

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
Executive Committee Meeting -
Monday, November 10, 2025, 2:30 – 4:00 PM
Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)
1911 Williams Drive, Training Room (first floor) • Oxnard, CA 93036
IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Zoom Participation

The following information referenced below is provided to you in support of your attending the upcoming BHAB Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom:

Join the zoom meeting in the following way:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605224617?pwd=kCoPW661jbLpfgKLFUnpHW5aucyRz.1>

Meeting ID: 160 522 4617

Password: 456530

Dial-in: +16692545252

Under AB 2449 New Teleconferencing Rules:

The Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive committee 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. Interpretation Instructions
- III. Introductions
- IV. Roll Call of Members with Just Cause
 - a. State others present in the room over the age of 18
- V. Requests for Emergency Circumstances – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- VI. Approval of the Agenda – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- VII. Approval of the October 13, 2025, Minutes – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- VIII. Chair Comments – Cheryl Heitmann, Chair
- IX. Director’s Update – Dr. Loretta Denering, Director (10 min.)
- X. Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)
- XI. Executive Committee Board Member Comments (3 min. per speaker) (Round Robin)
- XII. Old Business
 - a. Goals for FY 25-26
 - b. orientation for new board members
 - c. Approve Data Notebook – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- XIII. New Business
 - a. Meeting Time for General Meeting
 - b. Future Presentation Requests

XIV. Develop Agenda for Hybrid **General Meeting** scheduled for November 17, 2025, at 2:00 PM

- I. *Call to Order*
- II. *Interpretation Instructions*
- III. *Introductions*
- IV. *Roll Call of Members with Just Cause*
 - A. *State others present in the room over the age of 18*
- V. *Requests for Emergency Circumstances – ACTION (Roll Call)*
- VI. *Approval of the Agenda – ACTION (Roll Call)*
- VII. *Approval of the October 20, 2025, Minutes – ACTION (Roll Call)*
- VIII. *Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)*
- IX. *Chair Announcements – Cheryl Heitmann, Chair (5 min.)*
- X. *Director’s Report – Dr. Loretta L. Denering, Director (10 min.)*
- XI. *Presentation - Various levels of behavioral health care - Karen Lee’s Team (20 Minutes)*
- XII. *Board Member Comments and Announcements (3 min. per speaker) (Round Robin)*
- XIII. *Old Business*
 - A. *Goal for FY 25-26 – ACTION (Roll Call)*
 - B. *orientation for new board members- ACTION (Roll Call)*
 - C. *Procedures and protocol - Ad hoc committee - ACTION (Roll Call)*
- IX. *New Business*
 - A. *Meeting Time Change*
 - B. *Future Presentation Requests*
- X. *Contracts*
- XI. *Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)*
- XII. *Adjourn*

Next Meeting Date: December 08, 2025

All agenda reports and supporting data, including those filed in accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5 (b) (1) and (2) are available from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board Assistant at bhadmin@ventura.org or in person at Ventura County Behavioral Health, 2nd Floor, 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, California. The same materials will be

available and attached with each associated agenda item, when received, at the following website: www.vcbh.org/en/behavioral-health-advisory-board-meetings.

Welcome to the meeting of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board of the County of Ventura. The following information is provided to help you understand, follow, and participate in the Board meeting:

Join the Zoom meeting by clicking the link provided on the agenda at the scheduled time and date. Zoom will initially start with a **waiting room** position. You will be admitted into the meeting room when the meeting starts. All participants are muted upon entry to minimize any unintended disruption of background sounds. Please keep yourself on mute unless you are speaking.

Note: The meeting is recorded.

Public Comments

- The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) welcomes comments from the community, consumers, and family members.
- The BHAB operates under the Brown Act. This requires that all meetings be open meetings, with the agenda and minutes posted. A public comment period will be provided on all meeting agendas.
- Due to confidentiality laws, the Board is unable to respond directly to a public comment or to discuss client-specific issues without proper releases from the individuals concerned.
- At all BHAB meetings, the BHAB Assistant provides a Grievance Form for individuals who have concerns. The form is reviewed promptly by VCBH Quality Management. Individuals can also contact the BHAB Assistant to request a VCBH Grievance Form outside a BHAB meeting or call 1-888-567-2122.
- Individuals who have further concerns are welcome to return to the BHAB for assistance.

Public comments may be provided using one of the following options:

a. Email or Mail Public Comment in Advance of the Meeting

To make a written public comment, you must send an email to bhabadmin@ventura.org, with the specific agenda item or topic, if a general comment, by no later than 10:00 AM on the day of the BHAB meeting. Your written public comment may also be mailed to the following address and must be received by the BHAB Assistant no later than 10 AM on the day of the meeting: *BHAB Assistant, 1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Oxnard, CA 93036*

Please indicate in the subject line the agenda item number (e.g., Item No. 9) on which you are commenting. Your written public comment sent via email or regular mail will be distributed to the BHAB Members and placed into the item's record of the meeting.

Or

b. Video Public Comment using Zoom

You may use the raise hand feature when the Chair invites public comments in the following ways:

If you are running an older version of Zoom, you can raise your hand by clicking on the Participant button at the bottom of the Zoom screen and then click on the raise hand feature in that participant window.

If you are running the most current version of Zoom (5.4.9 and above) you can raise your hand by clicking on the Reactions button and then clicking on raise hand feature. Your hand will appear in the upper left-hand corner of your individual Zoom window as well as the participant window.

Call-In Public Comment using Zoom If you are joining the meeting by telephone only, you can join the comment queue by pressing *9. When it is your turn to make your comment, press *6 to unmute and then again to mute yourself after speaking.

Note: Your raised hand will appear TO THE HOST in the order it was received.

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. The assigned timekeeper will track each public comment time. When your time is up, the timekeeper will interrupt to let you know that you have reached the 3-minute maximum. At the end of the three minutes, the next person in the comment queue will be invited to speak.

REMINDER: In order to minimize distractions during public meetings, all personal communication devices should be turned off or put in a non-audible mode.

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 in a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The members 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

Public comments on agenda items can be made prior to or during consideration of agenda items and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker. Public comment periods are limited to no more than (20) minutes total for all speakers. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Behavioral Health Administration at (805) 981-6830. Reasonable advance notification of the need for accommodation prior to the meeting (48 hours advance notice is preferable) will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

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 members 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

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)

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

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Monday, October 13, 2025, 2:30 – 4:00PM

BHAB Executive Members Present:

Cheryl Heitmann, Chair
Dianne McKay, First Vice Chair
Sylvia Garcia, Secretary
Andrei Bobrow, Second Vice Chair
Nomi Marrufo, Member at Large

Guests:

Ricardo Garcia, Spanish Interpreter
Scott Walker, Sheriff Detention Program Administrator

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

Dr. Loretta L. Denering, Director
Dr. John Schipper, Forensics, Justice & Re-Entry Services Division Chief
Lupita Martinez, Executive Administrative Assistant
Selene Manzo, BHAB Administrative Assistant

- I. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 2:32 PM by Chair Cheryl Heitmann.
- II. Interpretation Instructions** – Ricardo, the Spanish Interpreter, introduced himself and the provided instruction on the interpretation services available for the meeting.
- III. Introductions** – A physical quorum was confirmed and all members introduced themselves.
- IV. Roll Call of Members with Just Cause** – NONE.

- a. State others present in the room over the age of 18.
- V. Requests for Emergency Circumstances – NONE.**
- VI. Approval of the Agenda –** The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Committee Agenda for October 13, 2025, was approved (McKay/Marrufo/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call.
- VII. Approval of the September 08, 2025, Minutes –** The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Committee Minutes for September 08, 2025, were approved (McKay/Marrufo/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call.
- VIII. Chair Comments –** Chair Heitmann will identify which priorities to focus on based on members’ topics of interest. On October 17th, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council will host an online training session led by Theresa Comstock that offers an in-depth look at the board’s role. Those interested are encouraged to attend online. First Vice Chair, McKay shared positive feedback, describing the training as very valuable and recommending participation.
- IX. Director’s Update –** Director, Dr. Denering provided updates from VCBH. First Vice Chair McKay shared that she has some information that may be helpful regarding Medi-Cal, specifically related to California’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHCS) and Social Services, focusing on Medicaid programs.
- X. Public Comments – NONE.**
- XI. Executive Committee Board Member Comments – NONE**
- XII. Old Business**
 - A. Goals Setting for FY 25-26 –** Chair Cheryl Heitmann reopened discussion on last year’s goals, suggesting that topics like Crisis and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) services could be combined into broader categories. A major focus this year will be on the impact of Prop 1, particularly how prevention funding will now go entirely from the state, with no additional county support. Members should anticipate ongoing changes throughout the year. Site visits were emphasized as a key activity outlined in the Bylaws, meant to identify service gaps and assess how programs

are functioning. These visits can also be combined with outreach, and a shared site visit form may already exist. Chair Heitmann asked members to express interest in participating. Members were also encouraged to inquire during site visits about how providers are preparing for proposed budget cuts. First Vice Chair McKay expressed readiness to present these revised goals at the October General Meeting, while Second Vice Chair Dr. Andrei Bobrow proposed reviewing previously discussed goals with new members to determine which should be kept or adapted, including possible new goals like community outreach and managing budget impacts.

XIII. New Business:

- a. Procedures and protocol Ad hoc committee** - Site visits.
- b. Orientation of new Board Members** - For orientation of new board members, it was suggested that each district have a lead person responsible for orienting new members from their area. This approach makes the process easier and helps build stronger connections, though alternative suggestions are welcome.
- c. Future Presentation Request** - District Attorney is scheduled for the October General Meeting. The exact timing is to be determined, but 30 minutes have been allotted. Chair Heitmann shared that she is working to connect with Gold Coast Health Plan for a possible presentation in November about various topics including changes to Medi-Cal due to state and federal legislation. .

XIV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 PM by Chair Cheryl Heitmann.

Next Meeting Date – November 10, 2025, from 2:30PM – 4:00PM

Attendance:

Members 2025-2026	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Cheryl Heitmann, Chair, District 1	X		X	X								
Dianne McKay, 1 st Vice Chair, District 2	X		X	X								
Sylvia Garcia, Secretary, District 3	X		X	X								
Andrei Bobrow, Second Vice Chair, District 1	X		X	X								
Naomi (NOMI) Marrufo, Member At Large, District 3	E		X	X								

Present = X

Excused = E

Just Cause = JC

Emergency Circumstance = EC

District 1: Supervisor LaVere District 2: Supervisor Gorell District 3: Supervisor Long

District 4: Supervisor Parvin District 5: Supervisor Lopez



Health

Help Shape the Region's Behavioral Health Services Future

By Fernanda Lopez Halvorson

2 days ago



Reading Time: 2 minutes

County Behavioral Health Services is inviting residents to give their input on where to focus funding to support people with serious mental illness or substance use issues who

are eligible for Medi-Cal at a series of upcoming meetings.

The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), also known as Proposition 1, was approved by voters in March 2024.

It does several things, including expanding to support people with substance use disorders, reprioritizing funds to support housing and shifting prevention funding to the California Department of Public Health for programs that serve specific populations (e.g. LGBTQ+, older adults, veterans, etc.) The BHSA is a critical resource that provides funding for lifesaving treatment, supports and housing.

As part of BHSA, the County must support a community planning process to engage and gather insights and recommendations from community members, stakeholders, organizations and individuals to identify priorities for BHSA funding. The feedback from these engagement efforts will help shape the County's first Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan, which goes into effect on July 1, 2026.

“We want to hear the community’s thoughts about what kinds of treatment and supports are needed in our region,” said Nadia Privara, Acting Director of County Behavioral Health Services. “It’s important that we understand the barriers to care that people are facing and the unique care needs people of all ages have when it comes to the services we provide. The input will help shape our Integrated Plan and how resources are prioritized to best support people in need.”

Community members are invited to [share their feedback through an online form](#) and by attending upcoming virtual sessions.

The meetings, [held by Zoom](#), are listed below and focused by topic.

- **Crisis Services**

Tuesday, Nov. 4, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

- **Community Mental Health Needs**

Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

- **Housing Interventions**

Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 10 to 11:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 12 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

- [Prevention \(California Department of Public Health\)](#)

Thursday, Nov. 13 at 10:30 a.m.

- **Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services**

Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

- **Public Behavioral Health Workforce**

Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

- **Early Intervention**

Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

[More information about the Behavioral Health Services Act and ways to get involved](#) are available on the County's Behavioral Health Services website.

If you or someone you know is struggling emotionally, experiencing an issue with drugs or alcohol, or having a hard time, the 9-8-8 Lifeline can help. Calling can connect you, a friend, or a family member to mental health services and referrals. We don't have to face these challenges alone. Dial 9-8-8 to receive support from a local counselor. Support is free, confidential, and available in over 200 languages within seconds.

Related: [behavioral health](#), [behavioral health](#)..