

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH (TAY) COMMITTEE
MINUTES ■ Wednesday, April 20, 2022**

<p>Members Present Elizabeth R. Stone, Chair Juliana Cervantes, Interface Children Family Services Lorena Guereca, Vista Real Charter High School Jennifer Harkey, County Executive Office Anthony Marron, Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel Cathi Nye, Ventura County Office of Education Carole Shelton, Parent Family Member</p> <p>Others Present Vanessa Acaín, Independent Living Resource Center Cristian Telles, Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel Dan Parziale, MESA Independent Living Carolina Rodriguez, Homeland Language Services Michael Rodriguez, BHAB Ana Rosa, One Step A La Vez Sierra Rossu, Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel</p>	<p>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers/Staff Present Dr. John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief Greg Bergan, Mental Health Services Act Program Administrator Joanna Peterson, Management Assistant / Zoom Engineer Nancy Springer, Transitional Age Youth / East County Behavioral Health Manager Vickie Poliquin, BHAB Assistant</p> <p>NEXT MEETING: June 15, 2022</p>
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Note: The committee has not yet approved these minutes. There may be additions/deletions or corrections before the minutes are accepted in final form.

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
I.	Call to Order Chair Stone called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm following Joanna Peterson providing instructions on how to access interpretation services.		
II.	Welcome and Introductions Ms. Stone welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda format and content.		
III.	Explain Intent of Reconstitution of TAY Committee Ms. Stone noted that suggestions had been made to adjust meeting times to after-school hours and hold meetings near schools or within the community. She advised that committee membership would be adjusted in accordance with attendance in the meeting to ensure a quorum and added those dropped from membership would be welcome to rejoin in the future should they desire. As a result, the four (4) present members were retained and a quorum was established. Ms. Stone described her role as Chair to be one that acts as a facilitator and host for community participation and input. She advised that opportunities for public comment will be available throughout the meeting.		
IV.	Approval of the Agenda Ms. Stone asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Shelton move to approve as submitted; Ms. Guereca seconded. The motion to approve the agenda as submitted carried unanimously through roll call.	Agenda approved as written. M/S/C	
V.	Announcement: Ventura Continuum of Care TAY Focus Group Ms. Stone introduced Jennifer Harkey, Director of the Ventura County Continuum of Care (CoC) who provided an overview of the CoC's application process for County-wide housing services. She advised a Youth Collaborative that includes local partners and youth providers meets every other month; there is an on-going effort to recruit transitional age youth (ages 16 to 24) to participate on a regular basis. Additionally, a Youth Action Board is being developed to provide recommendations to the CoC Board to ensure voices of people with lived expertise are included. Ms. Harkey also invited youth to attend an End Youth Homelessness Focus Group scheduled April 27 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM via Zoom.		

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VI.	<p>Presentation – MESA: Upcoming TAY Transitional Housing/Wellness Center in Ojai</p> <p>Ms. Stone introduced Dan Parzial (CEO and Co-Founder) who gave a presentation on MESA, a TAY Transitional Housing/Wellness Center (Ojai) scheduled to open in December 2022. Mr. Parziale outlined MESA’s whole person approach to wellness and the site’s future capacity for thirteen transitional age youth who are either experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. dan.parziale@mesaform.org / 323-308-0060 / www.mesafarm.org</p>		
VII.	<p>Discussion: Hopes for TAY Committee and Centering Voices of TAY Participants</p> <p>Anthony Marron noted that good ideas are discussed at the Committee level with action taking place outside of the meeting. Ms. Stone concurred noting that the Committee often serves as a conduit. Carole Shelton expressed concern regarding access if meetings returning to being held in-person. Ms. Stone clarified that a hybrid format (allowing for Zoom participation) is in development. Lorena Guereca spoke of the importance of this option for students. Cathi Nye provided information about a 360 degree “Owl” system device that assists with connecting virtual meetings. Anthony Marron suggested forming a workgroup to brainstorm ideas on access. Ms. Stone concurred and it was agreed that they would co-chair.</p>		
VIII.	<p>Submissions for and Acceptance of Official TAY Committee Membership</p> <p>The four Committee members present at the outset of the meeting had been joined by a fifth. Two additional attendees, Juliana Cervantes and Jenn Harkey were added, bringing the total committee membership to seven (7).</p>		
IX.	<p>Establish Day and Time for Future Meetings</p> <p>Ms. Stone noted that a 30-day open public comment period for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update is underway and suggested holding a special meeting to review the TAY-funded projects. Committee members concurred; date/time to be determined.</p>		
X.	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes</p> <p>A. February 25, 2021 Minutes – ACTION (Roll Call) Ms. Stone asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting. Carole Shelton moved to approve the minutes as submitted; Cathi Nye seconded. The motion to approve the minutes carried by majority vote. Anthony Marron and Jennifer Harkey abstained.</p> <p>B. April 22, 2021 Minutes – ACTION (Roll Call) Ms. Stone asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2021 meeting. Cathi Nye moved to approve; Carole Shelton seconded. Carole Shelton asked that the minutes be amended to correct the spelling of her name from “Carol” to “Carole”. The motion and second was restated to approve the minutes as amended and carried by majority vote. Anthony Marron, Juliana Cervantes and Jennifer Harkey abstained.</p> <p>C. June 24, 2021 Minutes – ACTION (Roll Call) Ms. Stone asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2021 meeting. Carole Shelton moved to approve with the proposed correction of adding an “e” to her name; Cathi Nye seconded. The motion and second was restated to approve the minutes as amended and carried by majority vote. Anthony Marron, Lorena Guereca, Juliana Cervantes and Jennifer Harkey abstained.</p> <p>D. August 26, 2021 Minutes – ACTION (Roll Call) Ms. Stone asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 26, 2021 with the correction to add an “e” to Carole Shelton’s name. Cathi Nye moved to approve; Carole Shelton seconded. The motion and second was restated to approve the minutes as amended and carried by majority vote. Anthony Marron, Juliana Cervantes and Jennifer Harkey abstained.</p> <p>E. November 18, 2021 Minutes – ACTION (Roll Call) Ms. Stone asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2021 with the correction to add an “e” to Carole Shelton’s name. Anthony Marron moved to approve; Cathi Nye seconded. The motion and second was restated to approve the minutes as amended and carried by majority vote. Anthony Marron, Lorena Guereca, Juliana Cervantes and Jennifer Harkey abstained.</p>		
XI.	<p>VCBH Updates and Announcements</p> <p>Greg Bergan noted the MHSA’s Annual Update is posted for review on the VCBH and Wellness Everyday websites and that the 30-day public comment period ends on May 16:</p>		

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>https://vcbh.org/en/ https://www.wellnesseveryday.org/</p> <p>Cathi Nye advised she provided Vickie Poliquin with an information flyer from the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) regarding an April 30 event for special populations targeting homeless foster migrants from grades nine through twelve to provide support for career and college advancement. Senator Limon will be the keynote speaker.</p>		
XII.	<p>Additional Committee Members' and Participants' Comments/Concerns</p> <p>Ms. Stone provided a brief wrap-up of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The next regular TAY Committee meeting will be held the 3rd Wednesday in June at 3:30 PM; ▪ Ms. Stone and Anthony Marron will co-chair a workgroup looking at accessibility and a notice will be sent out for people to respond if they wish to participate; and ▪ Ms. Stone will work with VCBH to establish a date/time for a Special meeting to review the MHSA Annual Update's TAY projects prior to the close of the 30-day public comment period. <p>Anthony Marron advised that TAY Tunnel has some upcoming events and will provide the informational items to Vickie Poliquin for the Chair's approval to disseminate to Committee members.</p>		
XIII.	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>There were no public comments.</p>		
XIV.	<p>Suggested Items for Next Meeting's Agenda</p> <p>No items were suggested. Anthony Marron suggested the establishment of a workgroup to discuss topics and presentations for upcoming meetings. Ms. Stone concurred and will schedule time to discuss Mr. Marron's ideas for the suggested workgroups.</p>		
XV..	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM.</p>		



FOCUS GROUP

Help More Young People in Our Community!

People don't understand enough about young people who don't have a stable place to call home. **We need your help to better understand the housing and service needs of youth in our community.** We are having a focus group with young people like you, to gather this information and help us apply for new grant funding. We will keep everything you share confidential.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022

3:30pm to 5:00pm

Join Us on Zoom:

Meeting ID 816 9818 0990

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81698180990>



VENTURA COUNTY
**CONTINUUM OF
CARE ALLIANCE**

ENDING HOMELESSNESS
IN VENTURA COUNTY

ARE YOU...

—

16 TO 24
YEARS OLD?

—

HAVE YOU BEEN
WITHOUT A SAFE,
STABLE PLACE TO
SLEEP AT NIGHT?

—

INTERESTED IN
ENDING YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS?

—

YOUR VOICE
COUNTS!

NEED MORE INFO?

Contact Jennifer Harkey at
805-658-4342 or email
Jennifer.harkey@ventura.org



Mesa

Mesa advocates for innovative upstream approaches to preventing youth homelessness. This is accomplished through a holistic approach to the individual, the building of strong relationships within the community, and the therapeutic potential of regenerative agriculture.



Mesa

Executive Summary

- The current approach to youth homelessness **is not working**
- Former Foster Youth face unique challenges
- Mesa has an innovative and evidence based approach to preventing homelessness



Mesa

FACT: When you experience homelessness or housing insecurity as a kid, your chances of living a stable life as an adult largely vanish.

- 3,600 youth will age out of foster care in California in 2022
- Over **70%** of those who exit the foster system experience homelessness or incarceration within 2 years.
- And, without intervention, **22% of those young people will see their own children enter the same broken system**---a multi-generational issue that **MUST** change.



Mesa: Instilling and Restoring Resilience and Inner Strength

We are moving upstream from the symptoms of homelessness, incarceration and dependence on social programs to intervene during a critical crossroads - the transition toward an adulthood characterized by **resilience** and **strength** through **relationship**.



Mesa: Whole Person Approach to Wellness

FACT: An integrative and comprehensive approach leads to better outcomes.

- Safe and Stable Housing
- Personalized Wellness Plan
- Therapeutic Interventions
- Educational Opportunities
- Vocational Training
- Community-Based Work
- Environmental Sustainability



Mesa

Programming

Mesa is built on a **foundation of trauma informed program design.**

Mesa utilizes a highly personalized approach that allows participants to pursue their passions and create their own future.



Wellness



Personalization



Community

Mesa



Core Belief: Environmental health and personal wellness go hand in hand.

Through the process of restoring the health of the soil and creating a sustainable food forest on our 10 acre farm, our residents will also restore their own mental and physical health.

This will all be done while growing the best food possible for themselves and their community.

Strategic Partnerships:

- The American Horticultural Therapy Association
- 1% For The Planet
- The C.R.E.W.
- Food Forward
- Local Permaculture Experts

Mesa Ojai

400 Gorham Rd, Ojai, CA

What: Spacious 10-acre orange grove; main home and 8 studio (tiny) homes; 2 expanded studios

Where: East End of the Ojai Valley

When: December 2022

Who: 13 TAY who are either experiencing or at risk of homelessness



Mesa Ojai

400 Gorham Rd, Ojai, CA

This property provides the perfect sanctuary for TAY to establish stability and community and to acquire the skills and education necessary to transition into independent living.



Mesa Ojai

Tiny Homes

-8 studio size 160 sf tiny homes

-2 larger 220 sf units that will be suitable for a parent and young child.





Mesa - Return On Investment

Mesa's approach is 40% cheaper than the cost of inaction.

- Annually, California spends approximately \$100,000 per person experiencing homelessness and over \$100,000 on each incarcerated person
- There are 82 young people that are on the verge of aging out of the foster system in Ventura County. Statistically, 57 will become homeless or incarcerated in the next 24 months.

Mesa's work costs roughly \$60,000 per person per year and these costs will go down as we expand. As opposed to current costs which amount to simply keeping people alive on the street or in prison, Mesa's holistic programming will provide a launching pad for the rest of their lives.

The only ethical decision is to take responsibility for our own existence and that of our children. -Bill Mollison



Mesa



Connect with Us

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