

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
Prevention Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, 3:15 – 4:30 PM
Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)
1911 Williams Drive, Training Room (first floor) Oxnard, CA 93036
In-Person & Virtual meetings via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85118862194?pwd=ZmwwRVQ1cDNRY2pFQ1kwcHA3Y0VyUT09>

Meeting ID: 851 1886 2194

Password: 332632

Dial-in: 669-900-9128

Under AB 2449 New Teleconferencing Rules:

The Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board Prevention subcommittee 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.)

Mission Statement: “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.”

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions
- II. Roll Call to determine Physical Quorum
- III. Roll Call of Members with Just Cause
 - a. State others present in the room over the age of 18
- IV. Approval of the May 9, 2023, Agenda – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- V. Approval of the March 14, 2023, Minutes – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- VI. Chair Announcements
- VII. Public Comments (**3 minutes each**)
- VIII. Prevention Committee Member Comments (**3 minutes each**)
- IX. Time Certain Presentation - **3:45 p.m.** – “Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel Prevention Services” – Vanessa Cortez, Program Manager, & Asencion ‘Cici’ Romero
- X. Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Updates (**3 minutes each**)
 - A. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)/Prevention Early Intervention (PEI)
 - B. Dan Hicks, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Services Manager
- XI. Prevention Committee membership, stakeholder, and community outreach planning discussion (**20 minutes**)
- XII. Provider and Stakeholder Comments – (please use raise hand feature) (**3 minutes each**)
- XIII. VCBH Contracts Review (February & March)
- XIV. Old Business - (**4:15**)

- XII. New Business
 - A. Future Presentations - Discussion
- XIII. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: July 11th, 2023

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:
 - o A two-way audiovisual platform or
 - o A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting
 - o 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 member 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 member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

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.

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

Ventura County Behavioral Health
Board Letter Summary of Contracts for February 2023

| Date | Contractor | Amount | Term | Description |
|----------|---|-------------|--|--|
| 2/7/2023 | Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) | \$5,613,388 | December 8, 2020 through December 31, 2026 | <p>Fourth Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with VCOE for Wellness Center Services. On December 8, 2020, Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) entered into an MOA with VCOE in order to provide Wellness Center services. Though VCBH was awarded \$5,999,930 in total grant funding, only \$4,475,228 was paid to VCOE to support services. In order to support the project, VCBH needed to: hire one (1) Wellness Clinician and one (1) Community Service Coordinator, secure evaluation services via Evalcorp (VCBH provider), and cover administration costs. Therefore, a total of \$1,524,702 were retained by VCBH. Pursuant to the separate MOA with VCOE, this additional funding will be used by VCOE to expand Wellness Center services to existing school locations within Ventura County. Additionally, new Wellness Centers will be established in two (2) new high schools, Foothill Technology High School and Pacific High School. The additional funds will also support the existing Wellness Center grant services by expanding on the existing service model to support early identification and linkage to services to help mitigate the progression of mental illness. Annually, VCOE has noted 28,000 visits to the Wellness Centers to seek mental health services and supports. It is expected that 3,500 students will be impacted through the program's awareness, education, and outreach services through the use of this new funding. The Fourth Amendment to the MOA with VCOE adds the funding for the services described above and extends the term of the MOA for an additional one year and six months from December 8, 2020 to December 31, 2026. Source of Funding is Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) Grant.</p> |
| 2/7/2023 | California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) | \$207,590 | February 7, 2023 through June 30, 2024 | <p>First Amendment to the Participation Agreement with CalMHSA for Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program Services. California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) is a DHCS initiative to reform and transform the Medi-Cal program and, in turn, improve the quality of life and health outcomes of Medi-Cal members. Over the course of several years, CalAIM will implement a broad delivery system, program and payment reform across the Medi-Cal system, and build upon the successful outcomes of various pilot programs to completely transform the delivery of behavioral health services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. To support various CalAIM initiatives over the next five years (2022-2027), VCBH entered into a Participation Agreement with CalMHSA for Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program (BHQIP) services. CalMHSA, is a Joint Powers Authority created by California counties in 2009 to jointly develop and fund mental health services and education programs for members. Under the Participation Agreement, CalMHSA is assisting participating members, including Ventura County and VCBH, in operationalizing the CalAIM BHQIP requirements and deliverables that fall under the following categories: (1) payment reform, (2) policy changes, and (3) data exchange. Through the Participation Agreement, CalMHSA is: (1) developing a training package for county employees, including the operationalization of policy changes, (2) drafting boilerplate language for provider contracts, (3) conducting a landscape analysis of documentation audit practices and drafting updated Utilization Management protocols, (4) facilitating data exchange between the county and Managed Care Plan to improve care coordination activities and inform process improvement projects, and (5) providing project management resources as needed. The First Amendment to the Participation Agreement with CalMHSA revises the Participation Agreement to provide the opportunity for member counties to engage support from additional Subject Matter Experts at established hourly rates. Under the First Amendment to the Participation Agreement, counties are able to request the following type of assistance: (1) Fiscal/Payment Reform Subject Matter Expert Services at an hourly rate of \$200 per hour, (2) Interoperability Subject Matter Expert Services at an hourly rate of \$200 per hour, (3) Data Analytics Subject Matter Expert Services at an hourly rate of \$200 per hour, and (4) Ad Hoc Services for services not otherwise specified in the Agreement, but that would aid in support of CalAIM implementation, at a rate of \$200 per hour. Once the First Amendment to the Participation Agreement is signed, the hours/funding remaining from the initial BHQIP Participation Agreement, for project management and clinical services hours, will be combined into a single flexible spending account to utilize for the new services and project management and clinical services. There are approximately 234 hours (\$46,812.50) remaining on the BHQIP Participation Agreement from the project management and clinical service hours that will be transferred to a flexible spending account under the First Amendment. No additional hours are being requested and no additional dollars will be paid to CalMHSA through this First Amendment beyond the existing total maximum amount of \$207,590. Source of Funding is BH-QIP Funds.</p> |
| 2/7/2023 | CalMHSA | \$77,463 | January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024 | <p>First Amendment to the Participation Agreement with CalMHSA for Peer Support Specialist Certification Services. CalMHSA, a Joint Powers Authority created by California counties in 2009 to jointly develop and fund mental health services and education programs for members, entered into participation agreements with interested counties to provide them with a Peer Support Specialist Certification program. A Peer Support Specialist is an individual who has self-identified as having personal lived experience with the process of recovery from mental illness or substance use disorder, either as a consumer of these services or as a parent, caregiver or family member of the consumer. Peer Support Services are defined as culturally competent individual and group services that promote recovery, resiliency, engagement, socialization, self-sufficiency, self-advocacy, development of natural supports, and identification of strengths through structured activities such as group and individual coaching to set recovery goals and identify steps to reach the goals. Peer Support Services aim to prevent relapse, empower beneficiaries through strength-based coaching, support linkages to community resources, and to educate beneficiaries and their families about their conditions and the process of recovery. The Peer Support Specialist Certification program was developed in response to Senate Bill 803, Beall (SB 803) which tasked the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish statewide standards and requirements for Medi-Cal peer support specialists. On July 22, 2021, DHCS released Behavioral Health Information Notice 21-041, establishing statewide requirements for peer support specialist certification and has since worked with CalMHSA to implement and administer all components of the Peer Support Specialist Certification Program. On February 7, 2022, the Board approved a Participation Agreement with CalMHSA for Peer Support Specialist Certification program services. The Participation Agreement's initial term was considered a pilot program that covered the 12-month period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, in the amount of zero dollars. CalMHSA requested the Participation Agreement be amended to: (1) extend the term of the agreement by an additional two years through December 31, 2024 and (2) include payment provisions now that the program has launched. The First Amendment to the Participation Agreement requires VCBH to remit payment to CalMHSA of an initial administrative fee of \$9,713 and \$67,750 for Peer Support Specialist certification services, for a total "not to exceed" amount of \$77,463. The "not to exceed" amount reflects VCBH's best projection of the services needed at this time and costs involved to continue to onboard peer support specialists in various VCBH programs. Source of Funding is Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds.</p> |

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| 2/28/2023 | Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities | \$0 | indefinite | Resolution Authorizing Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) Designated Psychiatric Facilities in Ventura County to Petition for Additional 30-Day Involuntary Holds of Persons Determined to be Gravely Disabled for Mental Health Assessment and Treatment, Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 5270.10 et seq. The proposed resolution provides additional options and ultimately flexibility in helping treat individuals who are Gravely Disabled. Specifically, pursuant to WIC 5270.10 et seq., the resolution would authorize LPS designated inpatient psychiatric facilities in Ventura County to petition the superior court to hold gravely disabled individuals for up to two additional 30-day periods for continued treatment. In order to protect the civil liberties of individuals involuntarily held, WIC 5270.10 et seq. authorizes the use of these additional psychiatric holds only for as long as the individual remains gravely disabled and subject to continued court oversight. Presently, there are two LPS designated inpatient psychiatric facilities in Ventura County, namely the Ventura County Medical Center Inpatient Psychiatric Unit and Vista Del Mar Hospital. WIC Section 5270.10 et seq. has been available for adoption by California counties since 1989. Staff's research suggests that Ventura County is among the last counties of any significant size not to have adopted it. It has been implemented for years throughout the State, most notably in both Santa Barbara County and Los Angeles County. Unlike the 72-hour and the 14-day holds authorized by WIC Sections 5150 and 5250, the authority to use the additional involuntary holds under WIC Section 5270.10 et seq. is not automatic. Instead, in order to use the additional 30-day holds, county boards of supervisors must elect to authorize their use by adopting a resolution that finds: (1) that any additional costs incurred by the county in the implementation of the additional 30-day holds are funded either by (i) new funding sufficient to cover the costs incurred by the county's election to use the additional 30-day hold; (ii) funds redirected from cost savings resulting from the use of the additional 30-day hold; or (iii) a combination thereof and (2) that no current service reductions will occur as a result of the use of such additional 30-day holds. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 5270.12.) With the use of the additional 30-day involuntary holds authorized by WIC Section 5270.10 et seq., VCBH staff anticipates that there will be less need and use of conservatorships (including temporary conservatorships) such that costs associated with establishing and managing conservatorships will be reduced and redirected to cover the costs of implementing the use of the additional 30-day holds. |
| 2/28/2023 | Maxim Healthcare Services Holdings, Inc. (Maxim) | \$1,000,000 | July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 | Amendment to the Temporary Staffing and Recruiting Services Agreement with Maxim. On June 21, 2022, the Board approved three (3) agreements for medical personnel temporary staffing and recruiting services with Maxim, Medix Staffing Solutions, Inc. (Medix), and TheKey of California, LLC for a combined maximum contract amount of \$1,300,000. VCBH received authorization for an additional increase of \$950,000 for a revised combined contract maximum amount of \$2,250,000 to address current VCBH staffing vacancies and ensure continued service provision to meet the needs of the consumers served by VCBH through the end of FY 2022-23 (June 30, 2023). There is also an existing variable pool of \$340,000 which is authorized for flexibility to increase the contract maximums based on services provided through fiscal year end. Given the approved combined increase, the Maxim agreement is being increased from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 (\$400,000 increase). Currently, the VCBH staffing vacancy rate is 26.1%. These contractors have proven to be a vital source of staffing services during the ongoing staffing shortage. Source of Funding is Short Doyle Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (SD/MC FFP), Drug Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (DMC-ODS FFP), State General Fund, and 2011 Realignment (Trust N520-719C), and 1991 Realignment (Trust N510-717C) funds. |
| 2/28/2023 | Medix Staffing Solutions, Inc. (Medix) | \$850,000 | July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 | Amendment to the Temporary Staffing and Recruiting Services Agreement with Medix. On June 21, 2022, the Board approved three (3) agreements for medical personnel temporary staffing and recruiting services with Maxim, Medix, and TheKey of California, LLC for a combined maximum contract amount of \$1,300,000. VCBH received authorization for an additional increase of \$950,000 for a revised combined contract maximum amount of \$2,250,000 to address current VCBH staffing vacancies and ensure continued service provision to meet the needs of the consumers served by VCBH through the end of FY 2022-23 (June 30, 2023). There is also an existing variable pool of \$340,000 which is authorized for flexibility to increase the contract maximums based on services provided through fiscal year end. Given the approved combined increase, the Medix agreement is being increased from \$300,000 to \$850,000 (\$550,000 increase). Currently, the VCBH staffing vacancy rate is 26.1%. These contractors have proven to be a vital source of staffing services during the ongoing staffing shortage. Source of Funding is Short Doyle Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (SD/MC FFP), Drug Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (DMC-ODS FFP), State General Fund, and 2011 Realignment (Trust N520-719C), and 1991 Realignment (Trust N510-717C) funds. |
| 2/28/2023 | Reality Improv Connection, Inc. | \$399,920 | July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 | Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with Reality Improv Connection, Inc. for the Provision of Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Related Services. Reality Improv Connection, Inc. provides informational and educational engagement projects for youth, young adults, and parents. These projects address underage and binge drinking, impaired driving, prescription and illicit drug use, and examine a range of health disparities using school and community-based workshops, performances, and new media (podcasts, blogs, e-news, and text). Media and health promotion efforts include all suppressing opioid overdose, consequences of early and frequent cannabis use, and the risks of vaping, along with a range of pro-social and collaborative mental wellness activities, consistent with the SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework. In the first six months of FY 2022-23, Reality Improv Connection, Inc. documented 4,925 unduplicated youth and young adults participating in prevention content across 248 different workshops and presentations. Giving special attention to those from higher-need school communities, Reality Improv Connection, Inc. significantly expanded the use of interactive and immersive technologies for substance use prevention and health promotion, recording 13,414 plays of educational games online, and assisted young people in developing digital health messaging for use in reaching diverse audiences, using high-quality audio and video. The Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with Reality Improv Connection, Inc. is for a one-year term (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023) and represents an increase of \$101,019 to the maximum agreement amount from the prior fiscal year to increase opioid overdose prevention efforts, especially among vulnerable youth and young adult populations, by adding new staff positions in support of these efforts. Capacity expansion also includes: (1) a new and larger digital media studio space, (2) production assistance for prevention audio and video content, and (3) assistance with editing, organization, and storage of public service announcements (PSAs) and other digital assets. Additionally, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant American Rescue Plan Act (SABG ARPA) supplemental funding will be used for continued support of online services, with upgraded software to offer Zoom Webinar and the 3-D interactive "BRITeworld" platform; aiding large-scale interactive events and increasing use of prevention content countywide. Source of Funding is Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) and SABG American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. |

Ventura County Behavioral Health
Board Letter Summary of Contracts for March 2023

| Board Date | Contractor | Amount | Term | Description |
|------------|------------------------|-----------|--|---|
| 3/14/2023 | Idea Engineering, Inc. | \$552,000 | March 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 | <p>Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc. for Digital, Social, and Media Marketing Services. Over the last ten (10) years suicide has emerged as a major public health challenge, and the prevention of suicide has become a national, State, and local priority, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In California, prevention strategies include: (1) reducing access to lethal means among those at risk of suicide; (2) improving access and delivery for mental health care; and, importantly, (3) identifying and supporting people at risk through public awareness campaigns. Media campaigns are a key strategy to reach large numbers of people in order to help understand and effectively respond to the risk. Nearly two-thirds of those who have a diagnosable mental illness do not seek treatment because of fears about stigma and discrimination. Clear portrayals of the risk of suicide and how family members and loved ones can help to counter the effects of stigma and bring more people at risk closer to available care. VCBH is ramping up efforts to improve community awareness of suicide prevention, especially among higher-risk groups within the county. In collaboration with local stakeholders, VCBH proposes launching a prevention campaign that capitalizes on high-visibility media channels, including the electronic billboard at the Ventura Auto Center, local malls and shopping centers, mobile billboards, transit systems and radio stations. The STAY suicide prevention campaign is designed to reach several high-risk groups including military and first responders, LGBTQ+, teens middle-aged men and women, and older adults. In addition, the campaign will reframe the conversation around suicide in a way that is accessible to all viewers. By asking people to stay and reach out, it gives critical time for resources to be enacted and lives to be saved. The goal of the STAY campaign is for people to give themselves time, and find the support to end their pain, not their life. Source of Funding is Proposition 63 (Mental Health Services Act).</p> |