

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
General Meeting**

Monday, November 20, 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.)

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Quorum Roll Call & Introductions
- III. Roll Call of Members with Just Cause
 - a. State others present in the room over the age of 18
- IV. Requests for Emergency Circumstances – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- V. Approval of the Agenda – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- VI. Approval of the October 16, 2023 Minutes – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- VII. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)
- VIII. Time Certain Presentation – Heroes: Transitioning Back to the Community – Carlos M. Garcia, MPA Police Lieutenant Departmental C.I.T Coordinator, Naval Base Ventura County Police Dept. (20 min.)
- IX. Public Hearing and End 30-day Public Comment Period on the Mental Health Services Act 3 Year Plan Midyear Adjustment – Janis Gardner, Chair – **ACTION** (Roll Call) (5 min.)
- X. Chair Announcements – Janis Gardner, Chair (10 min.)
- XI. Director’s Report – Dr. Loretta Denering, Acting Director (10 min.)
- XII. BHAB Committee Reports (5 min. each)
 - A. Youth & Family Committee (October 11) – Kevin Clerici, Chair
 - B. Transitional Age Youth (TAY) (October 25) – Elizabeth Stone, Chair
 - C. Adult Services Committee (November 2) – Chris Tejada, Chair
 - D. Disparities Reduction Committee (November 7) – Marlen Torres, Chair

- XIII. Board Member Comments and Announcements (3 min. per speaker) (Round Robin)
- XIV. Secretary's Report – Jennifer Morrison (5 min.)
- XV. Old Business
 - A. Site Visits Resumption – BHAB Members (5 min.)
 - B. Data Notebook Workgroup – Liz Warren, Chair
 - C. Ombudsman Workgroup – Liz Warren, Chair
 - D. BHAB Committee Goal Submissions – Janis Gardner, BHAB Members
- XVI. New Business
 - A. Presentation Requests
 - B. Recognition Award Recommendations
- XVII. Contracts – None for the Month of October
- XVIII. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)
- XIX. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Monday, December 18, 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 or in person at Ventura County Behavioral Health, 2nd Floor, 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, California. The same materials will be available and attached with each associated agenda item, when received, at the following website: www.vcbh.org/en/behavioral-health-advisory-board-meetings.

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

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

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.

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.

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 members 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 members 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

November
2023

Heroes: Transitioning Back to the Community

Carlos M. Garcia, MPA
101st Airborne Veteran

Objectives

Understanding the Military / Veteran Population

Military in Ventura County

Psychosocial Considerations for Military / Veteran Members

Importance of Connection

Resources to Utilize

Military 101

Active Duty

Reserves / National Guard

Veteran



Ventura County Military Veteran Data

Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme

4,100 active duty

2,000 ready reserve

4,800 Department of Defense Civil Service employees

5,800 contractors

2,500 Family members

Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu

9,000 military personnel, civilians, and contractors

Army National Guard

Air National Guard 146 Airlift Wing 1,000 personnel

Navy Reserve

Marine Corps Reserve

Army Reserve

Veteran status

5.3% $\pm 0.4\%$

(34,837 $\pm 2,857$)

Population with veteran status

about 10 percent higher than the rate in California: 4.8% 1,471,467 ($\pm 0.1\%$ / $\pm 19,838$)

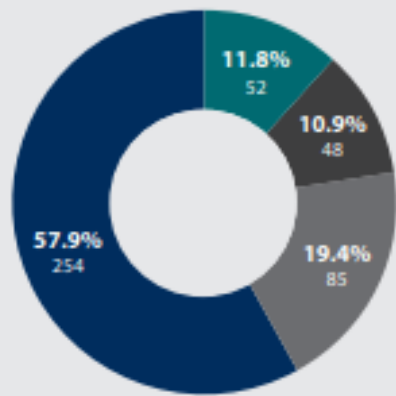
about 80 percent of the rate in United States: 6.9% 17,418,351 ($\pm 0\%$ / $\pm 77,987$)

Veteran/Military Population Psychosocial Considerations

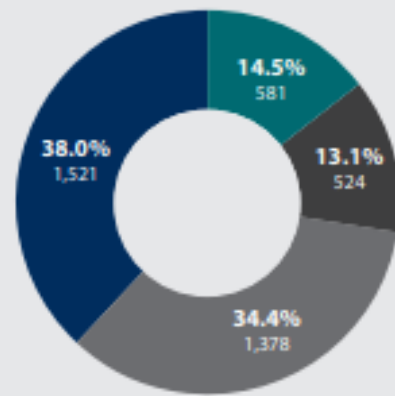
- PTSD
 - 30.9% lifetime prevalence for male veterans
 - 26.9% for female veterans –www.va.gov
- **Military Sexual Trauma** VA screening data reveal 1 in 4 women and 1 in 100 men respond “yes” when asked if they experience MST –www.va.gov
- **Substance Abuse** For AD military binge drinking is up, drug use is down.
 - Veterans increase in drug use, particularly marijuana. Opioid use is also high with 9% of veterans reporting severe pain than 6.4% of civilian population. –www.drugabuse.gov
- **Suicide**

CA Veteran Suicide Stats

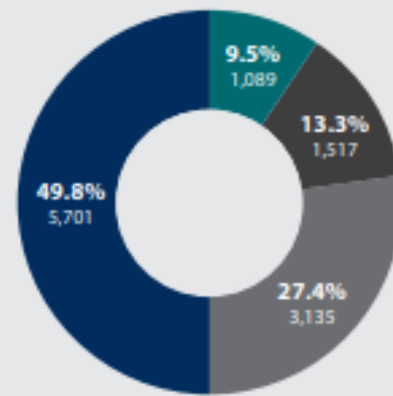
California Veteran and Total California, Western Region, and National Suicide Deaths by Method,^d 2020



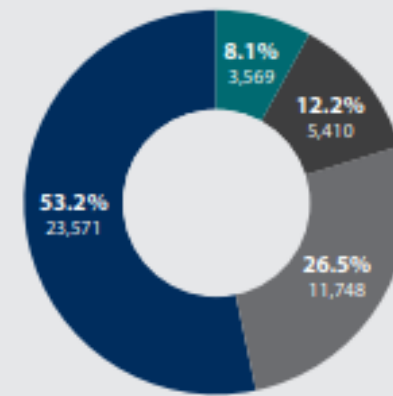
California Veteran Suicides



California Total Suicides



Western Region Suicides



National Suicides

- Firearms
- Suffocation
- Poisoning
- Other Suicide
- Other and Low-Count Methods*

Ventura County Homelessness

Table 10. Unsheltered Adults n=1,350

Subpopulations:	2020		2022		Difference	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Chronically Homeless Adults	342	27.4	629	46.6	+287	83.9
Families including Chronically Homeless Families	7*	***	6**			
Persons w/Chronic Health Conditions	430	34.5	355	26.3	-75	-17.4
Persons w/a Developmental Disability	124	9.9	121	9.0	-3	-2.4
Persons w/HIV/AIDS	12	0.1	15	1.1	+3	+25.0
Persons w/Mental Health Problems	282	22.6	340	25.2	+58	+20.6
Persons w/a Physical Disability	339	27.2	278	20.6	-61	-18.0
Substance Users	495	39.7	447	33.1	-48	-9.7
Veterans	94	7.5	71****	5.3	-23	-24.5
Experiencing Homelessness Because Fleeing Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking	95	7.6	130	9.6	+25	+26.3

*7 families consisted of 11 adults and 16 children. One family with two adults and one child was chronically homeless.

**Of the six families 0 families were chronically homeless.

***The total number of adults in the six families was 11 and represents 0.8% of the total adult population of 1,247.

**** 28.8% or 27 veterans were chronically homeless Individuals.

Of the 2,238 persons counted in 2022, 1,356 or 60.6% were unsheltered.

Importance of Connection

[State police trooper assists Army veteran in distress on I-84 - YouTube](#)

Resources

**VA HUD-VASH (Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing)
Veteran Administration: www.va.gov**

County of Ventura Human Service Agency

www.ventura.org/human-services-agency

Vet Center: 805-585-1860

[State police trooper assists Army
veteran in distress on I-84 - YouTube](#)

Veteran Service Office: 805-477-5155

NBVC Police: 805-982-4591

146 AW Command Post: 805-986-8000

Vet Court

Gold Coast Veterans Foundation –Mobile Veteran Outreach:805-482-6550

Supportive Services For Veteran Families (SSVF):310-648-0611

References

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Injury Prevention & Control.
<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/LeadingCauses.html>

DOD, Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2018, April 2019, pp. 40 and 54.

National Institute on Drug Abuse. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2020). <https://www.samhsa.gov/>

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (2019). <https://cis.salvationarmy.org/cis/veterans-services>

United States Census (2018). [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov/)

Veterans Affairs (2019). National Veterans Suicide Data and Reporting. Suicide Prevention.
https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/index.asp

Ventura County Human Service Agency, Veterans Court. <https://vcpublicdefender.org/veterans-court/>
Ventura County Human Services Agency, Veteran Services and Veterans Service Office.



THANK YOU!

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Changes to the MHSA Three Year Plan FY 23-26 Mid-Year Adjustment report since October 16th, 2023. Changes are listed per their specified MHSA funding category.

CFTN

As of June 2023, the department has been using shared excel files to collect and track data that had previously been done with Avatar. The excel method is not a recommended approach given the risk of losing critical information. VCBH requires a secondary system to maintain such information appropriately. As a result, PowerApps has been proposed under the CFTN component for FY 23/24.

Budget: \$135,000

CSS

Administration cost for Medical Records digitization. The catalyst for the digitization effort is to improve continuity and coordination of care. Current staffing levels prevent medical records requests from being filled in a timely fashion. The digitization would allow the department to honor records requests timely for improved client care. The second driver being improved continuity of care between care providers, the current paper filing system prevents other provider from being able to access records remotely. Paying for additional support to digitize records would improve client care and care coordination between providers for VCBH clients.

Budget: \$700,000

PEI

Girl Scouts of the Central Coast is currently developing a Mental Health Awareness Badge that focuses on healthy habits and positive affirmations and evidence-based practice. The agency is in the process of finalizing the badge the funding would pay for implementation and staff training to roll out the initiative.

Budget: \$75,000

INN

Title change: The Human Services Aging Innovation Project listed as Trauma and Recovery has been updated to read Neurosequential Model Program.

Director's Report BHAB General Meeting 11.20.2023

General Updates:

- **November has the following days of significance to highlight:**
 - Native American Heritage Month
 - National Family Caregivers Month
 - California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month
 - International Stress Awareness Day – November 1
 - Veteran's Day – November 11
 - World Kindness Day – November 13
 - International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day – November 18
 - Transgender Awareness Week – November 13 – 19
 - Transgender Day of Remembrance – November 20
 - International Men's Day – November 19
 - Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week – November 13 – 18
 - Thanksgiving – November 23

****Due to Smart Care, there will be no Active Consumers Data Report****

Access and Outreach Division:

- Earlier this year, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) provided the counties with guidance on implementation of the Medi-Cal Community-Based Mobile Crisis Intervention service. The new guidance has allowed us to revision the way crisis services are being delivered. Ensuring we implement DCHS Standardized Mobile Crisis Tools and essential core and enhanced training, to equip our Mobile Crisis Teams. We continue to actively recruit, to ensure we have a robust multi-disciplinary team. Currently we are working towards implementing a dispatch center, having a dedicated team to handle all calls that come into our Crisis/Access Line – allowing our mobile crisis team to focus on delivering crisis services in the community.

Adult Services Division:

- The VCBH Winter Party for Clients and their Families is going to be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023 from 5-8PM. The Elks will once again be graciously hosting the festivities in their Oxnard Lodge (#1443) and serving a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. VCBH will be providing transportation, entertainment, dessert, and gifts/prizes for all attendees.
- VCBH's Community Care Expansion (CCE) projects are well underway. The CCE program was established by AB172 to fund the rehabilitation of adult and senior care facilities as part of a broader, state-wide effort to expand the state's housing and care continuum, improve treatment outcomes, and prevent the cycle of homelessness or unnecessary

institutionalization. Several of our local board and care facilities are getting much needed improvements (e.g., new roofs, floors, electrical, plumbing, and bathroom and kitchen remodels). Additionally, some operators are getting monthly operating subsidies.

- The VCBH housing effort is taking shape with the hiring of four of eight dedicated housing staff (i.e., two bilingual Community Service Coordinators or CSCs, two Peer Support Specialists, with recruitment of four additional CSCs underway). These staff will support the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) contracts and the Second Chance Act grant for justice-involved clients.
- The Suicide Prevention Council has formed a suicide prevention subcommittee to focus on military veterans and first responders. Even though this subcommittee is still very much “in the works”, VCBH is in the planning stage of an Empower Up Wellness event for military veterans and first responders to take place in 2024.
- Link to MHPA Three Year Plan: [MHPA Three Year Plan: MHPA Three Year Plan 23-26 Mid-Year Adjustment.pdf](https://www.vcbh.org/MHPA_Three_Year_Plan_23-26_Mid-Year_Adjustment.pdf) ([vcbh.org](https://www.vcbh.org))

Youth and Family (Y&F) Services Division:

Division Highlights

- The Y&F Division is pleased to announce continued development of nursing programming. With the transfer of another nurse, we now have three within our division providing medication education, pharmacy support, consultation to the treatment team, and another point of contact for families in care. This will now expand the ability for prescribing providers to spend more time in direct patient care.
- The Youth & Family Division held our Annual Town Hall on Oct. 12 at Oxnard Beach Park in Oxnard. Nearly 200 staff attended with each program showing up in their team colors. The time was spent having lunch together, reviewing division accomplishment and goals for 2024. All engaged in team-building activities and a mindfulness workshop from Ventura County EAP. The afternoon focus on resiliency and teamwork, both essential in the midst of unprecedented change.

Initiatives and Progress

- The Y&F Division is in development of the Enhanced Care Management Managed Care benefit. We are in the early stages of this new process, but our staff have been able to collaborate with HCA on our first client.

Collaborations

- Our Community Service Coordinator assigned to the inaugural 8 VCOE Wellness Centers provided 10 workshops in the first quarter of FY23-24. Topics include Depression signs and symptoms, where to get help; Migratory Grief; Adapting to Living in a New Country; and What is Mental Health? Presentations were delivered in either Spanish or English depending upon the student community need.

Training & Conferences

- For Y&F, a Lead clinician and Clinic Administrator attended SCRP (Southern Counties Regional Partnership) Conference on October 23-25, 2023 in Pomona, California. This conference focused on clinical supervision, and the latest practices in helping new clinicians gain skills to become competent practitioners. As we have a lot of unlicensed staff, providing quality clinical supervision is essential to the provision of quality services to clients.

Substance Use Services (SUS) Division:

Prevention:

- The recent Facing Down Fentanyl forum held in September had significant media reach to inform residents countywide about the county's response to the current crisis, using ads in VCStar, Santa Paula Times, Ojai Valley News, Vida, the Breeze, and all Acorn newspapers, creating more than 246,000 impressions countywide (*slide*).
- The Substance Use Services Division launched a competitive bid process for a wide range of Prevention Services during the first quarter of this year (August 2023). New contracts are anticipated to begin in January based upon proposals for addressing (a) Opioid and Illicit Drug misuse, (b) Addressing Health Disparities in Substance Use, (c) Youth Cannabis Harms, (d) Underage Drinking, (e) Media and Messaging Services, and (f) Research and Evaluation needs.
- With growing demand for prevention efforts to meet the needs of school-aged youth, the Division will be launching another Request for Proposals (RFP) for organizations qualified to provide School-Based Prevention Services in January.
- VCBH collaborated with other County agencies, including Sheriff, medical examiner, public health, ambulatory care, Ventura County medical center, probation, public defender, and the addiction medicine clinic to create the first phase opioid settlement fund spending plan which was approved by the BOS on September 26th.

COAST Forum Event Promotion Newspaper Ad Campaign

REACH:
Camarillo
Fillmore
Moorpark
Ojai
Oxnard
Port Hueneme
Santa Paula
Simi Valley
Thousand Oaks
Ventura

TOTAL IMPRESSIONS:
246,299



- Acorn
- Amigos 805
- Breeze
- Fillmore Gazette
- Ojai Valley News
- Santa Paula Times
- VC Star
- Vida

Treatment Services:

- The VCBH FY23-24 DHCS County Engagement (audit) took place between October 16th and October 27th.
 - The SUS focus was on DMC-ODS and Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) services.
 - We expect to receive a minimal CAP in the next few weeks.
- Two Alcohol and Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialists started at Fillmore and A New Start for Moms clinics.
- New Student worker brought onboard to the Ventura Clinic.
- Sublocade provided at the Oxnard SUTS clinic.
- Two Clinic Administrators attended the Southern Counties Regional Partnership (SCRP) Clinical Supervisors Conference and learned about Trauma-Responsive Clinical Supervision to help support the wellness of our direct care staff.

DUI Services:

- VCBH issued an RFP for the DUI program on August 11th. The RFP was extended and closed October 27th. Currently in the RFP scoring process.
- New enrollments for all sites is 171.

Quality Division:

Quality Assurance:

- QA provided initial guidance and collaborated closely with QI to ensure submission of the Annual County Monitoring Activity (ACMA). QA continues to provide consultation to Operations Teams related to project planning resources for important roll outs like the Mobile Crisis Benefit, Peer Services, and Contingency Management. One important goal of these meetings is to spark communication across units and increase organized project roll outs.
- The Site Certification Team is collaborating with the Fiscal Department to achieve Medicare provider status for VCBH. The application has been submitted and is awaiting review and approval. The estimated time frame for the approval process is 45-90 days.
- **VCBH Policy Office:** Policy Office continues to lead the Fiscal policy development workgroup to support Fiscal and Billing teams in further development of policies to support Payment Reform roll out effective July 1st, 2023, and Fiscal operations thereafter, in compliance with regulatory and contractual obligations. The second Fiscal policy (Internal Financial Controls) was published, and a third one (Contractor Professional Fees) is being finalized. Additionally, the Policy Office has been providing project and policy development support to the Mobile Crisis Benefit implementation and Recovery Incentives efforts. Finally, the Policy Office successfully completed VCBH staff and CBO representatives training on the use of the new Policy Portal as replacement for Policy Stat. Policy Stat is no longer in use as of November 1st. Policy Office began development of its public-facing accessible and ADA-compliant policy library. The intended implementation date for this effort that would upgrade the existing library in the VCBH Policy Portal is March 1, 2024.
- **Utilization Review:** The UR team continues to evaluate and monitor the challenges and issues after the CalAIM and SmartCare implementation. UR has been working with the VCBH SmartCare team in creating the UR reports. UR continuously collaborates with stakeholders, VCBH, and CBO providers, including acute inpatient psychiatric hospitals, to make informed decisions about patient care, resource allocation, and documentation compliance that adhere to relevant clinical guidelines, policies, and regulations. Furthermore, UR addresses identified documentation issues or problems in collaboration with the QM team to ensure documentation accuracy and minimize the risk of errors that could impact client care and lead to financial losses.
- **Training:** SCRP grant funds supported a Clinical Supervision conference in October 2023 to acknowledge the skills and dedication of our Clinical Supervisors. VCBH honored 19 VCBH Clinical Supervisors who have supported the profession, the department and quality care through supporting multiple unlicensed staff. Training BHC IV, Anna Alcalá, LMFT provided a panel presentation highlighting the strides VCBH has made in supporting clinical supervision. The 3rd Round of the SCRP funded Loan Repayment Program opened on October 1, 2023. SCRP grant funds support fifty-two \$7,500 loan repayment awards, though an application process overseen by CalMHSA. To date, 38 staff have received awards. 14 awards are available in this final Round – application deadline is 5pm PST, November 30, 2023.

VCBH Training supported the usual required trainings, as well as Policy Portal and SmartCare, CPR, Crisis Prevention Institute de-escalation training (provided by VCBH Trained Facilitators)

and Understanding and Responding to Familial Trafficking. Evidenced based and clinically rich training opportunities in October 2023, included: Motivational interviewing; Trauma Informed Foundations; Seeking Safety; Law & Ethics; DSM 5TR Update; Core Competence Clinical Supervision, Eating Disorders Treatment consultation calls and Psychologist Assessment and Case Consultation training series.

Quality Improvement:

- **Audits & Reviews:** The QI team is leading all audits, reviews, and corrective action plans (CAPs) for the department. The MHPSA Program Review occurred September 26-28, with 1 day of sessions/discussion and 2 days of site visits. The reviewers were very collaborative and complementary of the VCBH team's organization of the review and what they were seeing and hearing. The findings report will be sent soon. The DHCS MHP Triennial and DMC-ODS/SABG Annual Review, now referred to as the DHCS County-Specific Engagement occurred October 16-27, with virtual sessions each day addressing different areas of the DHCS contracts. The FY 23-24 MHP and DMC-ODS External Quality Review (EQRO) has been set for December 5-7; the agenda is being finalized and invites to sessions, as applicable, will be sent soon.
- **Quality Improvement Committee:** Initial Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) meetings and subcommittee meetings have occurred under this new/revised structure for ongoing quality management monitoring and use of data-driven decision making across the department. This process involves 7 different focus areas and includes VCBH staff at all levels as well as contractor and community partners.
- **PIPs:** QI now has 5 performance improvement projects (PIPs) that address various areas for improvement. We have developed 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 developing a new MH PIP to support identification of individuals who should be enrolled in 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:** SmartCare has been live for 4 months. Front end users are becoming more familiar and comfortable with the use of SmartCare and issues are being addressed through VCBH or CalMHSA support. VCBH's Service Now issues/tickets continue to hover around 120. IT is rolling out a self-service portal to enter issues. This will automate entering tickets and streamline issue resolution buckets while eliminating the AskSmartCare email and manual assigning of tickets. Billing is working on ensuring proper set up of billing codes access for programs and staff, based on role. SuperUser meetings that create a venue for addressing issues and gathering feedback are well attended and have transitioned to once a week, now that urgency of most matters has slowed. VCBH has partnered with CalMHSA and Streamline

(creators of SmartCare) to ensure all required State reports are fully functional in SmartCare and great progress has been made.

Strategy, Planning, and Administrative Services:

- Peer Support Certification: VCBH has awarded Peer Support Certification bundles to four (4) contract provider organizations who submitted interest and completed the application form. Included in the bundles is the application fee, training, testing and certification; however, the bundles do not include exam re-takes.
- Behavioral Health Administrative Integration: Identified VCBH representatives continue to attend and actively participate in the DHCS workgroup meetings for Integrated Contract Early Implementers.

Veterans

- Link: [Annual Report on Suicide in the Military](#) – Calendar Year 2022, including the Department of Defense Suicide Event Report
- From the Psychiatric Times - [A New Approach to Reducing Suicide Risk Among Veterans](#)
- From CAMS-care Preventing Suicide – [Perspectives on Suicide Risk Among Military Personnel and Veterans](#)
- Resources - [VA Suicide Prevention:](#)
- News – All WWII Veterans are now eligible for VA health care: <https://news.va.gov/press-room/all-wwii-veterans-are-now-eligible-for-no-cost-va-health-care-and-nursing-home-services/>

VCBH Adult Division placements as of 11/13/2023

Level	Facility	Location	Available beds	Clients in placement
Locked	Horizon View	Camarillo	16	15
	Sylmar Health & Rehabilitation Center	Sylmar	n/a	26
	California Psychiatric Transitions	Delhi	n/a	1
	Crestwood MHRC	Bakersfield	n/a	3
	Parkside Healthcare	El Cajon	n/a	20
	View Heights	Los Angeles	n/a	36
Total				101
Unlocked	Hillmont House	Camarillo	15	15
	Crestwood The Bridge	Bakersfield	n/a	0
	Ann Sippi Clinic, Bakersfield	Bakersfield	12	11
	Ann Sippi Clinic, Los Angeles	Los Angeles	12	10
	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	9
	Cottonwood	Saticoy	24	20
	Saundra Jarmon's	Oxnard	6	3
	Sunrise Manor	Oxnard	60	46
	Thompson Place (formerly La Siesta)	Ventura	26	26
Total				119
Residential Care for the Elderly	The Elms	Ventura	54	44
	Oak Place (formerly Hickory House)	Camarillo	34	36
Total				80
Skilled Nursing Facilities	Telecare La Paz	Paramount	n/a	4
	Pasadena Senior Living	Pasadena	n/a	1
	Vista Knoll	Vista	n/a	8
Total				15

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) THREE YEAR PLAN 2023-2026 MID-YEAR ADJUSTMENT

We welcome your continued participation in the Community Planning Process. Please join us for the latest developments and to provide feedback, including on the one-time adjustment of more than \$30 million dollars.

Access the updated MHSA Three Year Plan here: www.WellnessEveryDay.org/mhsa

JOIN US AT THE PUBLIC HEARING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 • 1:00–3:30PM

JOIN US IN-PERSON

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

For meeting information, see:
www.VCBH.org/general-meeting

OR JOIN US ONLINE VIA ZOOM

For Zoom access, see:
www.VCBH.org/general-meeting

For more information, contact: MHSA@ventura.org

Interpretation will be provided.