

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
PREVENTION COMMITTEE  
2017-2018 Annual Report**  
Submitted by Janis Gardner, Chair

**Prevention Committee members**

Janis Gardner, Committee Chair  
Claudia Armann, BHAB Member  
Gane Brooking, BHAB Member  
Mary Haffner, BHAB Member  
Patricia Mowlavi, BHAB Member  
Sandra Wolfe, BHAB Member  
Dawn Anderson, Ventura County Office of Education  
David Deutsch, NAMI Ventura  
Gabe Teran, Ventura County Office of Education  
Javier Bautista, Pacific Clinics' TAY Tunnel  
Katherine Kasmir, Straight Up  
Lori Litel, United Parents  
Mark Stadler, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)  
Natalie Gabrie, Aegis  
Rachel McDuffee, Aegis  
Stephanie Flournoy, Interface Children & Family Services

Dr. Loretta Denering, VCBH/ADP  
Kathy Mulford, VCBH/DUI  
Kiran Sahota, VCBH/MHSA & PEI  
Dan Hicks, VCBH/ADP Prevention Services  
David Tovar, VCBH/ADP Prevention Services  
Cari Kawell, VCBH/ADP Prevention Services  
Clara Barron, VCBH/MHSA/PEI  
Esperanza Ortega, VCBH/MHSA/PEI  
Greg Bergen, VCBH/MHSA

**Organizations that participate on occasion**

Casa Pacifica  
Community Coalition United  
Conejo Valley Unified School District  
MICOP  
The Client Network  
Ventura County Probation  
Ventura County Public Health

**MISSION**

“To promote measures that prevent mental and/or substance-use disorders from becoming destabilizing components in the lives of Ventura County residents. Our aim is to help support education, prevention and early intervention efforts with particular emphasis on wellness and the interaction of mental health and substance use challenges.”

The focus of the BHAB Prevention Committee is to preserve and enhance advisory and advocacy work for both mental health and substance use disorders prevention to maximize the effectiveness of the BAHB in supporting county behavioral health/substance use issues. The prevention Committee may observe, assess, and report in areas of mental health, dual diagnosis or substance use disorders, and to communicate to, and to raise awareness and understanding of these issues, to the general public of Ventura County, the Board of Supervisors, and, to the Behavioral Health Department Director.

**2017-18 OBJECTIVES**

- 1.) To assist in preventing the onset of Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorders (SUD) which could result in helping to save lives.

- 2.) Work in collaboration with programs that support the Prevention Committee objectives; i.e., VCBH Alcohol and Drug Programs Prevention Services, Ventura County Sheriff's Department, and, other Stakeholders and Providers.
- 3.) Help to facilitate campaigns, promotions, and educational outreach to adopt changes advancing the goals of the Committee.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Participation in the Prevention Committee includes individuals who have an interest in helping to mitigate mental health and substance use disorders for adults, transitional aged youth and children who reside in Ventura County. Its membership and partners include persons from various entities around Ventura County, including but not limited to persons from multiple county agencies, stakeholders, contract providers, VCBH staff, health care professionals, law enforcement and consumers.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

1.

### **2017-18 PRESENTATIONS**

July 2017: "Legal Marijuana – What TAY Need to Know," presented by Dan Hicks, Manager, VCBH ADP Prevention Services

August 2017: "Co-Occurring Disorders and Prevention," presented by David Deutsch, Executive Director, NAMI Ventura

September 2017: "Using Prevention Aspects for Ventura County LGBT Youth," presented by Courtney Lindberg, President, and, Taylor de la Rosa, Vice President, Rainbow Umbrella Youth Group

October 2017: "Opioid Overdose Education and Prevention Project," presented by Kim O'Neil, Executive Director, Project SAFER Educational Foundation

November 2017: No Time Certain Presentation this month

December 2017: "ADP Prevention – 5-Year Plan," presented by Dan Hicks, Manager, VCBH ADP Prevention Services

January 2018: "Aegis – Medication Assisted Treatment," presented by Rachel McDuffee, Regional Clinic Manager, Aegis Treatment Center

February 2018: "Ventura County's Human Trafficking Prevention Efforts," presented by Christian Perez, Program Manager, HEART Program, Interface Children & Family Services

March 2018: "The New Rx Website", presented by Janet Kaplan, Sr. Program Administrator, VCBH ADP Prevention Services

April 2018: "A New Start for Moms: Leveraging Recovery into Future Generations," presented by Jonathan Eymann, BH Clinic Administrator, A New Start for Moms, and, Richard LaPerriere, BH Clinic Administrator, Oxnard ADP

May 2018: "Regulating Commercial Cannabis Businesses to Prevent Youth Access," presented by Joe Kyle, Owner, Joe Grow Consulting

June 2018: "Impaired Driving Prevention, State and Local Perspectives," presented by David Tovar, OTS Grant Coordinator, VCBH ADP Prevention Services

## **CHALLENGES**

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

The Prevention Committee feels there are tremendous opportunities available by working in collaboration with stakeholders, staff, providers and contractors to help raise awareness of existing and future education tools, programs and prevention efforts for the residents and youth of Ventura County.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- To advocate and support mental health and substance use prevention and early intervention programs, providers and contractors.
- To help educate and inform the Board of Supervisors, VCBH staff, other agencies and the public on the negative impacts of alcohol and drug abuse, including the potential harmful effects for youth of consistent marijuana usage on the young still developing teen brain.
- To increase the number of Prevention Committee members.
- To search for gaps and needs in services where no prevention methods or programs currently exist.

### **2018-19 OBJECTIVES**

- 1.) Support and collaborate with VCBH and the BHAB in helping to prevent the onset of substance use disorders and mental health crisis.
- 2.) Identify cannabis education and awareness gaps.