

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
PREVENTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES - Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

<p>Members Present</p> <p>Janis Gardner, Chair BHAB Prevention Committee Claudia Armann, BHAB Elizabeth R. Stone, BHAB Jesse Finkbiner, BHAB Patricia Mowlavi, BHAB Soledad Barragan, BHAB Alyson Lucas, Saving Lives Camarillo Cynthia Bautista-Rodriguez, Pacific Clinics' TAY Tunnel Ezequiel Sanchez Gabe Teran, Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) Gail Parker Javier Bautista, TAY Tunnel Katherine Kasmir, Reality Improv Connection - BRITE Maya Lazos, Aurora Vista Del Mar Hospital Roland Roberts, Reality Improv Connection, Inc. - BRITE Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Stuart Fiedler, P.E. Theresa Plante, Casa Pacifica Vanessa Cortez, Pacific Clinics' TAY Tunnel Vicky Gonzales, Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) Yaakov Cahnman, Saving Lives Camarillo</p>	<p>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers/Staff Present</p> <p>Dr. Loretta Denering, SUS Division Chief Anastasia Flores, Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Program Dan Hicks, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Brad Friday, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Cari Kawell, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention</p> <p>Erika Fernandez, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Sheila Murphy, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Greg Bergan, MHSA Team, Zoom Engineer Joanna Peterson, MHSA Team, Zoom Engineer Alex Zajdman, Interpreter, Homeland Language Services</p> <p>NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.</p>
<p>Others Present</p> <p>Carmen Wyttenbach, Ventura County Human Services Agency (VCHSA) Gail C. Parker, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Ruth Morales, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)</p>	<p>Ventura County Behavioral Health 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036</p> <p>Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85118862194?pwd=ZmwwRVQ1cDNRY2pFQ1kwcHA3Y0VyUT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 851 1886 2194 Password: 332632 Dial-in: 669 900 9128</p>
<p>Note: The committee has not yet approved these minutes. There may be additions/deletions or corrections before the minutes are accepted in final form.</p>	

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
I.	Call to Order Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.		
II.	Welcome and Introductions Ms. Gardner welcomed everyone and stated that introductions would be completed through roll call during the approval of the agenda and minutes.		
III.	Approval of the Agenda Ms. Gardner asked the Committee to review and approve the January 12, 2021 agenda. The motion carried unanimously through roll call.	The agenda was approved as written. M/S/C	Motion: Claudia Armann Second: Jesse Finkbiner
IV.	Approval of the Minutes Ms. Gardner asked the committee to review and approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting. The motion carried unanimously through roll call.	The minutes were approved as amended. M/S/C	Motion: Ezequiel A. Sanchez Second: Claudia Armann
V.	Chair Announcements Chair Gardner shared with the group the BHAB Prevention Committee Mission Statement.		

<p>V.</p>	<p>Chair Announcements - continued Chair Gardner asked that the FY 20-21 BHAB Prevention Committee Mission Statement be included in the minutes, as follows: “To promote measures which prevent mental illness and/or substance use issues from becoming destabilizing components in the lives of Ventura County residents. Our aim is to collaborate and help support education, prevention and early intervention efforts with particular emphasis on community health, engagement and the interaction of mental health and substance use challenges.”</p>		
<p>VI.</p>	<p>Public Comments Ezequiel Sanchez mentioned that CNN recent aired a 1-hour informational special that discussed the use of Psilocybin mushrooms and Ketamine to treat severe mental health issues. Mr. Sanchez asked that the Prevention Committee Mission Statement be read during every BHAB Prevention Committee Meeting.</p>		
<p>VII.</p>	<p>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Updates</p> <p>A. Greg Bergan, MHSA/Prevention Early Intervention (PEI)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The VCBH MHSA Team is funded by the Millionaires Tax which comes from California residents who earn over \$1M/year. 2. At the end of 2020, the VCBH MHSA program manager retired. A new manager has been hired and will start on January 25, 2021. 3. VCBH won the Mental Health Services Student Act (MHSSA) grant and will be partnering with VCOE to provide 8 Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools. 4. The next Suicide Prevention Committee Meeting is tentatively set for Friday, February 5, 2021. 5. The La Clave Program is now underway. It helps families understand the signs of mental illness. VCBH MHSA has partnered with USC to provide this new Ventura County Program. 6. The La Clave program is funded through the MHSA’s Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) category of budgeting. 7. The operational manager for the PEI Innovations projects is Hilary Carson. 8. A promotion is underway to request innovative solutions to Mental Health and is a call for innovative project submissions. If you have an innovative project idea that will support the MHSA PEI program, before February 8th, please visit: https://www.wellnesseveryday.org/mhsa/innovation-projects <p>B. Dan Hicks, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David Tovar, former Program Administrator with VCBH SUS Prevention Services, has left the Prevention team, and, has accepted a new position with Gold Coast Health Plan. 2. Currently, Prevention Services is focusing its efforts towards the dramatic increase in opioid use during COVID – especially the use of Fentanyl, as well as, stimulants like methamphetamine. <p>C. Vicky Gonzales, Public Health Tobacco Policy Coordinator, Ventura County Public Health</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared updates re: SB793 – the legislation that the CA governor signed in August 2020 banning the sale of flavored tobacco in the State of California. The tobacco industry filed for a referendum to readdress this policy on the ballot in 2022. 2. Currently, CA State and each of its counties are verifying signatures on the referendum petition, but, due to SB 793, this referendum is suspended until verifications are complete. 3. VCPH is working with the Simi Valley Youth Council on a plan that puts together provisions for the requirements they would like to see in a Tobacco Retailer licensing program to promote a flavor ban that would prevent youth access to tobacco products. 4. There is a Smoke-free, Multi-unit Housing Taskforce meeting being held on Thursday, January 14 at 11 a.m. 5. The Ventura County Action on Smoking & Health Coalition meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21 at 10 a.m. 6. VCPH is working with the City of Santa Paula to introduce a 2nd hand smoke ordinance to protect residents against exposure to 2nd hand smoke. 7. VCPH Staff is in the process of conducting a community needs assessment called “Communities of Excellence.” This assessment assists VCPH in developing their 3-year tobacco control plan for Ventura County. 		

VIII.	<p>Prevention Committee Member Comments</p> <p>A. Jesse Finkbiner, BHAB member, shared that there is an increase in the use of methamphetamine, marijuana and cocaine in Ventura County, particularly adolescents; and, he also stated that COVID creates obstacles to prevention education in terms of information dissemination to youth so they can make empowered decisions about drug usage.</p> <p>B. Maya Lazos reported that Dan Powell (formerly at Hillmont Psychiatric Center) is now the new Chief Executive Officer of Vista del Mar Hospital.</p>		
IX.	<p>Time Certain Presentation – 3:45 p.m. – Erika Fernandez, Community Service Coordinator, VCBH SUS – Prevention Services - “Secondhand Vaping: “Why Tiny Particles are a Big Problem”</p> <p>Ms. Fernandez shared several short videos newly created by VCBH SUS – Prevention Services for their latest campaign about the risks of secondhand vaping.</p> <p>This campaign addresses the health risks related to vaping and how it can affect others, which is especially timely due to COVID-19. The historieta format shares the information through engaging short stories and highlights how vaping can affect children and other family members. The goal is to increase awareness that can lead to a safer home environment, especially for children who may be most vulnerable.</p> <p>The Secondhand Vaping historietas are available as videos, PDFs and printed booklets. To view and share, see: English videos: www.vapingfactcheckvc.org and Spanish videos: www.vapeoverificado.org</p>		
X.	<p>Provider and Stakeholder Comments</p> <p>Elizabeth R. Stone, BHAB member, mentioned that for people who shop at Target, if they have the Target Circle app, this quarter, two local organizations, “One Step a la Vez” and “Kids and Families Together” are in the running to receive a monetary allotment from Target Circle sales.</p> <p>Ms. Stone also announced that as part of the work she is doing with The Client Network, she will be facilitating a training for peer advocacy starting the week of February 16th - 2 hours a day for 6 weeks.</p>		
XI.	<p>Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Gardner asked the Committee to review and approve the FY 2019-20 BHAB Prevention Committee Annual Report. The motion carried unanimously through roll call. (ACTION) Ms. Gardner asked the Committee to review and discuss the FY 2021-22 Prevention Committee Proposed Objective, “Prevention for Youth.” The motion carried unanimously through roll call. (ACTION) The FY 2021-22 BHAB Prevention Committee Objectives were approved as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To support education and prevention efforts. (b) To help destigmatize perceptions regarding mental illness, substance use concerns and wellness for young people and TAY (Transitional Age Youth), in collaboration with community and family involvement. 	<p>The FY 2019-20 BHAB PC Annual Report was approved as written. M/S/C</p> <p>The FY 2021-22 BHAB PC Objectives were approved as amended. M/S/C</p>	<p>Motion: Claudia Armann Second: Elizabeth R. Stone</p> <p>Motion: Elizabeth R. Stone Second: Claudia Armann</p>
XII.	<p>Ruth Morales – Diversion Outreach Coordinator, Drug Enforcement Agency</p> <p>Ms. Ruth Morales and Ms. Gail Parker, DEA, provided information about a newly implemented DEA program called, “Operation Engage.” This program is the outreach and engagement part of the DEA that is out in communities increasing awareness and connecting people with prevention agencies.</p> <p>Operation Engage is focused on 5 counties which include: Riverside County, Los Angeles County, Santa Barbara County, San Luis Obispo County, and, Ventura County. Within these counties, Operation Engage is focusing on opioids and partnering with community-based organizations and leaders.</p> <p>The objectives of Operation Engage are to identify what the drug threats are within each county; to support and contribute to local Prevention efforts to reduce drug availability and use; and, to help bridge the gap between public safety and public health.</p>		
XIII.	<p>New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Gardner discussed with Dan Hicks, Manager, VCBH SUS – Prevention Services, that he would provide updates about the new Prevention campaigns at the next BHAB PC meeting in March. 		
XIV.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.</p>		