

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
Youth & Family Services Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30 AM
Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)
1911 Williams Drive, Training Room (first floor) • Oxnard, CA 93036

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Join the Zoom meeting in the following way:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84694288261?pwd=enVDeXdRVmpybFBya3o3SkxLaUs1QT09>

Meeting ID: 846 9428 8261

Password: 627403

Dial-in: 669-900-9128

Under AB 2449 New Teleconferencing Rules:

The Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board Youth & Family 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.)

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- 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 Agenda – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- V. Approval of the April 12, 2023, Minutes – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- VI. Welcome and Introductions
- VII. Chair Announcements
- VIII. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)
- IX. Contracts Review – (July & September 2023)
- X. Future Presentations
- XI. Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Youth & Family Division Updates
 - A. Youth & Family Division – Cheryl Fox, Youth & Family Services Division Chief
 - B. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) – Hilary Carson, Program Administrator, Innovations
- XII. Committee Members’ Comments, Activities, Updates
- XIII. Items for the Next Meeting Agenda
- XIV. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Zoom Participation Information

Please note the following important information related to supporting your participation in the upcoming meeting:

1. The meeting will be recorded.
2. All participants are muted upon entry to minimize any unintended disruption of background sounds.
3. Zoom will initially start with a “**waiting room**” at the start of the meeting, you will be “admitted” into the waiting room.
4. Comments are taken in the order they are received in the queue/participant window. When it is your turn to make a comment, you will be asked to unmute yourself. **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. Comments can be shared in the following ways:
 - a. If you are joining the meeting via video/audio, you join the comment cue by clicking on the participant window at the bottom of the zoom screen and then click on the “**raise hand**” feature in that participant window.
 - b. If you are joining the meeting by telephone only, you join the comment cue by pressing *9.
5. Comments will be taken in the order they are received and are allotted 3 minutes. At the end of the three minutes, you will be notified that the time has ended, be able to make a closing comment and then the mic will be opened to the next person.

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:
 - A two-way audiovisual platform or
 - A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting
 - 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.
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 July 2023

Board Date	Contract	Amount	Term	Description
7/11/2023	Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE)	\$8,063,710	July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2026	<p>FY 2023-26 VCOE Amendment for School-Based Wellness Center Services. VCOE provides school-based Wellness Center services for Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) utilizing Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) grant funding. These school-based Wellness Centers provide service strategies within each school that increase early identification of mental health needs, reduce access barriers, and facilitate linkage to ongoing and sustained services. These Wellness Centers and the collaboration between VCBH have been held out as a model program in the state. Because of the successful MHSSA grant funded collaboration and service delivery, VCBH and VCOE developed eleven additional Wellness Centers within high schools and middle schools last fiscal year utilizing VCBH Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding. Through the proposed First Amendment to the Agreement with VCOE for Wellness Center services, VCBH is seeking to utilize additional MHSA funding to amend the Agreement to fund efforts to create up to a total of 32 Wellness Centers. These Wellness Centers are targeting middle and elementary schools in several existing Local Education Agencies (LEAs) as well as expanding to three new school districts (Hueneme Elementary School District, Oak Park School District, and Ventura Unified School District).</p> <p>The First Amendment to the agreement with VCOE increases the maximum contract amount by \$2,063,710, to fund the expansion of services and replace the previous Scope of Work with updated project goals and outcomes. This agreement is funded by MHSA funding.</p>

Ventura County Behavioral Health

Board Letter Summary of Contracts for September 2023

Board Date	Contract	Amount	Term	Description
9/12/2023	Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program Grant (BHBH)	\$13,325,088	Upon execution Through June 30, 2027	<p>FY 2023-27 Approval and Ratification for BHBH Program Grant Funding. The BHBH Program grant funding will be used to: (1) provide a variety of housing solutions for people living with homelessness, including up to twenty new shelter beds throughout the County with operational funding for a term of three years, (2) hire four full time equivalent (FTE) Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) staff dedicated to issues of housing, (3) pay for motel stays up to three weeks with intensive housing navigation services for people prioritized for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), and (4) pay for up to three years of rental assistance at the Housing and Urban Development Fair Market Rent (FMR) at locations throughout the County. Lastly, VCBH will seek to increase the number of licensed board and care operators willing to serve the target population by offering incentive funding. To support the BHBH Program grant project, VCBH will require dedicated staff (four regular FTE Community Services Coordinators) to carry out the goals of the BHBH Program. VCBH had already identified a need for dedicated housing case managers prior to the BHBH Program, but with the onset of the BHBH Program that need is amplified. In addition to serving the BHBH target population, dedicated housing case managers will also interface with Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court participants, clinical treatment teams, property managers, service providers, Continuum of Care (CoC), and a variety of internal and external agencies serving the unhoused. VCBH's dedicated housing case managers will mostly provide field-based services; however, they will also act as subject matter experts in the area of housing supporting the multi-disciplinary teams located VCBH community-based clinics.</p> <p>The BHBH Program grant agreement is in the amount of \$13,325,088. All services will be funded by BHBH Program Grant funding and when the grant ends, the VCBH staff will then be funded with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding.</p>
9/12/2023	City of Simi Valley	\$145,945	September 17, 2023 Through June 30, 2024	<p>FY 2023-24 City of Simi Valley Agreement to Provide Mental Health Outreach and Engagement Services. The VCBH Rapid Integrated Support and Engagement (RISE) Program began in 2014 and is responsible for providing community outreach, engagement, and other related services to ensure that individuals with severe mental illness (SMI) can access and are connected to mental health and other supportive services, either at a VCBH facility or a community-based organization. RISE Program employees do not respond to emergency situations or individuals experiencing crises, and thus do not involuntarily detain individuals for evaluation and treatment that are a danger to themselves or others, or gravely disabled, under Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150. The goal of the RISE Program is to engage with individuals and connect them with care to avoid emergencies and crises. Since September 19, 2021, a VCBH RISE Program employee (Community Services Coordinator) has been working with the City of Simi Valley and the Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD) on a part-time basis to provide outreach and engagement services to individuals with mental health conditions that are high utilizers of SVPD services. More specifically, the Community Services Coordinator has delivered field-based community outreach, engagement, and case management services within the City of Simi Valley in collaboration with the SVPD, including but not limited to non-emergent follow-up care and referrals with the goal of engaging and stabilizing high utilizers of SVPD services and linking them to the appropriate level of mental health care or other supportive services.</p> <p>The Agreement with the City of Simi Valley is for \$145,945 to cover the County's full cost of committing a RISE Program Community Services Coordinator to perform the services specified under the agreement. The City of Simi Valley remits payment for these services to the County.</p>

9/12/2023	Sunbelt Staffing, LLC	\$300,000	September 12, 2023 Through June 30, 2024	<p>FY 2023-24 Sunbelt Staffing, LLC Agreement for Temporary Staff and Recruiting Services. On June 21, 2022, the Board approved three (3) agreements for medical personnel temporary staffing and recruiting services with Maxim Healthcare Services Holdings, Inc. (Maxim), Medix Staffing Solutions, Inc. (Medix), and TheKey of California, LLC (TheKey) for a combined annual maximum contract amount of \$1,300,000. Then, on February 28, 2023, the Board approved an increase to the combined annual maximum contract amount from \$1,300,000 to \$2,250,000 per fiscal year. For FY 2023-24, pursuant to authority delegated by the Board, VCBH renewed the agreements with Maxim and Medix but chose not to renew the agreement with TheKey. These contractors have proven to be a vital source of staffing services during the ongoing staffing shortage. Currently, the VCBH staffing vacancy rate is 19.3% (compared to 26.1% in January 2023). The department continues to participate in job fairs, hiring events, and work closely with educational institutions within Ventura County. They continue to advertise open recruitment and encourage staff to share vacancies with friends and family. In addition, they have a large internship program of which a large percentage of the students later become their staff. They currently have an internship program for Mental Health Associates, Alcohol Drug Treatment Specialists, Mental Health Clinicians, and psychologists. The need for additional staffing services remains high and VCBH has found a third vendor to assist in managing this need. Therefore, VCBH requested authorization to enter into a FY 2023-24 agreement with Sunbelt Staffing, LLC (Sunbelt), in the amount of \$300,000, to help manage the temporary staffing needs. The agreement with Sunbelt Staffing, LLC be in the amount of \$300,000 and will increase the combined annual maximum contract amount for the three agreements from \$2,250,000 up to \$3,000,000 (an increase of \$750,000) to help manage temporary staffing needs. This agreement is funded by MHSA, Short Doyle Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (SDMC/FFP), State General Fund, 2011 Realignment, 1991 Realignment, and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Federal Financial Participation (DMC-ODS FFP) funding.</p>
9/26/2023	California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)	\$0	July 1, 2023 Through December 31, 2026	<p>FY 2023-26 Intergovernmental Transfer Agreements with the California Department of Health Care 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 seeks to implement a broad delivery system, programmatic and payment reform across the Medi-Cal program and build upon the successful outcomes of various pilot programs to completely transform the delivery of behavioral health services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. To advance payment reform under CalAIM, DHCA is required to design and implement an intergovernmental transfer-based reimbursement methodology to replace the certified public expenditure-based reimbursement methodology that was previously in effect for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services, Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services, Expanded Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services, and for costs incurred by counties to administer those benefits. An intergovernmental transfer is the transfer of funds from public agencies to the Medicaid Single State Agency (SSA) to allow the SSA to expend those funds as the nonfederal share in claiming federal financial participation for Medi-Cal payments. As part of CalAIM Behavioral Health Payment Reform process, the intergovernmental transfer is a transfer of funds from a county (the public agency) to DHCS (the Medicaid SSA) to be used as the county portion of the nonfederal share of the payments which then return to the county as part of payment for Medi-Cal covered Behavioral Health services (the "County Share").</p> <p>The Intergovernmental Agreements with DHCS are in the amount of zero dollars. These agreements are funded by 2011 Realignment, 1991 Realignment, MHSA funding.</p>