

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

General Committee Meeting Minutes

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)

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

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Monday, November 20, 2023, 1:00 – 3:30PM

BHAB Members Present:

Janis Gardner, Chair	Elizabeth R. Stone, 2 nd Vice Chair
Jennifer Morrison, Secretary	Nancy Borchard
James Espinoza	Genevieve Flores-Haro
Naomi (Nomi) Marrufo	Dianne McKay
Shawn Pewsey	Dalia Robkin
Chris Tejeda	

Guests:

Milane Acevedo, VC CEO	Heidi Allison, Nate’s Place
Dustin Anderson, EvalCorp	Ratan Bhavnani, NAMI
Mitchell Boring, BRITE	Rachelle Dean, EvalCorp
Kat Ehret, BOS 4 th District	Greg Friedman, Community
Barton Goldsmith, Community	Melissa Hannah, United Parents
Theresa Hart, VCPA	Greg Hast, Digital Health Journey’s
Janet Hosokawa, Community	Katherine Kasmir, Community
Aaron Kitzman, VCSO CIT	Pete LaFollette, MHSA Advocate
Claudia Leiva, Community	Lourdes, Spanish Interpreter
Maira, Spanish Interpreter	Robert O’Riley, BOS 5 th District
Brent Reisender, Spirit of Santa Paula	Chris Ridge, VCOE
Chris Roy, D.A. V	Lana Sawyer, NAMI Ventura

Victoria Sayeg, BRITE	Lourdes Solorzano, BOS 1 st District
Mark Stadler, VCSO CIT	Maria Torres, Community
Cynthia Torres, New Dawn Counseling	Lisette Torres, City of Camarillo
Tony Trembley, Councilmember	Alejandra Valencia, Community
Tina Wang, VC CEO	Suzanne Weist, VCOE
Carmen Wytenbach, VC APS	Barry Zimmerman, VC HCA

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

Dr. Loretta Denering, Acting Director
Raena West, Substance Use Services Division Chief
Cheryl Fox, Youth and Family Services Division Chief
Sara Sanchez, Access and Outreach Division Chief
Amir Mahdavi, Quality Care Division Chief
Julie Glantz, Adult Services Sr. Behavioral Health Manager
Susan White Wood, Housing Manager
Hilary Carson, MHSA Sr. Program Administrator
Monica Neece, MHSA Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Andrea Wallace, Assistant to the VCBH Director and Assistant Director

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by Chair Janis Gardner.
- II. **Quorum Roll Call and Introductions** – Ms. Morrison conducted the roll call; a physical quorum of the board members was present. All BHAB members introduced themselves.
- III. **Roll Call of Members with Just Cause** – NONE.
 - a. **State others present in the room over the age of 18.**
- IV. **Requests for Emergency Circumstances** – NONE.
- V. **Approval of the Agenda** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board General Committee agenda for November 20 was approved (/McKay/Tejeda/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written by majority vote through roll call.

- VI. Approval of the October 16, 2023, Minutes** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board General Committee minutes for October 16, 2023, were approved (Tejeda/McKay/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written by majority vote through roll call. Ms. Stone abstained.
- VII. Public Comments** – A written comment was submitted by Pete LaFollette. It will be attached to the minutes. William Ray commented there is a VA clinic in Ventura, CA, however there's not many people to speak with, many social workers are absent, there is a huge gap for veterans to receive the care they need, and funds should be directed to veterans. Nelmonica Jones commented that she has been advocating for her sister who is in need of mental health services, would like to see a change in the system and be a part of the solution.
- VIII. Time Certain Presentation** – Mr. Espinoza introduced Lieutenant Carlos Garcia from the Naval Base Ventura County Police Department who shared a PowerPoint presentation on, "Heroes: Transitioning Back to the Community". The presentation will be attached to the minutes.
- IX. Public Hearing and End 30-day Public Comment Period on the Mental Health Services Act 3 Year Plan Midyear Adjustment** – Second Vice Chair Stone commented she would like to have a more robust community planning process. Johnny Trembley, Vice Mayor, and City Council for Camarillo commented he is seeking additional information on the inpatient structures being used to house, diagnose, treat and rehabilitate adults with behavioral health problems. This motion was approved (Tejeda/McKay/Passed) by majority vote through roll call.
- X. Chair Announcements** – Chair Gardner announced Ventura County Medical leaders have launched a inpatient withdrawal management unit. The Board of Supervisors approved staffing for the program at an expected cost of 3.9 million dollars over 2 years. In January of 2024, Khepera House, a substance use residential facility for men, is set return to the VCBH network. On January 14th, another, "Facing Down Fentanyl", town hall will be held in Oxnard.
- XI. Director's Report** – Health Care Agency director, Barry Zimmerman, provided a report of agency-level activities over the past couple of years. The Board of Supervisors updated their strategic plan in September and one of their goals is to continue providing support for healthcare, both physical and mental health. BOS has also awarded additional staff to meet the community needs, with over 60 individual positions were approved by the board, and a

22-million-dollar investment. The IPU is running at full capacity, about 38 individuals at all times, and the same placement and admission requests from outer hospitals for the IPU. Additionally, out of county placements for the system remain consistent pre and post the activity with Vista del Mar.. The Whole Person Care program under CalAIM known as ECM, is the central provider and providing case management for those most in need. The backpack medicine program provides several activities where they offer street medicine, and the program uses partnerships with many different individuals to connect with the community. The encampment program is piggybacked off medical models specifically working with encampments in cities throughout the county for those that are unsheltered., The County is securing an architect to reconfigure an existing treatment location in East County for a CSU. and The county is in the planning stage for the Care Act which will be implemented December 24th.

XII. BHAB Committee Reports

A. Youth & Family Committee – Tabled to the next meeting.

B. Transitional Age Youth (TAY) – Second Vice Chair Stone reported the committee met on October 25th. A committee member shared their personal concerns and experience with Vista Del Mar, they received an update from Continuum of Care, homeless services office from Ventura County office of Education, and discussed goals.

C. Adult Services Committee – Mr. Tejada reported the committee met on November 2nd and they did meet quorum. The committee is discussing goals such as access, outreach, community participation, communication between agencies, and serving the older adults population.

D. Disparities Reduction Committee – Chair Gardner reported on behalf of Marlen Torres, the meeting was cancelled since they did not meet quorum.

XIII. Board Member Comments and Announcements – Mr. Pewsey announced detention services are opening a veteran’s unit in their jails, it will be a housing unit just for veterans, and they are retooling their discharge process. Ms. Marrufo introduced the new Executive Director for Spirit of Santa Paula, Brent Reischer. Mr. Espinoza commented he will be presenting at the next Suicide Prevention council meeting on December 13th for the nonprofit he is in from 2 to 4PM in the training room and via Zoom. Ms. Flores-Haro commented, November 20th is Transgender Day of Immigrants at Ventura College at 6PM

XIV. Secretary’s Report – Ms. Morrison reported that District 2, Supervisor Gorell’s office, is still vacant.

XV. Old Business

- A. Site Visit Resumption** – Tabled to the next meeting.
- B. Data Notebook Workgroup** – Tabled to the next meeting.
- C. Ombudsman Workgroup** – Tabled to the next meeting.
- D. BHAB Committee Goal Submissions** – Chair Gardner mentioned she appreciates all committees that have been discussing goals and looks forward to having the submitted goals.

XVI. New Business

- A. Presentation Requests** – All presentation requests can be sent to the Chair, Janis Gardner at janis@panacea-ent.com and at bhabadmin@ventura.org with a description of the subject and who will be conducting the presentation. Mr. Tejeda requested to implement a system in which they can memorialize their opinion on any issues and submit it to the Board of Supervisors or to the Behavioral Health director. Second Vice Chair Stone requested an update on peer services and bridge housing. In December, Dr. Denering will present on legislation that will potentially impact the behavioral health system.
- B. Recognition Award Recommendations** – All recognition recommendations can be sent to the Chair, Janis Gardner and BHAB management assistant with a description of the recommendation as well as the reason behind the recommendation at bhabadmin@ventura.org and janis@panacea-ent.com. Mr. Pewsey requested to have the CIT Officer of the Year awards in February.

XVII. Contracts – None for the month of October.

XVIII. Public Comments – Ms. McKay commented she would like to inform the committee that there are still needs not being met. Mark Stadler commented they will also be presenting the Susan Lucky award in February, and the entirety of the awards should take 30 minutes. Brent Reisender commented he would like to recognize Kate Wilson Bolton who is leading a homeless shelter and invites the committee to take a look at the shelter. Claudia Leiva commented that she joined the meeting late and was not able to access the interpretation services. Greg Friedman commented he was delighted to see Dr. Denering's notice of action regarding Vista Del Mar and is objecting to not terminating Vista Del Mar until there is further investigation.

XIX. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:40PM by Chair Janis Gardner.

Next Meeting Date – December 18, 2023, from 1:00PM – 3:30PM.

Behavioral Health Advisory Board General Meeting Attendance

2023-24	Terms	Members	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
District 1	03/11/21-03/10/24	Claudia Armann	X	X	X	X	e							
District 5	09/16/23-09/15/26	Soledad Barragan	X	X	X	X	e							
District 3	01/26/21-01/26/24	Nancy Borchard	E	X		X	X							
District 3	1/13/22-1/12/25	Gane Brooking												
District 1	10/07/21-10/06/24	Kevin Clerici	JC	X	X	E								
Veteran Rep	10/14/21-10/13/24	James Espinoza	E	X	X	X	X							
District 1	04/27/21-04/26/24	Genevieve Flores-Haro	X		Just Cause	X	X							
District 3	04/15/21-04/14/24	Janis Gardner	X	X	X	X	X							
District 1	05/11/21-05/10/24	Cheryl Heitmann	X	X	X	X	e							
District 2	01/08/22-01/07/25	Carol J. Keavney	X	E	X	X	e							
BOS	01/01/22-12/31/24	Supervisor Matt LaVere	E	X	X	X	e							
District 3	09/13/22-12/01/23	Naomi (Nomi) Marrufo	X	X	E	X	X							
District 2	09/17/22-09/16/25	Dianne McKay	X	X	E	X	X							
District 4	02/09/21-02/09/24	Jennifer Morrison	X	X	E	X	X							
Law E. Rep	03/28/23-03/27/26	Sergeant Shawn Pewsey	E	X	X	E	X							
District 4	04/25/23-04/24/26	Dalia Robkin	X	X	X	X	X							
District 5	01/25/20-01/24/23	Michael Rodriguez	E	X	X	X	e							
District 2	03/01/22-02/28/25	Elizabeth R. Stone	X	X	X	X	X							
District 4	09/18/21-09/17/24	Christopher Tejeda	X	E	X	X	X							
District 5	01/11/20-01/24/23	Marlen Torres			X	X	e							
District 5	04/21/22-03/22/24	Liz Warren	X	X	X	X	e							
District 2		VACANT												
District 4		VACANT												
Optional Practicing Psychiatrist		VACANT												

Present = X

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

JC = Just Cause | EC = Emergency Circumstance

From: pete lafollette <plafollette@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:05 PM
To: DeLeon, Jakeline <Jakeline.DeLeon@ventura.org>
Subject: Pete L/PC for NOV 20 General Meeting

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Hi Jakeline- the following confidential MHSA "Modernization" post is from a Peers State Agency. My fwd today from a VCCounty Monthly Newsletter was a suggestion. not a PC...

"We are trying to re-group and figure out where to go from here, including supporting local advocacy to delay implementation of SB43 as the bill allows counties to do until Jan. 1, 2026. The MHSA changes would also not take full effect until July 2026. We have a little time, and hoping things start to change in the power dynamics of Sacramento as Newsom's term is up at the end of 2026 and Susan Eggman is fully term limited out after next year from the Legislature. The insider track take is actually a lot of the Legislature who knows anything about these changes, don't like them. And it's simply that Newsom and a small cabal have disproportionate power. In any case, they cannot institute a whole new regime overnight, which is a silver lining."

TRANSLATION:

Hola Jakeline, la siguiente publicación confidencial de "Modernización" de MHSA es de una Agencia Estatal de Pares. Mi fwd de hoy de un boletín mensual de VCCounty fue una sugerencia. no es un PC...

"Estamos tratando de reagruparnos y averiguar a dónde ir a partir de aquí, incluido el apoyo a la defensa local para retrasar la implementación de la SB43, como el proyecto de ley permite que los condados hagan hasta el 1 de enero de 2026. Los cambios en la MHSA tampoco entrarían en vigor hasta julio de 2026. Tenemos un poco de tiempo, y esperamos que las cosas comiencen a cambiar en la dinámica de poder de Sacramento, ya que el mandato de Newsom termina a fines de 2026 y Susan Eggman tiene un mandato completamente limitado después del próximo año de la Legislatura. La opinión privilegiada es que a muchos de los miembros de la Legislatura que saben algo sobre estos cambios, no les gustan. Y es simplemente que Newsom y una pequeña camarilla tienen un poder desproporcionado. En cualquier caso, no pueden instituir un régimen completamente nuevo de la noche a la mañana, lo cual es un resquicio de esperanza".

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 ($\pm 0.1\%$ / $\pm 19,838$)

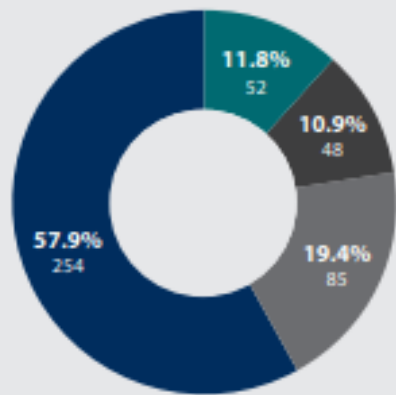
about 80 percent of the rate in United States: 6.9% 17,418,351 ($\pm 0\%$ / $\pm 77,987$)

Veteran/Military Population Psychosocial Considerations

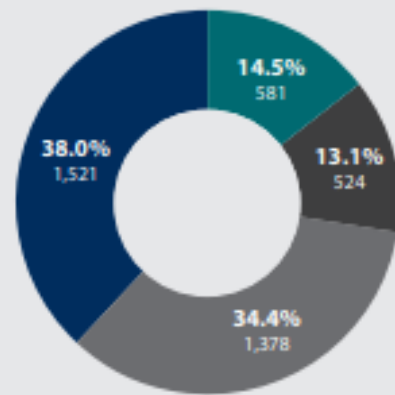
- PTSD
 - 30.9% lifetime prevalence for male veterans
 - 26.9% for female veterans –www.va.gov
- **Military Sexual Trauma** VA screening data reveal 1 in 4 women and 1 in 100 men respond “yes” when asked if they experience MST –www.va.gov
- **Substance Abuse** For AD military binge drinking is up, drug 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

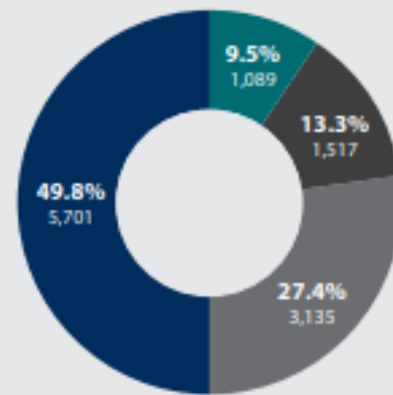
California Veteran and Total California, Western Region, and National Suicide Deaths by Method,^d 2020



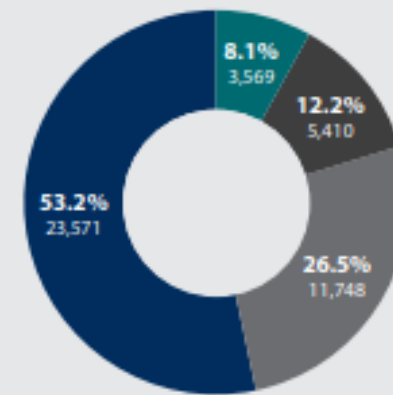
California Veteran Suicides



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!

Carlos M. Garcia

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805-340-8399 Cell

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Carlos.m.garcia9civ@us.navy.mil

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 MHSa Three Year Plan: [MHSA Three Year Plan: MHSA Three Year Plan 23-26 Mid-Year Adjustment.pdf](https://www.vcbh.org/MHSA_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 MHP 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.