

**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

Organizations that participate occasionally or regularly

Casa Pacifica
Community Coalition United
Conejo Valley Unified School District
MICOP

The Client Network
Ventura County Behavioral Health
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. The Ventura County BHAB Prevention Committee has advocated for and disseminated information on topics within the scope of MHSA, Mental Health Prevention Early Intervention & Alcohol and Drug Substance Abuse. Prevention Committee members' attendance at various events have included: local NAMI events (National Alliance for Mental Illness); events related to the LGBTQ population; events with Rainbow Umbrella; ADP Prevention Services contractor Straight Up's local "Reality Parties for Parents" which are held in both English & Spanish, participation in the National Rx and Heroin Convention in Atlanta, State Wide Substance Abuse conference, the Suicide Prevention Conference and many others.
2. The Ventura County BHAB Prevention Committee has advocated for the Ventura County Crisis Stabilization Unit, increases in Crisis Intervention Team and other programs that promote/help mitigate mental health and substance abuse issues.
3. The BHAB Prevention Committee Presentations are carefully selected. ADP Prevention Services and Mental Health Prevention and Early Intervention topics and those of related partners, are given the opportunity to do a monthly presentation. These presentations allow the BHAB Prevention Committee to learn about current research, educational opportunities and trends within the Ventura County community. The BHAB Prevention Committee meeting attendees can share community resources with each other so they can then bring relevant information to their staff, clients and various agencies who can further disseminate this information throughout Ventura County and the community at large.

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

The Prevention Committee acknowledges the following Challenges within Ventura County as related to community needs within the scope of Alcohol & Drug related Prevention Services and Mental Health's Prevention Early Intervention.

- There are concerns about increased access to highly potent opiates such as Fentanyl within Ventura County.
- It has been challenging piecing together funding from various sources to purchase Naloxone for the VCBH ADP Prevention Services Overdose Prevention Project.
- Within Ventura County, there needs to be an increase in access to prevention services that serve indicated, higher risk populations.
- Within Ventura County, the challenge is the impact of broader availability and normalization of cannabis for youth and young adults.
- There are challenges concerning implementation of ordinances and guidelines regarding cannabis sales.
- There are challenges concerning MHSA's Prevention and Early Intervention funding for implementing programs needed to prevent the onset of mental health issues, particularly for our most vulnerable populations.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Prevention Committee feels there are tremendous opportunities available by working in collaboration with include stakeholders, staff, providers and contractors to help raise awareness of existing and future educational tools. These include 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, including those in collaboration with 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 cannabis 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.) Promote cannabis education and awareness.