

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Committee Meeting Minutes

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)

1911 Williams Dr, Training Room (first floor) · Oxnard, CA 93036

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 3:30PM – 5PM

Members Present:

Elizabeth R. Stone, Chair – FIND: A Friend in Deed

Anthony Marron – Community Member

Cathi Nye – VC Office of Education (VCOE)

Jennifer Harkey – Continuum of Care, CEO

Carol “C.J.” Keavney – BHAB Member

Carole Shelton – Family Member

Cristian Telles – TAY Tunnel

Guests:

Denise Cortes, Harbor House

Ariana Del Zotto, Spanish-language Interpreter

Sheri Groenveld, Harbor House

Priscila Hazrun, Spanish-language Interpreter

Asencion “Cici” Romero, TAY Tunnel

Michael Schouten, Diversity Collective

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

John Schipper, Adult Services Division Chief

Nancy Springer, Behavioral Health Manager – Transitions/VCPOP and East County

Susan White Wood, Behavioral Health Manager – Housing

Eileen Corona, Clinic Administrator – Oxnard Substance Use Treatment Services

Jakeline De Leon, BHAB Management Assistant / Zoom Engineer

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 3:36 PM by Chair Stone.
- II. **Roll Call to Determine Physical Quorum** – Chair Stone conducted the roll call; a physical quorum of the committee members was present.
- III. **Roll Call of Members with Just Cause** – NONE.
 - a. **State others present in the room over the age of 18.**
- IV. **Welcome and Introductions** – Everyone who joined the meeting introduced themselves. Priscila Hazrun and Ariana Del Zotto, the interpreters for Spanish speakers, introduced themselves and provided instructions for accessing the interpretation services available for this meeting.
- V. **Public Comments** – Ms. Romero commented TAY Tunnel is back open for walk-ins and appointments. The mask mandate is no longer in place and some changes have been made to the center. She invited the community to visit.
- VI. **Approval of the Agenda** – The agenda for the June 21, 2023, Transitional Age Youth (TAY) subcommittee meeting was approved (Keavney/Shelton/Passed). The motion passed by majority vote through roll call.
- VII. **Approval of the February 15, 2023, Minutes** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Transitional Age Youth (TAY) subcommittee minutes for February 15, 2023, were approved (Shelton/Harkey/Passed). The motion passed by majority vote through roll call. Ms. Keavney and Mr. Telles abstained.
- VIII. **PRESENTATION: Introduction to Harbor House and the Pi House Program** – Ms. Cortes and Ms. Groenveld provided an overview of Harbor House and its Pi House program. Harbor House is a social services agency that primarily offers services throughout Conejo Valley. Pi House is a privately funded transitional housing option for young adult males who became homeless after aging out of Foster Care.
- IX. **Update on Continuum of Care Initiatives** – Ms. Harkey provided a brief update on some Continuum of Care initiatives. She highlighted that the CoC wishes to apply for new grant funding (YHDP, or Youth Homeless Demonstration Program) that would require a Youth Action Board (YAB) be established. Membership on the YAB must include a minimum of three youth aged 16 to 24 with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability in the past 2 years. More information is available on the CoC website under the News and Announcements section. If awarded the grant, a Request for Proposals would be open to local organizations.

X. VCBH Updates

- A. Mental Health Services for TAY Persons and their Families** – Ms. Springer provided an update. VC PoP (Ventura County Power Over Psychosis program) has hired Peer Support Specialists who will be starting next week. The TAY crisis team currently has a Peer Support Specialist who has completed the required 80 hours of training and is scheduled to sit for the certification exam. The VC PoP program has conducted several successful multifamily groups.
- B. Substance Use Services** – Ms. Corona, Clinic Administrator at Oxnard Substance Use Treatment Services, provided an update. The Helping Men Recover training will begin in Oxnard in mid-July or early August. A presentation regarding child sex trafficking from Child Protective Services will be offered soon.
- C. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)** – No update was given.

XI. Facilitated Discussion: Review Locale and Time for Next Meeting – The next meeting in August will be at 3PM.

XII. Information Sharing / Upcoming Events and News –

- A.** Ms. White Wood shared that VCBH still has funds in the TAY Housing grant from the CoC which can provide rental assistance and support services for TAY- aged individuals who are experiencing housing instability. VCBH can also provide assistance with transportation, tuition, job coaching, and rental deposits.
- B.** Ms. Nye shared that VCOE’s end-of-year count of students who are experiencing homelessness was the highest it has been in the past 5 years and the need for housing remains very great.
- C.** Chair Stone shared she was invited to participate in a Train the Trainer course for Intentional Peer Support in July and August. The peer organization she coordinates (FIND: A Friend in Deed) also just got accepted as a referral agency for individuals who have been approved by the Public Defender’s office to earn time against fines for homeless court, and groups funded under VCBH’s minigrants are slated to begin soon.
- D.** Ms. Shelton shared she is a part of Adelante Comunidad which will be hosting a monthly marketplace on Saturday, June 24. It will be at the Beyer Park by Conejo Elementary from 9AM to 11AM, with no need to preregister. Lastly, Ms. Shelton shared she is also part of the Conejo Housing Coalition, which is comprised of several diverse organizations focused on the need for affordable housing in Thousand Oaks, CA.

XIII. Contracts Review (February, March & April 2023) – No comments.

XIV. Suggested Items for Agenda for Subsequent Meetings – It was decided to focus on needs and services for TAY people who identify as LGBTQ+ during the next meeting. Chair Stone invited anyone with knowledge and/or an interest in this to participate in creating the agenda.

XV. Final Public Comments – NONE.

XVI. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM by Chair Stone.

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>

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>

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

Board Date	Contractor	Amount	Term	Description
4/11/2023	Turning Point Foundation (TPF)	\$1,230,114	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	FY 22-23 Sixth Amendment to the Agreement with TPF for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services. TPF provides psychiatric rehabilitation-oriented services to Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) enrolled clients who have been authorized and referred by VCBH to TPF. Psychiatric rehabilitation promotes recovery, full community integration, and improved quality of life for persons who have been diagnosed with any mental health condition that seriously impairs their ability to lead meaningful lives. The Sixth Amendment to the Agreement with TPF, increases the maximum contract amount by \$45,820, to provide additional funding for: (1) staff wage increases stemming from CA minimum wage increase effective January 1, 2023, (2) cost of living adjustments, and (3) inflationary costs related to facilities maintenance and office supplies. This agreement is funded with Short Doyle/Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (SD/MC FFP) and Realignment funding.
4/11/2023	For The Future, Inc.	\$546,458	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	FY 22-23 Seventh Amendment to the Agreements with For The Future, Inc., for Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program Services. For the Future, Inc. provides short term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) services to at risk youth within Ventura County. They operate a child-centered treatment facility that offers among other services, impulse control, behavior management skills, structured group activities and feeling identification. The Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with For the Future, Inc. increases the maximum contract amount by \$11,740, to provide funding for administration office and increased operating costs. This agreement is funded with SD/MC FFP and Realignment funding.
4/11/2023	ASC Treatment Group (Los Angeles) (ASC Los Angeles)	\$757,120	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	FY 22-23 Sixth Amendment to the Agreement with ASC Los Angeles for Adult Residential Treatment Services. ASC Los Angeles provides adult residential treatment services. This facility offers 24-hour staffing and a full range of clinical and rehabilitation services that are designed to assist clients in their mental health recovery. Specifically, the following clinical and rehabilitation services are provided: psychiatry and medication support, individual and group therapy, therapeutic recreation/community activities, and case management. The goal of this program is to assist clients in being able to live in a less restrictive environment upon discharge. The Sixth Amendment to the Agreement with ASC Los Angeles increases the maximum contract amount by \$38,306, to fund increased operating costs, including wages, office supplies, and insurance. This agreement is funded with SD/MC FFP and Realignment funding.
4/11/2023	ASC Treatment Group (Bakersfield) (ASC Bakersfield)	\$1,191,343	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	FY 22-23 Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with ASC Bakersfield for Adult Residential Treatment Services. ASC Bakersfield provides adult residential treatment services. This facility offers 24-hour staffing and a full range of clinical and rehabilitation services that are designed to assist clients in their mental health recovery. Specifically, the following clinical and rehabilitation services are provided: psychiatry and medication support, individual and group therapy, therapeutic recreation/community activities, and case management. The goal of this program is to assist clients in being able to live in a less restrictive environment upon discharge. The Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with ASC Bakersfield increases the maximum contract amount by \$135,723, to fund increased operating costs, including wages, office supplies, and insurance. This agreement is funded with SD/MC FFP and Realignment funding.

4/11/2023	BH-VC OPCO SP, LLC dba Jackson House Santa Paula (Jackson House)	\$2,208,250	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	FY 22-23 Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with Jackson House for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Care Adult Short Term Crisis Residential Recovery Treatment Program Services. Jackson House provides Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Care Adult Short Term Crisis Residential Recovery Treatment Program services to Ventura County residents between the ages of 18 and 59 authorized by VCBH. Most clients will have a serious mental illness and significant functional impairment who are at risk of psychiatric hospitalization but do not require care in a locked treatment setting or who may require an intensive level of support but no longer require treatment in a locked treatment program. The Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with Jackson House increases the maximum contract amount by \$558,250, to fund increased bed days utilization by VCBH. This agreement is funded with Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and SD/MC FFP funding.
4/11/2023	Idea Engineering, Inc	\$427,240	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	FY 22-23 Third Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc for MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention Services (PEI). Idea Engineering, Inc. provides MHSA PEI services support on various projects sponsored by VCBH. In order to address growing needs within the community to provide access and resources around mental health and PEI services, Idea Engineering, Inc., has partnered with VCBH on developing, disbursing, and coordinating information and promotional materials that bring awareness to mental health services. The Third Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc., is being amended to cover the cost for: (1) additional promotional materials needed for the Empower Up event sponsored by VCBH and (2) additional mental wellness communication materials through fiscal year end. The additional expense will increase the maximum contract amount from \$295,000 to \$427,240 (an increase of \$132,240). This agreement is funded with MHSA funding.
4/11/2023	Evalcorp	\$179,575	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	FY 22-23 Fifth Amendment to the Agreement with Evalcorp for Data Collection and Analysis Services. Evalcorp provides data collection and analysis services on various projects on behalf of VCBH. Evalcorp is currently providing these services in order to support the Wellness Centers coordinated with Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE). The primary objective of the agreement is to: (1) collaborate with VCBH and VCOE to develop evaluation infrastructure and evaluation capacity, (2) implement a school-wide survey to assess the impact of the Wellness Centers on issues related to awareness of and access to school-based mental health services, (3) conduct required data monitoring for middle school Wellness Centers as needed to inform quarterly and yearly reporting requirements, (4) conduct requisite univariate and multivariate statistical analyses, (5) develop the annual evaluation reports and (6) prepare for and facilitate monthly evaluation meetings with VCBH and VCOE. The Fifth Amendment to the Agreement with Evalcorp is being amended to cover additional hours for the Senior Research Associates related to expansion of Wellness Centers throughout Ventura County. The provider has requested to increase the staff hours from 573 to 873 hours (an increase of 300 staff hours). The additional expense will increase the maximum contract amount from \$149,875 to \$179,575 (an increase of \$29,700). This agreement is funded with MHSA funding.
4/11/2023	TPF	\$941,214	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	FY 22-23 Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with TPF for Adult Wellness and Rehabilitation Center and Mobile Wellness Services. The primary objective of the agreement with TPF is to provide: (1) mobile wellness centers that provide Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP), (2) recovery groups, (3) linkage and access resources and (4) socialization opportunities as well as step down treatment for individuals in need through Ventura County. The Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with TPF is being amended to cover an increase in staff wages due to changes in the minimum wage requirement that went into effect on January 1, 2023. Additional funding is also needed to cover the cost to replace three (3) laptops. The additional expense will increase the maximum contract amount from \$887,749 to \$941,214 (an increase of \$53,465). This agreement is funded with MHSA funding.

4/11/2023	Homeland Languages Services LLC (Homeland)	\$343,743	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	FY 22-23 Third Amendment to the Agreement with Homeland for Interpretation and Translation Services. Homeland provides interpretation and translation services for VCBH. The primary objective of the contract is to support VCBH in providing critical interpretation/translation services to members of the community who need to access services provided by VCBH. The Third Amendment to the Agreement with Homeland is being amended to cover an increase in requested translation and interpretation services. This is due in large part to clinics and other services opening up to provide in-person support. Previously due to COVID-19 protocols, utilization of these services were limited. The additional expense will increase the maximum contract amount from \$150,000 to \$343,743(an increase of \$193,743). This agreement is funded with MHSA funding.
4/11/2023	Elms Manor Corporation (Elms Manor)	\$225,000	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	FY 22-23 Third Amendment to the Agreement with Elms Manor for Augmented Board and Care Services. Elms Manor provides augmented board and care services for adults ages 18 to 59 with serious and persistent mental illness that has resulted in significant functional impairments requiring 24-hour care and supervision to promote safety and recovery. The acuity level of these individuals is high in that they require daily assistance in one (1) or more areas of life functioning, including: attending to self-care and basic needs, attending to medical and medication needs, maintaining participation in supportive mental health/substance abuse and other recovery-based support programs, and socializing and re-integrating into the community. VCBH currently pays these providers a rate per client/per month for augmented board and care services. VCBH funding is in addition to the Social Security Insurance (SSI) that these facilities receive from clients to provide basic board and care services. If the client does not have SSI benefits, VCBH provides temporary funding to cover basic board and care services until the client receives SSI benefits. Currently, 43 clients are residing at Elms Manor. The Third Amendment to the Agreement with Elms Manor is being amended to increase the maximum contract amount from \$219,000 to \$225,000 (an increase of \$6,000) for the service period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, to cover additional SSI benefits cost. This agreement is funded with MHSA, Tobacco Settlement, and 1991 Realignment funding.
4/25/2023	Aegis Treatment Centers, LLC (Aegis)	\$6,750,000	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	FY 22-23 Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with Aegis for Outpatient Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) Services. Aegis provides outpatient NTP services and Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT) services for adults. Aegis currently has clinics in Oxnard, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, and Ventura with a total licensed capacity of 1,370 clients. From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, Aegis provided services to 737 DMC clients. Since July 2022, Aegis has provided services to 734 DMC clients and estimates serving 745 DMC clients by fiscal year end. The Seventh Amendment to the Agreement with Aegis increases the contract amount by \$350,000 due to an upward trend in clients. In FY 2021-22, the contract maximum was decreased due to the reduced number of clients due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This agreement is funded with Drug Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (D/MC FFP) and Realignment funding.

4/25/2023	HealthRight 360	\$3,554,873	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<p>FY 22-23 Tenth Amendment to the Agreement with HealthRight 360 for Residential Treatment Services. HealthRIGHT 360 provides three levels of residential treatment services and one level of withdrawal management treatment services for women and their children. The three levels of residential treatment services include: (1) clinically managed low-intensity residential services, (2) clinically managed population-specific high-intensity residential services for adults only, and (3) clinically managed residential services with high intensity for adults and medium intensity for adolescents. HealthRIGHT 360's satisfactory discharge rate is 55%. From July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, HealthRIGHT 360 served 151 residential and 109 withdrawal management clients and 68 of those clients received MAT services. Since July 2022, HealthRIGHT 360 served 119 residential and 61 withdrawal management clients and 49 of those clients received MAT services. HealthRIGHT 360 estimates serving 160 residential and 115 withdrawal management clients and 70 of those clients will receive MAT services by the end of the fiscal year. The Tenth Amendment to the Agreement with HealthRIGHT 360, increases the contract amount by \$638,759 due to: (1) increased staffing costs related to the withdraw management modality, from prior year, as well as the addition of staff and salary increases to attract and retain staff and (2) increased costs related to additional bed utilization particularly in the level 3.5 residential modality. This agreement is funded with D/MC FFP, State General Fund, Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) discretionary, 2011 Realignment, CalWORKS, Judicial Council of California (JCC) and AB 109 funding.</p>
4/25/2023	Idea Engineering, Inc.	\$404,500	July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023	<p>FY 22-23 Ninth Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc. for Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Services. Idea Engineering, Inc. provides VCBH with SUS Prevention communication materials and public messaging campaign services, including custom and localized public service announcements to support various program priorities (e.g., prescription drug abuse prevention initiatives, impaired driving prevention, opioid overdose prevention and rescue efforts) using a range of media channels. Traditional print media and internet-based digital messaging services are directed to youth and adults. Marketing, media and prevention messaging services reach targeted groups locally, consistent with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Strategic Prevention Framework. In the first three quarters of FY 2022-23, Idea Engineering Inc. developed messaging themes covering topics such as "fentanyl can be found in any street drug" and "You Can Save A Life" using naloxone overdose rescue strategies. Messages focused on prescription drug misuse prevention, fentanyl and methamphetamine awareness, and access to care messaging were created and delivered with strong local impressions. The Fentanyl and Fake Pills October 2022 campaign alone garnered 588,343 impressions via targeted website ads, 824,600 radio impressions, and 17,050,000 transit impressions via 40 buses, for a total of 18,462,943 impressions. The Ninth Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc. increases the contract amount by \$30,000 to expand awareness campaigns about current trends in illegal drug use among older school-aged youth and inform parents of these youth about new forms of opioid and stimulant risks. This agreement is funded by Vehicle Fines, Statham and SABG American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.</p>

Brown Act Guide

Rev. 12/22

Open Meeting Rules *for CA's Local* Mental/Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions

1. The Basics
2. Frequently Asked Questions
3. Allowances:
 - Public Emergency Allowances (*Expire 1/1/24*) (**COVID-19 Emergency Ends 2/28/23**)
 - Member Emergency & Just Cause Allowances (*In Effect 1/1/2023 - 1/1/2026*)

CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHB/C) supports the work of
CA's 59 local mental and behavioral health boards & commissions. www.calbhbc.org/brown-act

**Brown Act Open Meeting Rules for
CA's Local Mental Health / Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions**

Revised September 2022

- I. The Basics..... See Below
- II. Frequently Asked Questions..... Page 2
- III. Allowances ([AB 2449](#))
 - A. Members: “Just Cause” or “Emergency”... Page 4
 - B. Public Emergency..... Page 6

I. THE BASICS - Under the Brown Act, an agency must comply with the following:

Open & Public Meetings

A meeting is any gathering of a majority of the members (quorum) of a covered board, commission, or its standing committees to hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters within the agency’s or board’s jurisdiction. Meetings of public bodies must be “open and public“. Actions may not be secret. Action taken in violation of open meetings laws may be voided.

Who is covered?

Public bodies of local agencies, including counties and cities, school and special districts.

- **“Legislative bodies”** of each agency, the agency’s governing body, plus “covered boards,” that is, any board, commission, committee, task force or other advisory body created by the agency, whether permanent or temporary.
- **Standing Committees** of a covered board or commission, regardless of number of members.

Who is not covered?

Ad hoc advisory committees (also called “work groups”) consisting of less than a quorum of the covered board (or its standing committees) with a short-term, time-limited purpose.

Most non-profit organizations

State government agencies are instead covered by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Documents

- Treat documents shared with a majority of the board or commission as public. Distribute and post “without delay”.

Posting:

- Agendas posted 72 hours in advance of regular meetings
- Agendas posted 24 hours in advance of special meetings (plus notification of local media)
- Agendas must be posted on the local agency’s website

Public Participation:

- Public Comment before or during agenda items.
- Sign-In or identification is not required
- Non-disruptive recording and broadcasting is allowed

Teleconferencing - Note: “Allowances” on Pages 3-7

- Agendas must be posted at all teleconference physical locations
- Each teleconference location must be listed on the meeting notice and agenda
- Each teleconference location must be accessible to the public, allowing for public comment.
- At least a quorum of the members must participate from locations within the county (or jurisdiction)
- All votes must be by roll call.

Voting

- Conduct only public votes (no secret ballots)
- All teleconference votes must be by roll call.

II. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Conference Attendance - If individual members attend a conference called by someone else, is this covered by the Brown Act? They are allowed to attend. The best practice is for board/commission members to sit apart from one another.

Closed Meetings - Is it permissible to conduct "Closed Meetings"? **Yes & No**, closed meetings are allowed under certain conditions, and with specific requirements:

Pending Litigation: Only if open discussion "would prejudice the position of the agency in the litigation". The litigation must be named on the posted agenda or announced in open session unless doing so would jeopardize the board's ability to service process on an unserved party or conclude existing settlement negotiations to its advantage. To qualify, the agency must:

- Be a party to pending litigation
- *Or* expect, based on certain specified facts, to be sued
- *Or* expect to file suit itself

Personnel: To discuss the appointment, employment, performance evaluation, discipline, complaints about or dismissal of a specific employee or potential employee. The employee may request a public meeting on any charges or complaints.

Not Allowed for discussing:

- General employment
- Independent contractors not functioning as employees
- Salaries
- The performance of any elected official, or member of the board or commission
- The local agency's available funds
- Funding priorities or budget

Lack of Quorum - A board, commission or a standing committee meeting has less than a quorum. Is it still required to meet openly? **Yes**, if it has either a set meeting schedule or a continuing subject matter jurisdiction, it is required to meet openly. (A quorum is required for members to conduct a vote.)

Serial Meetings - Members use individual contacts to collectively decide an issue. Is this a violation? **Yes**, information communicated to a quorum through a series of contacts (such as: individual phone calls ("daisy chain"), emails, chat messages, or a third person ("spoke and wheel")) is prohibited by the Brown Act.

Retreats - Are board/commission retreats subject to Brown Act Rules? **Yes**, if it is a meeting of a local board, commission or a standing committee, the event is subject to the requirements of the Brown Act.

IIIA. ALLOWANCES for MEMBERS: “Just Cause” or “Emergency” (When not operating in a “Public Emergency”) *In Effect 1/1/23 - 1/1/26*

A local board/commission member may participate remotely without posting their physical location on the agenda if all of the following requirements are met:

- 1) Quorum at Physical Location - At least a quorum of the members of the board/commission participate in person from a singular physical location clearly identified in the agenda.
- 2) Public Access - (Both Remote and In-Person)
 - a) Remote Public Access - The public may access the meeting remotely through:
 - i) A two-way audiovisual platform **or**
 - ii) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting
 - b) In-Person Public Access to the physical location.
- 3) Circumstances: One of the following circumstances applies:
 - a. **“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**
 - b. **“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.
- 4) Procedures:
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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.
 - c) 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.
 - d) BOTH Audio & Visual Participation - The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

- Continued on the Next Page -

- 5) Limits to Remote Participation - The provisions of this subdivision 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 of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely.
2. A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.
3. A need related to a physical or mental disability.
4. Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.

“Remote location” means a location from which a member of a legislative body participates in a meeting other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not be accessible to the public.

“Remote participation” means participation in a meeting by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote participation.

“State of emergency” means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).

“Teleconference” means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

“Two-way audiovisual platform” means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic function.

“Two-way telephonic service” means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

“Webcasting” means a streaming video broadcast online or on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.

III B. ALLOWANCES: DURING PUBLIC EMERGENCIES - [AB 2449](#) (Expires 1/1/2024) *COVID-19 Emergency Ends 2/28/23*

Local boards and commissions **may meet solely by teleconference without providing any physical meeting addresses** during a proclaimed state of emergency in which state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

Continuation of this allowance requires that the local agency must **place an item on the agenda** of a Brown Act meeting **once every thirty days** to make findings regarding the circumstances of the emergency and **vote** to continue using the law's exemptions for as long as it deems necessary. See below for specifics.

State of emergency exemptions from in-person requirements are permissible under the following conditions, and with the following requirements:

- The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.
- The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
- The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. [To continue the allowances, this vote must be agendized once every thirty days to make findings regarding the circumstances of the emergency and vote to continue using the law's exemptions for as long as it deems necessary.]

A local agency that holds a meeting under these circumstances is required to do all of the following, in addition to giving notice of the meeting and posting agendas as required under the Brown Act. These additional requirements are intended to protect the public's right to participate in the meetings of local agency legislative bodies.

- Allow the public to access the meeting and require that the agenda provide an opportunity for the public to directly address the legislative body pursuant to the Brown Act's other teleconferencing provisions;
- In each instance when the local agency provides notice of the teleconferenced meeting or posts its agenda, give notice for how the public can access the meeting and provide public comment;
- Identify and include in the agenda an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in or an internet-based service option;
- The legislative body need not provide a physical location for the public to attend or provide comments;
- Conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the public;
- Stop the meeting until public access is restored in the event of a service disruption that either prevents the local agency from broadcasting the meeting to the public using the call-in or internet-based service option, or is within the local agency's control and prevents the public from submitting public comments (any actions taken during such a service disruption can be challenged under the Brown Act's existing challenge provisions);
- Not require comments be submitted in advance (though the legislative body may provide that as an option), and provide the opportunity to comment in real time;
- Provide adequate time for public comment, either by establishing a timed public comment period or by allowing a reasonable amount of time to comment;

- If the legislative body uses a third-party website or platform to host the teleconference, and the third-party service requires users to register to participate, the legislative body must provide adequate time during the comment period for users to register, and may not close the registration comment period until the comment period has elapsed.

If the state of emergency remains active for more than 30 days, the board/commission must make the following findings by majority vote every 30 days to continue using the exemption to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules.

- The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the emergency; and
- Either of the following circumstances exist: The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person, or State or local officials continue to impose or recommend social distancing measures.

This means that a local agency will have to put an item on the agenda of a Brown Act meeting once every thirty days to make findings regarding the circumstances of the emergency and vote to continue using the law's exemptions for as long as it deems necessary. The public emergency allowances will sunset on January 1st, 2024.