

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

**General Meeting**

Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 1:00PM – 3:30 PM

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)  
1911 Williams Drive, Training Room (first floor) • Oxnard, CA 93036

**IN-PERSON & 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

**Under AB 2449 New Teleconferencing Rules:**

*The Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board General Committee may take action at the beginning of the meeting regarding requests for “Just Cause” or “Emergency” allowances provided that related Brown Act guidelines are met. (Guidelines are listed on the last page of this agenda.)*

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**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call to Determine Physical Quorum
- III. Roll Call of Members with Just Cause
  - a. State others present in the room over the age of 18
- IV. Welcome and Introductions
- V. Approval of the Agenda – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- VI. Approval of the April 17, 2023 Minutes – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- VII. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)
- VIII. Ombudsman Workgroup Report – Liz Warren (20 min.)
- IX. Nominating Committee Report and Recommendations – Michael Rodriguez, Chair – **ACTION** (5 min.)
  - A. Presentation of Slate of Officer for Fiscal Year 2023-24
  - B. Accept Nominations from the Floor
- X. Chair Comments (10 min.)
- XI. Director’s Report – Scott Gilman (10 min.)
- XII. Board Member Comments and Announcements (10 min.)
- XIII. Secretary’s Report/Announcements – Janis Gardner (10 min.)
- XIV. BHAB Committee Reports (5 min each)
  - A. Disparities Reduction Committee (May 2) (Cancelled) – Marlen Torres, Chair
  - B. Adult Services Committee (May 4) – Chris Tejeda, Chair

XV. Old Business

- A. Site Visits Resumption – Announcement/Request for site visits – Michael Rodriguez, Chair (10 min.)

XVI. New Business

- A. Public Hearing to End 30-day Public Comment Period on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2022-23 (April 17 – May 15) – Michael Rodriguez, Chair – **ACTION** (Roll Call) (10 min.)
- B. Annual Report Workgroup
- C. Presentation Requests
- D. Recognition Award Recommendations

XVII. Contracts

**Board of Supervisors Approved Agreements – May 11, 2023**

1. FY 22-23 Sixth Amendment to the Agreement with TPF for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services.
2. FY 22-23 Seventh Amendment to the Agreements with For The Future, Inc., for Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program Services.
3. FY 22-23 Sixth Amendment to the Agreement with ASC Los Angeles for Adult Residential Treatment Services.
4. FY 22-23 Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with ASC Bakersfield for Adult Residential Treatment Services.
5. FY 22-23 Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with Jackson House for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Care Adult Short Term Crisis Residential Recovery Treatment Program Services.
6. FY 22-23 Third Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc for MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention Services (PEI).
7. FY 22-23 Fifth Amendment to the Agreement with Evalcorp for Data Collection and Analysis Services.
8. FY 22-23 Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with TPF for Adult Wellness and Rehabilitation Center and Mobile Wellness Services.
9. FY 22-23 Third Amendment to the Agreement with Homeland for Interpretation and Translation Services.
10. FY 22-23 Third Amendment to the Agreement with Elms Manor for Augmented Board and Care Services.

**Board of Supervisors Approved Agreements – May 25, 2023**

1. FY 22-23 Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with Aegis for Outpatient Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) Services.
2. FY 22-23 Tenth Amendment to the Agreement with HealthRight 360 for Residential Treatment Services.

3. FY 22-23 Ninth Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc. for Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Services.

XVIII. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)

XIX. Adjourn

**Next Meeting: Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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](mailto:bhabadmin@ventura.org) or in person at Ventura County Behavioral Health, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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.
- 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](mailto: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. In-Person Public Comment**

If you are attending in-person, you may provide public comment when the Chair invites public comment.

Or

## **3. 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 on agenda items can be made prior to or during consideration of agenda items and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker.** Public comment periods are limited to no more than (20) minutes total for all speakers. The assigned timekeeper will track each public comment time. When your time is up, the timekeeper will interrupt to let you know that you have reached the 3-minute maximum. At the end of the three minutes, 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.

### **Brown Act “Just Cause” or “Member Emergency” Allowance Guidelines for Board Members:**

**Requirements:** A local board/commission member may participate remotely without posting their physical location on the agenda if all the following requirements are met:

1. Quorum at Physical Location - At least a quorum of the members of the board/commission participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified in the agenda.
2. Public Access - (Both Remote and In-Person) The public may access the meeting through:
  - A two-way audiovisual platform or
  - A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting
  - In-Person Public Access to the physical location.

**Public comments on agenda items can be made prior to or during consideration of agenda items and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker.** Public comment periods are limited to no more than (20) minutes total for all speakers. 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.

Circumstances: One of the following circumstances applies:

1. **“Just Cause”** - The member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year. **or**
2. **“Emergency Circumstances”** - The member requests to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the board/commission takes action to approve the request. The board/commission shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to the member’s need to appear remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information.

Procedures:

1. Member Request - A member shall make a request to participate remotely at a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.
2. Board/Commission Response - The board/commission may take action on a request to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place proposed action on such a request on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action at the beginning of the meeting.
3. Disclosure - The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member’s relationship with any such individuals.
4. BOTH Audio & Visual Participation - The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.
5. Limits to Remote Participation - The provisions of this subdivision [of the Brown Act] shall not serve as a means for any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.

#### DEFINITIONS:

**“Emergency circumstances”**: A physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.

**“Just cause”** means any of the following:

1. A childcare or caregiving need (for a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner) that requires the member to participate remotely.
2. A contagious illness prevents the member from attending the meeting in person.
3. A need related to defined physical or mental disability that is not otherwise accommodated for.
4. Traveling while on official business of the Brown Act Bode or another state or local agency.
5. Just Cause is limited to two instances per calendar year.

For additional information, see pages 4+ of the Brown Act Guide: [calbhbc.org/brown-act](http://calbhbc.org/brown-act)

# 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.

DRAFT

## **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 appraises 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.”

**Director's Update**  
**BHAB General Meeting 5.15.2023**

**General Updates:**

- **May has the following days of significance to highlight:**

- Mental Health Matters Month
- National Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month
- National Maternal Depression Awareness Month
- Foster Care Awareness Month
- Older Americans Month
- World Maternal Mental Health Awareness Day – May 4, 2023
- Fentanyl Awareness Day – May 9, 2023
- National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week – May 7-13, 2023
- Public Service Recognition Week – May 7-13, 2023
- National Prevention Week – May 7-13, 2023
- National Older Adults Mental Health Awareness Day – May 10, 2023
- Mother's Day – May 14, 2023
- Mental Health Matters Day – May 22, 2023

- **Mini Grant update, NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO AWARD**

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) announces its intent to award grants/contracts for Community Mini-Grant related services to:

1. Two Trees Community Inc.
2. Westminster Free Clinic
3. National Health Foundation
4. Mesa
5. Nyeland Promise
6. Ventura County Family Justice Center Foundation
7. Amplify Arts Project Girls Rock SB
8. No Limits Theater Group, Inc.
9. Boys & Girls Club of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme
10. Childhood Matters
11. Autism Society Ventura County
12. Candela Group
13. Ventura County Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
14. Oxnard Performing Arts Center Corporation
15. Women of Substance & Men of Honor
16. De Colores Multicultural Folk Arts, Inc.
17. The Elite Theater Company
18. Santa Paula Town Hall – Adelante
19. Namba Performing Arts Space Inc. and Rock and Roll High
20. Open Door Studio
21. Nate's Place a Wellness and Recovery Center
22. Lucha/Poder Popular
23. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County

- **OPEN HOUSE**

On Saturday April 29, Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Personnel held an open house for those interested in careers in Behavioral Health. 39 VCBH internal staff including Executive staff were there to help work the event, as well as 6 County Human Resource staff to support with walk-ins and registration. Contracted Temp Agencies, Maxim and Medix, were also included in the hiring event to offer opportunities and other roles to those individuals who were not offered VCBH employment. In addition, Maxim and Medix help with early onboarding while the County hire is in process. As of 5/10/2023, 5 of those employees (clinicians and nurses) have already started working. Below is the outcome of our open house hiring event.

32 offers were made

25 have accepted the offers

- 12 hired for the Adult Division
- 7 hired for the Access and Outreach Division
- 5 hired for Youth and Family Division
- 1 hired for Substance Use Services Division

3 candidates declined their offers

4 remaining to accept the offers based location/population/salaries

Here is the breakdown should the 4 remaining offers accept

12 BH Clinicians

7 Mental Health Associates

1 Crisis Team Clinician

4 Registered Nurses

5 Peer Specialists

***Access and Outreach Division:***

- We are now utilizing the standardized screening tool that was mandated by the state – to assist individuals accessing care – to determine what delivery system they are to be receiving services in and link them faster to the appropriate delivery system of care.
- We continue to work internally to reduce unneeded touch points to ensure we are linking individuals to appropriate care.
- We attended our VCBH Open House – that allowed us to interview on the spot, candidates and will be onboarding new staff for our programs – truly excited to continue building up our teams.
- As the weather is getting nicer, more opportunities to join our community partners in outreach events and provide information on VCBH services and how to get linked to care.

## ***Adult Services Division:***

May 2023

- Empower up! The second annual youth event focused on mental health and well-being took place on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Cal Lutheran University. This year's event focused on highschoolers, grades 9-12<sup>th</sup> and hosted more than 400 attendees (more than double last year's attendance!).
- 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 13<sup>th</sup> at Lemonwood Elementary School in Oxnard.
- An inspirational workshop for women will take place in Santa Paula on May 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 30<sup>th</sup> at the Casa del Mexicano in Santa Paula. It will start at 5:30 pm. There will be dinner provided and resources tables. The initial response has been so strong the budget has been doubled from 100 to 200 participants. If you would like to join, please register at [MHSA.org](http://MHSA.org) or by calling 805-981-5447.
- Working remains ongoing in the development of the 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.

## ***Youth and Family (Y&F) Services Division:***

### **Division Highlights**

- Six members of the Y&F Management team attended the California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth (CMHACY) Conference 5/09 – 5/12/23. The CMHACY Conference is the most recognized and longest-standing conference in the state of California focused upon the social, emotional, and behavioral health of children, youth, and their families.

### **Initiatives and Progress**

- The new Y&F Full-Service Partnership was officially launched as of May 1. Referrals will be accepted from West County clinics to begin serving the most high-risk youth to be successful in their home and communities.

## Collaborations

- CWS Clinic Administrator, Savannah Eden in collaboration with Human Services Agency, judges, and attorneys, participated in the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Juvenile Dependency Panel on 5/4/23. 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

- The Y&F Division was able to send approximately 15 staff and CBO partners to the Foundational Practice for Ventura County's Wellness System: Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) Training. The goal is to train all client-serving staff in the division. Additionally, two recently trained ICPM CAs were there to facilitate portions of the training.

## Other

- Insights FSP was featured in Ventura County Bar Association's "Citations Magazine" President's Message for the month of May 2023.

## ***Substance Use Services (SUS) Division:***

### Prevention:

- **National Fentanyl Awareness Day May 9<sup>th</sup>**
  - In collaboration with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, the County Office of Education, local school districts, and multiple community-based organizations, Prevention Services produced "Fake Pills, Real Danger," a Fentanyl education event for all secondary schools shared in classrooms across the county, underscoring the very real risks posed by fentanyl in counterfeit pressed pills and virtually any illegal drug.
  - Two separate Prescribers Care events were hosted to encourage MAT prescribing in both VCBH and primary care settings after the X-waiver requirement has been lifted. Dr. Vlaskovits spearheaded a series of provider panel discussions featuring local experts from law enforcement, the office of the medical examiner, and VCMC.
  - The first floor of the Hall of Administration also featured a fentanyl awareness display encouraging visitors and employees alike to learn about the risks and prevent tragedy.
- **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 began operations 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.

- **Public Health issued County of Ventura Naloxone Standing Order effective May 25<sup>th</sup>.**
  - This standing order authorizes the distribution of intra nasal naloxone to management employees of County of Ventura, its agencies, and departments—including Human Services Agency, Public Works Agency, County Library System, and other departments, where staff are in a position to assist a person at risk of an opioid-related overdose—and such staff have completed the required opioid overdose prevention and training program with required documentation.
  - This standing order authorizes management employees of the County of Ventura, to maintain supplies of intra nasal naloxone on county premises within a First Aid Kit or similar container (“Institutional Kit”) for the purpose of licensed or trained persons administering naloxone to a person who is experiencing an opioid overdose.
- **June 6<sup>th</sup> BOS Presentation – County Opioid Abuse Suppression Taskforce (COAST) “COAST-Facing Down Fentanyl”**
  - 10:00 a.m., with speakers from VCBH, Sheriff’s Office, office of the District Attorney, Office of the Medical Examiner, and Public Health.

#### **Treatment Services:**

- SUS and Prevention management team attended the annual RX and Illicit drug summit April 10-13<sup>th</sup>. 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 begun conducting toxicology testing at intake using 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.
- SUTS staff have started the process to implement Helping Men Recover groups in most clinics for men who have a history of trauma.

#### **DUI Services:**

- DUI program had a gain of 66 clients in April. New enrollments were 177, with a high show rate across the system. Currently the DUI program across 5 sites has 1,524 active clients. The Ventura DUI rate of non-compliance is only 17%.

## **Quality Division:**

### **Quality Assurance:**

- Supports both MH and DMC-ODS providers with compliance efforts through the establishment of Monthly QA Office Hours. Assists in answering regulation related questions and in maintaining a working CalAIM FAQ page for VCBH Clinics and CBOs. Some team members are assigned as SmartCare Superusers to be prepared for the EHR transition scheduled for July 2023. Our QA team also oversees Medi-Cal Site Certification for our VCBH clinics/CBO's, in the last month, the team started unannounced onsite visits to ensure public facing informing materials are available as required by policies and regulations. QA reviews SUS Treatment Authorization Requests for approval. The QA team also provides support to the 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 initiated a Fiscal policy development workgroup to support Fiscal and Billing teams in further development of policies to support Payment Reform roll out effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and Fiscal operations thereafter, in compliance with regulatory and contractual obligations. The Policy Office completed its review and standardization of policy archives and implemented a fully electronic archive management system, in preparation for a fully electronic approval process implementation on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Additionally, the Policy Office, in collaboration with the Quality Assurance team, reviewed and revised the existing policies related to Appeals and Grievance processes for a more accurate, clear, and streamlined policy on People in Care Issue Resolution. This policy update is pending final approval and the development of an associated training, which will accompany the policy revision roll-out. Finally, Policy Office continues to work with the Office of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity to establish 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.
- **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:** Committed to the provision of quality care, VCBH has contracted with the Academy of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for over a decade to create a standard of care foundation to ensure all clinical staff are trained in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) – an Evidence Based Practice which embraces cultural differences, as it uses one's world view to conceptualize presenting issues and develops a collaborative relationship between provider and clients to work together to achieve recovery. To further enhance cultural competency in our service delivery, VCBH has confirmed an exciting new learning opportunity where CBT conceptualization and tools taught by the developer of the model in Spanish: April 26 & 27 Trial-Based Cognitive Therapy: Expanding CBT Tools.

In addition, VCBH is in the process of certifying 5 Mental Health First Aid Trainers to provide this EBP in Spanish. MHFA is a nationally recognized Evidence Based Practice (EBP), focused on teaching skills to identify, understand, and respond to the signs of mental illness and substance use.

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 SCRIP funded Loan Repayment awards to 13 staff in various job categories (clinical and non-clinical).

### **Quality Improvement:**

- **Audits & Reviews:** The QI team is leading all audits, reviews, and corrective action plans (CAPs) for the department. The annual DHCS DMC-ODS and SABG review to monitor Substance Use Services was conducted at the end of March; the draft report and findings are pending. We are beginning to prepare for the DHCS MHP Triennial Audit (August 22-24), as well as the MHSA Program Review (September 26-28). The tentative date for the FY 23-24 External Quality Review (EQRO) is December 5-7.
- **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 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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. The team has successfully met the Round 2 milestone and expects to meet the upcoming Round 3 milestone as well. The team meets daily to ensure timely completion. CalMHSA provides weekly meetings on specific topics and separate ones focused on data conversion topics.
- **Data Gaps Analysis:** EHR and QI are working to establish an interim solution for data needs that will not be in SmartCare, while longer term solutions are being assessed and evaluated.
- **SuperUser Trainings:** Superusers from Mental Health, Access and Outreach, Substance Use Services and Contracted providers groups have begun training on the new SmartCare system. These trainings are conducted weekly.
- **End-User Trainings:** CalMHSA will be providing end-user trainings the entire month of June.

### ***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.
- **May 2023: Strategic Initiatives**

Payment Reform efforts are ongoing. VCBH is continuing to meet with individual contracted providers to review rates and contracts. CalMHSA is expected to release provider-level training by 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 (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 implementation 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.

VCBH has entered into a new Participation Agreement (PA) with CalMHSA to work with CBO's, VCBH staff, and Community Partners to solicit their interest in applying for the Medi-Cal PEER Support Specialist certification. The participation agreement runs from January 2023 through December 2024. Through this agreement, VCBH has purchased a limited amount of certification bundles to fund the certification process for interested individuals. VCBH is set to send request of interest out mid-May. More information to come.

We Invite You to Our Conference:

# **BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES**

Our Building Healthy Families Conference will focus on suicide prevention, emotional abuse and the impact on families. Our presenter will address these mental health issues in Spanish through storytelling, community building, and resilience activities. Participants will learn to identify symptoms and outcomes in dealing with suicide prevention and emotional abuse while building supportive relationships.

Presenter: Dr. Luis Garcia  
Internationally Known Psychologist

Saturday, May 13, 2023

8:00AM-4:00PM

Lemonwood Elementary School

2200 Carnegie St. Oxnard, CA 93033

For more information call: (805) 701-7441



Free Event  
Breakfast & Lunch  
Included  
Space is Limited

Register Now!

[http://bit.ly/Familias\\_Saludables](http://bit.ly/Familias_Saludables)

Sponsored by Padres Juntos Promoviendo la Educación, Trainers for Community Change/GRR; Ventura County Behavior Health (VCBH), The Port of Hueneme, Oxnard School District; El Rio School District; LULAC Colonia Council and Fuerza Latina Health Association

## VCBH Adult Division placements as of 5/10/23

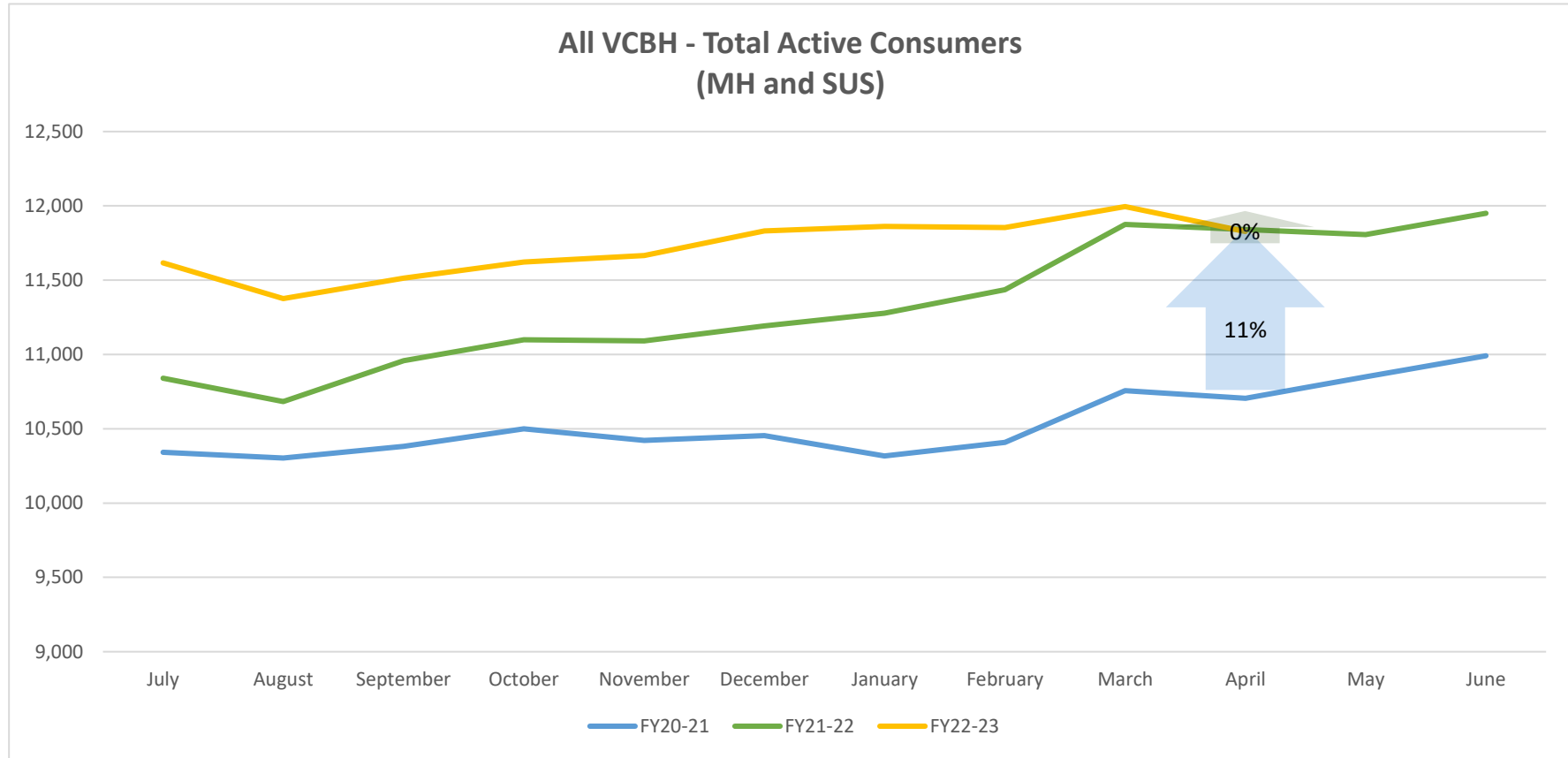
Level	Facility	Location	Available beds	Clients in placement
	Horizon View	Camarillo	16	15
	Sylmar Health & Rehabilitation Center	Sylmar	n/a	20
	California Psychiatric Transitions	Delhi	n/a	2
	Crestwood MHRC	Bakersfield	n/a	2
	Parkside Healthcare	El Cajon	n/a	19
	View Heights	Los Angeles	n/a	28
Total				86
Unlocked	Hillmont House	Camarillo	15	15
	Crestwood The Bridge	Bakersfield	n/a	1
	Ann Sippi Clinic, Bakersfield	Bakersfield	12	12
	Ann Sippi Clinic, Los Angeles	Los Angeles	12	8
	Casa de Esperanza (Casas B, C, and D)	Camarillo	45	45
Total				81
Board & Cares	Casa de Esperanza (Casa E)	Camarillo	15	15
	Brown's Board & Care	Oxnard	10	10
	Cottonwood	Saticoy	24	19
	Saundra Jarmon's	Oxnard	6	3
	Sunrise Manor	Oxnard	60	41
	Thompson Place (formerly La Siesta)	Ventura	26	26
Total				114
Residential Care for the Elderly	The Elms	Ventura	54	43
	Oak Place (formerly Hickory House)	Camarillo	34	36
Total				79
Skilled Nursing Facilities	Telecare La Paz	Paramount	n/a	6
	Pasadena Senior Living	Pasadena	n/a	1
	Vista Knoll	Vista	n/a	8
Total				15

**VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Total Active Consumers In The Month Of April

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

As of 5/4/2023



*\*Percent change compares FY to previous FY (e.g., FY21-22 and FY22-23 had a percent change of 0%)*

**VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Total Active Consumers In The Month Of April

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

As of 5/4/2023

<b>All VCBH</b> SUS - County & Contractor MH Adult - County & Contractor MH Y&F - County & Contractor VCBH STAR Adult Crisis	<b>VCBH Treatment Programs</b> County & Contractor Includes outpatient and residential
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	VCBH Program Group					
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis
<b>Total Consumers With Open Episode</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>6,084</b>	<b>4,118</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>362</b>

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	2,865	35		2,615	293	29
16-25	2,546	203	894	1,362	239	83
26-59	5,045	719	3,945	141	422	192
60+	1,371	54	1,245		59	58
Not Reported						
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>6,084</b>	<b>4,118</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>362</b>

Total Consumers With Open Episode Preferred Language	VCBH Program Group					
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis
English	9,792	928	5,082	3,350	766	303
Spanish	1,089	55	505	434	109	21
Mixteco	5		1	4	2	
Non-Threshold Language	74	3	57	11	3	3
Not Reported	867	25	439	319	133	35
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>6,084</b>	<b>4,118</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>362</b>

Total Consumers With Open Episode Ethnicity	VCBH Program Group					
	All VCBH	SUS	MH Adult	MH Youth and Family	VCBH STAR	VCBH Crisis
Latinx	6,106	594	2,740	2,598	484	118
Non-Latinx	4,034	350	2,755	804	250	127
Not Reported	1,678	65	585	712	279	116
Declined to State	9	2	4	4		1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>6,084</b>	<b>4,118</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>362</b>

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	482		96	387		
FILLMORE	190	31		166		
MOORPARK	2			2		
OXNARD	6,243	749	2,722	1,849	1,013	362
SANTA PAULA	877		602	275		
SIMI VALLEY	1,370	80	780	532		
THOUSAND OAKS	1,298	71	930	321		
VENTURA	2,281	96	1,218	998		
Outside Ventura County (Contractor)	154	132	22			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12,897</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>4,530</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>362</b>

\*\*\* 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
<b>Conejo Valley</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>50</b>
Conejo Valley-Newbury Park	258	32	142	66	29	12
Conejo Valley-Oak Park	41	2	14	20	5	2
Conejo Valley-Thousand Oaks	642	49	382	148	59	32
Conejo Valley-Westlake Village	50	3	29	11	5	4
<b>Moorpark</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>
Moorpark	348	21	140	175	20	11
<b>Ojai</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>
Ojai	156	18	87	46	10	4
Ojai-Oak View	58	5	23	23	6	1
<b>Oxnard Plains</b>	<b>5,281</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>126</b>
Oxnard Plains-Camarillo	783	61	464	238	53	17
Oxnard Plains-Oxnard	4,072	347	2,040	1,498	376	92
Oxnard Plains-Port Hueneme	405	29	175	164	48	17
Oxnard Plains-Somis	21	2	11	9	1	
<b>Santa Clara Valley</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>41</b>
Santa Clara Valley-Fillmore	384	35	144	183	38	11
Santa Clara Valley-Piru	49	3	17	25	5	1
Santa Clara Valley-Santa Paula	765	39	344	333	54	29
<b>Simi Valley</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>44</b>
Simi Valley	1,355	114	698	477	97	44
<b>Ventura</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>73</b>
Ventura	2,110	228	1,202	585	193	73
<b>Not Reported / Out of County</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>6,084</b>	<b>4,118</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>362</b>

Residence cities do not reflect consumer service location.

**Ventura County Behavioral Health**  
*Board Letter Summary of Contracts for April 2023*

Board Date	Contractor	Amount	Term	Description
4/11/2023	Turning Point Foundation (TPF)	\$1,230,114	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<b>FY 22-23 Sixth Amendment to the Agreement with TPF for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services.</b> TPF provides psychiatric rehabilitation-oriented services to Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) enrolled clients who have been authorized and referred by VCBH to TPF. Psychiatric rehabilitation promotes recovery, full community integration, and improved quality of life for persons who have been diagnosed with any mental health condition that seriously impairs their ability to lead meaningful lives. The Sixth Amendment to the Agreement with TPF, increases the maximum contract amount by \$45,820, to provide additional funding for: (1) staff wage increases stemming from CA minimum wage increase effective January 1, 2023, (2) cost of living adjustments, and (3) inflationary costs related to facilities maintenance and office supplies. This agreement is funded with Short Doyle/Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (SD/MC FFP) and Realignment funding.
4/11/2023	For The Future, Inc.	\$546,458	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<b>FY 22-23 Seventh Amendment to the Agreements with For The Future, Inc., for Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program Services.</b> For the Future, Inc. provides short term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) services to at risk youth within Ventura County. They operate a child-centered treatment facility that offers among other services, impulse control, behavior management skills, structured group activities and feeling identification. The Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with For the Future, Inc. increases the maximum contract amount by \$11,740, to provide funding for administration office and increased operating costs. This agreement is funded with SD/MC FFP and Realignment funding.
4/11/2023	ASC Treatment Group (Los Angeles) (ASC Los Angeles)	\$757,120	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<b>FY 22-23 Sixth Amendment to the Agreement with ASC Los Angeles for Adult Residential Treatment Services.</b> ASC Los Angeles provides adult residential treatment services. This facility offers 24-hour staffing and a full range of clinical and rehabilitation services that are designed to assist clients in their mental health recovery. Specifically, the following clinical and rehabilitation services are provided: psychiatry and medication support, individual and group therapy, therapeutic recreation/community activities, and case management. The goal of this program is to assist clients in being able to live in a less restrictive environment upon discharge. The Sixth Amendment to the Agreement with ASC Los Angeles increases the maximum contract amount by \$38,306, to fund increased operating costs, including wages, office supplies, and insurance. This agreement is funded with SD/MC FFP and Realignment funding.
4/11/2023	ASC Treatment Group (Bakersfield) (ASC Bakersfield)	\$1,191,343	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<b>FY 22-23 Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with ASC Bakersfield for Adult Residential Treatment Services.</b> ASC Bakersfield provides adult residential treatment services. This facility offers 24-hour staffing and a full range of clinical and rehabilitation services that are designed to assist clients in their mental health recovery. Specifically, the following clinical and rehabilitation services are provided: psychiatry and medication support, individual and group therapy, therapeutic recreation/community activities, and case management. The goal of this program is to assist clients in being able to live in a less restrictive environment upon discharge. The Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with ASC Bakersfield increases the maximum contract amount by \$135,723, to fund increased operating costs, including wages, office supplies, and insurance. This agreement is funded with SD/MC FFP and Realignment funding.

4/11/2023	BH-VC OPCO SP, LLC dba Jackson House Santa Paula (Jackson House)	\$2,208,250	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<p><b>FY 22-23 Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with Jackson House for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Care Adult Short Term Crisis Residential Recovery Treatment Program Services.</b> Jackson House provides Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Care Adult Short Term Crisis Residential Recovery Treatment Program services to Ventura County residents between the ages of 18 and 59 authorized by VCBH. Most clients will have a serious mental illness and significant functional impairment who are at risk of psychiatric hospitalization but do not require care in a locked treatment setting or who may require an intensive level of support but no longer require treatment in a locked treatment program. The Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with Jackson House increases the maximum contract amount by \$558,250, to fund increased bed days utilization by VCBH. This agreement is funded with Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and SD/MC FFP funding.</p>
4/11/2023	Idea Engineering, Inc	\$427,240	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<p><b>FY 22-23 Third Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc for MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention Services (PEI).</b> Idea Engineering, Inc. provides MHSA PEI services support on various projects sponsored by VCBH. In order to address growing needs within the community to provide access and resources around mental health and PEI services, Idea Engineering, Inc., has partnered with VCBH on developing, disbursing, and coordinating information and promotional materials that bring awareness to mental health services. The Third Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc., is being amended to cover the cost for: (1) additional promotional materials needed for the Empower Up event sponsored by VCBH and (2) additional mental wellness communication materials through fiscal year end. The additional expense will increase the maximum contract amount from \$295,000 to \$427,240 (an increase of \$132,240). This agreement is funded with MHSA funding.</p>
4/11/2023	Evalcorp	\$179,575	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<p><b>FY 22-23 Fifth Amendment to the Agreement with Evalcorp for Data Collection and Analysis Services.</b> Evalcorp provides data collection and analysis services on various projects on behalf of VCBH. Evalcorp is currently providing these services in order to support the Wellness Centers coordinated with Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE). The primary objective of the agreement is to: (1) collaborate with VCBH and VCOE to develop evaluation infrastructure and evaluation capacity, (2) implement a school-wide survey to assess the impact of the Wellness Centers on issues related to awareness of and access to school-based mental health services, (3) conduct required data monitoring for middle school Wellness Centers as needed to inform quarterly and yearly reporting requirements, (4) conduct requisite univariate and multivariate statistical analyses, (5) develop the annual evaluation reports and (6) prepare for and facilitate monthly evaluation meetings with VCBH and VCOE. The Fifth Amendment to the Agreement with Evalcorp is being amended to cover additional hours for the Senior Research Associates related to expansion of Wellness Centers throughout Ventura County. The provider has requested to increase the staff hours from 573 to 873 hours (an increase of 300 staff hours). The additional expense will increase the maximum contract amount from \$149,875 to \$179,575 (an increase of \$29,700). This agreement is funded with MHSA funding.</p>
4/11/2023	TPF	\$941,214	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<p><b>FY 22-23 Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with TPF for Adult Wellness and Rehabilitation Center and Mobile Wellness Services.</b> The primary objective of the agreement with TPF is to provide: (1) mobile wellness centers that provide Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP), (2) recovery groups, (3) linkage and access resources and (4) socialization opportunities as well as step down treatment for individuals in need through Ventura County. The Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with TPF is being amended to cover an increase in staff wages due to changes in the minimum wage requirement that went into effect on January 1, 2023. Additional funding is also needed to cover the cost to replace three (3) laptops. The additional expense will increase the maximum contract amount from \$887,749 to \$941,214 (an increase of \$53,465). This agreement is funded with MHSA funding.</p>

4/11/2023	Homeland Languages Services LLC (Homeland)	\$343,743	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<b>FY 22-23 Third Amendment to the Agreement with Homeland for Interpretation and Translation Services.</b> Homeland provides interpretation and translation services for VCBH. The primary objective of the contract is to support VCBH in providing critical interpretation/translation services to members of the community who need to access services provided by VCBH. The Third Amendment to the Agreement with Homeland is being amended to cover an increase in requested translation and interpretation services. This is due in large part to clinics and other services opening up to provide in-person support. Previously due to COVID-19 protocols, utilization of these services were limited. The additional expense will increase the maximum contract amount from \$150,000 to \$343,743(an increase of \$193,743). This agreement is funded with MHSA funding.
4/11/2023	Elms Manor Corporation (Elms Manor)	\$225,000	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<b>FY 22-23 Third Amendment to the Agreement with Elms Manor for Augmented Board and Care Services.</b> Elms Manor provides augmented board and care services for adults ages 18 to 59 with serious and persistent mental illness that has resulted in significant functional impairments requiring 24-hour care and supervision to promote safety and recovery. The acuity level of these individuals is high in that they require daily assistance in one (1) or more areas of life functioning, including: attending to self-care and basic needs, attending to medical and medication needs, maintaining participation in supportive mental health/substance abuse and other recovery-based support programs, and socializing and re-integrating into the community. VCBH currently pays these providers a rate per client/per month for augmented board and care services. VCBH funding is in addition to the Social Security Insurance (SSI) that these facilities receive from clients to provide basic board and care services. If the client does not have SSI benefits, VCBH provides temporary funding to cover basic board and care services until the client receives SSI benefits. Currently, 43 clients are residing at Elms Manor. The Third Amendment to the Agreement with Elms Manor is being amended to increase the maximum contract amount from \$219,000 to \$225,000 (an increase of \$6,000) for the service period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, to cover additional SSI benefits cost. This agreement is funded with MHSA, Tobacco Settlement, and 1991 Realignment funding.
4/25/2023	Aegis Treatment Centers, LLC (Aegis)	\$6,750,000	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<b>FY 22-23 Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with Aegis for Outpatient Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) Services.</b> Aegis provides outpatient NTP services and Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT) services for adults. Aegis currently has clinics in Oxnard, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, and Ventura with a total licensed capacity of 1,370 clients. From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, Aegis provided services to 737 DMC clients. Since July 2022, Aegis has provided services to 734 DMC clients and estimates serving 745 DMC clients by fiscal year end. The Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with Aegis increases the contract amount by \$350,000 due to an upward trend in clients. In FY 2021-22, the contract maximum was decreased due to the reduced number of clients due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This agreement is funded with Drug Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (D/MC FFP) and Realignment funding.

4/25/2023	HealthRight 360	\$3,554,873	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<p><b>FY 22-23 Tenth Amendment to the Agreement with HealthRight 360 for Residential Treatment Services.</b> HealthRIGHT 360 provides three levels of residential treatment services and one level of withdrawal management treatment services for women and their children. The three levels of residential treatment services include: (1) clinically managed low-intensity residential services, (2) clinically managed population-specific high-intensity residential services for adults only, and (3) clinically managed residential services with high intensity for adults and medium intensity for adolescents. HealthRIGHT 360's satisfactory discharge rate is 55%. From July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, HealthRIGHT 360 served 151 residential and 109 withdrawal management clients and 68 of those clients received MAT services. Since July 2022, HealthRIGHT 360 served 119 residential and 61 withdrawal management clients and 49 of those clients received MAT services. HealthRIGHT 360 estimates serving 160 residential and 115 withdrawal management clients and 70 of those clients will receive MAT services by the end of the fiscal year. The Tenth Amendment to the Agreement with HealthRIGHT 360, increases the contract amount by \$638,759 due to: (1) increased staffing costs related to the withdraw management modality, from prior year, as well as the addition of staff and salary increases to attract and retain staff and (2) increased costs related to additional bed utilization particularly in the level 3.5 residential modality. This agreement is funded with D/MC FFP, State General Fund, Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) discretionary, 2011 Realignment, CalWORKS, Judicial Council of California (JCC) and AB 109 funding.</p>
4/25/2023	Idea Engineering, Inc.	\$404,500	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<p><b>FY 22-23 Ninth Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc. for Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Services.</b> Idea Engineering, Inc. provides VCBH with SUS Prevention communication materials and public messaging campaign services, including custom and localized public service announcements to support various program priorities (e.g., prescription drug abuse prevention initiatives, impaired driving prevention, opioid overdose prevention and rescue efforts) using a range of media channels. Traditional print media and internet-based digital messaging services are directed to youth and adults. Marketing, media and prevention messaging services reach targeted groups locally, consistent with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Strategic Prevention Framework. In the first three quarters of FY 2022-23, Idea Engineering Inc. developed messaging themes covering topics such as "fentanyl can be found in any street drug" and "You Can Save A Life" using naloxone overdose rescue strategies. Messages focused on prescription drug misuse prevention, fentanyl and methamphetamine awareness, and access to care messaging were created and delivered with strong local impressions. The Fentanyl and Fake Pills October 2022 campaign alone garnered 588,343 impressions via targeted website ads, 824,600 radio impressions, and 17,050,000 transit impressions via 40 buses, for a total of 18,462,943 impressions. The Ninth Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc. increases the contract amount by \$30,000 to expand awareness campaigns about current trends in illegal drug use among older school-aged youth and inform parents of these youth about new forms of opioid and stimulant risks. This agreement is funded by Vehicle Fines, Statham and SABG American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.</p>