

## **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, September 08, 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  
Asencion Romero, Public  
Aaron Kitzman, Sheriff CPD Program Administrator  
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

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 2:35 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 September 08, 2025, was approved (Bobrow/Marrufo/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written carried by majority vote through roll call.
- VII. Approval of the July 14, 2025, Minutes –** The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Executive Committee Minutes for July 14, 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 proposed creating an ad hoc committee to develop procedures to accompany the bylaws, which will be brought forward for a vote at the upcoming general meeting. Member-at-Large Marrufo and Secretary Garcia expressed interest in joining the committee. The opportunity to participate will be extended to all members in the next general meeting. It was noted that the District Attorney presentation was rescheduled to the October general meeting. Additionally, new member Chris Ridge was recently approved by the Board of Supervisors and will be attending the general meeting next week. Chair Heitmann also requested that Member-at-Large Marrufo's name be added to the Executive Committee roster.
- IX. Director's Update –** Director, Dr. Denering provided updates from VCBH, sharing the exciting news that the county was awarded nearly \$28 million in permanent supportive housing as part of the Prop 1 Homekey+ funds. The County Executive Office led the application process. The project will be located on the Lewis Rd campus. This will be a ground up project, that will include new construction by Dignity Moves and Many Mansions will provide the onsite management. Funding contributions were made by Behavioral Health, Gold Coast Health Plan, and the City of Camarillo. Dr. Denering highlighted the positive impact this will have on providing housing for those in need and will expand the county's continuum of care and advance the vision for the Lewis Road campus. She also shared that federal changes are occurring rapidly, and the department is actively monitoring developments and coordinating with state partners and associations to assess potential impacts. ,

**X. Public Comments – NONE.**

**XI. Executive Committee Board Member Comments –** Secretary Garcia shared that she uses a recorder during meetings due to her ADHD and informed the board. Chair Heitmann announced that next week's general meeting will include a presentation on Prop 1.

**XII. Old Business**

**A. Bylaws –** Chair Heitmann shared that the bylaws will be brought back for review, noting that Michael Rodriguez has previously served as Chair of that committee.

**B. Workgroups –** Chair Heitmann hopes to bring back the Crisis, TAY, and procedures topics in October, including a comparison of the original workgroup's list of topics and any proposed changes.

**C. Presentation Request –** Secretary Garcia suggested a presentation on suicide prevention in children and also proposed one on Mental Health Advance Directives. Dr. Bobrow recommended a presentation on the Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) to increase consumer understanding. Dr. Denering suggested a presentation to clarify the differences between the various behavioral health levels of care.

**XIII. Adjournment –** The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 PM by Chair Cheryl Heitmann.

**Next Meeting Date – October 13, 2025, from 2:30PM – 4:00PM**