

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

General Committee Meeting Minutes

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)

1911 Williams Dr, Training Room (first floor) · Oxnard, CA 93036

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Monday, April 17, 2023, 1:00 – 3:30PM

BHAB Members Present:

Michael Rodriguez, Chair	Chris Tejeda, 1st Vice Chair
Nancy Borchard, 2 nd Vice Chair	Janis Gardner, Secretary
Elizabeth R. Stone, Member-At-Large	Claudia Armann
Soledad Barragan	Kevin Clerici
James Espinoza	Genevieve Flores-Haro
Cheryl Heitmann	Carol J. “C.J” Keavney
Supervisor Matt LaVere	Naomi (Nomi) Marrufo
Dianne McKay	Jennifer Morrison
Shawn Pewsey	Liz Warren

Guests:

Alex Aguirre, EvalCorp	Dustin Anderson, EvalCorp
Karyn Bates, Client-Family Advocate	Ratan Bhavnani, NAMI Volunteer
Jason Canger, VC County	Jason Claros, VCOE
Rachelle Dean, VCDA	Kristen Donovan, EvalCorp
Mary Haffner, Advocate	Melissa Hannah, United Parents
Rae Hanstad, EvalCorp	Jerry Harris, Former BHAB Chair/Member
Jeff Hayden, Community Member	Priscila Hazrun, SP Interpreter
Traci Holt, VCEMS	Martha Johnson, VCHCA
Robert O’Riley, BOS 5 th District	Erin Olivera, Community Member

Scott Powers, VCCEO
Chris Ridge, VCOE
Lourdes Solorzano, BOS 1st District
Mark Stadler, CIT/VCSO
Lorena Suarez, SP Interpreter
Maria Torres, Community Member
Caridad Vazquez, Community Member
Scott Walker, VCSO
Tina Wang, VCCEO

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

Scott Gilman, Director
Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief
Hilary Carson, MHSA Sr. Program Administrator
Dan Hicks, Prevention Services Manager
Esperanza Mata, MHSA Community Service Coordinator
Christine Voth, MHSA Program Administrator
Janet Kaplan, Senior Program Administrator, Prevention Services
Jakeline De Leon, Management Assistant/Zoom Engineer

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:03PM by Chair Rodriguez. Lorena Suarez and Priscila Hazrun, Spanish Interpreters, introduced themselves and provided instruction on the interpretation services available for the meeting.
- II. **Roll Call to Determine Physical Quorum** – Secretary Janis Gardner conducted the roll call; a quorum of the board members was present.
- III. **Roll Call of Members with Just Cause** – Roll call of members with Just Cause was conducted by Chair Rodriguez.
 - a. **State others present in the room over the age of 18.**
- IV. **Welcome & Introductions** – All BHAB members introduced themselves.
- V. **Approval of the Agenda** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board General Committee agenda for April 17, 2023, was approved (Warren/Keavney/Passed). Chair Rodriguez requested item XVI b, the appointment of the nominations committee, followed item VIII, the

presentation. Vice Chair Tejeda requested to move item IX, Jerry Harris' recognition after item VII, public comments. It was motioned to approve as amended (Warren/Keavney/Passed), by majority vote through roll call.

- VI. Approval of the February 27, 2023, Minutes** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board General Committee minutes for February 27, 2023, were approved (Armann/Tejeda/Passed). Ms. Armann requested a correction on page 4, the name of the community in Hueneme is spelled “Orvene”. It was motioned to approve as amended by majority vote through roll call. Ms. Flores-Haro, Ms. McKay, Ms. Morrison, Ms. Stone, and Mr. Espinoza abstained.

- VII. Public Comments** – NONE.

- VIII. Presentation: Independent Needs Assessment Quarterly Update** – Alex Aguirre shared her screen and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Independent Needs Assessment Quarterly Update along with Dustin Anderson, Rae Hanstad, and Kristen Donovan. Their presentation will be attached to these minutes.

- IX. Recognition of Jerry Harris, Former Behavioral Health Advisory Board Member** – Vice Chair Tejeda presented an award to former Behavior Health Advisory board member, Jerry Harris, recognizing his service on the BHAB and mental health.

- X. Chair Comments** – Chair Rodriguez commented he went to Simi Valley for a reunion with his Simi Valley high school wrestling team and celebrated their junior high coach 80ths birthday. He commented that despite their differences, they all got together due to their long history and shared experience, and he believes it is the same for the Behavioral Health Advisory board. Although there are disagreements at times, everyone adds a different perspective on mental health, while we are bonded by our shared goal of significantly improving meaningful access to behavioral health services appropriate to each individual’s needs.

- XI. Director’s Report** – Director Gilman presented his report. On Saturday, April 29th, VCBH will be hosting a job fair in the training room in 1911 Williams Dr., Oxnard, CA from 9AM to 2PM. Due to the large number of responses the \$30,000 mini grants scoring has been delayed. The goal of this project is to expand our provider network by attracting new treatment and prevention organizations that are not currently contracted with VCBH. VCBH has also

been notified of additional MHSA funds coming in August, approximately 40 million dollars. Unfortunately, these will be one-time funds. VCBH is planning on putting together a process based on the community input process to develop the three-year plan. This will begin with training the BHAB members and interested stakeholders on the rules for how MHSA can be used, MHSA 101. Additionally, Director Gilman reported that the county is in the process of making an offer on a building in Port Hueneme for the children's wellness center. This must go before the Board of Supervisors first. The location of the center will be announced soon via email. There is also approximately 8.9-million-dollars of new state funds available to help build local residential competency restoration services for individuals with a felony found incompetent to stand trial. One other large funding opportunity is the 13.2-million-dollar bridge housing funds. VCBH is working closely with stakeholders and the County Continuum of Care staff working on homeless projects. VCBH has formed a trauma informed trauma practices workgroup and they are inviting consultants to look at becoming a trauma informed workplace. Lastly, May is mental health month, there will be many events for Fentanyl Awareness Day, the state campaign will be launched shortly-another suicide awareness prevention activity.

- XII. Board Member Comments & Announcements** – Ms. Flores-Haro announced that the Indigenous Knowledge conference will be May 26th at Oxnard College from 9AM to 3:30PM. Ms. Stone announced A Friend In Deed will offer a series of reading and study groups on “The Power of Meeting the Framework”.
- XIII. Secretary’s Report / Announcements** – Secretary Gardner provided her report. She welcomed James Espinoza, Sergeant Shawn Pewsey, and Dianne McKay to the BHAB. Supervisor Parvin’s office will have one more applicant who will be on the Board of Supervisors agenda for approval. Once they are approved, there will be one BHAB member opening in Supervisor Gorell’s office as well as the opening for a psychiatrist. The Board of Supervisors had a proclamation proclaiming April 2023 as Autism Acceptance Month, Sexual Assault Awareness month, and other items are in Director Gilman’s report. Ventura County officials expect to open a \$61 million health unit in May to treat and house inmates with serious mental illness and medical conditions. Tuesday, April 18th, VC Behavioral Health is holding a listening event and roundtable discussion from 4PM to 6PM at the Wellness Center at the Center Point Mall, 2697 Saviers Rd., Oxnard, CA. The public must RSVP to attend at (805) 653-5045. The U.S Food and Drug Administration announced that it has approved Narcan 4mg naloxone, hydrochloride nasal spray, over the counter, nonprescription use. Any

individuals with Medi-Cal can call (888) 472-4463, (833) 607-2650, or (805) 215-073. Lastly, Ventura County has entered into an agreement to buy a building for a center named after former Supervisor Carmen Ramirez that will focus on crime victims whose needs she championed, and the building will be on the 500 block of A St in Downtown Oxnard.

XIV. BHAB Committee Reports – Ms. Stone announced that the TAY committee was scheduled to meet April 19th, but it was cancelled, and the notice was sent out Friday, April 14th. She will send out more information soon at the next meeting.

A. Adult Services Committee (March 2) – Vice Chair Tejada provided a report. The meeting did not take place due to the lack of a quorum; they hope to meet a quorum in May and establish membership. The next meeting will be on May 4th at 10AM.

B. Disparities Reduction Committee (March 7) – Ms. Flores-Haro and Chair Rodriguez mentioned they did meet; they reviewed the roster and Ms. Flores-Haro invited members to join the committee. The next meeting will be May 2nd at 4:30PM.

C. Prevention Committee (March 14) – Secretary Gardner provided a report. Cat Lanting and Christy Buck of the Mental Health Foundation conducted an overview of school-based prevention programs entitled “Be Nice.” They look forward to seeing the “Be Nice” program being implemented in Ventura County schools. Director Gilman added they met with VCOE staff, and they are determining how many schools would be interested, more to come soon. The next meeting will be May 9th at 3:15Pm.

D. Youth & Family Committee (April 12) – Mr. Clerici provided a report. The Youth and Family committee meets on the second Wednesday bimonthly, and they did have a quorum. He invited members to join the next meeting, June 14th at 10AM, they will have a presentation of Pediatrics Mental Health Collaborative in the county. They also discussed ensuring access in referrals to UCLA for families.

XV. Old Business

A. Ombudsman Workgroup Report – The Ombudsman Workgroup report has been tabled due to the lack of time.

B. Site Visits Resumption – Chair Rodriguez announced if members are interested in organizing a group, to please contact the BHAB assistant, Ms. De Leon at bhadadmin@ventura.org and Chair Rodriguez at michael.rodriquez@ventura.org.

XVI. New Business

A. Officially Announce Opening of 30-Day Public Comment Period on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update Fiscal Year 2022-23 (April 17 – May 15) – Hilary Carson announced the 3-year plan and the annual update have been posted on the VCBH.org website. The 3-year plan is their projection for the next 3 years and the annual update is the final update from the last 3-year plan. They are open now for the next 30 days, all are welcome to provide feedback at mhsa@ventura.org. At the May General meeting, they hope to go over the documents. More details and a brief presentation will be coming soon.

B. Appointment of Nominating Committee – The appointment of the nominating committee consisting of Genevieve Flores-Haro, C.J Keavney, and Marlen Torres was approved (Stone/Armann/Passed). The motion was approved as written carried by majority vote through roll call.

C. Annual Report Workgroup – This item was tabled due to the lack of time.

D. Presentation Requests – All presentation requests can be sent to Chair Rodriguez at Michael.rodriguez@ventura.org and bhabadmin@ventura.org with a description of the subject and who will be conducting the presentation.

E. Recognition Award Recommendations – All recognition recommendations can be sent to Chair Rodriguez with a description of the recommendation as well as the reason behind the recommendation at Michael.rodriguez@ventura.org and bhabadmin@ventura.org.

XVII. Contracts – Chair Rodriguez announced there was one approved agreement on Idea Engineering and encouraged committees to review the contract and report back to the BHAB, if appropriate.

XVIII. Public Comments – NONE.

XIX. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:43PM by Chair Michael Rodriguez.

Next Meeting Date – May 15th, 2023, from 1:00PM – 3:30PM.

Behavioral Health Advisory Board General Meeting Attendance

2022-23	Terms	Members	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
District 1	03/11/21-03/10/24	Claudia Armann	X	X	E	X	E	X	X	X	X	X		
District 5	09/15/20-09/15/23	Soledad Barragan	E	X	X	X	E	E	E	X		X		
District 3	01/26/21-01/26/24	Nancy Borchard	E	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X		
District 3	01/13/22-01/12/25	Gane Brooking				X	X							
District 1	10/07/21-10/06/24	Kevin Clerici	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	X	E	X		
Veteran Rep	10/14/21-10/13/24	James Espinoza										X		
District 1	04/27/21-04/26/24	Genevieve Flores-Haro	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	E		X		
District 3	04/15/21-04/14/24	Janis Gardner	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X		
District 1	05/11/21-05/10/24	Cheryl Heitmann	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	X	X	X		
District 2	01/08/22-01/07/25	Carol J. Keavney	E	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	E	X		
BOS	01/01/22-12/31/24	Supervisor Matt LaVere	X		X	X	E	E	X	X	X	X		
District 3	09/13/22-12/01/23	Naomi (Nomi) Marrufo			X	X	E	E	E	X	X	X		
District 2	09/17/22-09/16/25	Dianne McKay								E	X	X		
District 4	02/09/21-02/09/24	Jennifer Morrison	X	E	X	E	E	X	X	X		X		
Law E. Rep	03/28/23-03/27/26	Sergeant Shawn Pewsey										X		
District 4	04/25/23-04/24/26	Dalia Robkin												
District 5	01/25/20-01/24/23	Michael Rodriguez	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
District 2	03/01/22-02/28/25	Elizabeth R. Stone	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
District 4	09/18/21-09/17/24	Christopher Tejada	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	E	X		
District 5	01/11/20-01/24/23	Marlen Torres		E			E	E	E	X	E			
District 5	04/21/22-03/22/24	Liz Warren	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
District 2		VACANT												
District 4		VACANT												
Optional Practicing Psychiatrist		VACANT												

Present = X

- District 1: Supervisor LaVere
- District 2: Supervisor Gorell
- District 3: Supervisor Long
- District 4: Supervisor Parvin
- District 5: Supervisor Lopez



VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

April 17th, 2023

CONTINUUM OF CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Community Engagement

BHAB Progress Updates

EvalCorp

Agenda - Agenda

- Acknowledgments
- Needs Assessment Overview
- Community Engagement Progress Update
- Preliminary Themes from Community Engagement
- Expresiones de Gratitud
- Resumen de Evaluación de Necesidades
- Actualización del Progreso de la Participación Comunitaria
- Temas Preliminares de la Participación Comunitaria

Acknowledgments

Expresiones de Gratitud

Needs Assessment Overview

Resumen de Evaluación de Necesidades

Needs Assessment Overview

Resumen de Evaluación de Necesidades

- Seven Key Components
 - Primary Data Collection Strategies
 - Community Interviews
 - Listening Sessions
 - Provider Interview
 - Surveys
 - Secondary Data Collection
- Siete Componentes Clave
 - Estrategias de Recolección de Datos Primarios
 - Entrevistas Comunitarias
 - Sesiones de Escucha
 - Entrevistas de Proveedores
 - Encuestas
 - Recopilación de Datos Secundarios

Community Engagement Process

Proceso de Participación de la Comunidad

Community Engagement

Participación de la Comunidad

- Approach
- Prioritized populations
- Progress by strategy
 - In-depth Interviews
 - Listening Sessions
 - User Survey
- Manera de Abordar
- Poblaciones Priorizadas
- Progreso por Estrategia
 - Entrevistas en Profundidad
 - Sesiones de Escucha
 - Encuesta de Usuarios de Servicios

Preliminary Themes – Community Interviews Temas Preliminares – Participación Comunitaria

Preliminary Themes

Temas Preliminares

- Mental Health and Substance Use Issues
 - Barriers to Care
 - Services Needs / Gaps to Services
 - Recommendations
- Problemas de Salud Mental y Uso de Sustancias
 - Obstáculos a la Atención
 - Necesidades de Servicios / Brechas de Servicios
 - Recomendaciones

Mental Health and Substance Use Issues

Problemas de Salud Mental y Uso de Sustancias

- **Severity:** Low-moderate needs are not being met. Co-occurring with traumatic events. Revenue streams are funded by Medi-Cal.
- **Types:** Depression, Anxiety, Substance Use, Schizophrenia, Bipolar, Suicidal ideation
- **Populations:** Youth, Latinos, Unhoused
- **Gravedad:** No se están satisfaciendo las necesidades bajas a moderadas. Co-ocurrencia con eventos traumáticos. Las fuentes de ingresos están financiadas por Medi-Cal.
- **Tipos:** Depresión, Ansiedad, Uso de Sustancias, Esquizofrenia, Bipolaridad, Ideación Suicida
- **Poblaciones:** Jóvenes, Latinos, Sin Vivienda

Barriers

Obstáculos

- **Operational barriers:** Hours of operation, staff shortages, cost of services, follow up, & wait times
- **Transportation:** East/West services availability, rural access
- **Cultural issues:** Stigma, language barriers
- **Obstáculos Operacionales:** Horas de operación, escasez de personal, costo de los servicios, seguimiento y tiempos de espera
- **Transporte:** Disponibilidad de servicios Este/Oeste, acceso rural
- **Problemas Culturales:** Estigma, Barreras del Idioma

Service Needs / Gaps to Services

Necesidades de Servicios / Brechas de Servicios

- Trauma-informed practices
- Prevention and early intervention services
- Outreach and peer engagement activities
- Prácticas informadas sobre el trauma
- Servicios de prevención e intervención temprana
- Actividades de alcance y participación

Service Needs / Gaps to Services (continued)

Necesidades de Servicios / Brechas de Servicios (continuado)

- Building infrastructure
- Expanding access
- Lack of transitional services/support
- Construcción de infraestructura
- Ampliación del acceso
- Falta de servicios/apoyo de transición

Recommendations

Recomendaciones

- Improve infrastructure
 - Enhance integration of services
 - Increase access
 - Shift attitude toward respect and cultural responsiveness
 - Incorporate trauma-informed treatment
 - Make data-informed decisions
- Mejorar la infraestructura
 - Mejorar la integración de servicios
 - Mejorar el acceso
 - Cambiar la actitud hacia el respeto y la sensibilidad cultural
 - Incorporar tratamiento informado sobre el trauma
 - Tome decisiones informadas por datos



VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

THANK YOU
GRACIAS

Questions:

danderson@evalcorp.com



VENTURA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH



VENTURA COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



VENTURA COUNTY
MEDICAL CENTER



VENTURA COUNTY
AMBULATORY CARE



VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE PLAN

Director's Update

BHAB General Meeting 4.17.2023

General Updates:

April has the following days of significance to highlight:

Alcohol Awareness Month
Earth Day – April 22, 2023
National Alcohol Screening Day – April 6, 2023
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Stress Awareness Month
World Health Day – April 7, 2023

Access and Outreach Division:

- We welcome Ken Gailey, LMFT, who recently joined our Access & Outreach Division as the new Behavioral Health Manager to oversee many of our programs within our division. We also welcomed Ria Dougherty, LMFT, who accepted the promotion as our new Clinic Administrator for our Access Team. Our Access Team oversees and processes requests for services and MH referrals coming into our centralized entry way for Ventura County Behavioral Health services. Access team supports and directs individuals/families to the appropriate delivery system of care and resources.

- We are growing our leadership team – to best support each program within the Division and ensuring we are maximizing resources and streamline processes – to best support those wanting to access services through Ventura County Behavioral Health.

Adult Services Division:

- May is Mental Health Awareness Month and there are three MHSA-sponsored events coming up:
 1. Empower up! An annual youth event focused on mental health and well-being will take place on May 4th at Cal Lutheran University. This year's event is focused on highschoolers, grades 9-12th but is open to all residents of age. Please contact your local high school to register. (See attached)

 2. VCBH is partnering with LULAC-La Colonia, Rio School District, trainers for Community Change, Oxnard School District, Fuerza Latina Health Community Group, and Padres Juntos Promoviendo la Education to produce a suicide prevention conference taking place on Saturday May 13th at Lemonwood Elementary School in Oxnard. (See attached)

3. An inspirational workshop for women will take place in Santa Paula on May 30th. Dr. Dulce Lopez will be giving a presentation on Metamorphosis, the transformation of women towards their inner light. The presentation's focus is on providing positive coping skills that might assist individuals on their life journey toward self-empowerment, healing, and well-being. It will be on May 30th at the Casa del Mexicano in Santa Paula. It will start at 5:30 pm. There will be dinner provided and resources tables. If you would like to join, please register at MHSA.org or by calling 805-981-5447.
- The MHSA 3-year Plan 2023-26 and Annual Update FY 22-23 will be posted to the vcbh.org website for the 30-day public review period. Comments can be sent through the website or to MHSA@ventura.org. The public hearing is scheduled for May 15, 2023, at 1pm.
 - Community Care Expansion Preservation Program: The California Department of Social Services has awarded VCBH with \$1.6M in Capital Project funds and \$1.1M in Operating Subsidy Payment funds. This one-time, non-competitive funding is intended to improve the physical plants of licensed board and cares and to better support the clients they serve.
 - Behavioral Health Bridge Housing: DHCS has made available \$13,325,088 for Ventura County to provide supportive housing and temporary shelter beds over 3 years. There is an emphasis on a rapid rollout, using existing resources. Housing Manager, Susan White, has been working with an array of partners (e.g., Continuum of Care, Area Housing Authorities, Interface, Spirit of Santa Paula, etc.) to develop a plan that, in part, proposes funding motel rooms, additional shelter beds, site specific rental assistance and supportive services for both individuals and families. As part of the stakeholder process, a listening session for unhoused persons with mental illness will be held April 18th at 4pm at the Wellness Center at the Center Point Mall. This application is due May 1, 2023. (See attached)
 - Department of State Hospitals-Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial Project: VCBH is working with an existing partner to leverage DSH grant funds to redevelop an existing housing unit into a community-based restoration program. This would be a multi-agency effort and letters of support have been received from the Superior Court, the Public Defender and District Attorney Offices, the Sheriff, Probation, and the CEO. The intensive services would be directed at persons who otherwise would be admitted to the state hospital. The proposed number of people served with this grant is projected to be between 15-30. This proposal is due April 28, 2023.

Youth and Family (Y&F) Services Division:

Division Highlights

- Y&F Management participated in the Interagency Leadership Team and Wellness System Steering Committee joint study session on March 22. The AB2083 partners discussed and Wellness system priority tenets of shared finances, information sharing and data Integration, Integrated Core Practice Model and Capacity Building.

Initiatives and Progress

- On March 30th, Y&F Management met with school counselors and social workers at Vista Real Charter Schools, to provide information about VCBH, who are the youth served, and how to refer and subsequently coordinate care with the clinic teams. We discussed overlap in care of mostly youth with MediCal or no insurance coverage, how to address barriers in accessing care and how to best coordinate services for our youth.
- On April 6th, our Clinical Coordinators overseeing TBS and IHBS referrals met with our South Oxnard Youth and Family clinic staff, to review what these services are, how to refer a youth, as well as how to coordinate care with TBS/IHBS providers. Scheduling is ongoing for all other Y&F programs and EPSDT contractors. The goal is for teams to increase utilization of these adjunct services, improve quality of referrals to reduce wait time for authorization, as well as increase appropriate coordination of care.
- Y&F Full-Service Partnership Clinic Administrator, Jena Cameron, is beginning to provide presentations to internal and agency partners for the Child FSP and Insights FSP. The efforts are meant to increase FSP services to Probation youth to reduce hospitalizations, reduce incarcerations and other out-of-home placements. FSP's provide clinical and additional necessary support for these most high-risk youth to be successful in their home and communities.

Collaborations

- CWS Clinic Administrator, Hayley Hodge in collaboration with Human Services Agency, judge, and attorneys, participated in the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Juvenile Dependency Panel on 3/23/23. The Juvenile Dependency Panel provides new CASA volunteers with an opportunity to learn about different agencies' roles and services available to families while youth are in dependency.

Training & Conferences

- Clinic Administrator Raudel Flores is now one of VCBH staff that is certified as a trainer to provide CPI nonviolent crisis intervention. He will begin to co-facilitate ongoing CPI Training for VCBH staff.

Other

- Y&F and MHSA leadership met with VCOE to discuss ongoing support and collaboration for School Wellness Centers across the county. VCOE reviewed BeNice, an evidence-based school-wide strategy to reduce stigma and enhance overall student mental wellbeing. VCOE will be working with districts to assess the level of readiness regarding possible implementation.

Substance Use Services (SUS) Division:

Prevention:

- **National Fentanyl Awareness Day May 9th**
 - In collaboration with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, the County Office of Education, local school districts, and multiple community-based organizations, Prevention Services is hosting and producing a Fentanyl education event called "Fake Pills, Real Danger" for all secondary schools and shared in classrooms county-wide on this date.
 - To encourage MAT prescribing in both VCBH and primary care settings after the X-waiver requirement was lifted, Dr. Vlaskovits is spearheading a series of provider information sessions.
 - The first floor of the Hall of Administration will feature a fentanyl awareness display encouraging visitors and employees alike to learn about the risks and prevent tragedy.

- **Opioid & Illicit Drug Workgroup met on March 22nd**
 - There was excellent collaboration and information sharing in the meeting, including the background of the original RX Workgroup and some great updates from our Chief Medical Examiner, Sheriff's Office, and others. We reviewed some of the original goals of the group, focusing in part on supporting safe prescribing. We saw that setting markers for goals and objectives aids stakeholder-driven efforts and can have a tremendous impact on a community-focused issue such as the current opioid crisis, which today includes fentanyl analogs and the more recent introduction of xylazine into the drug supply.

- **Fentanyl test strip distribution pilot**
 - VCBH Prevention Services have partnered with local NTP providers Aegis and Western Pacific to distribute Fentanyl Test Strips to clients at the programs and are also available to the community. Four Aegis and one Western Pacific location will operate as test strip distribution sites and anyone wanting to access the strips may do so at any of the locations. Consumers will be given five test strips at a time and to get a refill they need to complete a survey about their use of the strips including what drugs were tested and if it impacted their decision to use or not.

Treatment Services:

- Department of Health Care Services conducting annual monitoring of VCBH Substance Use Services – DMC-ODS and SABG March 23rd, 2023. We fared well and all follow-up documents were submitted April 4th. The results will be available in a few weeks and while we expect a corrective action plan (CAP) for both DMC-ODS and SABG, we are confident that we can resolve the deficiencies.

- SUD youth clinical staff attended training on adolescent Seeking Safety on March 28th. Seeking Safety is a present focused, coping skills therapy to help people attain safety from trauma and/or substance abuse.

- SUS and Prevention management team is attending the annual RX and Illicit drug summit is April 10-13th. It is the largest national collaboration of professionals from local, state, and federal agencies, business, academia, treatment providers, and allied communities impacted by prescription drug misuse and illicit drug use. It is *the* event for decision-makers and allied professionals working to address this public health emergency.
- SUTS clinics have been trained to use a new toxicology testing process with Millennium Health. This service is free for medical beneficiaries and staff plan to do either an oral or a urine screen with each client at intake to get a baseline of their substance use. The specimens are sent to the lab for free and processed within 24 hours. The lab will give VCBH the ability to access reports on what clients are using as an opportunity as well to see if there are substances showing up that clients may be aware they are using, i.e., cocaine cut with Fentanyl.

Quality Division:

Quality Assurance:

- Supports both MH and DMC-ODS providers with compliance efforts through the establishment of Monthly QA Office Hours. QA team began process improvement effort with provider NPI number and verification of appropriate Taxonomy codes. Some team members are assigned as SmartCare Superusers to be prepared for the EHR transition scheduled for July 2023. QA reviews SUS Treatment Authorization Requests for approval. Provides support to Medical Records Team related to requests received/records maintained. Grievances and appeals from beneficiaries are being addressed, resolved, and tracked for quality improvement effort.
- **VCBH Policy Office:** Policy Office has continued to support the Standardized Screening and Transition tool implementation, working on finalizing operational guidelines and supporting documents to be included with associated policies and trainings. Additionally, Policy Office has completed its review and drafted initial revisions of all Billing Policies in preparation for the Payment Reform roll out effective July 1st, 2023. Policy Office continues its review and standardization of policy archives, while concurrently implementing a fully electronic policy approval and archive management system. Finally, in collaboration with the Office of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity, Policy Office has been working on an operational guideline for use of language and public-facing documents to create more accessible and equitable policies and materials in support of Behavioral Health integration. Policy Office has worked with the GSA Mail Center to mail the *Beneficiary Handbook Notice* to Clients in English and Spanish, informing that the Beneficiary Handbook is available on the internet. DHCS gave a deadline of March 31, 2023, and on March 29, 2023, 14,776 informing materials were mailed to all active beneficiaries.
- **Utilization Review:** The UR team transitioned to the Concurrent Chart Reviews process. However, approximately 5% of out-of-county hospitals still need to transition to the Concurrent Review process. UR maintains the quarterly chart reviews of non-hospital programs, and an administrative exit feedback meeting is held to address compliance issues findings and reinforce CalAIM implementation. UR collaborates with the CalAIM team, QA staff, VCBH leadership, and CBOs to resolve identified CalAIM compliance, quality of patient care, or utilization of services issues. The UR team is in the process of transitioning to CalMHSA UR Tools.

- **Training:** On March 7-8, 19 VCBH Staff, representing all Divisions, attended a 2 Day Conference funded by our Southern California Regional Partnership. The conference focused on Strategies for Addressing Trauma. Topics included: generational trauma, crisis management, traumatic stress, informed approaches when working with justice related youth and immigrant communities, CBT for Psychosis; Peer Partners' role in healing from trauma; and compassion fatigue. In addition, much gratitude to the VCBH Overdose Prevention Team for their presentation on the VCBH Overdose Prevention Program's efforts, community collaboration and successes to prevent death by overdose.
- Continued efforts to collaborate with local Educational Partners to support 32 students (graduate and undergraduate) in the 23-23 Academic Year – application process is open, and Training and Personnel staff will be attending 6 Educational Partners Job and Career Fairs (between February and April) to recruit students for educational practicum and graduates to apply for county employment. VCBH has proudly been awarded acceptance to be awarded funding for Year 2 of the Mentored Internship Program grant. Continuing to identify Round 2 recipients of SCRP funded Loan Repayment awards to 13 staff in various job categories (clinical and non-clinical).

Quality Improvement:

- **Audits & Reviews:** The QI team will be leading all audits and reviews for the department, transitioning the work from the QA team. We just completed the annual DHCS DMC-ODS and SABG review to monitor Substance Use Services. We are beginning to prepare for the DHCS MHP Triennial Audit, scheduled for August 2023, as well as the MHSA Program Review, scheduled for September 2023.
- **Quality Improvement Committee:** We are working on developing a new/revised structure for ongoing quality management monitoring and use of data-driven decision making across the department. In doing so, we will be modifying the Quality Management Action Committee (QMAC) to be more focused on the voice and needs of the community, including representation of individuals in care, and ensure a process of continuous quality improvement. More information will be forthcoming.
- **EQRO:** The final reports for the FY 2022-23 Mental Health and DMC-ODS external quality reviews that happened November 8th-10th have been received. They are posted on the vcbh.org website under "Reports & Performance." We are now focusing on improvement efforts based on the opportunity areas and formal recommendations.
- **PIPS:** QI now has 5 performance improvement projects (PIPs) that address various areas for improvement. We are working on interventions for 3 new PIPs specific to CalAIM-related shifts in measuring specific items to follow-up after an emergency room visit and adherence to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). In addition, we are in the process of developing a new MH PIP to support VCPOP and a SUS PIP on engagement in services continues.
- **Performance Metric Tracking:** QI is building out ongoing tracking and reporting of key performance metrics and is working with VC-Information Technology Services to design a public-

facing data dashboard. The initial phase of development will be completed soon, with further metrics added in the future.

- **Strategic Plan:** To support VCBH Strategic Plan efforts, QI prepared baseline and year 1 data summaries that demonstrate current state and/or progress towards the goals and objectives.

Electronic Health Record:

- **CalMHSA EHR SmartCare:** The EHR team is actively engaged in the data migration/conversion phase of the project. SuperUsers are actively engaged in training and workflows. CalMHSA provides weekly meetings on specific topics and separate ones focused on data conversion topics.
- **Data Gaps Analysis:** Staff are working with CalMHSA and Operations to address data that will not transition to SmartCare as of July 1 or data that won't ever transition over to develop interim systems and/or longer-term processes to support our department's needs.
- **CalAIM Documentation Reform:** All Three Standardized Screening tools have been installed in Avatar LIVE environment and they are ready for use. Training videos have been created in addition to Spanish translations embedded into the tools.
- **FSP Client Key Event Tracking:** The MHSA Data Coordination Project implementation continues. Law Enforcement Arrest import is scheduled to begin 4/3/2023. The goal of this initiative is to provide timely notice to clinicians treating the FSP client community regarding client interactions with in-scope Key Event Incidents.

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal:

- VCBH's CalAIM unit (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) continues to coordinate CalAIM efforts across the department. The CalAIM team's support includes providing technical support in a variety of ways to both staff and contracted providers; and ongoing communication and collaboration with contracted county partners and the local managed care health plan continue to help facilitate a smooth implementation experience.
- VCBH released county-specific training on the Standardized screening and Transition of Care tools on March 16, 2023. The Standardized Screening and Transition of Care tools have now been fully implemented as of March 27, 2023. The QM team will be supporting implementation by hosting office hours on April 6, 2023.
- Payment Reform efforts continue. VCBH held Q& A sessions on March 30, 2023, for county direct line staff and contracted providers that included a brief presentation on upcoming changes. VCBH will begin to meet with individual contracted providers in April to review rates. As a reminder, CalMHSA's provider-level training is expected to be released June 1, 2023. In addition, VCBH is working on developing internal practitioner-type training for staff to focus on the specific implications of each provider type/taxonomy.

- The VCBH EHR team is working diligently to prepare for the transition to a new Electronic Health Record system (Streamline/SmartCare) on July 1, 2023. VCBH has established a superuser group made up of identified county staff and contracted providers. Superusers are staff members trained to move through the electronic health record (EHR) system quickly and can share helpful hints, tips, and techniques. Our EHR superusers will provide internal training to office staff and clinicians. The CalAIM team continues to attend weekly CalMHSA’s Semi-Statewide Shared EHR presentations and workgroups for the counties participating in the “Phase I” implementation phase, as well as collaboratively working alongside a CalMHSA EHR project manager to ensure a smooth transition.

FREE EVENT
**empower
up!**
your mental wellness

Featuring:

- Engaging activities and workshops
- Inspiring talks by local youth leaders

A day where young people will come together in one space to empower one another to elevate mental well-being.

For grades 9-12

Lunch and giveaways will be provided.

**Thursday
May 4, 2023**

10AM – 2PM

**Cal Lutheran
University**

Save the Date!

To register, contact:

MHSA@ventura.org

Brought to you by
Ventura County Behavioral Health,
Ventura County Office of Education,
BRITE

Spanish and ASL interpreters will be available.

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



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

PUBLIC LISTENING EVENT & ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

**DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS OR IDEAS ABOUT HOUSING OPTIONS
FOR PEOPLE STRUGGLING WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS?**

**VCBH WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU ABOUT CURRENT
PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL HOUSING SOLUTIONS.**

WHEN: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 - 4 to 6 pm

**WHERE: The Wellness Center
Center Point Mall (Next to Public Health)
2697 Saviers Road
Oxnard, CA 93033**

**Light snacks & beverages will be served. Participants will receive
complimentary gift for participating (supplies limited).**

Please RSVP to The Wellness Center (805) 653-5045

We invite you to our conference

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES

Where we will play the following topics:
suicide prevention and the impact of abuse
emotional in families

Keynote Speaker- Dr. Luis Garcia
Internationally recognized psychologist

Saturday, May 13, 2023

8:00AM-4:00PM

Lemonwood Elementary School
(2200 Carnegie St. Oxnard, CA 93033)



Free event
Breakfast and lunch
included
Limited space.

Register Now!

http://bit.ly/Familias_Saludables

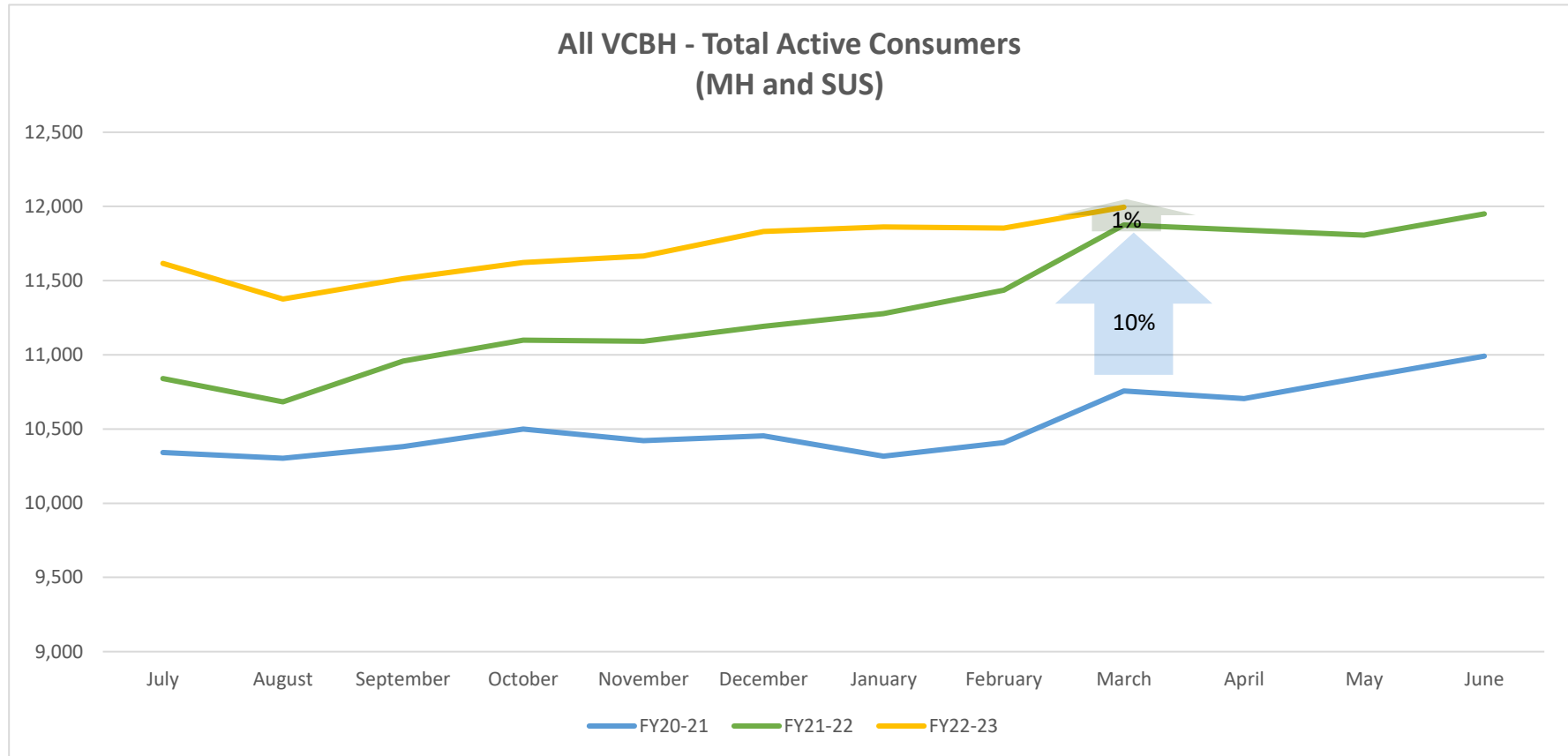
Sponsored by the Ventura County Department of Mental Health
in collaboration with-Trainers for Community Change/GRR;
Oxnard School District; El Rio School District; LULAC-The
Colony; Fuerza Latina Health Community Group, and Padres
Juntos Promoting Education.

VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Total Active Consumers In The Month Of March

Open episodes in March 2023 with billing activity in prior 12 months

As of 4/4/2023



*Percent change compares FY to previous FY (e.g., FY21-22 and FY22-23 had a percent change of 4%)

VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Total Active Consumers In The Month Of March

Open episodes in March 2023 with billing activity in prior 12 months

As of 4/4/2023

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

	VCBH Program Group					
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis
Total Consumers With Open Episode	11,995	1,022	6,129	4,235	1,040	399

Total Consumers With Open Episode Age Group *	VCBH Program Group					
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis
0-15	2,944	35		2,706	321	34
16-25	2,527	196	884	1,385	216	80
26-59	5,139	739	3,993	144	440	220
60+	1,385	52	1,252		63	65
Not Reported						
Grand Total	11,995	1,022	6,129	4,235	1,040	399

Total Consumers With Open Episode Preferred Language	VCBH Program Group					
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis
English	9,927	943	5,120	3,418	807	331
Spanish	1,126	52	527	458	113	25
Mixteco	8	1	1	6	2	
Non-Threshold Language	80	2	62	9	6	2
Not Reported	854	24	419	344	112	41
Grand Total	11,995	1,022	6,129	4,235	1,040	399

Total Consumers With Open Episode Ethnicity	VCBH Program Group					
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis
Latinx	6,222	588	2,784	2,681	528	137
Non-Latinx	4,066	356	2,760	814	237	140
Not Reported	1,696	77	581	736	273	120
Declined to State	11	1	4	4	2	2
Grand Total	11,995	1,022	6,129	4,235	1,040	399

Total Active Consumers At Each Location *** Program Service Location	VCBH Program Group					
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis
CAMARILLO	479		99	380		
FILLMORE	189	33		161		
MOORPARK	2			2		
OXNARD	6,431	760	2,788	1,960	1,040	399
SANTA PAULA	874		600	274		
SIMI VALLEY	1,369	90	766	531		
THOUSAND OAKS	1,282	64	923	318		
VENTURA	2,302	91	1,222	1,015		
Outside Ventura County (Contractor)	152	130	22			
Grand Total	13,080	1,168	6,420	4,641	1,040	399

*** Consumers may be counted under multiple locations

Total Consumers With Open Episode Residence Region - City	VCBH Program Group					
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis
Conejo Valley	979	86	562	251	88	56
Conejo Valley-Newbury Park	254	29	140	65	28	13
Conejo Valley-Oak Park	37	3	12	18	3	3
Conejo Valley-Thousand Oaks	635	51	382	159	52	32
Conejo Valley-Westlake Village	53	3	28	9	5	8
Moorpark	346	18	136	171	29	8
Moorpark	346	18	136	171	29	8
Ojai	219	24	110	76	15	6
Ojai	161	20	88	51	8	5
Ojai-Oak View	58	4	22	25	7	1
Oxnard Plains	5,372	459	2,731	1,983	479	140
Oxnard Plains-Camarillo	786	57	461	255	47	18
Oxnard Plains-Oxnard	4,158	373	2,080	1,551	383	106
Oxnard Plains-Port Hueneme	405	27	180	167	46	16
Oxnard Plains-Somis	23	2	10	10	3	
Santa Clara Valley	1,219	73	507	556	112	49
Santa Clara Valley-Fillmore	396	36	144	181	52	16
Santa Clara Valley-Piru	45	3	16	23	3	
Santa Clara Valley-Santa Paula	778	34	347	352	57	33
Simi Valley	1,381	123	680	485	112	53
Simi Valley	1,381	123	680	485	112	53
Ventura	2,143	210	1,228	602	187	73
Ventura	2,143	210	1,228	602	187	73
Not Reported / Out of County	336	29	175	111	18	14
Grand Total	11,995	1,022	6,129	4,235	1,040	399

Residence cities do not reflect consumer service location.

BHAB Ombudsman Workgroup Report – February 27, 2023

Historical Context

The word “Ombudsman” evolved from the Swedish ombudsman signifying “the legal representative.” Initially, the Swedish legislature made the designation of the ombudsman in early 1800, with the translation of ombudsman as “the official investigator of citizen complaints.” This person was acknowledged as “the person of legal capabilities and superior virtue.”

The ombudsman is independent, unbiased and provides cost-free services. They investigate complaints when problems have been inappropriately managed, or individuals undergo unfair consequences, some situations like maladministration, included examples are inconsistent delay, negligence to follow procedures, bias, disrespect, presenting inadequate suggestions.

In order to receive and investigate complaints from aggrieved parties against a county agency or organizational entities in an impartial, independent, and confidential manner, an ombudsman can be used for different issues in several domains, some examples are below:

Seven Types of Ombudsmen

1. Organizational Ombudsman
2. Classic Ombudsman
3. Advocate Ombudsman
4. Hybrid Ombudsman
5. Legislative Ombudsman
6. Executive Ombudsman
7. Media Ombudsman

After reviewing the various types of ombudsmen, the workgroup identified the two types of ombudsmen they think best fit the needs of the community. The workgroup is recommending one of the following - the **Organizational Ombudsman**, or the **Advocate Ombudsman**. Descriptions of both ombudsmen options follow.

Organizational Ombudsman

While working in the private and public sector, an organizational ombudsman receives and investigates complaints made by an entity's members, employees, or contractors about its practices or policies. Serving as a designated unbiased individual in a particular organization, an organization ombudsman assists in dealing with the conflicts at an informal level for the organization with a wide range of procedures from conflict coaching to informal mediation. Only the ombudsman is responsible to respond to the concerns and disputes reported by individuals to the administrative office and can report trends, integral problems, and organizational issues to high-level officials and employees in a confidential manner. An organizational ombudsman is an informal resource, i.e., cannot engage in any formal administrative process related to the issues brought to their attention. An example of an organizational ombudsman is the university ombudsman. An organizational ombudsman could interrogate or operate with the informal processes described in an official agreement, and direct various inquiries legitimately and independently.

Advocate Ombudsman

An advocate ombudsman can be allocated in both the public and private sector for evaluating allegations, but it is also required to defend or advocate at the place of individuals or groups of people identified as persecuted. However, an advocate ombudsman is generally found in organizations such as long-term care amenities or agencies, and the organizations that specifically operate with juvenile offenders. An advocate ombudsman can represent the interests of constituents in terms of several policies, practiced by chartering entities, government agencies, or other organizations and can begin action when entitled in the judicial, administrative, or legislative forum.

California Department of Healthcare Services

Medi-Cal Managed Care and Mental Health Office of the Ombudsman

The Medi-Cal Managed Care and Mental Health Office of the Ombudsman helps solve problems from a neutral standpoint to ensure that our members receive all medically necessary covered services for which plans are contractually responsible. The Mental Health Ombudsman is designed to create a bridge between the Mental Health Plan system and individuals, family members and friends of individuals, in need of mental health services by providing information and assistance in navigating through the system. The Ombudsman will not automatically take sides in a complaint. We consider all sides in an impartial and objective way. It is our job to help develop fair solutions to health care access problems.

(From their website.)

D R A F T

Ventura County Behavioral Health Ombudsman (VCBHO)

Mission:

The Ventura County Behavioral Health Ombudsman (VCBHO) is designated neutral and works independently as an intermediary to assist any individual that interacts with Ventura County Behavioral Health with exploring and determining options to resolve conflicts, problematic issues, or concerns. The VCBHO provides a confidential avenue to address complaints and resolve issues at the lowest possible level. They propose policy and procedural changes when systemic issues are identified. The VCBHO's primary objective is to advocate for a fair process and fair administration of services.

Advantages of an Ombudsman:

- Cost-free services,
- An autonomous system, i.e., independent from the institution, the individual and organization,
- Reports are created (a record) while methodically addressing issues emerging under a county agency or while deploying a county program/service,
- Improper practices could be corrected, and
- An ombudsman of the county may provide reconciliation along with impartial investigation.

Disadvantages of an Ombudsman:

- An ombudsman is unable to render instantaneous solutions for very complicated problems,
- The individual with the complaint has no sway on the investigation, an ombudsman does not advocate for the individual or the county agency, or organization
- Specific decisions, made by an ombudsman, are not obligatory.

Ventura County Behavioral Health Ombudsman (VCBHO)

Role:

The VCBHO responds to inquiries from a variety of agencies and individuals. They may be contacted by a consumer, a family member, a community member, or staff from an agency. The VCBHO listens, answers questions, analyzes the situation and context of any complaint or issue, reviews the application of Ventura County Behavioral Health policies and procedures, advocates for the fairness of a process as opposed to advocating for an individual party, provides information and at times advice and develops options, suggests appropriate referrals, and recommends a possible resolution. The VCBHO apprises the Health Care Agency and Ventura County Behavioral Health of significant trends and may recommend changes in policies and procedures.

The VCBHO does not disclose and may not be required to disclose information provided in confidence, except to address an imminent risk of serious harm to an individual or others where there is no other responsible option. The VCBHO may disclose information relevant to the complaint when in possession of a signed release form and consent from the individual. There is no cost to receive services from the VCBHO.

The Ombudsman Workgroup recommends the Behavioral Health Advisory Board move forward again and request Ventura County Behavioral Health to create the position of an independent Ombudsman.

If the issue/complaint cannot be resolved by the VCBHO then the Ombudsman refers the individual(s) or agency staff to Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) to file a formal complaint and begin the formal state regulated grievance process.

Ventura County Behavioral Health Grievance Process

The Ventura County Behavioral Health Department's Grievance Process falls under VCBH Quality Assurance.

It has a phone line (888) 567-2122 with voicemail that is staffed by two or three clinicians; an MFT / LCSW. The staff will take incoming calls/complaints. The voicemail is monitored throughout the day. The call can be about anything and the staff gets the information from the call.

A letter is drafted acknowledging receipt of the complaint and mailed to the individual making the complaint within five days. The staff will then contact the appropriate entity, i.e., clinic to inform them of the complaint. Under state regulations the complaint must be resolved within 90 days. The complaint is reported to the state.

BHAB General Meeting Minutes October 19, 2020

VI. Public Comments

- Liz Warren commented on agenda item XIII.F. – Ombudsman/Peer Advocate for Assistance with Access of Services.
- Carole Shelton spoke regarding advocacy for services for a family member with mental health challenges and Intellectual/Development Disabilities (I/DD).
- Evelyn McGrath spoke regarding advocacy for services for a family member with mental health challenges and hardships.

XII New Business

F. Ombudsman / Peer Advocate Assistance with Access or Services Issues

Mr. Bhavnani suggested a motion to make a recommendation to VCBH to consider an Ombudsman or an equivalent position. He noted that this item was discussed at its August Executive Committee, was brought forward to the General meeting in September however was tabled due to lack of time. The idea would bring a formal process in place to directly assist families with resolving difficulties accessing services. Mr. Bhavnani moved to make a recommendation to VCBH to consider an Ombudsman or equivalent position to help resolve service issues; Dr. Cortese seconded. Ms. Gardner asked for additional information on how the position would be funded and implemented. Mr. Bhavnani advised that previous positions of this nature were funded through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Ms. Stone asked for Dr. Johnson's response on VCBH's support that was reported at a previous meeting. Dr. Johnson confirmed that discussions had taken place and that VCBH supports the concept to hire a staff member to assist with navigating the mental health system and that MHSA funding would be used. Mr. Bhavnani stressed the importance of ensuring that the person assists with health navigation and problems that may arise once services are received.

Liz Warren made a public comment regarding the wide array of work that VCBH's previous Community Liaison had done that included case management, problem solving and assisting people with housing, shelter, and food. Dr. Johnson welcomed input from Mr. Bhavnani, Liz Warren and others interested to collaborate with VCBH in writing the job description to ensure the essence of what is seen for the proposed position is captured.

Mr. Bhavnani restated the motion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call.

BHAB General Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2021

XIII Old Business

C. BHAB Ombudsman/Peer Advocate Hiring Update

Dr. Sevet Johnson noted that the position will be requested through the budget process and upon approval, VCBH will process the necessary paperwork to begin working on the job description and recruitment process.

April 26, 2022

Excerpts from April 26, 2022 (page 6 of 7) letter submitted by HCA Director Barry Zimmerman to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors requesting 55 additional positions (additions and deletions) for the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department at the request of Behavioral Health Director Dr. Sevet Johnson.

❖ Paragraph Four (page six of seven)

Access & Outreach Division

“One (1) Program Administrator III is requested to develop and work independently as the Ombudsman for VCBH and assist clients in navigating through services. This addition is offset by the deletion of one (1) Program Administrator I. One (1) Management Assistant II position is requested to support the new Access & Outreach Division Chief.”

❖ Paragraphs Three and Four (page seven of seven)

“In support of these critical behavioral health services, VCBH recommends that your Board adopt the attached resolution adding fifty-five new regular full-time equivalent positions and deleting two regular full time equivalent positions within VCBH, effective April 24, 2022, to meet the increasing caseload and program requirements described above. This Board Letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, County Counsel and Human Resources. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact VCBH Assistant Director Loretta Denering or HCA Assistant Chief Financial Officer Narcisa Egan at (805) 981-1881.”

Ventura County Behavioral Health

Board Letter Summary of Contracts for March 2023

Board Date	Contractor	Amount	Term	Description
3/14/2023	Idea Engineering, Inc.	\$552,000	March 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024	<p>Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc. for Digital, Social, and Media Marketing Services. Over the last ten (10) years suicide has emerged as a major public health challenge, and the prevention of suicide has become a national, State, and local priority, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In California, prevention strategies include: (1) reducing access to lethal means among those at risk of suicide; (2) improving access and delivery for mental health care; and, importantly, (3) identifying and supporting people at risk through public awareness campaigns. Media campaigns are a key strategy to reach large numbers of people in order to help understand and effectively respond to the risk. Nearly two-thirds of those who have a diagnosable mental illness do not seek treatment because of fears about stigma and discrimination. Clear portrayals of the risk of suicide and how family members and loved ones can help to counter the effects of stigma and bring more people at risk closer to available care. VCBH is ramping up efforts to improve community awareness of suicide prevention, especially among higher-risk groups within the county. In collaboration with local stakeholders, VCBH proposes launching a prevention campaign that capitalizes on high-visibility media channels, including the electronic billboard at the Ventura Auto Center, local malls and shopping centers, mobile billboards, transit systems and radio stations. The STAY suicide prevention campaign is designed to reach several high-risk groups including military and first responders, LGBTQ+, teens middle-aged men and women, and older adults. In addition, the campaign will reframe the conversation around suicide in a way that is accessible to all viewers. By asking people to stay and reach out, it gives critical time for resources to be enacted and lives to be saved. The goal of the STAY campaign is for people to give themselves time, and find the support to end their pain, not their life. Source of Funding is Proposition 63 (Mental Health Services Act).</p>