

**COUNTY OF VENTURA**  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
**ADVISORY BOARD**



**JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

# **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Oxnard, CA 93036 • (805) 981-1115

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019**

Compiled by Janis Gardner, Chairperson FY 2019-2020

### **Ventura County Board of Supervisors**

District 1 Supervisor Steve Bennett  
District 2 Supervisor Linda Parks  
District 3 Supervisor Kelly Long  
District 4 Supervisor Bob Huber  
District 5 Supervisor John Zaragoza

### **Ventura County Behavioral Health Administration**

Director Sevet Johnson, Psy.D.  
Medical Director Brian Taylor, M.D.  
Children's Medical Director Lisa Acosta, M.D.  
ADP/DUI Division Chief Loretta Denering, DrPH, MS  
Adult Division Chief John Schipper, Ph.D.  
Youth & Family Division Chief Pete Pringle, LCSW  
Administrative Division Chief Terri Yanez

### **Behavioral Health Advisory Board Officers 2018-19**

Chair Jerry M. Harris  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair Ratan Bhavnani  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Gane Brooking  
Chair Emeritus/Secretary Janis Gardner  
Member At Large Gina Petrus

### **Behavioral Health Advisory Board Officers 2019-20**

Chair Janis Gardner  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair Ratan Bhavnani  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Gane Brooking  
Secretary Gina Petrus  
Member At Large Joe S. Ramirez  
Chair Emeritus Jerry Harris

## Table of Contents

Membership Roster .....	3
Mission, Purpose and Authority of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.....	4
Board Objectives 2018-19.....	5
Introduction, Summary, Points of Discussion.....	5
Board Presentations .....	6
BHAB Collaboration – BHAB and VCBH Achievements .....	7
Recognition Awards .....	9
Site Visit Reports .....	10
Committee Reports:	
Executive Committee .....	11
Adult Services Committee .....	12
Transitional Age Youth Committee .....	15
Youth & Family Committee .....	17
Prevention Committee .....	20
Board Objectives 2019-20 .....	24
Appendix: Site Visit Reports	
Ventura County Medical Center Inpatient Psychiatric Unit .....	25
A New Start for Moms .....	29
Horizon View Mental Health Rehabilitation Center .....	33

VENTURA COUNTY  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

**MEMBERSHIP ROSTER 2018-2019**

<u>District</u>	<u>BHAB Members</u>	<u>Term</u>
District 1	Claudia Armann Kevin Clerici Mary Haffner Gina Petrus	3/11/18 – 3/10/21 10/7/18 – 10/6/21 4/8/18 – 4/7/21 5/8/18 – 5/7/21
District 2	Jamie Banker Ratan Bhavnani Patricia Mowlavi Ezequiel Sánchez	1/8/19 – 1/7/22 2/24/19 – 2/23/22 3/14/17 – 3/14/20 6/11/19 – 9/13/19
District 3	Nancy Borchard Gane Brooking Janis Gardner Joe S. Ramirez	1/27/18 – 1/26/21 1/11/13/19 – 1/12/22 4/15/18 – 4/14/21 4/9/19 – 12/1/20
District 4	Capt. James Fryhoff Jerry M. Harris Denise Nielsen Sheri Valley	10/14/18 – 10/13/21 9/17/16 – 9/17/19 9/18/18 – 9/17/21 2/6/18 – 2/6/21
District 5	Margaret Cortese Monique Garcia Irene Pinkard Marlen Torres	1/11/18 – 1/10/21 9/24/17 – 9/23/20 1/24/17 – 1/24/20 1/10/17 – 1/10/20
Governing Body	Supervisor Linda Parks	1/1/19 – 12/31/21
Law Enforcement	Vacant	

**COUNTY OF VENTURA**  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

**MISSION**

The mission of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) is to advocate for members of the community living with mental illness and/or substance use disorders and their families. This is accomplished through support, review and evaluation of treatment services provided and/or coordinated through the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department.

**PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY**

The BHAB exists under the authority of the California Legislature by its enactment of Section 5604 of the Welfare and Institutions Code as amended by SB43 (McCorquodale, Chapter 564 of 1993). The purpose of the BHAB is provided in Section 5604.1 and 5604.2 which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- A. All appointed members to the BHAB will have the authority to vote on all issues presented to the board.
- B. Review and evaluate the community's behavioral health needs, including housing, services, facilities, and special problems to ensure that services are provided that promote wellness and recovery, improving and maintaining the health and safety of individuals, families and communities affected by mental health and/or substance abuse issues.
- C. Review mental health service performance contracts entered into pursuant to Section 5650.
- D. Advise the Board of Supervisors and the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department (VCBH) Director (herein after referred to as the Director), as to any aspect of the County's mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention services.
- E. Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process.
- F. Submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors on the needs and performance of the County's Behavioral Health system.
- G. Review and make recommendations on applicants for the appointment of the Behavioral Health Director, who also serves as the County Mental Health Director. The board shall be included in the selection process prior to the vote of the Board of Supervisors, who also serves as the County Mental Health Director.
- H. Review the impact of funding streams on the delivery of local Behavioral Health Services in order to make recommendations for any service level expansions or reductions.
- I. Review, evaluate and advise the Board of Supervisors and Director of VCBH regarding the VCBH annual budget and performance goals, as well as the VCBH Quarterly Budget and Performance Status Reports provided by the VCBH Director. Review and comment on the county's performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the California Mental Health Planning Council.

## BOARD OBJECTIVES 2018-19

### Adult Services Committee

1. Advocate for effective assessment and referral for individuals in crisis at the Hillmont Psychiatric Center in cooperation with local hospitals and law enforcement, with particular emphasis on developing a Crisis Stabilization Unit and increasing inpatient beds, both public and private, within the community.
2. Advocate for increased services to the older adult population.

### Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Committee

Identify strategies, including advocacy, to address gaps in services for the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) population related to mental health and substance abuse treatment, housing options, work and volunteer opportunities, and the justice system.

### Youth & Family Committee

Advocate for the re-creation of psychiatric hospital beds in the county for the pediatric population.

### Prevention Committee

Promote cannabis education and awareness.

## INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The BHAB has four committees whose job it is to address issues relating to age-specific populations, collect information and data, and make recommendations to the BHAB. The committees have regular presentations from contractors, providers, stakeholders and the community at large. The committees also assess services provided in the County to these populations and identify gaps in services or programs that may be lacking and need to be addressed. The four committees are as follows:

**Adult Services Committee** - This committee focuses on the full continuum of care that supports the wellness and recovery of individuals with mental health and substance use disorder issues, including community supports.

**Transitional Aged Youth Committee (TAY)** – This committee advocates for the mental health, wellness and recovery of youth and young adults ages 16 to 25, including community supports, with the goal of empowering TAY to become healthy and productive adults.

**Youth and Family Committee** – This committee serves youth through age 18 by advocating for mental health and/or substance use disorders, including community supports and housing.

**Prevention Committee** – This committee advocates for greater community awareness of Behavioral Health risk factors for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders, with the primary focus on preventing the onset and exacerbation of behavioral health disorders.

## POINTS OF DISCUSSION

The BHAB works diligently to include a broad range of stakeholders as participants and members of each of the committees. It is important to the work of the board that community members, consumers and providers interested in advocating for Ventura County's diverse and underserved populations collaborate in ways to better serve those individuals with unique needs. The BHAB is extremely interested in the community's insight regarding perceived or real gaps in services, particularly in the areas of mental health housing, employment, legal issues, physical health, education, vocational rehabilitation, crisis intervention and evidence-based

practices. Current committee participants include BHAB members, consumers, VCBH contract providers, family members, community-based service representatives, consumers, and VCBH staff. Committees are open to all stakeholders, consumers and the community at large.

An important task of the BHAB is to review and evaluate the community's behavioral health needs and identify gaps in programs or services within the County's behavioral health system of care. BHAB members pay particular attention to this key function and direct a great deal of effort to identify unmet needs, hearing from the public, and advocating for solutions to meet these needs. Some of the most critical areas of advocacy and discussion are as follows:

- Housing for the seriously and persistently mentally ill and those suffering from substance use disorders continue to remain as an important unmet need in Ventura County.

The availability of an adequate number of psychiatric inpatient beds in Ventura County for adults is a priority in order to address the needs of the community, as are the lengthy "holds" in local and regional Emergency Departments. These have been ongoing needs for several years. The adult inpatient bed crisis can be somewhat mitigated if there were more appropriate placement options available within community hospitals and facilities for discharged inpatients. Although these would help make more beds available, it may not fully solve the problem. There remain concerns related to:

- The ongoing availability of a sufficient number and level of supportive care and placement options to address the needs of the community;
- The need for residential care for youth and adults;
- The need for additional Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and Inpatient Psychiatric Unit (IPU) chairs and beds;
- Adequate facilities and housing options for the seriously and persistently mentally ill and those suffering from substance abuse disorders;
- Housing for the Older Adult population with mental health challenges;
- A psychiatric facility to address the needs of Seriously and Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI) older adults;
- Crisis residential services for youth.

## **BOARD PRESENTATIONS**

Presentations during General Meetings are scheduled at the request of BHAB committee members. Presentations from providers, stakeholders, agencies and County staff are extremely important in dispensing relevant information to the BHAB and the public. Often, presentations are met with critical and/or as-yet unknown areas of concern, as was the presentation about Human Trafficking in Ventura County. Others inform the BHAB and the public about data, outcomes and funding information which may be pertinent to the goals and objectives of the BHAB and the work we do.

### **July 2018**

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Fiscal Update – presented by Leisa Donovan, Fiscal Manager.

### **August 2018**

Pharmaceutical Crimes Unit – presented by Sgt. Matthew Young, Ventura County Sheriff's Office.

### **November 2018**

Recovery – presented by Patrick Jeffries, Pacific Clinics Pasadena Peer Partner.

### **January 2019**

Statewide Survey of Parents/Caregivers – presented by Lori Litel, Executive Director, United Parents.

### **February 2019**

Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) – presented by Dr. Loretta Denering, Ventura County Behavioral Health Alcohol & Drug Programs Division Chief.

### **April 2019**

Human Trafficking in Ventura County – presented by Christan Perez, Program Manager, Interface Children & Family Services, Human Trafficking Client Services.

### **May 2019**

Laura's Law/Assist: Mid-year 3 Update – presented by Dr. John Schipper, VCBH Adult Division Chief, and Dr. Patricia Gonzalez, VCBH Project Evaluator.

### **June 2019**

1. Vaping, VCBH's Prevention Efforts to Address New Trends – presented by Daniel Hicks, VCBH Alcohol & Drug Programs, Prevention Services Manager, and David Tovar, Office of Traffic Safety Grant Coordinator/Program Administrator;
2. VCBH Fiscal Update – presented by Leisa Donovan, VCBH Fiscal Manager.

## **BHAB COLLABORATION - BHAB AND VCBH ACHIEVEMENTS**

Behavioral Health Advisory Board members take their work seriously. They are committed to the oath they have sworn to the Board of Supervisors who appointed them and to the residents of Ventura County whom they serve. Most BHAB members have families, some have young children. The majority of members are employed full time, and a few reside a distance away from the VCBH offices located in Oxnard. BHAB members often use personal funds to attend relevant mental health- or substance use-related events, trainings, seminars and conferences, a good many of which are out of town or out of state. BHAB members make concerted efforts to attend not only BHAB meetings, but also additional seminars, conferences, meetings and events throughout Ventura County.

Although to be certain there is more work to be done, the BHAB and its committees are nevertheless proud of the achievements, activities and advocacies in which they have been involved. BHAB members individually and collectively have supported and advocated for countless Mental Health and Substance Use programs within VCBH, which have been successfully implemented. Members are particularly grateful and hold the utmost respect for the strong relationships and collaboration they have garnered with VCBH, County agencies, departments, staff, and with numerous stakeholders. Please review below a small sample of the robust collaboration, advocacy efforts and accomplishments:

- Strong relationships with the Ventura County Board of Supervisors;
- Collaborative efforts with Health Care Agency (HCA) Director and staff;
- Collaborative efforts with VCBH Director, Chiefs, Managers and staff;
- Collaborative efforts with Crisis Intervention Team staff;
- Collaborative efforts with Assisted Outpatient Treatment/Laura's Law staff;
- Collaborative efforts with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Senior Manager and staff;
- Collaborative efforts with the Public Health Director and staff;
- Strong BHAB Committees and dedicated Committee Chairpersons;



- Presented Recognition Awards for persons who have exhibited excellence in assisting clients and others within vulnerable populations;
- Advocated for and supported the Adult Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), which opened in April 2019;
- Formation of the Legislative Workgroup for pertinent Mental Health and Substance Use legislative bills and laws;
- Supported and attended NAMI Walks and NAMI Golf Tournament;
- Supported the Pinkard Youth Institute and attended the African American Youth Leadership Awards Supper and Memorial Tribute;
- Attended and participated in the VCBH External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) yearly visit, February 26-28<sup>th</sup>, 2019;
- Participated in various California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) orientations, training and meetings;
- Participated in Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) in Sacramento;
- Participated in the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Assist Workgroup;
- Drafted BHAB Committee Action Plans for older adults, outpatient services, inpatient services and education, pediatric psychiatric beds and communication between medical providers and children who are hospitalized, education and awareness for youth, housing options for Transitional Age Youth, and vaping and cannabis education and awareness;
- Submitted Annual Data Notebook to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, focusing on a brief survey of services and system of care, Alcohol and Substance Use concerns, Older Adult awareness and others;
- Dispatched a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) Exclusion Waiver;
- Participated and attended the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Needs Assessment Survey;
- Attended and participated annually in the Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) conferences and events;
- Held a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis event focusing on the BHAB responsibilities, priorities and objectives;
- Conducted site visits to:
  - Hillmont Psychiatric Center/Inpatient Unit
  - A New Start for Moms; this program provides substance use treatment and recovery services for mothers with young children
  - Horizon View Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC)
- Amended the BHAB Bylaws to add a new position for Law Enforcement;
- Advocated for and participated in the opening of the Growing Works nursery;
- Presented the BHAB Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors;
- Presented monthly committee reports;
- Supported and advocated annually for additional CSU and IPU chairs and beds;
- Advocated annually for psychiatric facilities for the Seriously and Persistently Mentally Ill and Older Adults;
- Participated in various Juvenile Justice meetings and events;
- Participated in and attended numerous stakeholder conferences and events;
- Annually attended and participated in the National Rx Workgroup and Heroin Summit in Atlanta, Ga.;
- Supported VCBH/ADP Project Safer, “No OD Project” and advocated for naloxone distribution programs;
- Supported VCBH Prevention Services youth cannabis and vaping efforts;
- Supported the VCBH Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Waiver.

## RECOGNITION AWARDS

### September 2018

**Bennie Crayton** for his 44 years of service with Ventura County Behavioral Health, his advocacy for youth services, and his community-based prevention efforts.

**Cpt. James Fryhoff** of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and Chief of Police for the City of Ojai, for his numerous prevention efforts centering around underage drinking and the opening of cannabis dispensaries.

**Karyn Bates** for her many years of service on the Mental Health Board and its successor, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, and for providing inspiration and hope to all.

**Cmdr. Ron Nelson** for serving on the BHAB, chairing the Transitional Age Youth Committee, and for his passion for improving the lives of those impacted by mental illness or substance use.

### October 2018

**Camarillo Police Department** for responding with concern, compassion and perseverance to numerous calls for services at Hillmont House Mental Health Rehabilitation Center.

### November 2018

**Anne Sippi facility** in Bakersfield for its 40 years of providing quality mental health services and treatment to adults with serious mental illnesses.

**Rhonda Fleisher** for her years of service at the Ventura County Behavioral Health Older Adult Clinic, where she has transformed the lives of many clients.

**Brandy Martin** for her service at the Ventura County Behavioral Health Older Adult Clinic, where she engages the most resistant clients and advocates for them.

**Michael White**, Ventura County Behavioral Health Safety and Facilities manager, for his role during the Thomas Fire, the Borderline Bar & Grill mass shooting, and the Woolsey Fire.

### January 2019

The BHAB hosted the **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Awards Presentation** ceremony in which four community members were recognized for regularly presenting during the CIT trainings, three Sheriff Deputies and five Officers were recognized for their compassionate interactions with clients, and one Sheriff Deputy and one Officer were announced as CIT Officers of the Year.

### April 2019

**Dennis Perry** for planning, opening and managing the Growing Works Nursery, a therapeutic and vocational training program for clients, where he provides leadership and mentoring with compassion and patience.

### May 2019

**Frances O'Sullivan, M.D.**, for her 20 years of service with Ventura County Behavioral Health, and for treating her patients with kindness and compassion, making a positive difference in their lives.

### June 2019

**Pam Roach** for her years of service on the Mental Health Board, including as chair, and for her work as Ventura County Behavioral Health Transformational Liaison which has helped reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

## **SITE VISIT REPORTS**

### **October 2018**

Ventura County Medical Center's Inpatient Psychiatric Unit (VCMC IPU) – Several BHAB members participated in this site visit and had an overall positive impression of their visit. They recommended that the facility operate at full capacity and that the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) reopen as soon as the licensing issues are resolved.

### **January 2019**

A New Start for Moms (ANSFM) – This program provides substance use treatment and recovery services, which will be expanded under the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS). Several needs have been identified to improve the program: increasing community outreach, difficulty to drive clients living in the East county, the need for a room that can accommodate large groups, and healthy snacks for children.

### **February 2019**

Horizon View Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) – This locked facility appears to be well run. Staff and managers are thoughtful in the approach, and clients are involved in their treatment planning. Recommendations for improvement include providing group activities that are more robust and meaningful, and encouraging all client to engage in the activities that are available.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**2018-19 Annual Report**  
Submitted by Janis Gardner, Chair

**Executive Committee Members 2018-19**

Jerry M. Harris	BHAB Chair
Ratan Bhavnani	BHAB 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair
Gane Brooking	BHAB 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair
Janis Gardner	BHAB Secretary
Gina Petrus	Member At Large

**MISSION AND OBJECTIVES**

The primary responsibility of the Executive Committee is to address the administrative functions of the BHAB. In this capacity, the Executive Committee plans the agendas of the BHAB General Board Meetings. The Executive Committee may take emergency action on issues that arise between regularly scheduled monthly Board meetings when there is not time for the Board as a whole to act, as well as carry out any responsibilities delegated to it by the BHAB. Any such actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be in compliance with the Brown Act.

**OVERVIEW**

The Executive Committee is comprised of the Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Secretary, and a Member-at-Large designated by the Chair. The Board officers are responsible for ensuring that all actions of the BHAB are implemented as authorized by a majority of the BHAB members, and that the Bylaws are strictly adhered to. The Committee is supported by the Ventura County Behavioral Health Director, Dr. Sevet Johnson, or one of her representatives, and by a Management Assistant, Edith Pham.

In addition to planning the agendas, the Executive Committee spends a portion of its time discussing membership and attendance issues. The Executive Committee is also involved in planning and scheduling presentations for the BHAB General Board Meetings and discussing potential candidates for recognition awards.

**2019-20 OBJECTIVES**

The Executive Committee will continue to encourage BHAB members to identify potential candidates for consideration by members of the County Board of Supervisors for appointments to the BHAB. Executive Committee members help to bring information to the BHAB that will enable the full board to make informed decisions and make credible recommendations to the Behavioral Health Department and Board of Supervisors.

## **ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE 2018-19 Annual Report**

Submitted by Nancy Borchard and Gane Brooking, Co-Chairs

### **Committee members**

Nancy Borchard, BHAB, Committee Co-Chair  
Gane Brooking, BHAB, Committee Co-Chair  
Jerry Harris, BHAB Chair Emeritus  
Ratan Bhavnani, BHAB  
Sheri Valley, BHAB  
David Deutsch, Client Network  
Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team  
Barbara Keller, Housing Authority City of Ventura

Elizabeth R. Stone, MHSOAC  
Bob Wickham, NAMI  
Ascencion "Cici" Romero, TAY Tunnel  
Cindy Doutt, Telecare  
Kalie Matisek, Turning Point Foundation  
Dana Secor, Turning Point Foundation  
Mark Schumacher, Turning Point Foundation  
Gray Wilking, Area Agency on Aging

### **Participants**

Ventura County Behavioral Health

Ventura County Probation Agency

## **MISSION**

The BHAB Adult Services Committee advocates for continuum of care in the development and expansion of mental health and addiction services that support the stabilization and recovery of adult and older adult clients. The Committee's monthly meetings provide a forum for discussion of current department activities regarding Adult Services as well as an opportunity for collaboration with community-based providers and stakeholders. We seek to ensure integrated services for clients seeking mental health and substance abuse services. By educating ourselves and the community, the stigma associated with mental health and substance abuse will be reduced.

## **2018-19 OBJECTIVES OF THE BHAB ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

1. Advocate for effective assessment and referral for individuals in crisis at the Hillmont Psychiatric Center in cooperation with local hospitals and law enforcement, with particular emphasis on developing a Crisis Stabilization Unit and increasing inpatient beds, both public and private, within the community.
2. Advocate for the Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) to be used as both a crisis prevention to avoid hospitalization and as a step-down from Hillmont Psychiatric Center or other intensive service.
3. Advocate for increased services to the older adult population.
4. Participate in all efforts to establish affordable and supportive housing for individuals who live with mental health and/or substance use disorder challenges.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The BHAB Adult Services Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Administration building in Oxnard. Attendance, participation and membership are open to individuals who receive mental health and/or substance use services through Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH), to service providers, Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) members, and

anyone with an interest in the adult and older adult population. The Adult Services Committee reviews the needs, programs and services for this population and reports on these matters to the BHAB.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. The opening of the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), for which the committee had advocated.
2. Dialogued with local community hospital regarding the opening of a private CSU.
3. Advocated for the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for services for the older adult population.
4. Recommendation was made to Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) staff to follow up on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for older adults.
5. Advocated for increased housing for clients.
6. Expanded the representation of stakeholders on this committee.
7. Identified high priority needs and followed up by gathering information.

### **2018-19 PRESENTATIONS**

September 2018: VCBH Office of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity, presented by Maria Hernandez.

October 2018: Coalition for Family Harmony, presented by Sandy Gomez and Cynthia Gonzalez.

February 2019: Crisis Stabilization Unit and Dignity Health, presented by Dr. Robert Streeter, St. John Regional Medical Center.

March 2019: Ventura County Area Agency on Aging, presented by Victoria Jump.

April 2019: Ventura County Crisis Stabilization Unit Update, presented by Dan Powell and Sheri Block.

June 2019: Housing Update, presented by Susan White Wood.

### **CHALLENGES**

1. There is an insufficient number of psychiatric inpatient beds to address Ventura County's needs.
2. Lack of affordable housing options and the high cost of housing in Ventura county.
3. Severe lack of housing options for those with no or little income.
4. The high cost of the Inpatient Unit placements for those who have both mental and developmental challenges.
5. Underutilization of peers in a broader manner within Ventura County's Behavioral Health System of Care added to a limited number of peer programs providing peer support.
6. Gaps in access to certain services that cause clients to be placed out of county. These include: (A) lack of affordable housing; (B) lack of secure supportive housing for individuals who are not currently capable of standing trial; (C) lack of integrated mental and physical health facilities; (D) lack of older adult inpatient psychiatric beds; (E) lack of adult inpatient psychiatric hospital beds.
7. Lack of treatment facilities for those with substance use disorders as well as funding to support this type of treatment.

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

1. Become more involved in advocating for housing, particularly for those with mental health and substance use disorders.
2. Begin the process to address the needs of the projected surge in the older adult population.
3. Monitor MHSA programs in Ventura County to ensure that they address the needs of individuals with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI).

4. Determine how peer support is functioning within the Ventura County System of Care; is it increasing; are individuals with lived experience being utilized to their full potential; advocate for the expansion of peer support services in the East County.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Continue to closely monitor how MHSA funds are used and how they address the identified needs of the County's SPMI population.
2. Focus on how crisis situations are being handled within the County.
3. Continue efforts to streamline the process reducing the time from referral/scheduling an appointment to receipt of service.
4. Determine whether the Screening, Triage, Assessment and Referral (STAR) method is the most efficient and best approach to quickly access services.
5. Ensure that Peer Support services are used to run Wellness, Recovery and Action Plan (WRAP) classes and to best help assist clinicians and staff.

## **2019-20 OBJECTIVES OF THE BHAB ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

1. Advocate for the expansion of the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) at the Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital to the maximum approved number of chairs (12) including the capability of conducting medical clearance examinations on-site.
2. Advocate for the reactivation of the 12 inpatient beds at the Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital currently not in use.
3. Advocate for the Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) facility to be used for both a crisis prevention unit to avoid hospitalizations and as a step-down from Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital or other intensive service.
4. Advocate for the development of a CSU supported by one of the community hospitals in Ventura County.
5. Advocate for access to increased inpatient, community-based and in-home services to the older adult population.
6. Participate in all efforts to establish affordable and supportive housing for individuals who live with mental health and/or substance use disorder challenges that includes additional VCBH staff to provide supportive services associated with No Place Like Home and other potential supportive housing developments.

# TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH (TAY) COMMITTEE

## 2018-19 Annual Report

Submitted by Margaret Cortese, Chair

### Committee members

Margaret Cortese, Committee Chair

Ratan Bhavnani, BHAB

Jerry Harris, BHAB

Joe S. Ramirez, BHAB

Ezequiel A. Sánchez, BHAB

Anna Guerin, Casa Pacifica

Laura Estrada, Children and Family Services

Diana Hernandez, Client Network

Stuart Fiedler, Client Network

Erin Locklear, Interface

Georgia Perry, NAMI

Anthony Marron, TAY Tunnel

Cathi Nye, Ventura County Office of Education

Lorena Güereca, Vista Real Charter High School

### Participants

Ventura County Behavioral Health

Department of Rehabilitation

## MISSION

The BHAB TAY Committee promotes effective mental health and substance use disorder services, wellness and recovery for youth ages 16 through 25. The committee focuses on these youth in their efforts to become healthy and productive adults.

## 2018-19 OBJECTIVES OF THE BHAB TAY COMMITTEE

1. Continue to encourage increased participation of community partners serving TAY in the BHAB TAY meetings.
2. Advocate for increased housing options for TAY. Update the housing opportunity brochure.
3. Advocate for and update availability of TAY services related to work and volunteer opportunities and justice system. Identify strategies, including advocacy, to address gaps in services for the TAY population related to mental health and substance abuse treatment, work and volunteer opportunities, and the child welfare and justice systems.
4. Increase community outreach, especially to underserved community, and improve communication among parents, clients, agencies and the Committee.
5. Keep the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) members informed on matters pertaining to the needs of the TAY Community. Make recommendations to the BHAB as appropriate.
6. Provide committee level work for the TAY community at the direction of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

## INTRODUCTION

The BHAB TAY Committee meets on the fourth Thursday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Ventura County Behavioral Health Administration building in Oxnard. Attendance and participation are open to Transitional Age Youth and their families, service providers, Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) members, and anyone with an interest in the TAY community. The TAY Committee is responsible to look into the needs, programs and services for the TAY population and to report on these matters to the BHAB. The committee also receives direction from the BHAB to research issues that come to the attention of the BHAB on matters related to the TAY population.



## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. Increased the number of community partners who regularly participate in the committee meetings.
2. Increased employment opportunities for the TAY population through PathPoint and the Department of Rehabilitation.
3. Increased community outreach. Interface has increased its street outreach through Continuum of Care (CoC) funding. Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel held open house events and participated in various health and wellness fairs. VCBH Logrando Bienestar outreached to the schools.
4. Provided regular updates on the work of the committee to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

## **2018-19 PRESENTATIONS**

September 2018: September is Recovery Month, presented by Patrick Jeffries, Pacific Clinics.

February 2019: Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), presented by Teresa Romney and Michelle Morgan.

April 2019: Screening, Triage, Assessment, Referral (STAR), presented by Julie Glantz and Ana Magbitang, VCBH.

June 2019: TAY Rise Expansion, presented by Felicia Skaggs.

## **CHALLENGES**

1. Housing is the most important challenge.
2. There is a growing need to communicate with Indigenous-language speakers, whether Mixteco or Zapotec, especially in Oxnard.
3. Continue regular attendance from committee members.
4. Make an impact on helping people with legal issues
5. Increase the advocacy to the BHAB.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

1. Request presentations from Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) and the Oxnard Police Department Clergy Council.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Encourage the ongoing participation of agencies/staff working on housing issues.

## **2019-20 OBJECTIVES OF THE BHAB TAY COMMITTEE**

1. Advocate for increased housing options for TAY.
2. Review the needs of the TAY population. Develop and prioritize strategies to address service needs for the TAY population relative to mental health and substance abuse treatment.
3. Encourage increased participation of community partners serving TAY in the BHAB TAY Committee meetings.
4. Develop approaches to increase community outreach, especially to underserved communities. Improve communication among parents, clients, agencies and the TAY Committee.
5. Engage TAY population membership on this committee.

## YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE

### 2018-19 Annual Report

Submitted by Denise Nielsen, Chair

#### Committee members

Denise Nielsen, Committee Chair

Jamie Banker, BHAB

Irene Pinkard, BHAB

Gina Petrus, BHAB

Marlen Torres, BHAB

Martie Miles, Aspiranet

Marika Collins, Casa Pacifica

Ken McDermott, Children's Family Services

Heather Davidson, First 5 Ventura County

Joelle Vessels, Interface

Crystal Cummings, Kids & Families Together

Scott Abeson, Ventura County Probation

Laurie Jordan, Rainbow Connection

Carole Shelton, Rainbow Connection

Yanka Ricklefts, SELPA

Tyler Baker-Wilkinson, Seneca

Ariann Bulger, Seneca

Dr. Steven Graff, Tri-Counties Regional Center

Lori Litel, United Parents

Danielle Shaw, M.D.

#### Participants

Ventura County Behavioral Health

Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team

### MISSION

The BHAB Youth & Family Committee advocates for the continuum of care and development in the delivery of services for youth and their families, believing that addressing the unique needs of minors and their caregivers is essential to the health of the community.

### 2018-19 OBJECTIVES OF THE BHAB YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE

#### 1. Continuum of Care

- a. Follow and evaluate the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). Identify further needs or gaps in services to children in foster care.
- b. Monitor the Crisis Stabilization Unit. Identify remaining gaps in the continuum of crisis services for both children covered by Medi-Cal and children with private insurance.
- c. Advocate for the availability of psychiatric hospital beds in the county for the pediatric population. Ensure communication and care coordination of medical information between care providers.

#### 2. Community and Parent Outreach

- a. Engage community agencies to schedule presentations regarding the role and activities of this Committee.
- b. Recruit community members to serve on the Committee, and inform families about mental health services available.
- c. Create innovative strategies to learn about parents/caregivers' needs and concerns.
- d. Raise awareness of alcohol and drug use information. Actively disseminate alcohol and drug use prevention information to the community partners, including community-based organizations (CBOs), law enforcement, and school districts.
- e. Maintain the availability of relevant materials on the Ventura County Behavioral Health's wellnesseveryday/saludsiempre website.
- f. Continue to oversee the development of the family resource app.

- g. Raise awareness of services for children ages 0-5 and access to those services.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The BHAB Youth & Family Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 10:00 to noon at the Ventura County Behavioral Health Administration building in Oxnard. Attendance and participation are open to the families of youth receiving mental health services from Ventura County Behavioral Health, service providers, Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) members, and anyone with an interest in the children and youth residing in Ventura County. The Youth and Family Committee is responsible to look into the needs, programs and services for children and youth, and to report to the BHAB on these matters.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. The committee received regular updates on the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), its successes and challenges.
2. The number of children and youth placed outside the home, either in foster care or Juvenile Justice, has been reduced thanks to early intervention and Trauma-Informed Care.
3. The Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit has prevented the hospitalization of about half the children and youth who were assessed. The CSU is often running at capacity. CSU staff provided information on its services and how to access them.
4. The reopening of Vista del Mar Psychiatric Hospital has been helpful for youth ages 12 to 17.
5. The need for hospitalization of children ages 0 to 5 has been reduced thanks to staff awareness and education.
6. VCBH and providers provided outreach and engagement in psychoeducation to help parents learn to describe what their children are experiencing and to help reduce stigma.
7. Dr. Shaw and Dr. Acosta reached out to primary care physicians (PCPs) to increase their awareness of the mental health services available. Dr. Shaw planned to provide a training on collaborative care to empower PCPs.
8. The Safety Plan was updated/revised.
9. Support was provided to the community following the Borderline shooting and Woolsey Fire.
10. Ongoing collaboration between various agencies and VCBH continues to improve the services available.
11. The committee was instrumental in the development of an eating disorders program within the VCBH Youth & Family clinics.
12. The continuum of crisis care has been strengthened.

## **2018-19 PRESENTATIONS**

September 2018: Youth and Cannabis, presented by Dan Hicks and David Tovar, VCBH Alcohol & Drug Program.  
October 2018: Results of the Parent/Caregiver Survey, presented by Lori Litel, United Parents.  
April 2019: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), presented by Lydia Lopez and Jessica Valenzuela, Health Care Agency READY Program.  
May 2019: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)-funded Youth & Family Programs, presented by Clara Barron.  
June 2019: Gold Coast Health Plan and Beacon Health Options, presented by Jennifer Claros and Elizabeth Theis.

## **CHALLENGES**

1. Barriers exist in the process of placing youth coming from outside Ventura County.
2. Additional foster families are needed.

3. Reunification for children and youth in foster care or group homes is problematic.
4. Respite care for parents and caregivers is desperately needed.
5. A Children's CSU is needed in the East County.
6. Law enforcement and clinicians in private practice need to be educated about the Children's CSU, a more appropriate resource than the local emergency department for children and youth in crisis.
7. Increasing the number of parent partners is needed.
8. There is a lack of communication with the local private psychiatric hospital and with out-of-county hospitals.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

1. Funding will become available during the next couple of years to implement new Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations projects.
2. A psychiatrist working with VCBH has moved and is now working at Vista del Mar Psychiatric Hospital in Ventura. It is anticipated that this move will help strengthen the communication between psychiatrists and clinicians in various settings.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Continue to work toward developing an Innovation project that focuses on children ages 0-5.
2. Design an Innovation project focusing on identifying the early signs of possible mental illness in its early stages.
3. Consider implementing a tool for threat assessment on school campus that is applicable to students and adults alike and standardized across school campuses and law enforcement agencies.

## **2019-20 OBJECTIVES OF THE BHAB YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE**

- 1. Continuum of Care**
  - a. Follow the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). Identify further needs or gaps in services to children in foster care.
  - b. Follow the continuum of crisis care for children covered by Medi-Cal and children with private insurance. Provide feedback to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB), Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) and community providers.
  - c. Ensure communication and care coordination of health record information between care providers.
- 2. Community and Parent Outreach**
  - a. Engage community agencies to schedule presentations regarding the role and activities of this Committee.
  - b. Recruit community members to serve on the Committee, and inform families about mental health services available.
  - c. Create innovative strategies to learn about parents/caregivers' needs and concerns.
  - d. Raise awareness of alcohol and substance use resources. Actively disseminate alcohol and substance use prevention resources to the community partners, including community-based organizations (CBOs), law enforcement, and school districts.
  - e. Maintain the availability of relevant materials on the Ventura County Behavioral Health's [wellnesseveryday/saludsiempre](#) website.
  - f. Continue to explore the use of technology to enhance access to services and resources.
  - g. Identify and address system barriers for access to service needs for children ages 0-5. Advocate for improvement in the continuum of services.

**PREVENTION COMMITTEE**  
**2018-2019 Annual Report**  
Submitted by Janis Gardner, Chair

**Prevention Committee members**

Janis Gardner, Committee Chair  
Captain James Fryhoff, BHAB Member  
Claudia Armann, BHAB Member  
Ezequiel A. Sanchez, BHAB Member  
Gane Brooking, BHAB Member  
Marlen Torres, BHAB Member  
Mary Haffner, BHAB Member  
Patricia Mowlavi, BHAB Member  
Maya Lazos, Vista del Mar Hospital

Diana Hernandez, The Client Network  
Gabe Teran, Ventura County Office of Education  
Katherine Kasmir, Straight Up  
Lori Litel, United Parents  
Natalie Gabrie, Aegis  
Rachel McDuffee, Aegis  
Stephanie Flournoy, Interface Children & Family Services  
Vanessa Alva, Straight Up  
Yaakov Cahnman, Saving Lives Camarillo

**Participants**

Casa Pacifica  
Community Coalition United  
Conejo Valley Unified School District  
MICOP  
Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel

Ventura County Behavioral Health  
Ventura County Probation  
Ventura County Public Health  
Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.)

**MISSION**

To promote measures that 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.

**2018-19 OBJECTIVES OF THE BHAB PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

- 1) Support and collaborate with VCBH and the BHAB in helping to prevent the onset of substance use and mental illness amongst multi-generational populations.
- 2) To promote vaping and cannabis education and awareness.

**INTRODUCTION**

Participating members in the Prevention Committee include individuals who have an interest in helping to mitigate mental illness and substance use challenges for adults, transitional aged youth and children who reside in Ventura County. Its membership and partners include persons from various entities around Ventura County, including, but not limited to, persons from multiple county agencies, stakeholders, contract providers, VCBH staff, health care professionals, law enforcement and consumers.

Chaired by an appointed BHAB member and reporting directly to the BHAB, this committee shall advocate for greater community awareness of behavioral health risks for individuals with mental illness, a dual diagnosis, or substance use disorder and shall: (1) Monitor and advise VCBH regarding its efforts to prevent the onset and exacerbation of behavioral health disorders; (2) Comply with the requirements of the Brown Act.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1) This past year, the BHAB Prevention Committee has added numerous new stakeholders, a Sheriff's Captain, community participants and providers from various entities throughout Ventura County. These new members have proved to be valued members of the committee.
- 2) The Ventura County BHAB Prevention Committee has supported, collaborated and advocated for information on topics within the scope of Cannabis Education and Awareness for Youth, MHSA, Mental Health Prevention, Early Intervention, and Alcohol and Drug Substance Abuse concerns.
- 3) The BHAB Prevention Committee, stakeholders and staff attendees have shared information on prevention efforts within Ventura County concerning Mental Illness, Opioid use, E-Cigarette usage, Youth Cannabis usage, Suicide prevention and Vaping .
- 4) BHAB Prevention Committee members' attendance at various events have included Cannabis Prevention Awareness presentations, Opioid and Marijuana conferences, Suicide Prevention Conferences and meetings and MHSA Stakeholders Committees and conferences.
- 5) Prevention committee members have attended local NAMI events (National Alliance for Mental Illness); events related to the LGBTQ population; events with Rainbow Umbrella; ADP Prevention Services contractor meetings, and Straight Up's local "Reality Parties for Parents," ( both in English & Spanish), and have participated in CAUSE events and meetings.
- 6) The BHAB Prevention Chairperson attended the National Rx and Heroin Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, the Statewide Substance Abuse conference, the Suicide Prevention Conference and numerous other meetings, conferences and summits throughout the year.
- 7) The BHAB Prevention Committee has advocated for cannabis awareness and education for youth, Transitional Aged Youth, and for cannabis awareness programs within VCBH and in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- 8) The BHAB Prevention Committee has advocated for prevention efforts in the Latino community and for others in disadvantaged populations.
- 9) BHAB Prevention Committee members have pooled resources with members of the Rx Opioid and Heroin Workgroup concerning the workgroup's outreach efforts on the Opioid crisis, Fentanyl and E-Cigarette youth usage.
- 10) The BHAB Prevention Committee has supported efforts for MHSA 's regional Needs Assessment, that gathered information from VC Public Health, VC Behavioral Health, the community, stakeholders and VC School Districts.
- 11) BHAB Prevention Committee members attended the NAMI Walk and several NAMI conferences. The BHAB Prevention Committee advocated for efforts for the LGBTQ+ population and attended events and LGBTQ+ local conferences.
- 12) The VC BHAB Prevention Committee advocated for prevention efforts surrounding the Human Trafficking problem in Ventura County.

13) The BHAB Prevention Committee members, stakeholders and providers advocated for and supported the “No O.D.” program, DUI –Impaired Driving efforts, Drug Disposal efforts, The Ventura County Office of Education Youth Prevention efforts, Latino Outreach efforts, MHSA-PE & I Mental Health efforts and Law Enforcement’s prevention efforts throughout the county.

## **2018-19 PRESENTATIONS**

The BHAB Prevention Committee Presentations are carefully selected. ADP Prevention Services and MHSA/Mental Health Prevention and Early Intervention topics and those of related partners are given the opportunity to give a monthly presentation. These presentations allow the BHAB Prevention Committee to learn about and oftentimes collaborate, concerning current research, educational opportunities and trends within the Ventura County community. The BHAB Prevention Committee meeting attendees share community campaign projects and resources with each other. They, in turn, bring relevant information to their staff, clients and various agencies who can further disseminate this information throughout Ventura County and the Community-At- Large.

August 2018: “Opioid & Cannabis Efforts Update,” presented by Dan Hicks, Manager, Ventura County Behavioral Health ADP Prevention Services.

September 2018: “VCOE: Suicide Prevention Efforts,” presented by Hunter Poulson, Ventura County Office of Education.

October 2018: “Environmental Prevention through Youth Engagement,” presented by Katherine Kasmir, Executive Director, Straight Up.

November 2018: “Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel 2018” presented by Jennifer Goble, Program Director, and, Anthony Marron, Recovery Specialist, Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel.

January 2019: “Juvenile Probation Services,” presented by Crystal Davis, Division Manager, Ventura County Probation Services.

February 2019: “The Great Vape Escape,” presented by Dan Hicks, Manager, Ventura County Behavioral Health, Alcohol & Drug Programs, Prevention Services.

March 2019: “Integrated Prevention: Cannabis Dispensaries and City Policies,” presented by Captain James Fryhoff, Ventura County Sheriff’s Office & Chief of Police for the City of Ojai.

April 2019: “Latest Trends from the California Healthy Kids Survey,” presented by Dr. Heidi Christensen, Ventura County Office of Education.

May 2019: “Highlights from the Rx Summit in Atlanta,” presented by Dan Hicks, Manager, and David Tovar, Office of Traffic Safety Grant Coordinator, Ventura County Behavioral Health, Alcohol & Drug Programs Prevention Services.

June 2019: Student Video Presentations presented by Gabe Teran, Operations Specialist for Youth Development, Friday Night Live, and, Katherine Kasmir, Executive Director, Reality Improv Connection, Inc. dba “Straight Up,” which included: “Choose Your Own Path,” by Middle School students from Juan Lagunas Soria School; “Stickman’s Beer,” created by students from Oxnard Middle College High School (OMCHS); “Incarcerated,” by a student from Providence High School; “Teen Depression,” by a student, Caroline M., from

Vista Real High School; “Pretty Brown Eyes,: by Pacifica High School students; and, “Just one Puff?” by Hillside Middle School students.

## **CHALLENGES**

The Prevention Committee acknowledges the following Challenges within Ventura County as related to community needs within the scope of Alcohol & Drug related Prevention Services and MHSA’s Mental Health Prevention and Early Intervention. Challenges are as follow:

- Concerns about increased access to highly potent opiates such as Fentanyl within Ventura County.
- Piecing together funding from various sources to purchase Naloxone for the VCBH ADP Prevention Services Overdose Prevention Project.
- There needs to be an increase in access to prevention services that serve indicated, higher risk populations.
- The impact of broader availability and normalization of cannabis for youth and young adults.
- Implementation of ordinances and guidelines regarding cannabis sales.
- Ordinances and guidelines regarding youth vaping and vape products.
- Suicide Prevention outreach for older adults, men and youth.
- Address emerging issues related to the cultivation of Hemp in Ventura County
- Odor mitigation regarding Hemp fields which may trigger cannabis cravings or use for Tay and other Ventura County residents due to environmental challenges.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Advocate and support mental health and substance use prevention and early intervention programs, including those in collaboration with providers and contractors.
- Help educate and inform the Board of Supervisors, VCBH staff, other agencies, and the public, on the negative impacts of alcohol and drug abuse.
- Advocate for policy prevention efforts around vaping products for youth and older adults.
- Advocate and support outreach efforts concerning cannabis and the potential harmful effects on youth’s still developing teen brains with consistent cannabis usage.
- Increase the number of Prevention Committee members including persons in the community, stakeholders, providers and contractors.
- Search for gaps and needs in services in both mental health and substance use where no prevention methods or programs currently exist.
- Advocate for prevention efforts concerning suicide prevention and mental health challenges.
- Promote education for raising awareness of the negative impacts of Fentanyl and opioid usage.
- Develop a troupe of spokespersons to engage older adults
- Increase services and businesses at Hillmont, St. Johns, and other private hospitals and entities to adopt public and private Mental Health In-Patient and Crisis Stabilization services at these sites.

## **2019-20 OBJECTIVES OF THE BHAB PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

1. Support and collaborate with VCBH and the BHAB in helping to prevent the onset of substance use and mental illness amongst multi-generational populations.
2. Promote vaping and cannabis education and awareness, and advocate for banning flavored vaping products.



## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD OBJECTIVES FY 2019-20**

### **Adult Services Committee**

Advocate for the expansion of the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) at the Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital to the maximum approved number of chairs (12) including the capability of conducting medical screening examinations on-site, and for the reactivation of the 12 inpatient beds currently not in use.

### **Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Committee**

Advocate for increased housing options for TAY.

### **Youth & Family Committee**

Follow the continuum of crisis care for children covered by Medi-Cal and children with private insurance. Provide feedback to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB), Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) and community providers.

### **Prevention Committee**

Promote vaping and cannabis education and awareness, and advocate for banning flavored vaping products.