

VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

August 16, 2021

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, September 20, 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
Nancy Borchard, Member-At-Large
Gane Brooking
Kevin Clerici
Jose Estrada
Jesse Finkbeiner
Genevieve Flores-Haro
Cmdr. James Fryhoff
Janis Gardner, Secretary
Jerry Harris, Member (Chair) Emeritus
Cheryl Heitmann
Carol J. Keavney
Jennifer Morrison
Patricia Mowlavi
Joe S. Ramirez, 1st Vice Chair
Michael Rodriguez, Chair
Chris Tejeda, 2nd Vice Chair
Carol Thomas
Marlen Torres

BHAB Members Absent

Supervisor Matt LaVere

Others Present

Norman Albances, Workforce Development Board of
Ventura County
Alexis Altounian, Managed Career Solutions
Sherri Block, VCMC/Inpatient Psychiatric Unit
Francisco Bon-Valenzuela, Managed Career Solutions
Stacy Dagleish, LA County Mental Health Commission
Sofia de Mari, LA County Mental Health Commission
Linda Diaz, Managed Career Solutions
Cindy Doutt, Telecare
Rebecca Evans, Workforce Development Board of
Ventura County
Jaydon Gaines, Independent Living Resource Center
Roberta Griego, NAMI Ventura County
Mary Haffner, Haffner Law Group
Sue Hughes, County Executive Office
Martha Johnson, Health Care Agency
Erin Olivera, VCMC/Inpatient Psychiatric Unit
Chrissy Ortega, County Executive Office
Patti Pape, NAMI Ventura County
Margo Scoble, Managed Career Solutions
Carole Shelton
Anne Marie Smith, Managed Career Solutions
Lourdes Solorzano, Supervisor LaVere's Office
Lorena Suarez, Homeland Language Services
Dr. Casey Wake, Psychologist
Tina Wang, County Executive Office

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers and Staff Present

Dr. Sevet Johnson, VCBH Director
Dr. Loretta Denering, Substance Use Services Division Chief
Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief
Terri Yanez, Administrative Services Division Chief
Vickie Poliquin, Temporary BHAB Assistant

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
I.	<p>Call to Order Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.</p> <p>Ms. Flores-Haro provided specific details on how meeting attendees can access interpretation services.</p>		
II.	<p>Board Member Roll Call Ms. Gardner conducted the calling of the roll and confirmed that a quorum of the Board members exists.</p>		
III.	<p>Welcome and Introductions Mr. Rodriguez welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced himself and asked that all BHAB members introduce themselves.</p>		
IV.	<p>Approval of the Agenda Mr. Rodriguez noted a request was made to table agenda item IX and XV.A. to the September General meeting. Ms. Armann moved to approve the amended agenda; Mr. Finkbeiner seconded. Mr. Harris requested that agenda item XVI.B be moved to follow the presentations. Mr. Rodriguez asked for the motion be withdrawn and restated. Following a brief clarification that the motion was inclusive of agenda item XVI.B. to follow presentations, Ms. Gardner moved to approve the amended agenda; Ms. Keavney seconded. The motion to approve the amended agenda carried unanimously through roll call.</p>	<p>Agenda approved as amended. M/S/C</p>	
V.	<p>Approval of the Minutes Mr. Rodriguez asked the Board to review and approve the minutes of the July 19, 2021, meeting. Mr. Finkbeiner moved to approve; Mr. Harris seconded. The motion to approve the minutes as written carried unanimously through roll call.</p>	<p>General Meeting minutes approved as written. M/S/C</p>	
VI.	<p>Public Comments Carole Shelton spoke about youth and adults with developmental disabilities urging a call to action for equity and access to the assessment process and improved services for these and all individuals with mental health disorders.</p> <p>Vickie Poliquin read a public comment received via email from Elizabeth R. Stone regarding agenda item VII. The public comment is attached for reference.</p>		
VII.	<p>Presentation Sherri Block provided a presentation on the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and Inpatient Psychiatric Unit (IPU).</p>		
VIII.	<p>Presentation Norman Albances provided a presentation introducing the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County and Disability Employment Navigator Program.</p>		
IX.	<p>Presentation The Transition of the Disparities Reduction Workgroup to a BHAB Committee presentation was tabled to the September General meeting.</p>		
X.	<p>Chair Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looks forward to continuing to work with members of the BHAB as well as with VCBH staff. 		
XI.	<p>Director's Report A copy of the Director's update and PowerPoint presentation containing July 2021 data on VCBH clients served and open episodes is attached for reference.</p>		
XII.	<p>Board Members Comments and Announcements No comments or announcements were provided.</p>		
XIII.	<p>Secretary's Report Ms. Gardner noted attendance has been excellent and two BHAB members terms will be up in September.</p> <p>Ms. Gardner provided the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A celebration of the Life of Georgia Lynn Schultz Perry will take place on August 28, at 11 AM at the Poinsettia Pavillion at 3451 Foothill Road in Ventura. The Mixteco Indigena Community Organization Project (MICOP) is continuing to hold its "Back-Pack Drive" for school-aged children if anyone is interesting in assisting the children. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterated that the Suicide Prevention Conference will take place on September 23 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, registration is free and urged BHAB members to register. 		
XIV.	<p>BHAB Committee Reports</p> <p>A. Youth & Family Services Committee (August 11 meeting) – Kevin Clerici, Chair Kevin Clerici</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on the return of students to school campuses with the continuing impact of COVID-19 and world events and the likeliness of an increase in students requesting counseling services. Heard from the County’s Adult Services program that all the high school Wellness Centers are fully staffed and are adding additional staff in anticipation of higher use for campus resources. A presentation was received from CalHOPE staff regarding their mental health services and crisis counseling provided via chat, talk, in-person or through the hotline. 		
XV.	<p>Old Business</p> <p>A. Revision to BHAB Bylaws – Discussion This agenda item was tabled to the September General meeting.</p> <p>B. BHAB Membership Identification Assessment Using SurveyMonkey or Doodle Poll – Discussion - ACTION Mr. Rodriguez suggested using Doodle Poll for the BHAB’s survey tool, noting a correction to the agenda that incorrectly referenced the survey tool as “Doodle Pool”. Mr. Harris moved approve the use of Doodle Poll; Ms. Gardner seconded. At the request of Ms. Gardner, Mr. Rodriguez explained the purpose of the poll that will help the BHAB identify its membership to meet the targets identified in the Bylaws. The motion carried unanimously through roll call.</p>	The use of Doodle Poll for the Membership Identification Assessment was approved. M/S/C	
XVI.	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. Transition of the Disparities Reduction Workgroup to BHAB Committee – ACTION This agenda item was tabled to the September General meeting.</p> <p>NOTE: The agenda item below was heard following agenda item VIII – Presentation</p> <p>B. Recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County develop an RFP to engage a qualified independent contractor to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the mental health services continuum of care, including treatment, programs, and facility and staffing infrastructure to provide appropriate treatment and long-term housing and supports. The assessment is to include all levels of care required by people with severe mental illness from the least to the most intensive to help ensure early identification and treatment and eliminate the revolving door of multiple rehospitalizations and incarcerations, to the fullest extent possible while supporting recovery and independence. The costs associated with the comprehensive needs assessment shall not divert resources from existing and prospective mental health services but may originate from grants or additional state or federal funding. Discussion – ACTION</p> <p>Mr. Rodriguez provided a brief introduction of the agenda item stating that most of the BHAB members support the approval of the recommendation for a comprehensive needs assessment in addition to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) assessment.</p> <p>Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the recommendation from the agenda “as is” noting that the critical need is for the severely mentally ill. Mr. Bhavnani seconded the motion. Mr. Harris suggested a revision to the second sentence of the agenda recommendation language as follows: CHANGE FROM: ...conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the mental health services continuum of care,... CHANGE TO: ...conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the <u>behavioral health</u> services continuum of care,...</p> <p>Mr. Bhavnani seconded the amended motion. The motion to approve the amended recommendation carried unanimously through roll call.</p>	Recommendation to the BOS for the development of an RFP to engage an independent contractor to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment was approved as amended. M/S/C	

	<p>Mr. Rodriguez discussed next steps needed to generate a Board Letter suggesting that either he or a BHAB workgroup prepare the letter. It was decided the Mr. Rodriguez would prepare the Board Letter for review by the BHAB prior to its finalization.</p> <p>C. Announcements Ms. Gardner provided the announcements during agenda item XIII.</p> <p>D. Presentation Requests 1. CIT Update – September</p> <p>Mr. Tejeda advised that he spoke with Tara Carruth who is a Program Manager addressing homelessness solutions and she is happy to present this information to the BHAB. Mr. Tejeda agreed to contact her for dates she is available to provide a presentation.</p> <p>E. Recognition Award Recommendations Ms. Gardner reached out to Supervisor Linda Parks’ office regarding her availability to receive a Recognition Award for her lengthy service on the BHAB. Information on her availability is currently pending.</p>		
XVII.	<p>Contracts Mr. Rodriguez noted that in addition to the full BHAB’s review, contracts will also be referred to the BHAB Committees for additional review and feedback to the full BHAB.</p> <p>Ms. Gardner asked a question about the timing for sending the contracts information to the BHAB Committee members. It was determined that Vickie Poliquin will send the contracts listing to the VCBH Administrative staff person and the Chair of each Committee that is scheduled to meet within a few days following each BHAB General meeting.</p>		
XVIII.	<p>Public Comments Ms. Barragán commented to provide feedback regarding the need for staff to speak more slowly and expressed concern that interpreter access may not always be available during the BHAB meetings.</p> <p>Ms. Flores-Haro commented that it is important that attendees ensure that their Zoom accounts are kept up to date on their laptops and phones prior to logging into Zoom, otherwise the interpreter function may not be available.</p>		
XIX.	<p>Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm.</p>		

Behavioral Health Advisory Board GENERAL Meeting Attendance

2021-22	Terms	Members	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
District 1	3/11/21 – 3/10/24	Claudia Armann	e	X										
District 5	9/15/20 – 9/15/23	Soledad Barragán	e	X										
District 2	2/24/19 – 2/23/22	Ratan Bhavnani	X	X										
District 3	1/26/21 – 1/26/24	Nancy Borchard	X	X										
District 3	1/13/19 – 1/12/22	Gane Brooking	X	X										
District 1	10/7/18 – 10/6/21	Kevin Clerici	X	X										
District 5	3/23/21 – 3/22/24	Jose Estrada	X	X										
District 4	4/7/20 - 10/13/21	Jesse Finkbeiner	X	X										
District 1	4/27/21 – 4/26/24	Genevieve Flores-Haro	X	X										
LE	9/10/19 – 9/10/22	Cmdr. James Fryhoff	e	X										
District 3	4/15/21 – 4/14/24	Janis Gardner	X	X										
District 4	9/17/19 – 9/17/22	Jerry Harris	X	X										
District 1	5/11/21 – 5/10/24	Cheryl Heitmann	X	X										
District 2	7/21/20 – 1/7/22	Carol J. Keavney	X	X										
BOS	1/1/21 – 12/31/21	Supervisor Matt LaVere	X	e										
District 4	2/9/21 – 2/9/24	Jennifer Morrison	X	X										
District 2	3/15/20 – 3/15/23	Patricia Mowlavi	X	X										
District 3	12/1/20 – 12/1/23	Joe S. Ramirez	X	X										
District 5	1/25/20 – 1/24/23	Michael Rodriguez	X	X										
District 4	4/13/21 – 9/17/21	Christopher Tejeda	X	X										
District 2	9/17/19 – 9/16/22	Carol Thomas	X	X										
District 5	1/11/20 – 1/24/23	Marlen Torres	e	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

August 16, 2021
FROM: Elizabeth R. Stone

Good Morning:

I am in Sacramento for a statewide peer conference.

Please read my public comments (attached) when the appropriate agenda item is raised.

Thank you!

"recurrent crises are more appropriately regarded as a failure in the partnership to achieved the desired outcomes of care ... and signal a need for a fresh and careful reappraisal of approaches." SAMHSA, 2009

Elizabeth R. Stone, MA
Peer Voice
to Ventura County's Behavioral Health Advisory Board

August 16, 2021
Good morning, Elizabeth.

Acknowledging acceptance of the submission of your public comments for today's Behavioral Health Advisory Board General meeting under Agenda Item VII and XVI.A.

Vickie Poliquin

Management Assistant
Behavioral Health Administration
1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Oxnard, CA 93036
805.981.6830/805.981.1881/E-Mail: Victoria.poliquin@ventura.org

Agenda item VII.

It is always sad to me when someone exerts an effort to present data, when often that data is insufficient to have a robust discussion about policy options and better allocation and utilization of scarce resources.

And while there is some transparency (thank you) within the quantitative statistics shared, many of us who have spent time as a patient in such a facility will readily share that our concerns and the questions we would like answered are missing from this presentation.

I hope the presenter can be available to answer the following questions, which apply to both settings:

- What were the presenting issues that led to someone's request for services? (could be diagnosis)
- What services were offered?
- What are the staffing ratios and qualifications of staff?
- Did any trends regarding day of week and times of day for those presenting for services emerge?
- What social determinants of health impacted the request/need for services? (i.e., what less intense interventions were suggested based on presenting complaints?)
- Where did people go if they did not arrive at the CSU after contacts?
- What differentiated people who were discharged from the CSU to the small number who ultimately were admitted to the IPU?
- Where physically were people discharged to? (Not programmatically, but where would they reside?)
- What barriers exist for people wishing to be admitted voluntarily vs. needing to agree to a 5150 to get a bed?
- Presenting average LOS with range data would be helpful.
- Data about clinical readiness for discharge vs. extended stay at IPU due to no safe place for folks to go would be helpful.
- What does it suggest about the commitment to addressing needs of people with mental health challenges when an entire unit is shut down to prioritize other health needs?

I hope for greater partnership and sharing of meaningful data moving forward. Thank you.

Agenda item XV.A.

I would like to once again remind people that when modifying the by-laws to include removing the provision that limits meeting times to before 5pm.

VCBH has indicated it is willing to offer support; and meeting after traditional work hours will allow greater representation from members of diverse communities cross the County.

I would like to re-emphasize that the original legislative intent of forming community boards as explicated in the MHSA is to ensure a platform for community voices, especially those of people who use or have used services. The language of outgoing executive committee members about 'conducting our business' is a distortion of this inclusive and democratizing mandate.

I hope that moving forward the incremental and systematic silencing of community voices that was undertaken by the previous chair is rolled back and our BHAB becomes a setting that welcomes community concerns and centers the experiences of those of us who use or have used services.

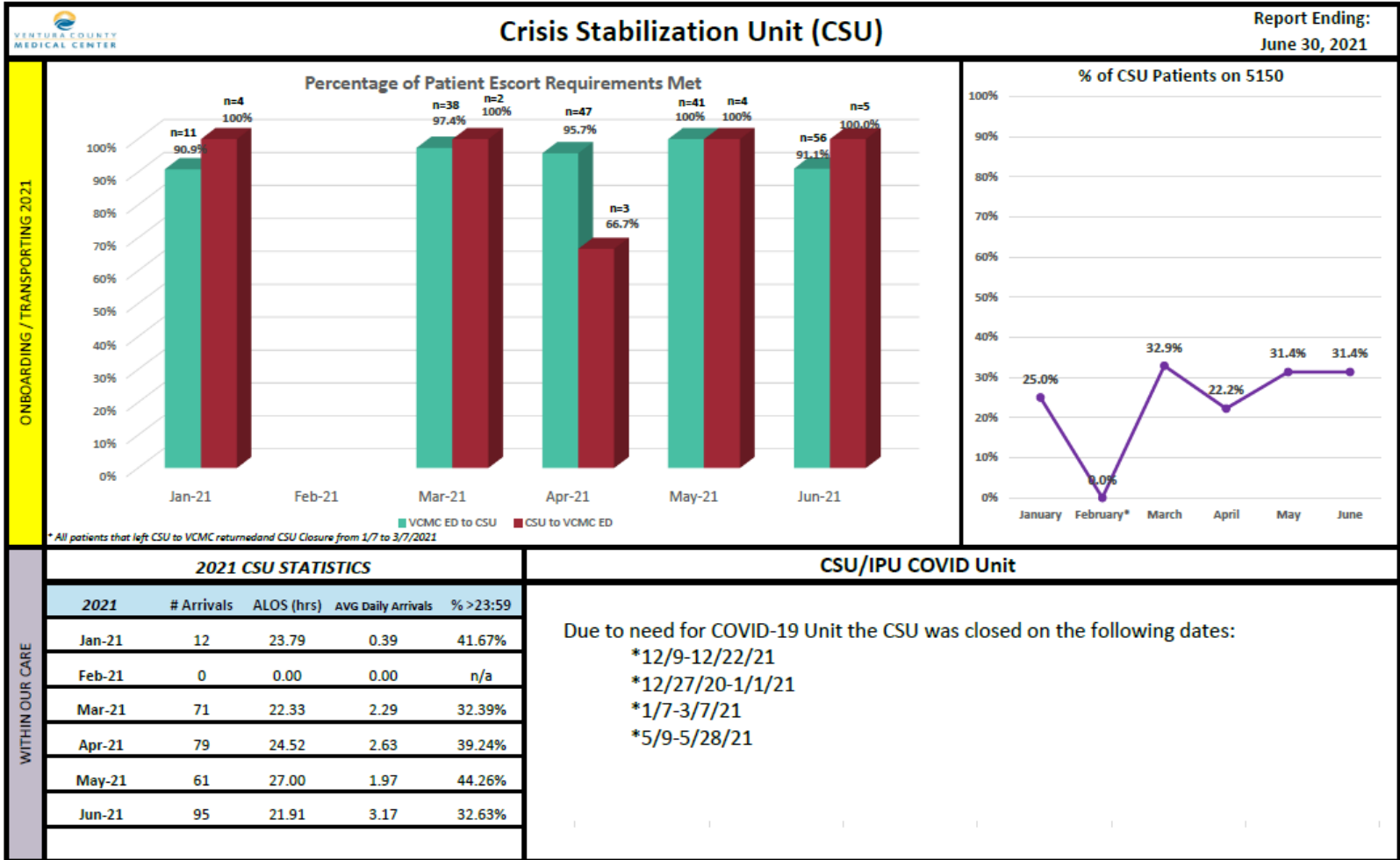


VENTURA COUNTY
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SANTA PAULA HOSPITAL

CSU/IPU

Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)

Report Ending:
June 30, 2021



2021 CSU STATISTICS

2021	# Arrivals	ALOS (hrs)	AVG Daily Arrivals	% >23:59
Jan-21	12	23.79	0.39	41.67%
Feb-21	0	0.00	0.00	n/a
Mar-21	71	22.33	2.29	32.39%
Apr-21	79	24.52	2.63	39.24%
May-21	61	27.00	1.97	44.26%
Jun-21	95	21.91	3.17	32.63%

CSU/IPU COVID Unit

Due to need for COVID-19 Unit the CSU was closed on the following dates:

- *12/9-12/22/21
- *12/27/20-1/1/21
- *1/7-3/7/21
- *5/9-5/28/21

Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)

2021 Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)											Report Ending: June 30, 2021						
Referring Hospital (MSE) Contacts among Arrivals to CSU											Percentage of Arrivals from Calls by Referring Hospital						
2021	Quarter 1*		Apr-21		May-21		Jun-21		Jul-21		2021	YTD	Quarter 1*	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	TRENDING
	Contact	Arrived	Contact	Arrived	Contact	Arrived	Contact	Arrived	Contact	Arrived							
CMH	24	5	9	2	15	3	21	5	n/a	n/a	CMH	21.74%	20.83%	22.22%	n/a	n/a	
Los Robles	23	1	27	3	23	1	17	3	n/a	n/a	Los Robles	8.89%	4.35%	10.45%	n/a	n/a	
PVH	11	0	17	5	14	0	20	0	n/a	n/a	PVH	8.06%	0.00%	9.80%	n/a	n/a	
Simi	24	6	13	0	24	6	28	8	n/a	n/a	Simi	22.47%	25.00%	21.54%	n/a	n/a	
SJRM	94	14	57	12	67	7	72	19	n/a	n/a	SJRM	17.93%	14.89%	19.39%	n/a	n/a	
SPH	6	6	10	8	2	1	5	1	n/a	n/a	SPH	69.57%	100.00%	58.82%	n/a	n/a	
VCMC	56	51	49	48	43	43	57	57	n/a	n/a	VCMC	97.07%	91.07%	99.33%	n/a	n/a	
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*CSU closed from 1/7 to 3/7/2021

CMH = Centinela Hospital Medical Center (90301)

Los Robles = Los Robles Hospital & Medical Center (91360)

PVH = St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital (93010)

VCMC = Ventura County Medical Center (93003)

CMH = Community Memorial Hospital (93003)

Ojai = Ojai Valley Community Hospital (93023)

Simi = Simi Valley Hospital - Adventist Health (93065)

UC Davis = UC Davis Medical Center (95817)

CPT = California Psychiatric Transitions (95315)

Pomona Valley = Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (91767)

SJRM = St. John's Regional Medical Center (93030)

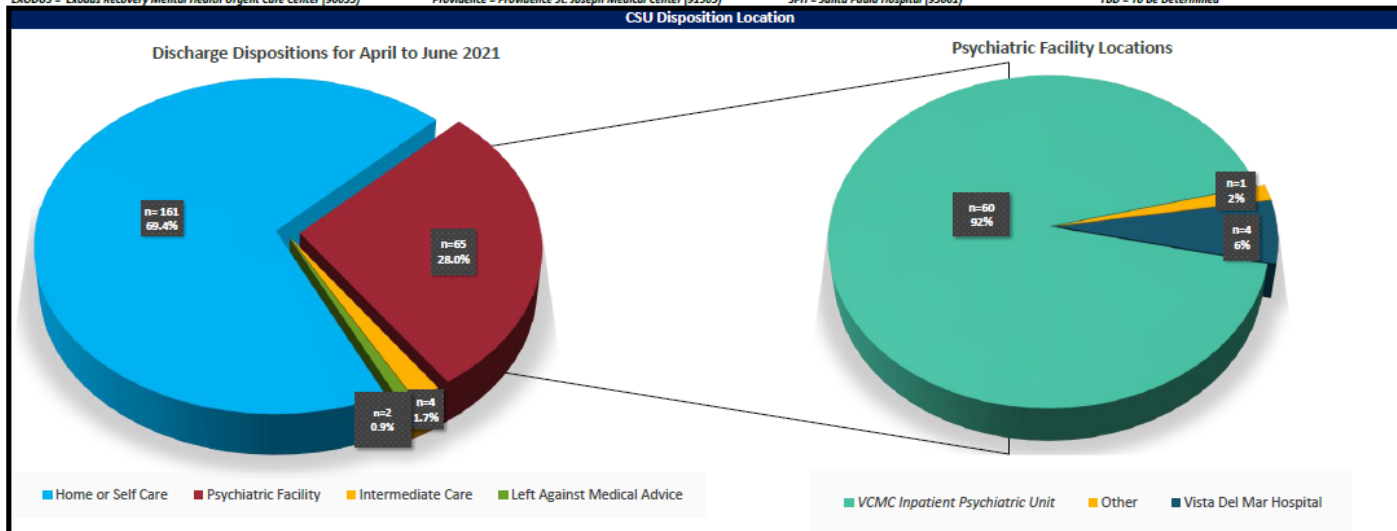
West Hills = West Hills Hospital (91307)

EXODUS = Exodus Recovery Mental Health Urgent Care Center (90033)

Providence = Providence St. Joseph Hospital (91505)

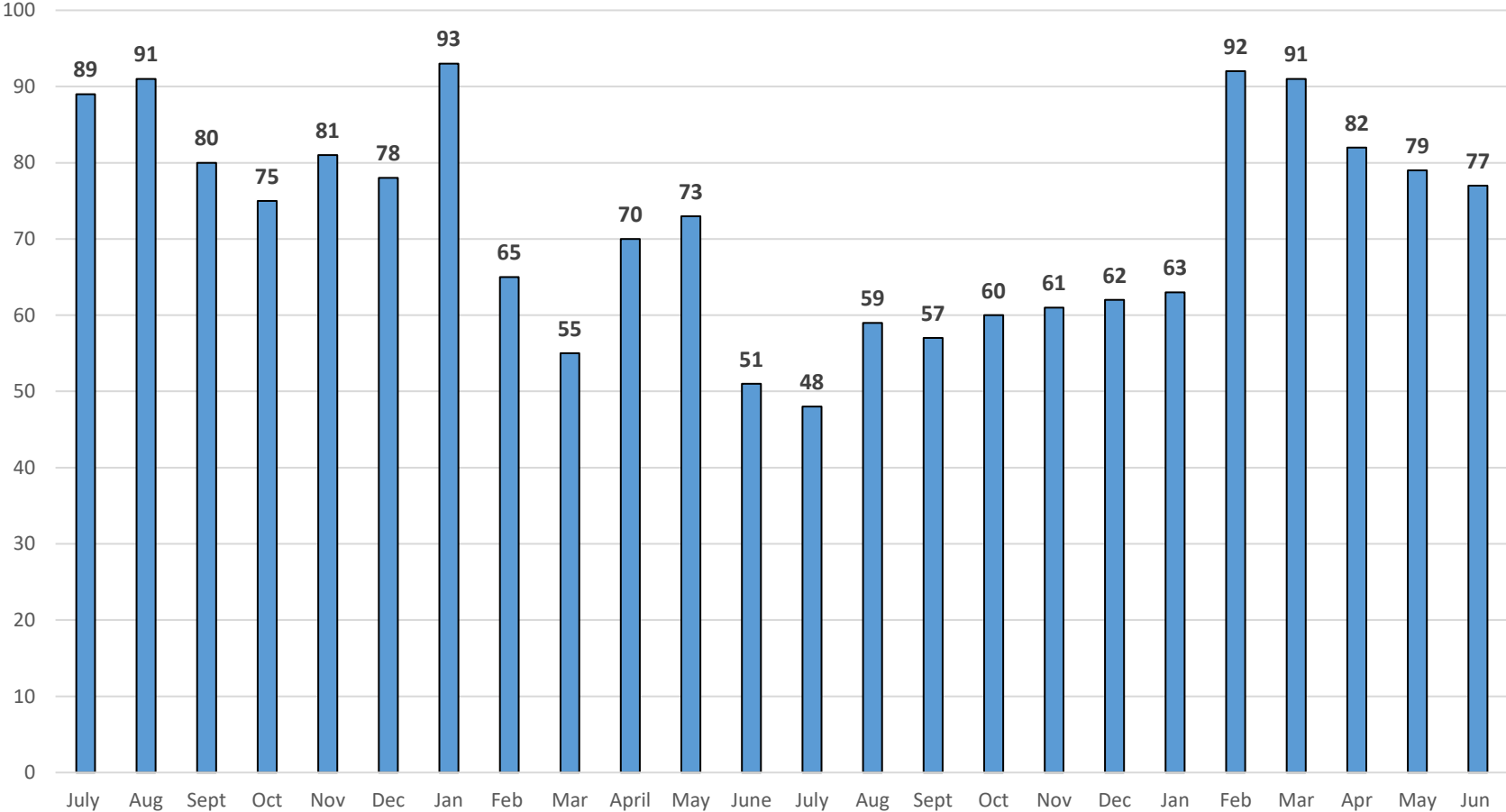
SPH = Santa Paula Hospital (93061)

TBD = To Be Determined



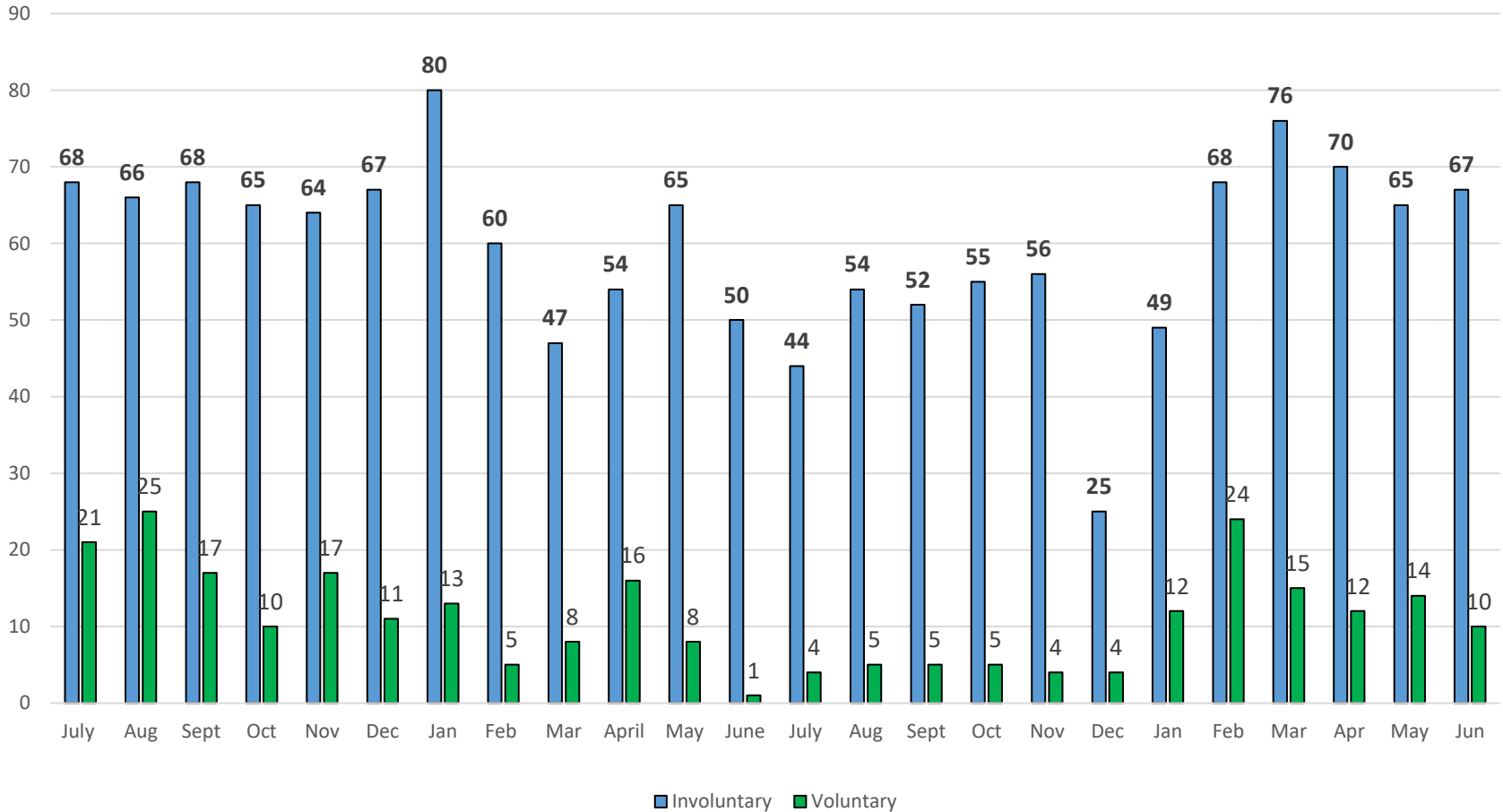
Inpatient Psychiatric (IPU) Total Admissions

Total Number of IPU Admissions from July 2019 to June 2021



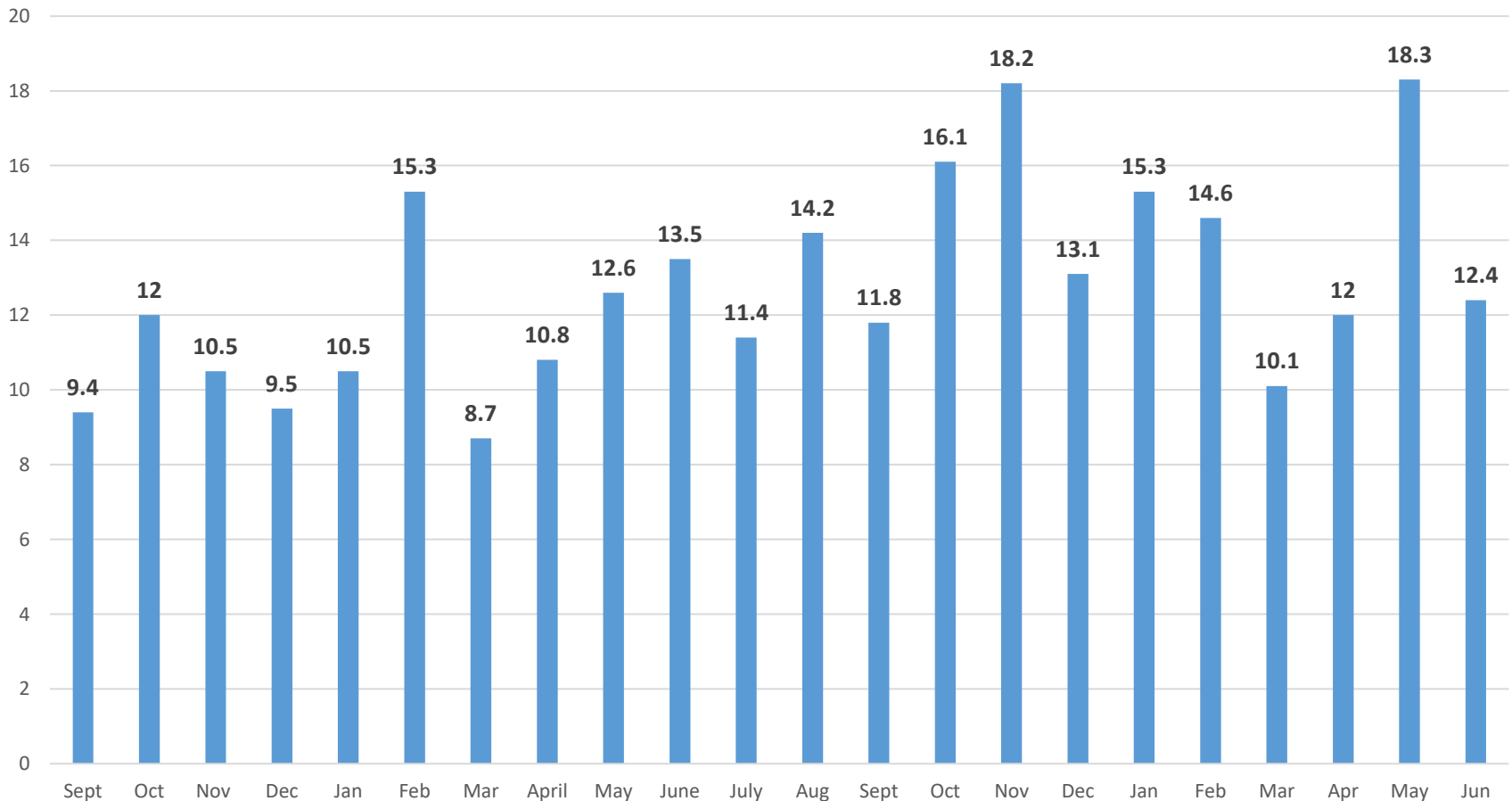
IPU Admissions by Legal Status

IPU Admissions by Legal Status from July 2019 to June 2021



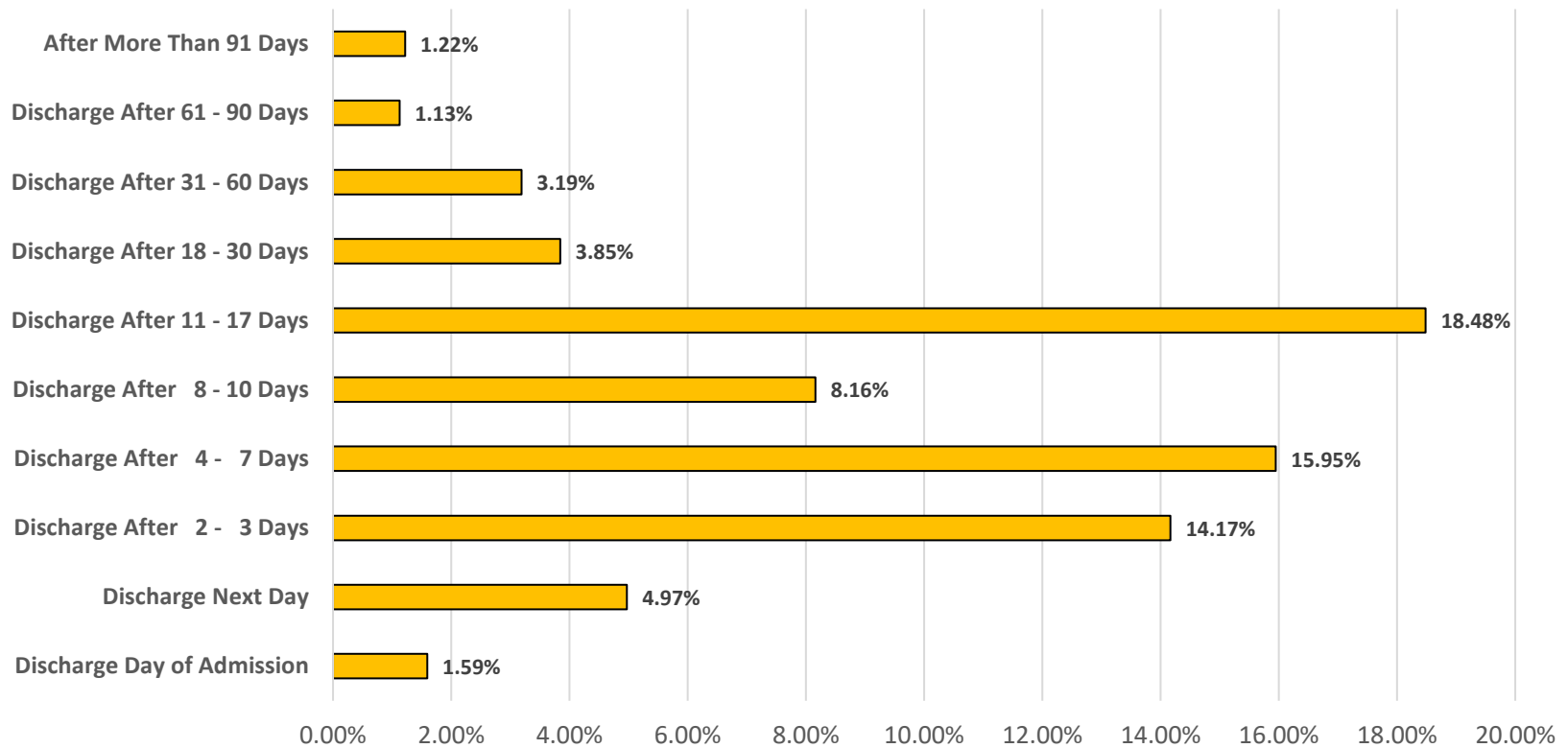
Average LOS in the IPU

IPU Average Length of Stay in Days From July 2019 to June 2021



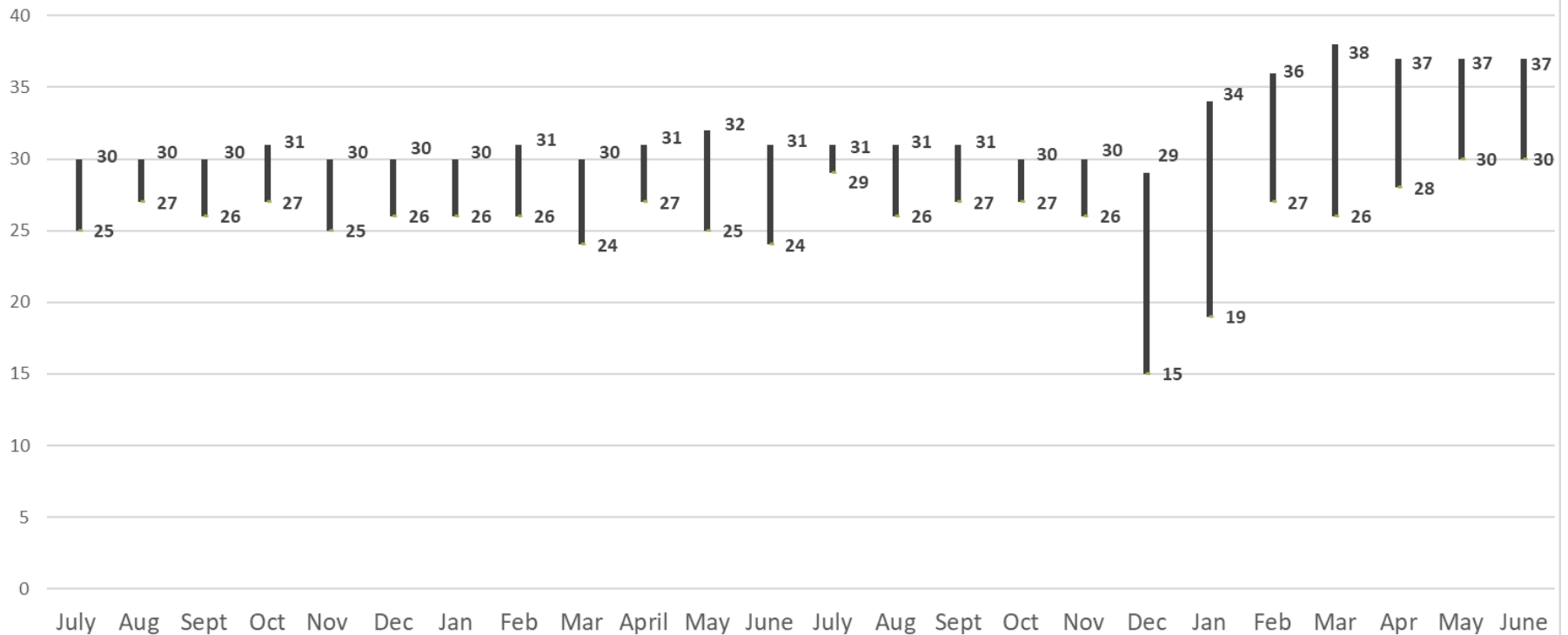
IPU Day of Discharge

Day of Discharge Percent from the IPU from July 2019 to June 2021



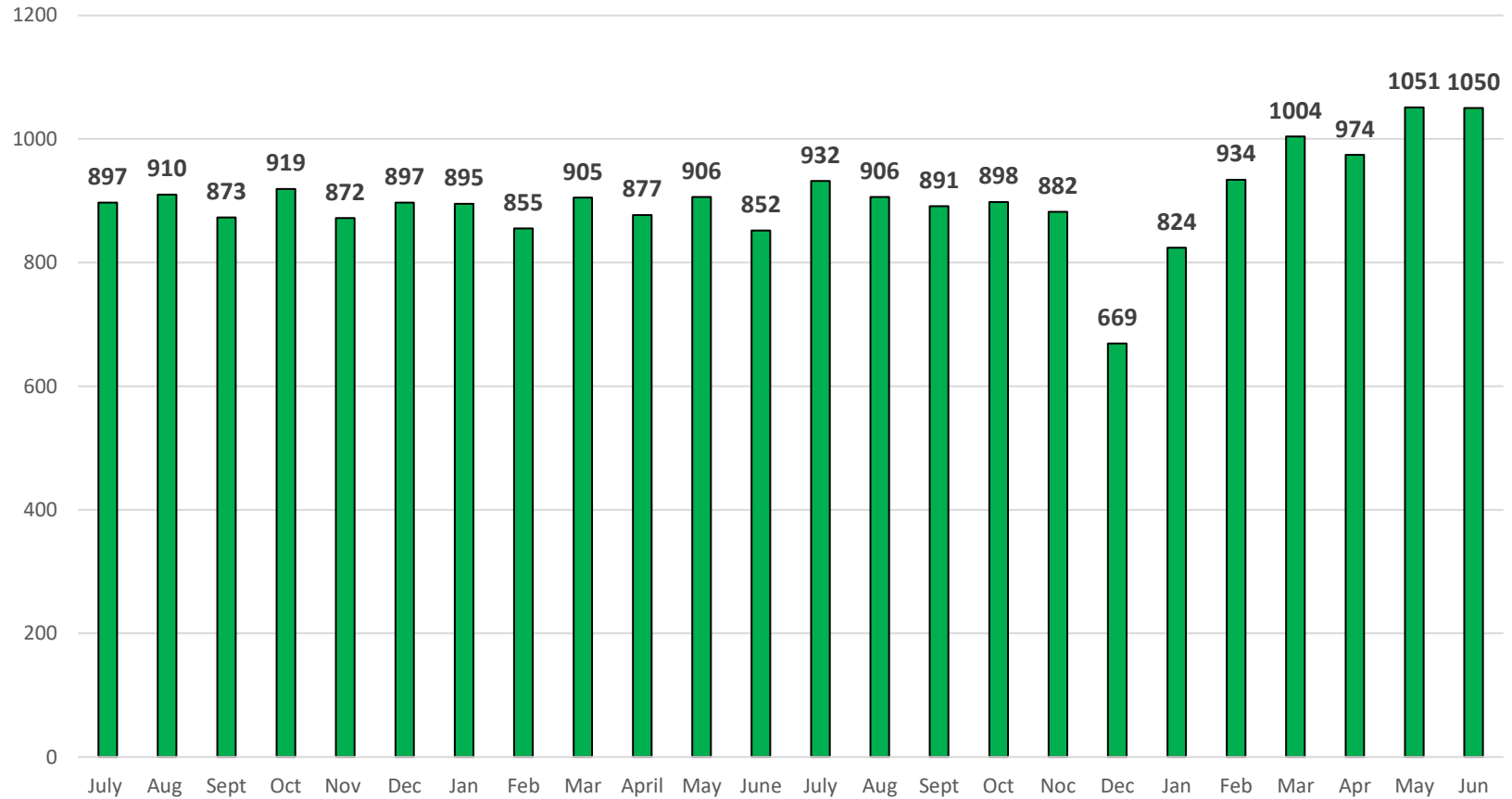
IPU Average Monthly Census

IPU Monthly High and Low Census From July 2019 to June 2021



Total IPU Patient Days

Total IPU Patient Days from July 2019 to June 2021





VENTURA COUNTY
MEDICAL CENTER

SANTA PAULA HOSPITAL

THANK YOU!



Disability Employment Navigator Introduction

Agenda

- 01 About the WDBVC
- 02 Disability Employment Navigator Overview
- 03 Introduction to Managed Career Solutions
- 04 Referral Process and Q&A

About the WDBVC

The Workforce Development Board of Ventura County (WDBVC) is part of the Public Workforce System—a network of federal, state, and local offices that support economic expansion and develop the talent of the nation's workforce.



The WDBVC is a neutral convener and coordinator of cross-sector partners that collaborate to serve those with barriers to employment and maximize the productivity and success of businesses in their region. The WDBVC has a twenty-year history of working with partners to close the gaps between these dual clients.

The WDBVC analyzes labor market information to develop regional sector strategies that focus resources to address the workforce needs, challenges, and opportunities in the area. This often involves skill training for employees, local businesses, and industries and facilitated partnerships between local businesses with similar training needs.

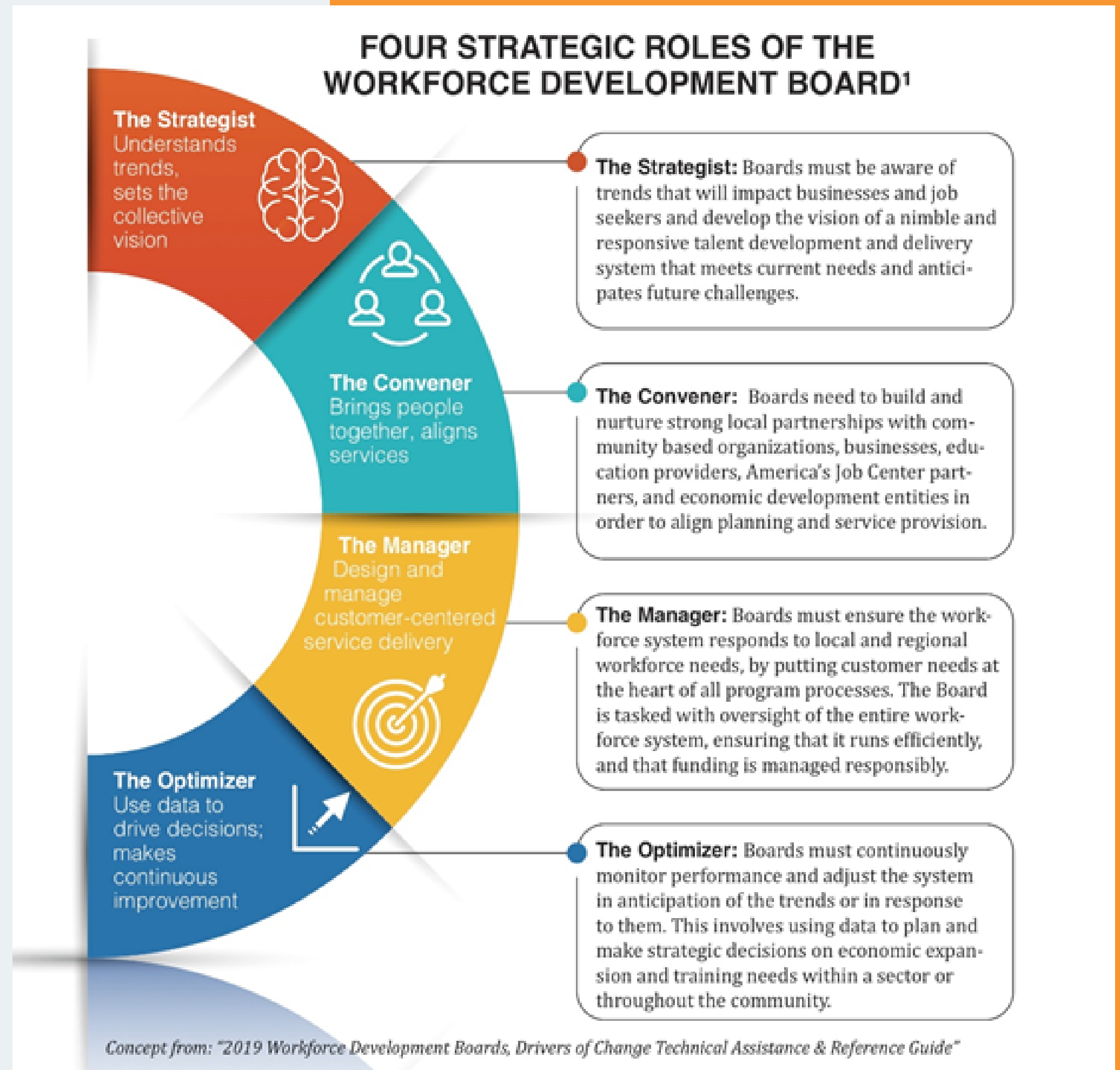
Our Philosophy

Vision

The Ventura County region has a high-quality, appropriately skilled workforce that is ready and able to support the evolving business needs of employers in a dynamic, competitive, global economic environment.

Mission

The WDBVC builds and nurtures strong local partnerships and collaborates to design a workforce system that creates upward mobility opportunities for individuals in order to meet and anticipate the needs of employers while advancing the local economy.



WIOA

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was created to respond to economic and labor market challenges.

WIOA is designed to address the employment and skills needs of current employees, job seekers, and employers.



WIOA Title-I Funding



Governor

Local governmental units
are liable for funds
awarded to local workforce
development areas



Youth
funds



Adult
funds



Dislocated
Worker
funds

Funding

The WDBVC receives WIOA funding from the State. The County of Ventura is the grant recipient for the funds awarded and is liable for those funds.

America's Job Centers of California (AJCC)



Our AJCCs provide free help to job seekers for a variety of career and employment-related needs. Our AJCCs are located in Oxnard and Simi Valley.

Resource rooms

Our AJCCs offer free access to a resource room which includes computers with internet, telephones, and fax machines. These rooms are open to the public on a self-service basis. Staff are typically available to assist job seekers with building a resume, general career exploration, and job search.

American Job Center career counseling and workshops

We also have experienced career counselors on staff that work with job seekers to identify their interests, assess their skills and abilities and advise them on in-demand jobs and potential training opportunities.

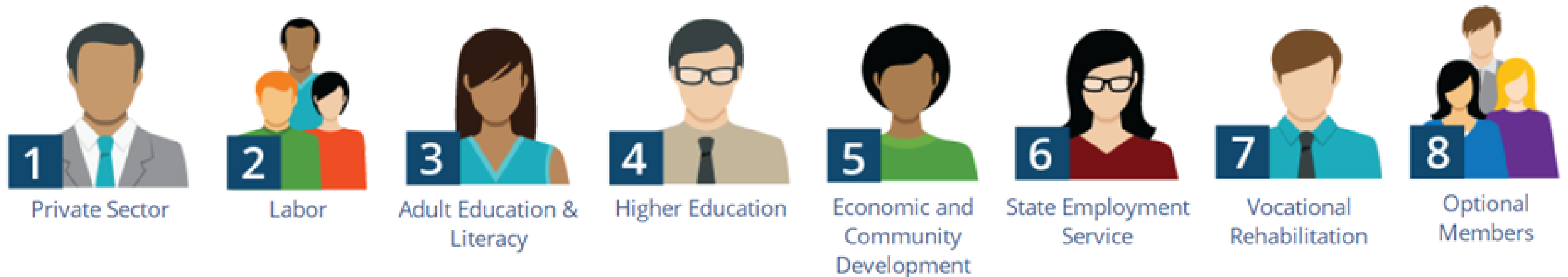


Partners

A key responsibility of the WDBVC is to engage stakeholders across sectors to increase collaboration, better utilize existing services, and ideate improvements to existing trainings and systems.

BOARD MEMBERS

The County of Ventura appoints WDBVC board members and establishes by-laws that govern it. The board members works in partnership with the County to provide strategic direction for workforce development programs in Ventura County.



Sector Strategies

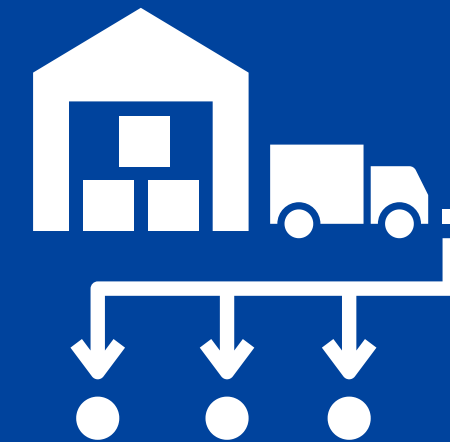
WIOA emphasizes the use of two evidence-based approaches for the delivery of services:

- Sector strategies
- Career ladders

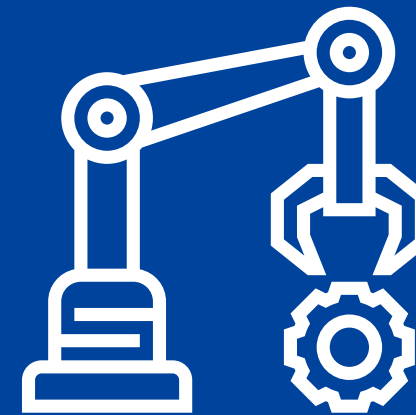
These approaches create a comprehensive workforce development strategy for Ventura County.



Healthcare



Trade, Transportation, and Logistics



Manufacturing



Information Technology

Disability Employment Navigator Overview

The program designed to enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Program goals include:

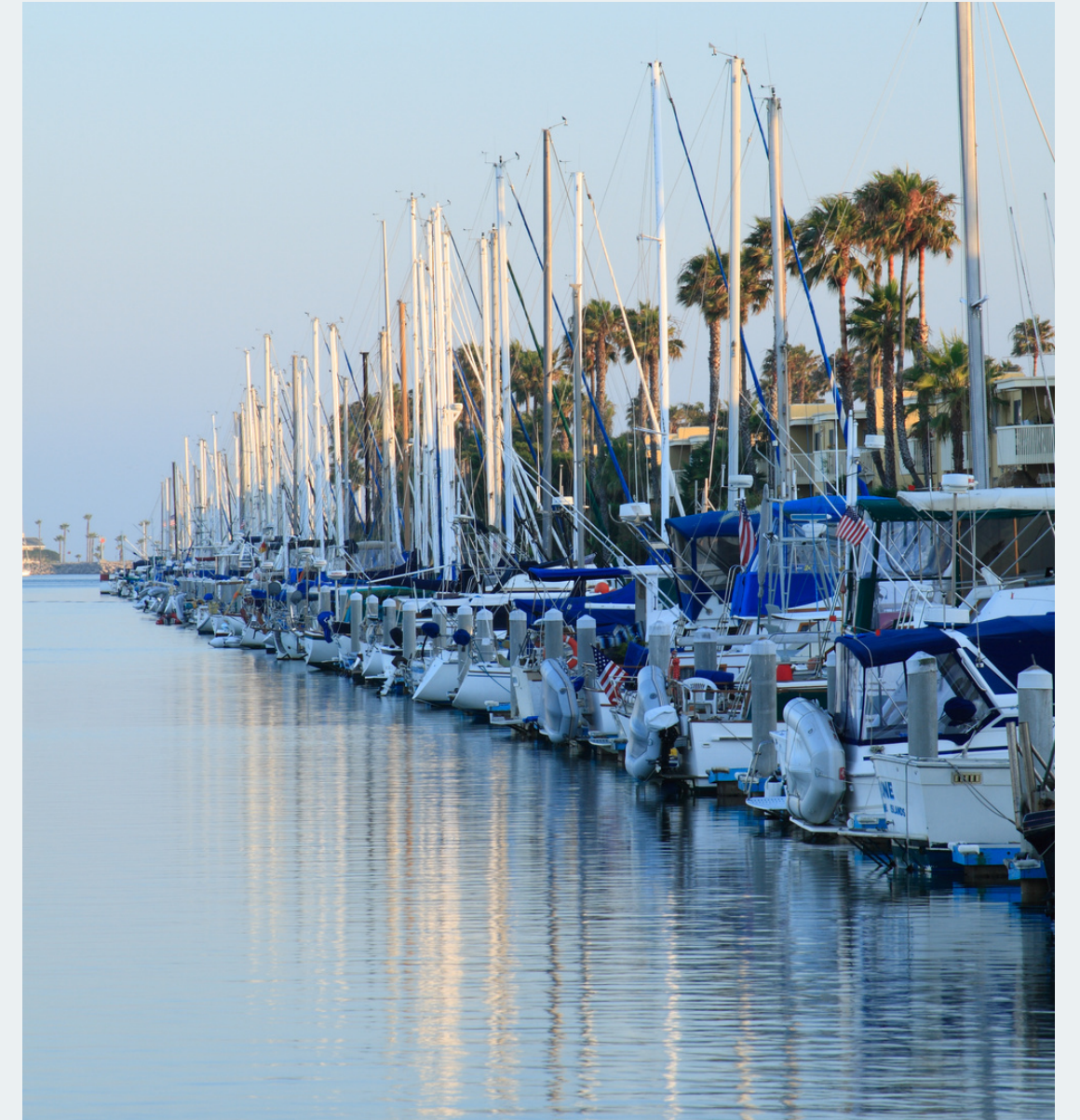
- Creating partnerships between the AJCC locations and businesses to recognize the skills of people with disabilities that meet the needs of employers.
- Engaging businesses to develop strategies and funding “ground-up” solutions to help people with disabilities achieve professional success





Introduction to Managed Career Solutions

Name	Position/Title	MCS Email	Contact Telephone
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Referral Process & Questions

Social Media



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/WDBVC/>



LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/wdbvc>



Podcast

<http://ow.ly/GVKG50CqPDU>

Keep in touch

THANK YOU!

Website

www.workforceventuracounty.org

Email Address

hsa-info.wdb@ventura.org

Phone Number

805-477-5306



DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT WORKS

Are You Ready to...

- ✓ Increase your income?
- ✓ Explore work options?
- ✓ Gain greater personal fulfillment through work?

Our Disability Employment Navigators can help you find meaningful work. If you are age 18 and older and have a disability, you can take advantage of our free services.

Additional eligibility criteria apply.

We Can Help You...

- ✓ Decide what kind of work is right for you
- ✓ Meet the right people & find the right services for you
- ✓ Receive education and training for your dream job
- ✓ Receive employment support on your way to success



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(213) 342-1201

The Workforce Development Board of Ventura County is a proud partner of America's Job Center of California network. The WDBVC and this project are an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. If you have limitations hearing or speaking dial 711 to reach the California Relay Service (CRS). This WIOA Governor's Discretionary project is fully funded by the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor as a part of an award totaling \$350,000.



MCS



Director's Update

BHAB General Meeting 8.16.21

**With the rise of infection due to the delta variant and nearly all of our Adult (and Youth and Family) staff back to work fulltime onsite, we are proceeding with caution to ensure our clinics are safe environments for our clients who have begun to return increasingly to in-person services. Working with reference to both staff and client vaccine status, maintaining appropriate social distance, and use of masks are critical components.

Adult Services Division:

- Sara Sanchez has accepted the offer to become the Behavioral Health Manager over STAR, RISE/Assist, and the Crisis Team. This will be a lateral move for Sara who for the past three years has been the manager for the Adult clinics in Conejo and Simi Valley, in addition to the Transitions program and Ventura County Power over Prodromal Psychosis (VCPOP). Sara is a licensed Marriage Family Therapist who completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at California Lutheran University. Sara started her career as a bilingual/bicultural psychotherapist at Clinicas del Camino Real. She first hired into VCBH's Youth & Family Division fourteen years ago as a Behavioral Health Clinician, before moving over to Transitions in the Adult Division. Sara is a deeply dedicated clinician-manager who, on a daily basis, puts into evidence her commitment to the "servant-leader" model. Her modesty largely conceals Sara's compelling personal story that reflects the fact that she is very much *of the community* she now works hard to heal and elevate.
- The Adult, Youth & Family, and Administrative Divisions are collaborating on a couple of grant opportunities. The Mental Health Block Grant is seeking \$1.5million (over 4 years) that would be used to help fund peer positions in association with early intervention efforts and technology that would enhance existing telehealth efforts.
- A separate \$1M grant opportunity (also over 4 years) under the title, Crisis Care Mobile Units, is focused on improving the crisis response for transitional-aged youth. Work is underway to determine how the funding, which places some emphasis on infrastructure purchases, might be best utilized in Ventura County.
- On the topic of grants awarded, VCBH received \$140K of Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention grant funding that will be utilized (also over 4 years) to support transitional-aged youth at risk of homelessness with emergency shelter, rental assistance, and education and employment resources.

Youth and Family Services Division:

- **Division Highlights** - The 2021-2022 school year is underway and Educationally Related Social Emotional Services (ERSES) staff will be on site to provide school related Mental Health services. SELPA/VCOE, VCBH and Schools Districts are meeting as part of the collaborative ERSES Oversight Committee preparing for the shifts and challenges COVID has presented. Together, remaining creative and solution focused, strategies are in place to attend the needs of each

child, youth and families. Additional Regional School District meetings are occurring, so all are informed of new or continuing practices in communities across the County.

- **Initiatives and Progress** - Continuous progress with the Evidenced based Outreach Workshop targeting the Latino community. Trained VCBH staff are actively conducting LAClave Workshops in the community both in English and Spanish with two new certified in the Evidence Based Practices. Youth and Family has 4 facilitators in addition to 1 staff certified as a “Train the Trainer” to continue to provide capacity building.
- **Collaboration** - As part of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), *Child and Family Team Meetings* (CFTM) are an integral part of the collaborative process as families navigates the Child Welfare dependency system. It’s been a few years since implementation of Child and Family Teams Meetings, and these are now fully embedded in our practice for children and youth in dependency.
 - CFTMs bring family members and their support network together so that with the assistance of their social worker, therapist, other service providers, a plan can be created that meets the family's needs. The family’s voice and choice are key in this process.
 - A silver lining of COVID and telehealth flexibilities from Department of Health Care Services, is that families have maintained a strong attendance at CFTMs noting that telehealth eliminates transportation and childcare needs. Families have also noted that support networks from all over the county can attend telehealth CFTM meeting with ease. This is important and valuable information we will continue to share with the State.
- **Training & Conferences** - VCBH Administrators, SELPA/VCOE leadership and Aspiranet management provided a joint training on the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) process as it relates to the array of mental health and behavioral services to a network of providers on August 11, 2021.

Substance Use Services Division:

- The SUS Access Line is now integrated with MH Access Line/Crisis Team effective 7/1/2021. The SUS Care Coordination and Crisis Teams are continuing to collaborate to streamline the Request for Services process for continuity of care. This is the first of many significant departmental integration efforts under the DHCS CalAIM Behavioral Health Integration initiative.
- DUI: We completed the biennial Department of Health Care Service audit of our Fillmore DUI clinic and were thrilled with the outcome of only one finding.
- Prevention/DUI Collaboration: With more bars, clubs and restaurants opened for the Summer, Prevention Services has expanded collaborations to better prevent DUI and also to address the problem of drink spiking (this is also known as drug-facilitated assault, and the Central Coast region experienced a number of Rohypnol or “roofies” and other drugs being used to make people physically weak or pass out).
 - In collaboration with Ventura PD, we launched a local campaign to spread the word about nightlife safety, via PlanAheadVC.org (samples below). This includes close work between the Alcohol Enforcement Officer and local retailers to maintain safe practices and prevent both DUI and sexual assault—featuring on-site posters, drink coasters, and social media messaging.
 - Enhanced education and outreach to Spanish-speakers via the Mexican Consulate, to prevent DUI in the Oxnard region. This includes information about local laws, the California

vehicle code, and the chance to have questions answered by our bi-lingual Community Outreach staff.



MHSA:

- September is National Suicide Awareness Month- Suicide Prevention Resources be available at various libraries throughout Ventura County starting September 1.
- Suicide Prevention Virtual Forum: Conversations about Suicide is scheduled for September 23 from 4pm – 6 pm. The official save-the-date will be released next week, and registration information will be sent out in the next few weeks. If you want to ensure you receive information/updates please send an email to MHSA@ventura.org to be on the mailing list.
- Ventura County is participating in the Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission's Striving for Zero-California Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention 2020-2015. The Suicide Prevention Council (SPC) will be working on the development of a Suicide Prevention Plan for Ventura County. The SPC is made up of various community organizations, educational programs, public health, first responders, treatment providers, crisis team, and people with lived experience.
- The Suicide Prevention Council (SPC) changed their meeting day and time and now meets the First Wednesday of the Month from 2-3:30. The next meeting is scheduled for October 6th. All are welcome.

Administration:

Updates from the Quality Management Team:

- COVID-19 Flexibilities Orientation
 - Distributed summary notice related to updated COVID-19 flexibility status to Contracted Providers and VCBH Providers.
- New Employee PnP Orientation Implementation
 - Finalizing a curated list of policy and procedure listing for all new employee and contracted employees' categories that must be reviewed within first 30 to 90 days of hire.
 - These lists have been developed in collaboration with clinical administrators, Sr. Managers and contracted providers.

- A quarterly PnP training will also be offered.
- Quarterly CBO meetings
 - Quality Management continues to hold quarterly contracted provider meetings. These meetings go over essential updates, policy and procedure reminders, quality improvement updates, and other key areas related to contracts, fiscal, cultural competency, etc.
 - The last meeting had over 78 people in attendance, which included VCBH contract and operations liaisons, and representation of 100% of all contracted programs.
- Information Notice Project
 - QA is improving the DHCS Information Notice (IN) distribution, implementation and tracking process, which will include operationally defined roles and responsibilities of designated Leads for purposes of analyzing, implementing and completing all identified required actions per each IN.
 - A monthly status meeting will commence in the coming month in which identified Leads will report on actions and closure related to their assigned IN.
- Significant Policy and Procedure Revisions
- Care Coordination
 - Hired BHCIII to join the Care Coordination project
 - 7/20/21 BHI Grant base-line data and milestone status was submitted to Gold Coast/DHCS.
 - Conducted project launching meetings with HPC and VDM to facilitate ongoing collaboration and communication protocols aimed at improving discharge planning and timely after care and decreasing rehospitalization rates.



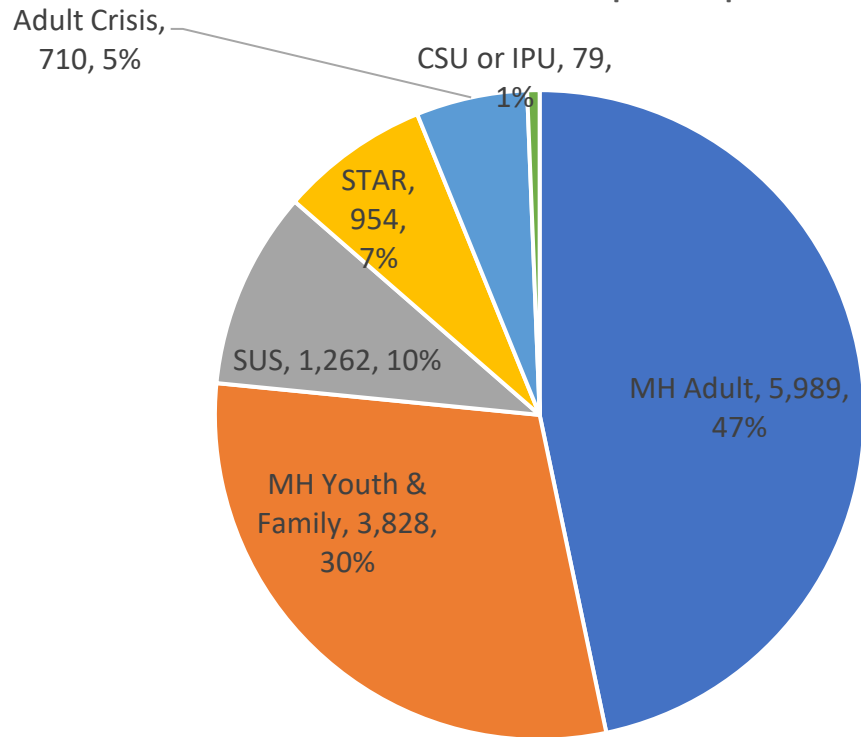
VENTURA COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
A Department of Ventura County Healthcare Agency

VCBH CLIENTS SERVED/ OPEN EPISODES

July 2021 Data Pull

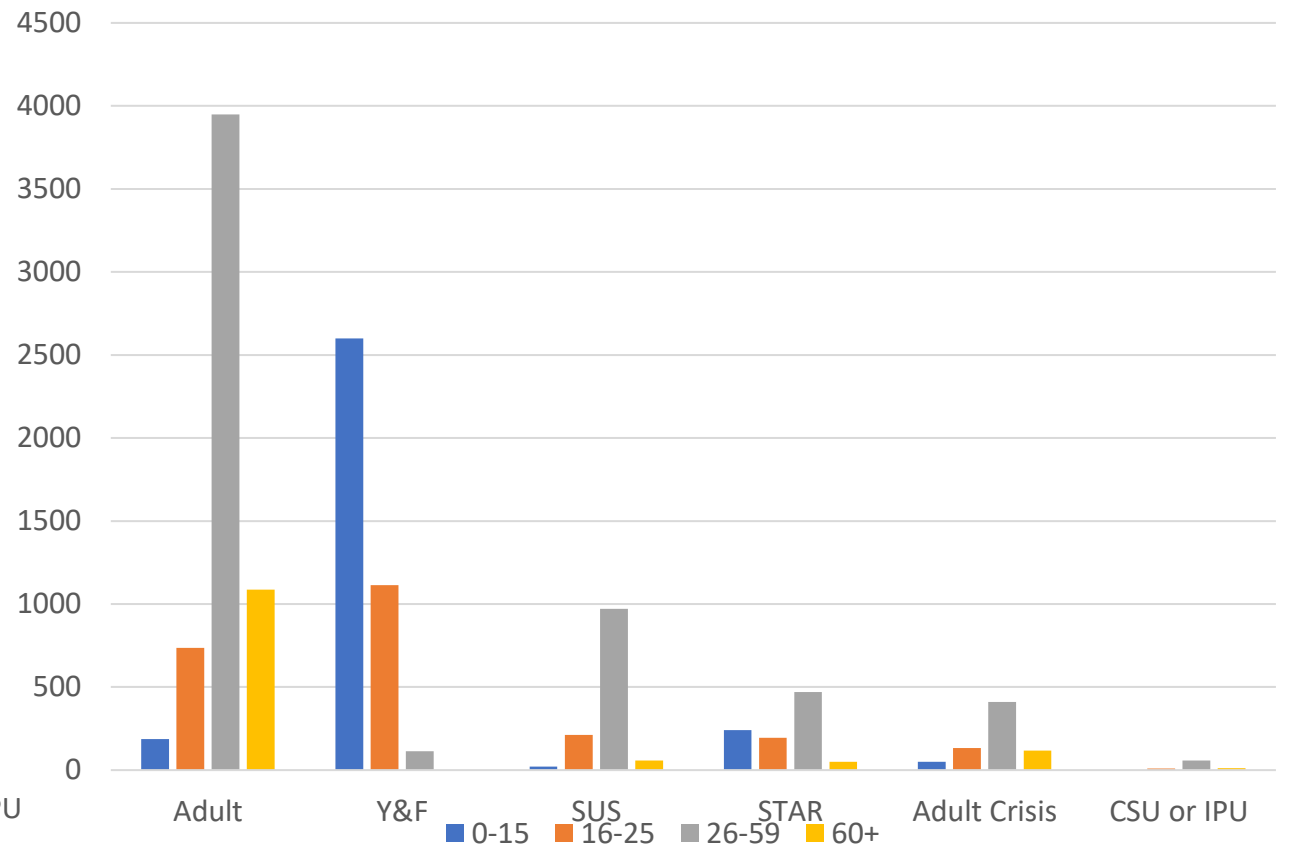
Open Episodes in July 2021

Total Clients with Open Episode



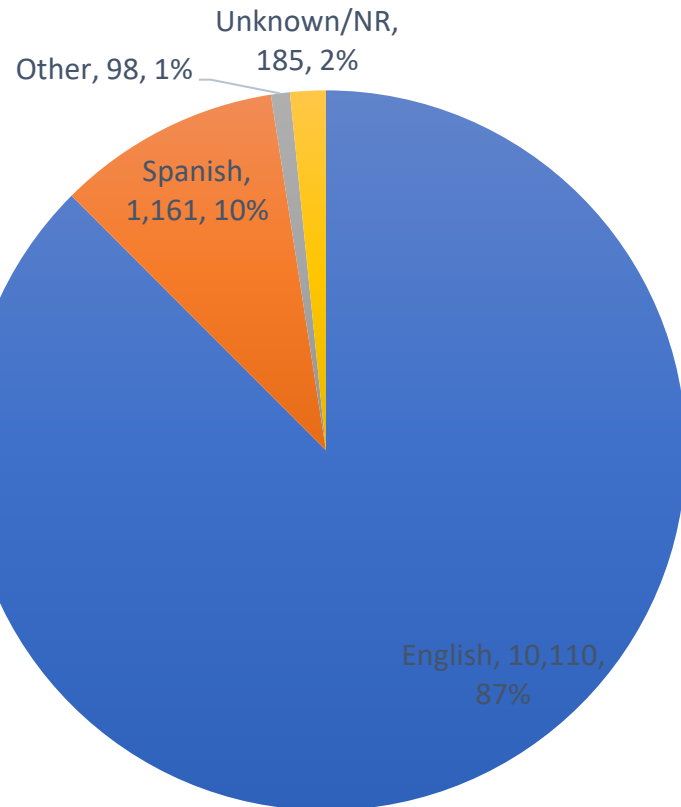
■ MH Adult ■ MH Youth & Family ■ SUS ■ STAR ■ Adult Crisis ■ CSU or IPU

Age Breakdown

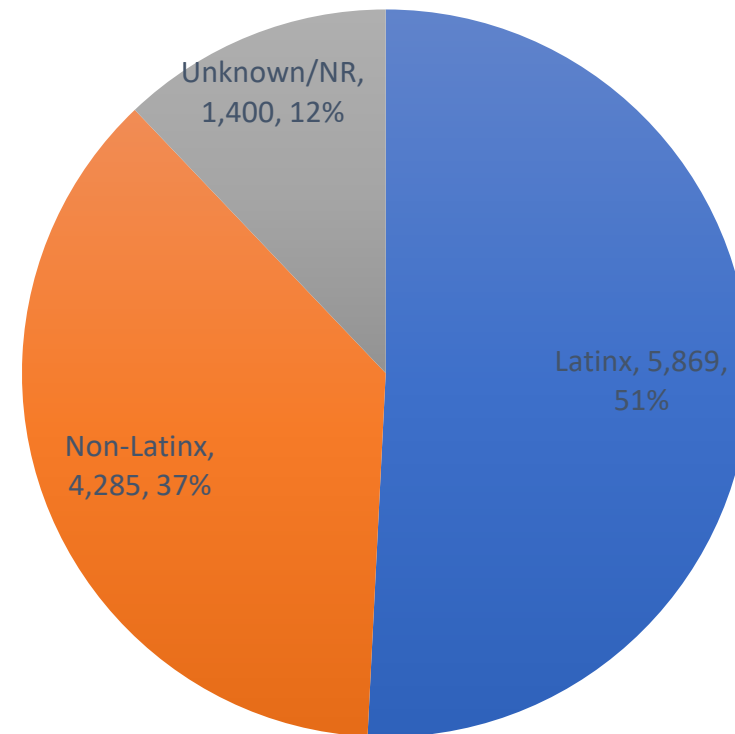


Preferred Language & Ethnicity

Preferred Language



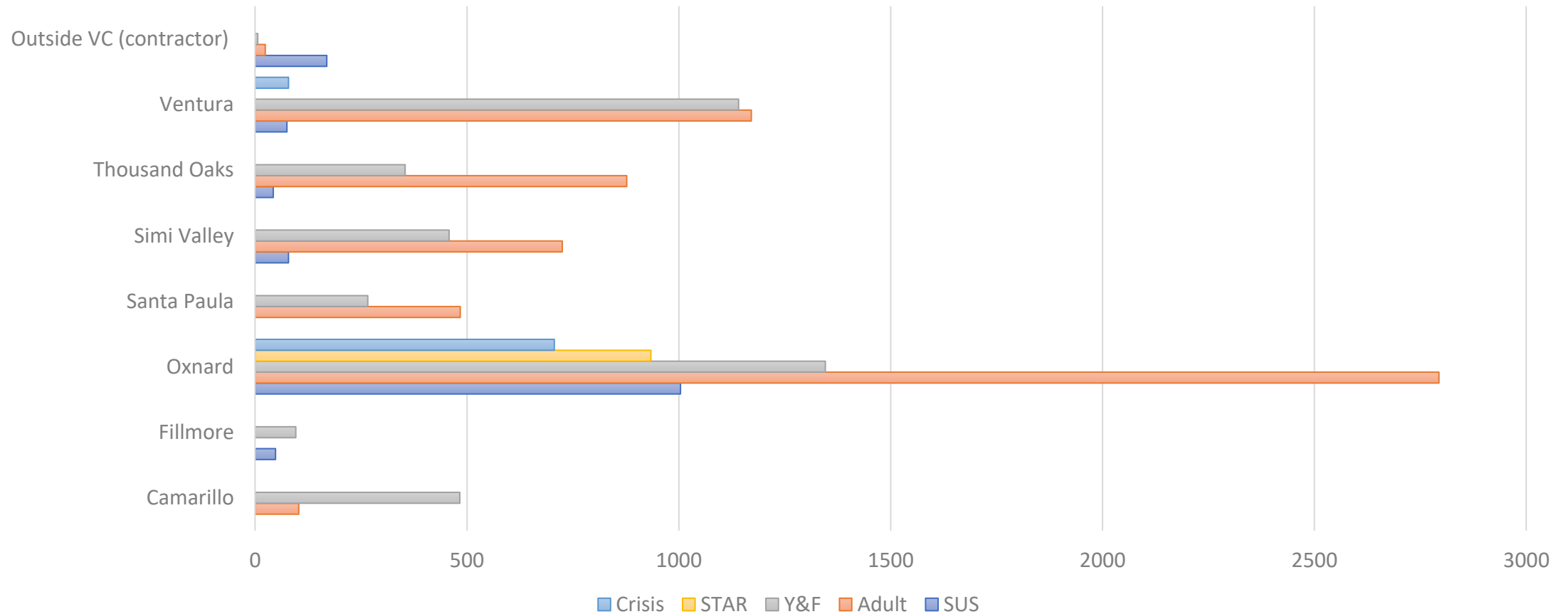
Ethnicity



■ English ■ Spanish ■ Other ■ Unknown/NR

■ Latinx ■ Non-Latinx ■ Unknown/NR

Total Clients Served at Each Location



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

Board Date	Contractor	Amount	Term	Description
7/20/2021	California State University, Channel Islands	\$0	July 20, 2021 through June 30, 2024	FY 21-22 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI). The MOU with CSUCI allows VCBH to serve as the point of contact for moderate to severe mental health and substance use services, establishes protocols to ensure that students have continuous access to psychological, mental health, and substance use services through streamlined referrals and special workshops provided by VCBH, and facilitates training for VCBH staff on contemporary trends in college mental health and related topics. This MOU is a non-financial agreement that merely memorializes the way in which CSUCI and VCBH collaborates.
7/20/2021	Interface Children & Family Services	\$20,000	June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	FY 21-22 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Interface Children & Family Services (Interface). To serve the County's AB 109 population, the County of Ventura, through the Probation Agency, contracts with Interface to manage community-based organizations (CBOs) providing services to the local AB 109 population. The mission of the CBOs is to remove barriers, increase awareness, and provide community support for individuals who have been incarcerated in order to promote successful community reintegration and reduce recidivism. AB 109 clients are referred to Interface by the Ventura County Probation Agency. These individuals receive a range of program services, including substance abuse disorder/ Driving Under the Influence (DUI) services. The MOA between VCBH and Interface is for the provision of VCBH Substance Use Services (SUS) DUI services to referred AB 109 clients. The MOA delineates the roles and responsibilities of both parties and the payment mechanism for services rendered. Specifically, Interface will pay VCBH SUS for the provision of DUI services on a monthly basis, not to exceed \$20,000 per fiscal year.