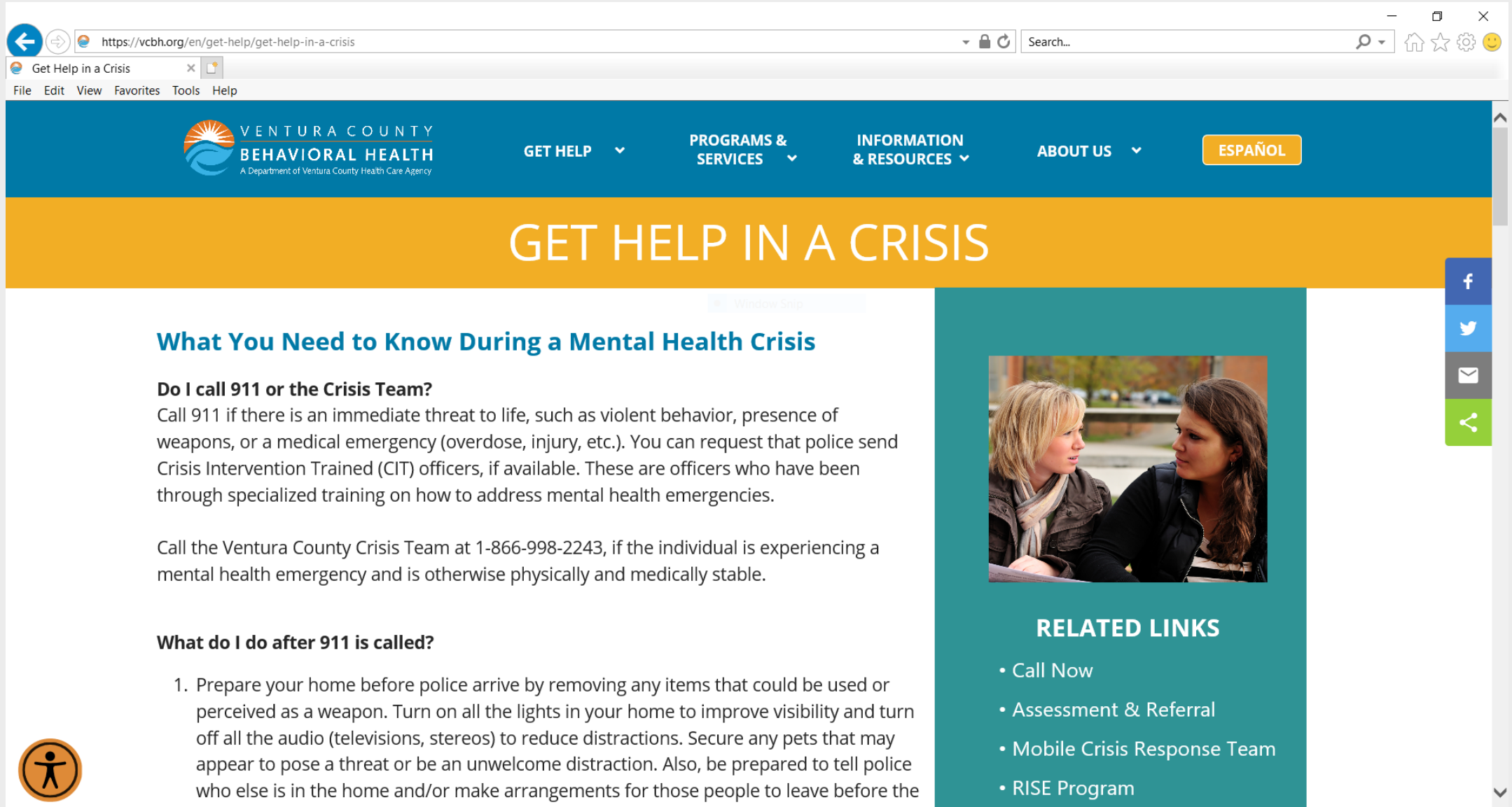
### Status

Completed & Ongoing public engagement

### Key Activities

- Multiple presentations have been developed and given.
- Access to presentation provided via VCOE and other websites
- Presentation provided to various groups and organizations

# Public Information: Crisis Help



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://vcbh.org/en/get-help/get-help-in-a-crisis>. The page header features the Ventura County Behavioral Health logo and navigation menus for "GET HELP", "PROGRAMS & SERVICES", "INFORMATION & RESOURCES", and "ABOUT US", along with an "ESPAÑOL" button. A large orange banner reads "GET HELP IN A CRISIS". The main content area is titled "What You Need to Know During a Mental Health Crisis" and includes sections on when to call 911 and what to do after. A teal sidebar on the right contains social media icons and a "RELATED LINKS" section with four items: "Call Now", "Assessment & Referral", "Mobile Crisis Response Team", and "RISE Program". A small icon of a person is in the bottom left corner.

**VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency

GET HELP ▾ PROGRAMS & SERVICES ▾ INFORMATION & RESOURCES ▾ ABOUT US ▾ ESPAÑOL

## GET HELP IN A CRISIS

### What You Need to Know During a Mental Health Crisis

**Do I call 911 or the Crisis Team?**

Call 911 if there is an immediate threat to life, such as violent behavior, presence of weapons, or a medical emergency (overdose, injury, etc.). You can request that police send Crisis Intervention Trained (CIT) officers, if available. These are officers who have been through specialized training on how to address mental health emergencies.

Call the Ventura County Crisis Team at 1-866-998-2243, if the individual is experiencing a mental health emergency and is otherwise physically and medically stable.

**What do I do after 911 is called?**

1. Prepare your home before police arrive by removing any items that could be used or perceived as a weapon. Turn on all the lights in your home to improve visibility and turn off all the audio (televisions, stereos) to reduce distractions. Secure any pets that may appear to pose a threat or be an unwelcome distraction. Also, be prepared to tell police who else is in the home and/or make arrangements for those people to leave before the

**RELATED LINKS**

- Call Now
- Assessment & Referral
- Mobile Crisis Response Team
- RISE Program

## Crisis Response and Coordination

### Recommendation

1. In order to ensure consistent application of mental health holds, promote discussion between County agencies (VCBH; County Counsel; Probation; Sheriff's Office; VCMC) to solidify a shared understanding of the applicable definition of and defining criteria for 5150/5585 mental health holds (including danger to self, danger to others and grave disability). Share the resulting understanding, as permissible, with external organizations (HASC, NAMIVC, VCOE, etc.) and all area hospitals.

### Status

In-progress

### Key Activities

- Initial meetings have been concluded (progress has slowed due to COVID response and diversion of resources)

## Crisis Response and Coordination

### Recommendation

2. Develop a guide that can be used when drafting a 5150/5585 mental health hold. Incorporate input from internal County agencies (Behavioral Health; County Counsel; Probation; Sheriff's Office; VCMC) as well as external organizations (HASC, NAMIVC, VCOE, and others).

### Status

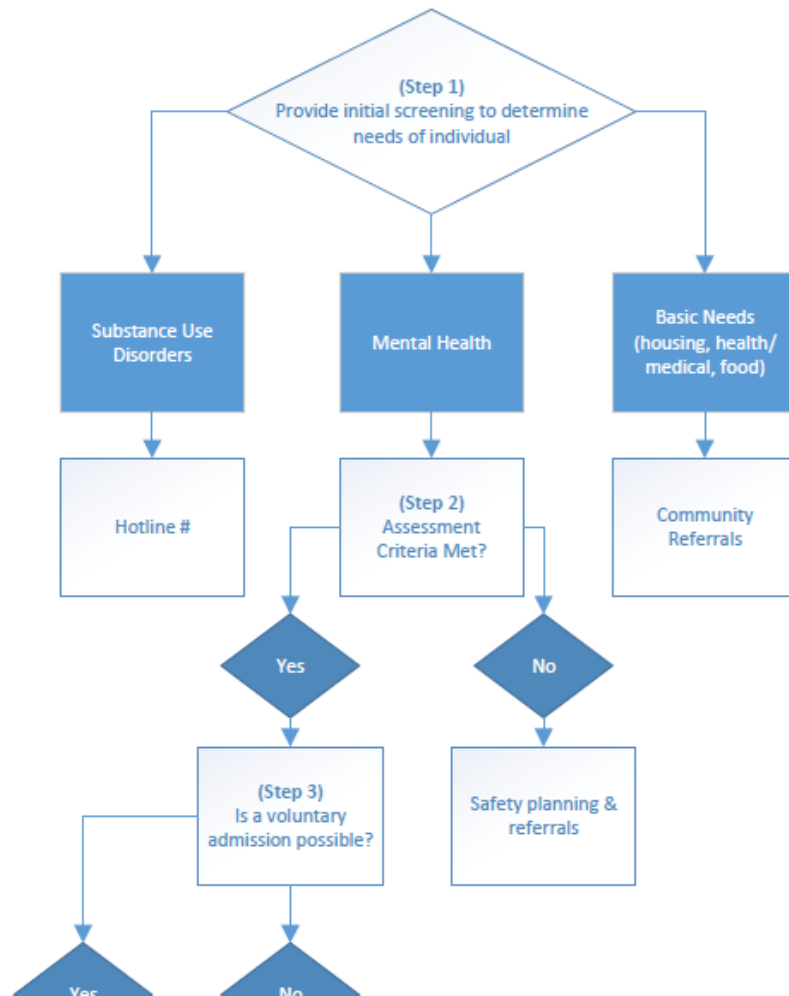
Completed

### Key Activities

- Completed 5150/5585 guide, posted on Behavioral Health webpage.
- Input into the 5150/5585 guide with the engagement of law enforcement stakeholders.

# Guide - 5150/5585 Practices

## How to Help When There Has Been a Call with a Concern About an Individual



- **Step 2: Assessment:** varies case by case, many factors are considered, including but not limited to: gathering collateral and historical relevant info if available, including available supports.

At the conclusion of the assessment, the goal is to determine if as a **result of a mental health disorder**, criteria is present:

**Danger to self:** There is probable cause to believe that, as a result of a mental health disorder, the individual presents as a danger to themselves. Factors considered may include: observable behavior, what the individual is saying/doing, relevant history, available collateral information, evidence of a deliberate attempt to hurt themselves, a disregard for personal safety, and/or prior suicide attempts.

**Danger to others:** There is probable cause to believe that, as a result of a mental health disorder, the individual presents as a danger to others. The factors considered include all of those listed above (in "1. Danger to Themselves") plus additional factors such as access to weapons; any prior history of severe aggression or violence; and/or disregard for the safety of others.

**\*\* UPDATE W/ MINORS \*\*** Grave disability: W&I 5151 states that a person is "gravely disabled" when, as a result of a mental health disorder, he/she is unable to provide for their own food, clothing or shelter or is currently unable to take advantage of food, clothing or shelter even though it may be provided to them by another person.

- **Step 3: Voluntary:** The individual must recognize the need for treatment, willing to comply with treatment recommendations and can consent to treatment. Status of

## Crisis Response and Coordination

### Recommendation

3. Develop a formal education program that requires follow-up Crisis Intervention training every 2-3 years to promote consistent interpretation of 5150/5585 mental health hold criteria. Provide refresher materials on 5150/5585 mental health hold criteria, common risk factors, definition of “danger to self” and “danger to others,” and “grave disability”, and the overall 5150/5585 mental health hold writing process.

### Status

Completed

### Key Activities

- The California Commission of Peace Officers Standards and Training has approved an 8-hour Crisis Intervention Training update course and classes which are currently being scheduled.

## Crisis Response and Coordination

### Recommendation

4. Formalize law enforcement procedures for use of disengagement/reengagement practices in specified situations. Outline specific situational criteria for when disengagement is appropriate, along with procedures for reengagement and utilization of alternate contact methods.

### Status

Completed

### Key Activities

- The Ventura County Sheriff's Office has developed and implemented disengagement training and protocol that addresses situations where continued police contact may result in unnecessary risk to the subject, public, or law enforcement person

## Initial Treatment and Services

### Recommendation

1. Engage in discussion with other medical facilities throughout the county to promote the creation of and/or funding of additional adult CSU and IPU beds.

### Status

In-progress

### Key Activities

- HCA Leadership and County CEO held meetings with all the local hospital systems to explore options to expand CSU/IPU capacity.
- HCA FY 2020-21 budget approved to expand the CSU chairs by 8 and IPU beds by 6 (Anticipated January 2021 start).
- Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) in Santa Paula has received clearance, anticipated opening Summer 2021.
- St. John's planning to open an 8-chair CSU, Spring 2021
- Planning potential project to develop 100 - 120 Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) and 20 beds Psychiatric Hospital Facility (project 4-5 years)
- Advocacy for increasing Medi-cal inpatient treatment rate

## Initial Treatment and Services

### Recommendation

2. Educate hospital emergency department staff about situations when law enforcement should be asked to stay with a patient. Request that emergency departments hire security staff to oversee patients so that law enforcement staff are not asked to remain for situations where the patient is calm or does not demonstrate a risk to themselves or others.

### Status

Planned

### Key Activities

- Meetings are to be planned to develop a protocol in cooperation with each of the hospital systems.

## Initial Treatment and Services

### Recommendation

3. Facilitate patient transfers and allow for faster patient admission to mental health facilities by pursuing a process where the Behavioral Health Mobile Crisis Response Team, CSU and IPU staff might have lawful access and ability to enter and review tuberculosis test results (and other immunizations) in both the VCMC electronic medical record and California Immunization Registries (CAIR) databases.

### Status

In-Progress

### Key Activities

- On-going discussion with Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) provider regarding integration of services within the crisis response continuum.
- Clarification provided on TB requirements. There is no requirement for a negative TB test for admission to the CSU or IPU.

## Long-Term Treatment and Case Management

### Recommendation

1. Work with the VCBH point of authorization personnel to ensure maximum reimbursement is received for CSU and IPU services in order to sustain and build those services

### Status

Completed

### Key Activities

- Utilization Review team implemented a template for the Doctors to use which allows for a simplified charting standard required for maximum billable services as appropriate

## Long-Term Treatment and Case Management

### Recommendation

2. Identify funding and donation sources to help the IPU provide medication co-pays (when needed) for prescriptions required by residential programs and haircuts, clothing and personal items to patients to improve patient hygiene and appearance during the residential program selection process. Encourage greater consistency in acceptance of patient placement by contracted board-and-care facilities.

### Status

In-Progress

### Key Activities

- Exploring options and resource potentials with Ventura County Health Care Foundation.
- Continued assessment of discharge planning and placement coordination.

## Long-Term Treatment and Case Management

### Recommendation

3. Educate service providers who regularly interact with veterans as to the availability of services for veterans. Facilitate direct contact between the veteran and the Veteran Services Office in order to connect the veteran with additional support and services.

### Status

In-Progress

### Key Activities

- Veterans' Affairs Services staff will present at Screening, Triage, Assessment & Referral (STAR), Rapid Integrated Support & Engagement (RISE) & Crisis Team staff meetings on 12/17/20 to discuss availability of services, linkage, etc. to connect veterans as needed.

## Long-Term Treatment and Case Management

### Recommendation

4. Identify opportunities to provide veterans and others transportation to services.

### Status

In-Progress

### Key Activities

- Item for discussion at 12/17/20 meeting with staff and Veterans Service Office – Human Services Agency.
- Staff frequently transport clients in County vehicles that have barriers to transportation and need help with reminders to ensure they get to their appointments.
- Staff assist with Gold Coast ACCESS paratransit service to help those that are eligible utilize that resource as well as non-emergency Medi-Cal transport.
- Behavioral Health also contracts with Ventura Transit System to provide transportation services for clients as needed.

## Long-Term Treatment and Case Management

### Recommendation

5. Review, standardize and streamline the process for creating and filing Tarasoff notifications and Prohibited Persons with Firearms notifications. (A Tarasoff notification occurs when law enforcement is notified by a psychotherapist that a patient has made a credible threat of harm to another person.)

### Status

Completed – to be implemented 1/1/2021

### Key Activities

- VCSO purchased county-wide case management system that tracks individuals with registered firearms and those who are prohibited from possessing a firearm.
- Violations include Tarasoff notification, 5150 holds, other offenses disqualifying possession of firearms
- System will be operational by January 2021

## Long-Term Treatment and Case Management

### Recommendation

6. Identify additional methods to communicate and connect with patients, providing appointment reminders, court reminders, and other communications in order to reduce the number of missed appointments and support improved treatment outcomes.

### Status

Planned

### Key Activities

- Assessing various options and system are scheduled to be performed

## Long-Term Treatment and Case Management

### Recommendation

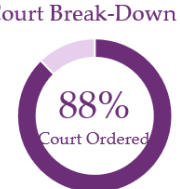
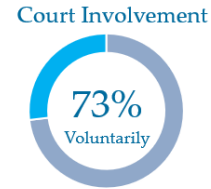
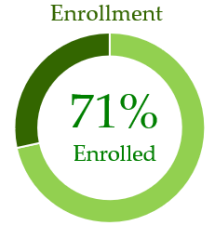
7. Help expand further use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program, outlined in Laura's Law by engaging in discussion with County Counsel, various County agencies, and relevant community-based organizations to explore appropriate utilization. AOT provides for court intervention to seek to compel compliance with outpatient mental health treatment. Educate all County agencies and relevant service providers about utilization of the AOT program. Expand upon current community outreach efforts in order to build relationships and gain patient compliance with Laura's Law.

### Status

Completed

### Key Activities

- Behavioral Health administration has held a number of stakeholder presentations educating on the AOT process as part of overall substance abuse and mental health services funding.



## Community Partners

- Ventura College
- California State University Channel Islands
- County of Ventura
- Oxnard Fire Rescue
- Ventura Police
- Santa Paula Police
- Dignity Health - St. John's Regional Medical Center
- Ventura County Medical Center
- Ventura County Health Care Agency - ONE STOP
- Behavioral Health Advisory Board
- Continuum of Care Alliance - Ending Homelessness in Ventura County
- Oxnard Police
- Simi Valley Police
- Port Hueneume Police
- CIT Crisis Intervention Team

Hueneme Elementary School District

Oxnard School District

Oxnard Union High School District

California State University Channel Islands

California Lutheran University

St. Johns Reginal Medical Center

Clinicas Del Camino Real

Department of Trauma Services VCMC

Hillmont Psychiatric Center

Crisis Residential Program

Aegis

Oxnard Police Department

Ventura Police Department

Ventura County Sheriffs Department

Port Hueneume Police Department

Simi Valley Police Department

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

Samaritan Center Simi Valley

Catholic Charities Ventura

Help of Ojai

Project Understanding

Oxnard Boys & Girls Club

Adolescent Family Life Program

Ventura County Community Foundation

United Parents Inc.

Community Action of Ventura County

Lutheran Social Services

NAMI Ventura County

- Assist staff participated in 164 community meetings, events, presentations to increase Assist/AOT awareness.
- A total of 2,888 community members are now aware of the Assist/AOT program.

**164 Community Meetings/Events/Presentations**

**2,888 Community Members/Individuals**

**Mental Health Professionals**

**State hospitals and psychiatric units in general hospitals**

**Legal System and Judiciary**

**Law Enforcement and Corrections**

**Patients, family members, community members**

**Target Groups**

# RISE and ASSIST Teams partner to help

- The Rapid Integrated Support & Engagement (RISE) team partners with a multitude of agencies
- The ASSIST team provides assisted outpatient mental health treatment
- One of the benefits of the RISE and Assist teams working closely together is the intensive field based services both teams provide. RISE is able to help the Assist team in locating individuals who may have been referred to Assist, but have not been successful in connecting with Assist. With RISE having connections with law enforcement, and other agencies, it has allowed for the Assist team to foster these same relationships to help in locating potential clients in the community.



## Ongoing Engagement with Community-Based Organizations and the Public

### Recommendation

1. In coordination with the Sheriff's Office, coordinate a public education campaign focused on helping residents keep privately owned firearms secure and increasing awareness of firearms legislation:
  - a. Promote awareness of the Sheriff's firearm disposal service, where unwanted firearms and ammunition can be safely collected and destroyed.
  - b. Promote awareness of free firearm locks, available at multiple Sheriff's Office stations throughout the county.
  - c. Promote awareness of safe firearm handling and storage, focused on preventing unauthorized access or theft.

### Status

Completed/On-going

### Key Activities

- Gun locks are available at all six patrol locations for any resident. Free firearm locks, firearm disposal and safety tips to be communicated on each press release related to firearms.
- Educational material has been produced SAFE to education homeowners on four basic principles for firearms safety
- The Sheriff's Office has on-going programs that promote firearm safety.
- Planning one-hour in-person basic firearms safety classes focused on households with children. Producing short video for social media platforms.

# Materials on Firearm Safety

## VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



### MEDIA RELEASE

BILL AYUB, SHERIFF  
[www.venturasheriff.org](http://www.venturasheriff.org)



**Nature of Incident:** Gun Safety and Free Gun Locks

**Report Number:**

**Location:** Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Thousand Oaks Police Department, Moorpark Police Department, Camarillo Police Department, Fillmore Police Department and the Ojai Police Department

**Date & Time:** 10/15/2020

**Unit(s) Responsible:** Ventura County Sheriff's Office

**(S)uspects, (V)ictims, (P)arty, (D)ecedent**      **City of Residence**      **Age**

#### **Narrative:**

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office and all the cities who contract police services with the Sheriff's Office would like to remind community members of the importance of Gun Safety with a simple and useful Gun Safety Tip reminder sheet. Please use the attached information to help keep your home and family as well as your community a safe place.

In addition, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and all of the cities who contract police services with the Sheriff's Office are offering free gun safety locks. Members of the community can come to any listed police department as well as the Sheriff's Office Headquarters station located at the government center to receive free gun safety locks. Remember, Gun Safety is your responsibility!

**Prepared by:** Senior Deputy Mike Baker

**News Release Date:** 10/15/2020

**Media Follow-Up Contact:** Senior Deputy Mike Baker, Camarillo Police Community Resource Unit - 805 388 5131 or [mike.baker@ventura.org](mailto:mike.baker@ventura.org)

## Get a gun, Get a LOCK!



Purchasing a gun means accepting the responsibility that comes along with it, and the smartest way to prevent gun-related accidents is to ensure that firearms are always properly stored in the home.

Store guns where they won't be accessible to unauthorized persons: hiding a gun in a drawer, closet, or underneath a pillow DOES NOT make your house a safer place. Safe storage means **using a gun lock or a gun safe.**



Your local Sheriff and Police stations have FREE locks available. Just go to your local station and request one. Be a part of keeping your family and community safe by keeping firearms properly secured!

Call your local Police Department or the Ventura County Sheriff's Office for more information



VENTURA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## Basic Firearms Safety

- S** – Secure your firearm when not in use
- A** – Access prevention
- F** – Focus on your responsibility as a gun owner
- E** – Educate yourself about gun safety

Gun owners must commit to learning how to safely use their firearms, especially if they plan on using them for home security. The objective is to keep firearms somewhere where they are readily available to the owner, yet inaccessible to others. Keeping a gun to defend your family is meaningless if that same gun puts your family at risk.

- Store guns unloaded.
- Good storage places include in locked cabinets, gun vaults, safes, and storage cases.
- Stored guns **must be inaccessible** to children.
- Lock ammunition in a separate location from your guns.
- When removing firearms from storage, double-check to make sure they are not loaded.
- Gun-locking devices render firearms inoperable and serve as an additional precaution against accidents.
- Cable-style locks aren't a substitute for safe storage. They are simply a way to discourage unauthorized access to guns by young children.
- Consider special lockable cases that can be quickly opened by authorized individuals.

If you have children in your household, TEACH them about gun safety:

**NEVER** go snooping for a gun  
**NEVER** touch a gun or let others touch it  
**ALWAYS** tell an adult or ask permission

As a gun owner, you have a responsibility to learn gun safety, and be trained on how to use one. Look for firearms safety classes in your area, take a class and **PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE!**

For more information you can call your local Police / Sheriff's station

Ongoing Engagement with  
Community-Based  
Organizations and the Public

Recommendation

2. Work with all hospitals in the county to improve the process for reporting 5150/5585 mental health hold information to VCBH so that information is reported in a timely and consistent manner.

Status

In-Progress

Key Activities

- 5150 training will continue to emphasize the reporting requirements.
- Continue working with Law Enforcement on improving the CIT reporting process.

Ongoing Engagement with  
Community-Based  
Organizations and the Public

Recommendation

3. Establish a way within the current Sheriff's Office dispatch system to track or categorize calls involving a potential 5150/5585 mental health hold or mental health episode. Encourage all partner law enforcement agencies within the county to begin tracking calls in a similar manner.

Status

Completed

Key Activities

- The Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies track all calls for service, including mental health crisis call. Dispatch system are able to track and retrieve relevant information and communicate in real-time to the responding personnel.
- Conducted a mental health and homeless study, 42,000 contacts represented over 3,400 with mental health component.

Ongoing Engagement with  
Community-Based  
Organizations and the Public

Recommendation

4. Encourage referrals from the Family Justice Center and law enforcement to VCBH and other mental health service providers in order to connect clients of the Family Justice Center with supportive services.

Status

Completed

Key Activities

- A protocol for referrals to Behavioral Health has been developed and implemented.
- Clients are appropriately identified for referrals to BHD.

Ongoing Engagement with  
Community-Based  
Organizations and the Public

Recommendation

5. Engage the California Community Care Licensing Division to streamline and improve the process of complying with medication paperwork requirements for out-of-county juveniles residing in group homes and board-and-care facilities within Ventura County, supporting the timely provision of medical care.

Status

Completed

Key Activities

- Processes have been put into place to ensure timely identification and provision of medical care for youth from out-of-county.
- Timely access to the JV220 to ensure there are no barriers to service and medication management.

## Ongoing Engagement with Community-Based Organizations and the Public

### Recommendation

6. Empower juveniles and parents to access available resources and follow-up services offered by school districts by promoting information sharing among the juvenile and/or parent, VCMC Emergency Department, and VCOE. Pursue a release of information consent form that the VCMC Emergency Department can share with a juvenile and/or a juvenile's parents before the juvenile is discharged (when brought in on a 5585 mental health hold), authorizing limited information to be shared with VCOE and the juvenile's identified school district, in order to facilitate supportive follow-up activities to be conducted by the school district. Encourage other emergency departments throughout the county to also adopt this process.

### Status

In-Progress

### Key Activities

- VCBH and VCOE reviewed and consulted on protection of health information as it pertains to release of information; explored expansion of discharge planning with consent in place
- VCOE is working with Hospital Association to augment discharge planning language and provide standardized referral back to local School Districts
- VCBH and VCOE added additional Mental Health crisis information to VCOE website

Ongoing Engagement with  
Community-Based  
Organizations and the Public

Recommendation

7. Form a steering committee to guide and monitor implementation and to continue collaborating on best practices and coordination.

Status

Completed

Key Activities

- Steering committee has been formed with leadership representation from key agencies involved with the task force report.
- Meetings have been held to review and monitor progress on the task force recommendations and coordinate on implementation.
- Committee has not met recently due to resources dedicated to the COVID-19 response.



VENTURA COUNTY

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

A Department of Ventura County Healthcare Agency

September 2020

# NO PLACE LIKE HOME VENTURA COUNTY

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Susan White Wood, VCBH Housing Manager

# Housing = Social Determinant of Health

- Many different reasons for homelessness but the common denominator is lack of a home
- Housing is tied to income
- Housing is evidence based care for homelessness
- Mentally ill & homeless live an average of 15-30 years less than general population
- Unstable or unsafe housing can cause or increase stress, anxiety & depression
- A positive change in housing can influence positive changes in other factors that result in improved health & well-being

# Relationship of VCBH to Housing

- VCBH co-develops and coordinates appropriate housing for people living with mentally illness
- VCBH partners with builders, property management companies, landlords & service providers to develop and manage housing for people living with mental illness
- VCBH employs “housing first” model
- VCBH delivers evidence based supportive services to clients

# Barriers to Housing for Homeless & Mentally Ill

- Rent is too high
  - Average monthly rent in Ventura County in 2020 is \$2037\*
- Lack of adequate housing stock (vacancy rate currently less than 3.5%)
- Lack of supportive housing (NIMBYs, cost, politics)
- Lack of variety of housing (Board & Care / RCFEs)
- Mental illness makes finding & keeping a home challenging
- Stigma & unrealistic expectations of homeless & mentally ill – changing the meaning of success

\* CA Housing Partnership 2020 Affordable Housing Needs Report

# POINT IN TIME COUNTS

CITY	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	13 year avg	2019 to 2020 Change
<b>Camarillo</b>	10	13	15	29	30	27	38	35	24	27	49	33	30	28	<b>-3</b>
<b>Fillmore</b>	5	4	5	10	16	13	6	7	6	0	2	10	10	7	<b>0</b>
<b>Moorpark</b>	13	7	1	7	5	9	15	7	4	7	3	2	0	6	<b>-2</b>
<b>Ojai</b>	82	60	52	40	41	43	62	40	29	19	31	47	49	46	<b>2</b>
<b>Oxnard</b>	671	679	520	638	522	645	379	603	584	461	335	548	567	550	<b>19</b>
<b>Port Hueneme</b>	9	1	9	6	12	17	13	22	7	18	19	30	19	14	<b>-11</b>
<b>Santa Paula</b>	97	91	54	50	60	34	31	20	56	35	44	106	95	59	<b>-11</b>
<b>Simi Valley</b>	163	303	229	226	284	211	194	202	99	105	143	121	162	188	<b>41</b>
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	81	147	106	87	90	121	130	83	104	102	80	103	152	107	<b>49</b>
<b>Ventura</b>	588	623	601	570	701	519	495	334	300	301	546	555	531	513	<b>-24</b>
<b>Unincorporated</b>	242	235	223	209	175	135	86	64	58	77	77	114	128	140	<b>14</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>1961</b>	<b>2163</b>	<b>1815</b>	<b>1872</b>	<b>1936</b>	<b>1774</b>	<b>1449</b>	<b>1417</b>	<b>1271</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>1329</b>	<b>1669</b>	<b>1743</b>		<b>74</b>

# VCBH Existing Housing Resources

- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded “independent living” units (approximately 203 units county-wide)
- Continuum of Care (CoC) / “Section 8” funded housing (33 units)
- 6 Board and Care facilities including 2 Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE)
- **No Place Like Home (NPLH) voter approved funding allocation (statewide)**

# NPLH Funding

- Ballot Initiative – Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) “Carve Out”
- State of CA issuing 4 rounds of competitive funding
- Ventura County did not receive Round 1 or Round 2 funding
- Tax credit eligible loans up to a maximum of \$20,000,000 per project
- Funds up to 49% of units within a scattered site project for low income (30% AMI) homeless & mentally ill households

# Ventura County Area Median Income (AMI)

***Effective April 1, 2020 – The AMI for Ventura County for Single Household is \$79,100***

## **1 Person –**

**30% Median (Extremely Low Income)- \$23,700**

50% Median (Very Low Income) - \$39,550

80% Median (Low Income) - \$63,250

## **2 Person –**

**30% Median (Extremely Low Income)- \$27,100**

50% Median (Very Low Income) - \$45,200

80% Median (Low Income) - \$72,300

## **3 Person –**

**30% Median (Extremely Low Income)- \$30,500**

50% Median (Very Low Income) - \$50,850

80% Median (Low Income) - \$81,350

## **4 Person –**

**30% Median (Extremely Low Income)- \$33,850**

50% Median (Very Low Income) - \$56,450

80% Median (Low Income) - \$90,350

## **Sample Salaries for Ventura County (salary.com)**

Dental Hygienist: \$80,000 per year

High School Teacher: \$71,000 per year

Social Worker: \$70,000 per year

Police Officer: \$60,000 per year

Park Ranger: \$41,000 per year

Auto Mechanic: \$18.30 per hour

***According to CA Housing Partnership 2020 Report on Housing for Ventura County, a household must have an income of \$39.17 per hour or \$81,473.60 annually in order to afford the average monthly rent of \$2,037.***

# Eligible Applicants

- County of Ventura (VCBH alone or in partnership with development sponsor)
- 2 or more counties together
- Applicants must have recent experience building & managing Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects

# Eligible Uses for NPLH Funding

## Capitol Improvements (eg “Bricks & Mortar)

- Acquisition
- Design
- Construction
- Rehabilitation
- Capitalized Operating Reserves (COSR)
- Preservation Costs
- Shared Housing Projects

# NPLH Project Requirements

- Housing First
- 5 or more units up to 49% of 20+ units
- Integration of NPLH units (scattered site)
- Coordinated Entry System (CES)
- Resident income less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI).  
Ventura County 2020 AMI for HH of 1 = \$79,100
- VCBH will provide supportive services

# Current Funding Timeline

- Round 3 NPLH Notice of Funding Announcement NoFA was issued in October 2020.
- Board of Supervisors to approve applications in December 2020.
- NPLH Round 3 applications are due to the State of CA in January 2021
- VCBH plans to submit 3 Round 3 applications – Fillmore Terrace, a project located at 2<sup>nd</sup> & B in Oxnard & Rancho Sierra Apartments in unincorporated Camarillo area.
- Round 4 NPLH funding will be available in Fall 2021.

# Rancho Sierra Apartments

- County issued RFQ in November 2019
- Many Mansions & Area Housing Authority were chosen as Development Sponsors
- County owned property will support 49 x 1 bedroom units & 1 x 2 bedroom manager's unit
- Maximum of 24 units dedicated for homeless & mentally ill seniors (62 years and older)
- Virtual Public Town Hall was held on Wed., Oct. 21

<https://www.manymansions.org/properties-in-development/rancho-sierra-apartments/>

# Fillmore Terrace

- People's Self Help Housing responded to NPLH Round 2 RFP
- Located across from the Sr. Center in City of Fillmore;
- 68 total affordable units with 14 NPLH restricted;
- Approved under Round 2 NPLH funding;
- Received \$1.2 million in NPLH non-competitive funding.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> & B Street in Oxnard

- Community Development Partners (CDP) responded to a Round 3 NPLH 2020 Request for Interest (RFI);
- Mercy House will operate first floor shelter and social services;
- 55 total units of permanent supportive housing with 27 NPLH units.

## Questions

[Susan.whitewood@ventura.org](mailto:Susan.whitewood@ventura.org)

(805) 981-3300