

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
General Meeting
Monday, December 20, 2021, 1:00 – 3:30 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Zoom Participation

The following information referenced below and at the end of the agenda is provided to you in support of your attending the upcoming BHAB General Meeting via Zoom:

Join the Zoom meeting in the following way:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83332714732?pwd=bE43OUJqRHhHa0ExSIR5L1VLMWMyQT09>

Meeting ID: 833 3271 4732

Password: 149553

Dial-In: 669-900-9128

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Board Member Roll Call
- III. Welcome and Introductions
- IV. Approval of the Agenda – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- V. Approval of the November 15, 2021 Minutes – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- VI. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)
- VII. Recognition: Dina Olivas, Division Chief – Youth & Family Services
- VIII. Presentation: Transforming Peers Lives: Senate Bill No. 803 and the Department of Health Care Service’s Expanding Peer Organization Capacity Grant – Elizabeth R. Stone, Peer Advocate (20 min.)
- IX. Chair Comments (5 min.)
- X. Director’s Report – Dr. Sevet Johnson (10 min.)
- XI. Board Member Comments and Announcements (10 min.)
- XII. Secretary’s Report – Janis Gardner (5 min.)
- XIII. BHAB Committee Reports (5 min each)
 - A. Youth & Family Services Committee (reporting on October 13 and December 8 meetings) – Kevin Clerici, Chair
 - B. Adult Services Committee (reporting on November 4 meeting) – Nancy Borchard and Gane Brooking, Co-Chairs.
 - C. Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Committee (reporting on November 18 meeting) – Joe S. Ramirez, Chair
- XIV. Old Business
 - A. Revision to BHAB Bylaws – Update on Status to Board of Supervisors – Michael Rodriguez, Chair (5 min.)
 - B. Needs Assessment Board Letter – Update on Status to Board of Supervisors – Michael Rodriguez, Chair (5 min.)
 - C. 2021 Data Notebook Workgroup Composition – Michael Rodriguez, Chair (5 min.)

Members of the public making oral presentations to the Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total time not to exceed (5) minutes for all of their oral presentations at such meeting unless otherwise provided. **Public comments on agenda items must be made prior to board member deliberations of agenda items.** The entire public comment period is limited to no more than (20) minutes total for all speakers. NOTE: The Chair may limit the number or duration of speakers on a matter. In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Behavioral Health Administration at (805) 981-6830. Reasonable advance notification of the need for accommodation prior to the meeting (48 hours advance notice is preferable) will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

- D. BHAB Membership Identification Assessment – Update on Number of Responders – Michael Rodriguez, Chair (5 min.)

XV. New Business

- A. Brown Act Public Emergency Allowances / Teleconferences – Requirements for Local Boards and Commissions – Michael Rodriguez, Chair – **ACTION** (Roll Call) (5 min.)
- B. Public Hearing to End 30-day Public Comment Period on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation Multi-County Full Service Partnership (FSP) Project Extension – Michael Rodriguez, Chair – **ACTION** (Roll Call) (10 min.)
- C. Announcements – Janis Gardner (5 min.)
- D. Presentation Requests
- E. Recognition Award Recommendations

XVI. Contracts

Board of Supervisors Approved Agreements – November 9, 2021

- 1. First Amendment to the Participation Agreement for the Third Sector Multi-County Full Service Partnerships Innovation Project with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA).

XVII. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)

XVIII. Adjourn

Happy Holidays!

Next Meeting: Monday, January 24, 2022

(4th Monday versus 3rd Monday due to January 17 Holiday)

All agenda reports and supporting data, including those filed in accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5 (b) (1) and (2) are available from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board Assistant at bhabadmin@ventura.org or in person at Ventura County Behavioral Health, 2nd Floor, 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, California. The same materials will be available and attached with each associated agenda item, when received, at the following website: www.vcbh.org/en/behavioral-health-advisory-board-meetings.

Welcome to the meeting of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board of the County of Ventura. The following information is provided to help you understand, follow, and participate in the Board meeting:

Join the Zoom meeting by clicking the link provided on the agenda at the scheduled time and date. Zoom will initially start with a **waiting room** — you will be admitted into the meeting room when the meeting starts. All participants are muted upon entry to minimize any unintended disruption of background sounds. Please keep yourself on mute unless you are speaking.

Note: The meeting is recorded.

Public Comments

- The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) welcomes comments from the community, consumers and family members.

Members of the public making oral presentations to the Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total time not to exceed (5) minutes for all of their oral presentations at such meeting unless otherwise provided. **Public comments on agenda items must be made prior to board member deliberations of agenda items.** The entire public comment period is limited to no more than (20) minutes total for all speakers. NOTE: The Chair may limit the number or duration of speakers on a matter. In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Behavioral Health Administration at (805) 981-6830. Reasonable advance notification of the need for accommodation prior to the meeting (48 hours advance notice is preferable) will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

- The BHAB operates under the Brown Act. This requires that all meetings be open meetings, with the agenda and minutes posted. A public comment period will be provided on all meeting agendas.
- Due to confidentiality laws, the Board is unable to respond directly to a public comment or to discuss client-specific issues without proper releases from the individuals concerned.
- At all BHAB meetings, the BHAB Assistant provides a Grievance Form for individuals who have concerns. The form is reviewed promptly by VCBH Quality Management. Individuals can also contact the BHAB Assistant to request a VCBH Grievance Form outside a BHAB meeting or call 1-888-567-2122.
- Individuals who have further concerns are welcome to return to the BHAB for assistance.

Public comments may be provided using one of the following options:

1. Email or Mail Public Comment in Advance of the Meeting

To make a written public comment, you must send an email to bhabadmin@ventura.org, with the specific agenda item or topic, if a general comment, by no later than 10:00 AM on the day of the BHAB meeting. Your written public comment may also be mailed to the following address and must be received by the BHAB Assistant no later than 10 AM on the day of the meeting:

BHAB Assistant
1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93036

Please indicate in the subject line the agenda item number (e.g., Item No. 9) on which you are commenting. Your written public comment sent via email or regular mail will be distributed to the BHAB Members and placed into the item's record of the meeting.

Or

2. Video Public Comment using Zoom

You may use the raise hand feature when the Chair invites public comments in the following ways:

If you are running an older version of Zoom, you can raise your hand by clicking on the Participant button at the bottom of the Zoom screen and then click on the raise hand feature in that participant window.

If you are running the most current version of Zoom (5.4.9 and above) you can raise your hand by clicking on the Reactions button and then clicking on raise hand feature. Your hand will appear in the upper left-hand corner of your individual Zoom window as well as the participant window.

Call-In Public Comment using Zoom

If you are joining the meeting by telephone only, you can join the comment queue by pressing *9. When it is your turn to make your comment, press *6 to unmute and then again to mute yourself after speaking.

Note: Your raised hand will appear TO THE HOST in the order it was received.

Comments are taken in the order they are received in the queue/participant window. When it is your turn to make a comment, you will be asked to unmute yourself. **Public comments may be up to 3 minutes during the public comment periods, or before an agenda item, with a cumulative total time not to exceed 5 minutes.** The assigned timekeeper will track each public comment time as well as the total time per speaker. When your time is up, the timekeeper will interrupt to let you know that you have reached the 3-minute maximum as well as when you have reached your total allotted time. At the end of the three minutes and/or allotted time, the next person in the comment queue will be invited to speak.

REMINDER: In order to minimize distractions during public meetings, all personal communication devices should be turned off or put in a non-audible mode.

Members of the public making oral presentations to the Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total time not to exceed (5) minutes for all of their oral presentations at such meeting unless otherwise provided. **Public comments on agenda items must be made prior to board member deliberations of agenda items.** The entire public comment period is limited to no more than (20) minutes total for all speakers. NOTE: The Chair may limit the number or duration of speakers on a matter. In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Behavioral Health Administration at (805) 981-6830. Reasonable advance notification of the need for accommodation prior to the meeting (48 hours advance notice is preferable) will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
December 20, 2021

Agenda Item VIII.

Transforming Peers Lives:
SB803 & DHCS's EPOC Grant

The implementation of SB803, which created a pathway for statewide certification of Peer Support Specialists, is underway. At the statewide level, DHCS (the Department of Health Care Services) is actively involved in crafting the details and has funded multiple initiatives to enhance the quality of - and expand the numbers of - peers who may be able to become certified, as is required to have their employers reimbursed for the services they provide under Medi-Cal.

In Ventura County, a newly emerging organization, Transforming Peers Lives, received major seed money from DHCS under the EPOC grant program. Project Coordinator, Elizabeth R. Stone, will share some of the broad objectives of this grant, details about the process and requirements for earning state-recognized Certifications under the new regulations, and current and future services and developments that Transforming Peers Lives has begun and will be undertaking.

Included will be information about receiving training, advocacy options supported by stipends, and multiple part-time employment and on-the-job training opportunities to support individuals with lived experience of challenging mental health and/or substance use issues, especially those who've navigated homelessness, involvement with the justice system, and/or crisis services with the final goal (if desired) of becoming state Certified, with related additional varied employment options.

Additional information: elizabeth@downtownventura.org

Director's Update

BHAB General Meeting 12.20.21

December has the following days of significance to highlight:

- International Day of Persons with Disabilities-December 3rd
- Human Rights Day- December 10th
- International Immigrants Day- December 18th

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal:

CalAIM is a multi-year initiative by DHCS to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of our population by implementing broad delivery system, program and payment reform across the Medi-Cal program. The major components of CalAIM build upon the successful outcomes of various pilots (including but not limited to the Whole Person Care Pilots (WPC), Health Homes Program (HHP), and the Coordinated Care Initiative) from the previous federal waivers and will result in a better quality of life for Medi-Cal members as well as long-term cost savings/avoidance.

CalAIM has three primary goals:

1. Identify and manage member risk and need through whole person care approaches and addressing Social Determinants of Health;
2. Move Medi-Cal to a more consistent and seamless system by reducing complexity and increasing flexibility; and
3. Improve quality outcomes, reduce health disparities, and drive delivery system transformation and innovation through value-based initiatives, modernization of systems, and payment reform.

DHCS formally released the CalAIM proposal on October 29, 2019, at the [Stakeholder Advisory Committee \(SAC\)](#) and [Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee \(BH-SAC\)](#) meetings. Between November 2019 and February 2020, DHCS conducted extensive stakeholder engagement for both CalAIM and the renewal of the federal authorities under which Medi-Cal operates (i.e. 1115 and 1915b waivers).

DHCS postponed the planned implementation of the CalAIM initiative, originally scheduled for January 1, 2021 so that both DHCS and all of our partners could focus their limited resources on the needs arising from the public health emergency due to COVID-19.

DHCS released a revised CalAIM proposal on January 8, 2021. [Revised CalAIM Proposal](#).

General Updates:

- Expansion of the Mobile Crisis Unit with the Crisis Care Mobile Unit for Transitional Age Youth Rapid Response Team through a grant program with the California Department of Health Care Services. Mobile teams will provide crisis and non-crisis services throughout the County of Ventura.
- Attached, please find the recent press release regarding the County Board of Supervisors support for the creation of more than 235 affordable housing units filling critical gap in housing needs for the most vulnerable and expanding behavioral health support.

- 180 affordable units and 69 are for individuals with a mental health challenge and supported through No Place Like Home; Fillmore Terrace, Cypress Place at Garden City Phase II and Casa Aliento.
- The Rancho Sierra Senior Apartments that will be developed off Lewis Road in Camarillo will have 50 units- 24 NPLH units (of the 50) must be very low-income residents, at least 62 years of age, homeless or at risk of homelessness & have a mental health diagnosis-a total add of 74 units.
- A HUGE THANK YOU to NAMI Ventura, Roberta Griego, Executive Director and all of the NAMI volunteers that planned and worked to bring to life the NAMI Holiday Party in a Box- delivering gift bags, delicious meals and a “Party in a Box” to residents and Behavioral Health clients at 15 Board & Cares across the County. Thank you also to the various Fire Departments and Law Enforcement that helped and provided escorts for the whole day.

Adult Services Division:

- We are happy to announce that Nancy Springer, LCSW, has accepted a promotion to the position of Behavioral Health Manager II and will begin overseeing operations in the Adult East County Clinics (Conejo and Simi) and Transitions/VCPOP in the coming weeks. Nancy began her career with VCBH as a Crisis Team member in 2012 and in more recent years, she has been a part of the Ventura Clinic team, first, as a Behavior Health Clinician and then as one of the two Clinic Administrators. East County and Transition are happy to be welcoming Nancy and are sure to benefit from the experience she is bringing to the position of Behavioral Health Manager.
- I want to thank NAMI and Patti Pape for including Dr. Schipper in the recent Family-to-Family class. It gave VCBH an opportunity to describe our treatment and services to a very interested and appreciative audience. The hope is to make this Q&A session a standing part of NAMI’s Family-to-Family class going forward.
- The state has announced several rounds of pending grant funding under the title “Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program” – A link to review additional details on this is provided here: <https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/apply/>
- The Board of Supervisors have approved our Round 1 \$633K grant for Crisis Care Mobile Unit. I can also report VCBH has submitted a proposal for a Round 2 planning grant which identifies the development of a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) in East County as its’ objective.

Youth and Family (Y&F) Services Division:

Division Highlights

- The Y&F Division was fortunate to have the Spark of Love meet our request to help 218 youth who might have otherwise gone without gifts this holiday. Staff from throughout the department joined in to assure pick-up and delivery of gifts to families. A special Thank you to Angela Riddle for her heartfelt dedication in ensuring those in need from our community are supported in their holiday celebrations.

Initiatives and Progress

- As part of FFPSA (Family First Prevention Services Act), we continue to work closely with our placing agencies to implement and streamline new level of care determination as required by the State. As of October 1, 2021, any recommendations for a higher level of care placement will

need to be made by the Child and Family Team, followed by a Qualified Individual Assessment and finally, reviewed and approved by the Courts.

- We continue to support transition of local group homes to STRTP (Short Term Residential Therapeutic Facilities). We are currently supporting four STRTP' through the transition process of obtaining contracts with our Department.

Collaborations

- The Y&F, Adults and SUTS teams have been invited back to the Ventura Office of Education to provide a training next semester on the Mental Health Continuum of Services in Ventura County. This has become a twice-yearly opportunity to provide this training to teachers, school psychologists, school nurses and other related personnel. The presentation provides updated information for access and navigation to the breadth of available services and supports for students experiencing mild to severe mental health and substance use challenges.

Training & Conferences

- The Wellness Center staff of BHC Alfonso Gutierrez and CSC Angeles Small are providing workshops for students at their school sites. Current workshops are focusing upon coping strategies for stress and anxiety during the Holidays.

Substance Use Services (SUS) Division:

Award of SABG Funds:

- On December 16th 2021, the California Department of Health Care Services awarded VCBH \$3,175,694.43 in supplemental funding from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG). We have been allocated this amount from two different sources of federal funding: the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
- The \$981,806.42 allocated from CRRSAA will be used in the next 18 months to support direct and media outreach around Fentanyl and Naloxone to highest risk populations, purchasing software for advanced data collection on overdoses in the County, the expansion of recovery housing, perinatal-specific peer support for pregnant and parenting persons with substance use disorders, and additional substance use prevention education programs in Ventura County schools.
- The \$2,193,888.01 allocated from ARPA will be used over the next 5 years to upgrade telehealth infrastructure and create more options for hybrid services, to purchase clinic vans to provide mobile response and more field-based services, and will bring on additional staff to perform increasing work related to electronic health record management. ARPA funds will also go towards adolescent prevention efforts such as the "Teen Intervene" early intervention and referral program, contracted school-based services and student assistance programs, and continuing the Naloxone kit distribution with enhanced data integration work initiated by the County Opioid Abuse Suppression Task Force (COAST) grant which recently sunset.
- Our staff worked diligently under a very tight application timetable to put together thoughtful and highly detailed applications for this grant, which is why we were awarded the maximum total amount of funds in every category. We are excited to share the news of this award and ready to put the funds to meaningful use for Ventura County.

EQRO Review of DMC-ODS:

- The 3rd annual External Quality Review (EQR) of Ventura County's Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) was held from November 30th to December 2nd, 2021. This review marks the end of a year-long process involving input from over 100 county and contracted provider staff across the delivery system. During the review, the Behavioral Health Concepts (BHC) team held discussion sessions to review activities related to: access, timeliness, and quality of care; conducted focus groups with county and contracted provider clients and staff members; and provided technical assistance for continuous quality improvement of services. While the formal report is not yet complete, feedback from the BHC review team was very positive overall. A few noted strengths were: the high penetration rates (i.e. percentage of those needing services who were served); effective care coordination; strong client satisfaction scores; and fast and efficient intake process. Review findings will be shared in greater detail when the final report is received, which is anticipated in early March of 2022.

MHSA:

- **Suicide Prevention Efforts and Resources:**
 - The Surgeon General recently issued a [public health advisory](#) that noted symptoms of depression and anxiety have doubled during the pandemic, with 25% of youth experiencing depressive symptoms and 20% experiencing anxiety symptoms. According to the advisory, in early 2021, emergency department visits in the United States for suspected suicide attempts were 51% higher for adolescent girls and 4% higher for adolescent boys, compared to the same time period in early 2019. In response, Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky has been leading a series of suicide prevention webinars in December, and will host a webinar on Grief and Loss in January. These webinars are geared for the general public, no previous knowledge or training is needed to join. Please see the attached flyer for registration information.



For suicide prevention resources, visit www.WellnessEveryDay.org

Funding is made through Ventura County Behavioral Health, Mental Health Services Act.



Para recursos de prevención del suicidio, visite www.SaludSiempreVC.org

Financiamiento brindado por Ventura County Behavioral Health, Ley de Servicios de Salud Mental.

- **Innovation:**
 - Three of the MHS Innovation projects ended in June 2021. The final outcome reports for the Bartenders as Gatekeepers, Healing the Soul, and Push Tech programs will be available on the Wellness Everyday site later this month.

Administration:

Overall Administration:

- Coordination of CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) efforts across the department. A VCBH task force has been established and is meeting weekly for ongoing CalAIM initiative implementation. VCBH continues to engage all providers to ensure that they are ready for the changes to criteria for access to SMHS. VCBH has facilitated provider trainings, ongoing collaboration and coordination with County Partners, Gold Coast Health Plan and DHCS on CalAIM implementation.
- Safety and Facilities – monitoring and compliance with DCHS IN-043 that requires all healthcare staff to be vaccinated or have an approved exemption and be tested weekly. Employees not in compliance with either of those requirements will be placed on leave effective 10-1-2021. They must come into compliance the requirements or may face further action related to continued employment.
- Contracts Team: The Contracts Team is in the process of conducting contractor desk audits and site reviews to determine their adherence to the provisions/terms in their contracts. The desk audits are currently in process, and the submitted information is currently being audited for compliance. The site review preparations are currently in process, and the site reviews are scheduled to be conducted with the contractors from January through February of 2022. Contract amendments are also being completed to incorporate needed changes that arose from the Fall Provider meetings and additional contract language adjustments.

Quality Management

- Major revisions to policies, procedures and forms are taking place over the next month to implement DHCS changes to criteria for access to SMHS and Substance Use Services. Quality Management continues to hold quarterly meetings with contracted provider representatives and has begun quarterly meetings with VCBH management staff as well to review essential updates, policy and procedure reminders, quality improvement updates, and other key areas related to compliance, contracts, fiscal, cultural competency, etc. The care coordination team is working closely with Vista Del Mar and Hillmont IPU during inpatient hospital stays and throughout the discharge process to increase post-hospitalization follow-up to reduce inpatient recidivism.

Quality Improvement:

- The External Quality Reviews (EQRO) for DMC-ODS was held in late November 2021 and preparations are underway for the Mental Health EQRO in February 2022. We continue to implement 4 performance improvement projects (PIPs) that address areas for improvement such as no-show rates, initial and ongoing client engagement in services, and post-hospitalization follow-up, and recently received positive feedback on all PIPs from the state reviewers. QI is currently working closely with the MHS team to prepare the Annual Update and are focused on building out data elements for each of the programs. We are also supporting efforts to enhance MHS funded FSP, with attention focused on data collection, monitoring, and reporting. We continue to build-out ongoing tracking and reporting of key performance metrics and are working with VC-Information Technology Services to design a public-facing data dashboard. Estimated completion is 2-3 months.

Electronic Health Records

- We are staging modifications to the Progress Note entry forms in Avatar in preparation for the mandated January 1, 2022 changes to support DHCS requirements for collecting Telehealth and Telephone service delivery encounters.
- Currently working to ensure that the Electronic Health Record will be able to meet the requirements of CalAIM through modifications to the system and the purchase of new modules (if needed) to support payment reform and managed care components.
- Another modification being staged for January 1 cut-over involves changes to the medical necessity definition used on our client assessment records. We are planning for a smooth transition scheduled over the New Year's weekend in preparation for the first clinical workday of 2022.
- Finishing touches are being applied to an iPad-based client-oriented treatment perception survey which will be rolled out in our adult mental health outpatient clinics. This survey will collect client feedback regarding their recent treatment session. Information gathered from this platform will be combined with other client survey data for quality review purposes.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2021

County Board of Supervisors supports the creation of more than 235 affordable housing units filling critical gap in housing needs for the most vulnerable and expanding behavioral health support

Ventura, CA – On December 14, the County Board of Supervisors approved actions that support the creation of more than 235 units of new affordable, permanent supportive housing and transitional housing. “Homelessness and mental illness are our two most pressing social issues, and so I’m delighted that our last board meeting of 2021 capped a year of stepping up to provide shelter and affordable housing and services to these vulnerable populations,” said Chair of the Board Linda Parks.

The projects support those experiencing homelessness, at risk of becoming homeless, transition aged youth (age 18-24) and seniors. The Board also supported the expansion of Behavioral Health Mobile Crisis Care Units and the development of a Transitional Age Youth Rapid Response Team to provide mental health support services throughout the County.

“There is a critical need for housing in our communities. The Board action is a huge step in helping to fill that gap,” said County Executive Officer Mike Powers. “In addition to housing, these community members will also have access to supportive services to help meet their needs.”

The County Board of Supervisors approved the following projects during Tuesday’s meeting:

- A land lease with Many Mansions and the Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura for the purpose of developing 49 units of affordable senior housing, with 24 units set aside for seniors experiencing homelessness.
- A co-application with Peoples’ Self Help Housing Corporation and Community Development Partners/Mercy House to the State of California for No Place Like Home Funding to support 3 affordable housing developments with units set-aside as Permanent Supportive Housing for persons experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the board approved a local contribution of \$1.6 million in County discretionary No Place Like Home Funding.
- A co-application with Mesa Independent Living and Peoples’ Self Help Housing to the State of California for Homekey 2.0 funding to acquire, rehabilitate and potentially add tiny homes on a 10-acre property in the unincorporated areas of the county near Ojai to provide transitional housing for Transition Aged Youth (18-24) who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board also approved a local contribution of \$2 million in American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and HOME-ARP funding to this project.

- The County’s HOME-American Rescue Plan Act Allocation Plan, which allocates approximately \$3.9 million to supporting capital investment and operating subsidies for newly created units of housing, with a priority for units dedicated to persons experiencing homelessness.
- Expansion of the Mobile Crisis Care Units and development of a Transitional Age Youth Rapid Response Team through a grant program with the California Department of Health Care Services. Mobile teams will provide crisis and non-crisis services throughout the County of Ventura.

The net result of the above actions supports the creation of 128 units of permanent supportive housing for persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness; 98 units affordable to households at or below 60% the area median income; and between 8-11 transitional housing units for transition aged youth.

“We typically see 5-10 units in new development set aside for special need populations such as people experiencing homelessness. The Board action is a very significant step forward in creating housing solutions that will help us in our regional progress to prevent and end homelessness,” said Tara Carruth, Countywide Continuum of Care Program Manager, County Executive Office.

###

VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Clients Served

Open episodes in November 2021 with billing activity in prior 12 months (methodology updated October 2021)

As of 12/3/2021

All VCBH	VCBH Treatment Programs
SUS - County & Contractor MH Adult - County & Contractor MH Y&F - County & Contractor VCBH STAR Adult Crisis	County & Contractor Includes outpatient and residential

**VCBH enrolled clients only

	VCBH Program Group							
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis	CSU**	IPU**
Total Clients With Open Episode	11,091	1,171	5,529	3,793	786	574	29	50

**VCBH enrolled clients only

Total Clients With Open Episode Age Group *	VCBH Program Group							
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis	CSU**	IPU**
0-15	2,757	21	1	2,569	222	39		
16-25	2,134	208	718	1,101	196	140	3	12
26-59	4,963	879	3,726	123	323	311	25	33
60+	1,237	63	1,084		45	84	1	5
Grand Total	11,091	1,171	5,529	3,793	786	574	29	50

* Client age as of end of reporting period

**VCBH enrolled clients only

Total Clients With Open Episode Preferred Language	VCBH Program Group							
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis	CSU**	IPU**
English	9,687	1,093	4,844	3,253	662	519	26	47
Spanish	1,153	64	547	469	106	34	3	2
Mixteco	9		4	5	2			
Other	85	4	61	14	4	6		
Unknown / Not Reported	157	10	73	52	12	15		1
Grand Total	11,091	1,171	5,529	3,793	786	574	29	50

**VCBH enrolled clients only

Total Clients With Open Episode	VCBH Program Group							
Ethnicity	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis	CSU**	IPU**
Latinx	5,647	630	2,461	2,386	420	183	17	25
Non-Latinx	4,082	429	2,639	853	225	203	12	22
Unknown / Not Reported	1,362	112	429	554	141	188		3
Grand Total	11,091	1,171	5,529	3,793	786	574	29	50

**VCBH enrolled clients only

Total Clients Served At Each Location ***	VCBH Program Group							
Program Service Location	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis	CSU**	IPU**
CAMARILLO	485		90	395				
FILLMORE	136	43		94				
MOORPARK	14			14				
OXNARD	5,953	872	2,495	1,651	786	574		
SANTA PAULA	720		481	240				
SIMI VALLEY	1,213	78	717	441				
THOUSAND OAKS	1,198	44	835	324				
VENTURA	2,131	71	1,105	975			29	50
Outside Ventura County (Contractor)	235	214	21					
Grand Total	12,085	1,322	5,744	4,134	786	574	29	50

*** Clients may be counted under multiple locations

To: Board of Supervisors
County Executive Office
Clerk of the Board

From: Dr. Robert Levin, Ventura County Health Officer



Date: November 15, 2021

Re: Recommendation regarding Social Distancing and Continued Remote Meetings of
Legislative Bodies

I continue to recommend that physical/social distancing measures be practiced throughout our Ventura County communities to minimize the spread of COVID-19, including at meetings of the Board of Supervisors and meetings of other legislative bodies in the County of Ventura.

The California Department of Public Health ("CDPH") and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") caution that the Delta variant of COVID-19, currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>). While the Delta variant is the currently circulating variant, the Delta-2 variant, its likely successor, is 10 to 15% more transmissible. Current case and hospitalization rates have remained stubbornly higher than they were in the days leading up to the most recent surge. In some counties in our state, these rates are starting to climb again. We are facing the winter holidays and the opportunities these holidays present to promote transmission of COVID-19 infection. The winter season and its associated cold weather drives people indoors and provides another opportunity to spread the highly transmissible COVID-19 virus. Associated with these events last year our county experienced a surge in COVID-19 cases.

Whether vaccinated or not, positive individuals are contracting the Delta variant and infecting others in our communities. Social distancing and masking are crucial mitigation measures to prevent the disease's spread. Remote meetings of legislative bodies in the County, including but not limited to the Board of Supervisors are a recommended form of social distancing that allows for the participation of the community, county staff, presenters, and legislative body members in a safe environment, with no risk of contagion. It is recommended that legislative bodies in the County continue to implement 100% remote meetings. Just as it is likely that the current County order requiring the use of face coverings indoors will be in place beyond the first of the year,

though driven by good intentions, lifting the remote meetings policy at this time would be premature.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

Board Date	Contractor	Amount	Term	Description
11/9/2021	California Mental Health Services Authority	\$0	July 26, 2020 Through December 31, 2024	<p>First Amendment to the Participation Agreement for the Third Sector Multi-County Full Service Partnerships Innovation Project with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA).</p> <p>Since the creation of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) in 2004, California has made significant strides in improving the lives of those most in need across the state. Full Service Partnerships (FSP) programs support people with the most severe and often co-occurring mental health needs. These MHSA funded FSP programs are designed to apply a "whatever it takes" approach to serving and partnering with individuals living with severe mental illness. While the state's MHSA-FSP programs promote a flexible "whatever it takes" approach to serving individuals with the most severe mental health needs, the flexibility inherent in an FSP program has hindered the development of meaningful county comparisons for evaluation purposes. In response to the need for county consensus on FSP eligibility, program elements, and performance measures, VCBH sought and received approval from the Board on March 10, 2020 of the FY 19-20 to FY 23-24 Multi-County FSP Innovation Work Plan. This work plan created a collaborative comprised of six counties (Fresno, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Mateo, Siskiyou, and Ventura) whose goal is to work together to develop a performance-based model for FSP data collection, services utilization, and outcomes evaluation. With approval from the Board on July 21, 2020, VCBH executed the Participation Agreement with CalMHSA for the Third Sector Multi-County FSP Innovation Project. Through this Participation Agreement, CalMHSA provides administrative and fiscal oversight for this FSP Innovation Project and contracted with Third Sector, a nonprofit organization, to serve as the lead contractor that assists the collaborative of counties in creating a data-driven FSP that uses data to better design, implement, and manage FSP services across various age groups and populations, with the ultimate goal of better understanding important client outcomes and continuously working to improve them. The First Amendment extends the Agreement with CalMHSA through the end of the project term and enables VCBH and CalMHSA to continue working together to achieve the project objectives. Source of Funding is Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).</p>