

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
PREVENTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES ▪ Tuesday, July 14, 2020

<p>Members Present Janis Gardner, Chair Claudia Armann, BHAB Javier Bautista, Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel Yaakov Cahnman, Saving Lives Camarillo Stuart Fiedler, Client Network Katherine Kasmir, BRITE Maya Lazos, Vista del Mar Hospital Patricia Mowlavi, BHAB Theresa Plante, Casa Pacifica Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)</p> <p>Others Present Gina Johnson, Adult Probation Services Liz Warren, Client Network Melissa Hannah, United Parents</p>	<p>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers/Staff Present Dr. Loretta Denering, Substance Use Services Division Chief Clara Barron, Mental Health Services Act Senior Program Administrator Anna Flores, Substance Use Services – Driving Under the Influence Programs, Program Manager Dan Hicks, Substance Use Services - Prevention Manager Cari Kawell, Substance Use Services – Prevention Management Assistant Kiran Sahota, Mental Health Services Act Senior Manager David Tovar, Substance Use Services -Prevention Program Manager Vickie Poliquin, Temporary BHAB Assistant</p> <p>NEXT MEETING: September 8, 2020, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. Virtually - Via Zoom</p>
<p>Note: The committee has not yet approved these minutes. There may be additions/deletions or corrections before the minutes are accepted in final form.</p>	

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
I.	Call to Order Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.		
II.	Approval of the Agenda Ms. Gardner asked the Committee to review and approve today’s agenda. Claudia Armann moved to approve; Patricia Mowlavi seconded. The motion carried unanimously through roll call.	The agenda was approved as written. M/S/C	
III.	Approval of the Minutes Ms. Gardner asked the committee to review and approve the minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting. Javier Bautista moved to approve; Yaakov Cahnman seconded. The motion carried by majority vote through roll call. Claudia Armann, Javier Bautista and Yaakov Cahnman abstained as they did not attend that meeting.	The minutes were approved as written. M/S/C	
IV.	Welcome and Introductions Ms. Gardner welcomed everyone and asked for self-introductions.		
V.	Chair Announcements Ms. Gardner made the following announcements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detention Services is working toward the establishment of a Jail-Based Competency Treatment Program that will allow felony defendants who have been deemed incompetent by the courts to stand trial to be immediately admitted and treated for competency restoration. ▪ The Oxnard Police Department is planning additional trainings to include Implicit Bias, Cultural Proficiency, History of Race Relations, Police Brutality and other topics. ▪ Substance Use Services (SUS) reported that 1 in 5 Ventura County teens have abused prescription drugs and Ms. Gardner briefly described how SUS is conveying ways to improve the occurrence of this abuse. Noted that over 12 million people aged 12 and over have been reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs in the past year. 		
VI.	Public Comments None.		
VII.	Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Updates A. Dan Hicks, Substance Use Services – Prevention Behavioral Health Manager <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provided information about Prevention Service’s work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff have successfully developed innovative ways to pursue the mission and objectives within the State-approved Strategic Prevention Plan. 		

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Committee members, organizations and agencies have been able to stay connected through mailings and online events. 3. Developed and launched a multi-phased Healthy Habits Campaign to assist people with challenges adapting to life under COVID-19. 4. Developed a new ACCESS brochure to provide people with information on the services available through Prevention Services. 5. Noted that the pandemic has revealed vulnerabilities within the community that have created opportunities to provide innovative services to those in need. 6. Encouraged all to visit the VCBH.org website’s Health Habits Campaign at https://habits.vcbh.org/. <p>B. Kiran Sahota, Mental Health Services Act Senior Manager</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thanked clinical and non-clinical providers and contractors for quickly mobilizing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and encouraged all providers to continue to stay in touch with the community utilizing various media tools. 2. Turning Point Foundation assisted with hotel housing for at risk homeless and peers and worked closely with the homeless to assist with food and meal delivery. 3. Summarized the effect of the State budget shortfall on MHSA funding and noted that a workgroup will be formed and two town halls will be held to address the challenges facing MHSA with the expected funding reductions. 4. Announced that Ventura County will receive a \$6 million grant to place wellness centers on eight high school campuses and will work with the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) to roll out the centers virtually or on high school campuses by December 1. 5. A video campaign is in the planning stages that will target substance use/mental health dual prevention related to the COVID-19 pandemic. 6. MHSA’s 3-Year Plan is completed, the Annual Report is in progress and an innovative data platform that will link MHSA, jail, hospital and homeless data to better serve clients and reduce recidivism is in development. 7. Noted that weekly Suicide Prevention meetings via Zoom have been put on hiatus and that VCBH is reviewing how to re-introduce suicide prevention efforts. <p>C. Vicky Gonzales, Public Health Tobacco Policy Project Coordinator</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Gonzales was not in attendance. <p>D. Additional VCBH Staff Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David Tovar, Substance Use Services -Prevention Program Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recent work with the Oxnard Police Department on a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) checkpoint, shifted focus toward educating people regarding impaired driving. ▪ The Oxnard Police Department is one of three police departments within California to launch saturation and DUI operations in conjunction with VCBH’s Prevention Program. 2. Dr. Loretta Denering, Substance Use Services Division Chief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thanked Anna Flores and her staff for developing a countywide telehealth remote services delivery system in a few weeks that met compliance standards for continued services. Several counties had suspended their DUI programs during the pandemic. Ventura County’s program is one of the few fully functioning programs in the State and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) provided positive feedback for this accomplishment. All clinics have transitioned to telehealth for services. ▪ Several staff are assisting other County departments with other COVID-19 related assignments. ▪ Thanked all the Prevention providers for their work and coordination efforts to provide services remotely to meet client needs. ▪ Some very creative ideas for outreach have been developed by Prevention through newsletters and web-based trainings. 		
VIII.	<p>Provider and Prevention Committee Members’ Comments and Updates</p> <p>Katherine Kasmir provided a summary of the programs offered through Building Resilience and Inclusion Through Engagement (BRITE). A lot of work has been done to transition their programs that take place within schools that were closed due to the pandemic. Their new website is https://www.BRITE.Link/BRITE where lessons, webinars, courses, games and quizzes can be viewed and accessed. Zoom prevention discussions are being held Monday through Friday. Two 3D “avatar” platforms and another more interactive platform are being created.</p>		

	<p>BRITE’s photovoice project designed to empower young people through photography and storytelling will be launched. Young people are interested in providing input for the development of the wellness centers planned for schools.</p> <p>Maya Lazos noted that Vista del Mar Hospital is working on a countywide suicide prevention initiative and asked for VCBH’s support in extending an invitation to community partners to join in the initiative. She requested the information be provided to the Prevention Committee for those interested in joining the initiative. NAMI Ventura County is scheduled for its first membership meeting on July 23, entitled NAMI Moving Forward.</p> <p>Yaakov Cahnman noted that Savings Lives Camarillo staff are excited about the door hanger brochure materials provided through VCBH and asked for volunteers, including youth, interested in assisting with distribution to residents in Camarillo.</p> <p>Melissa Hannah noted that Nurturing Parenting classes are being offered as a pilot program and are now available to both Ventura and Los Angeles County residents. People may register for all 10 classes or for individual classes. Classes will be offered in Spanish.</p> <p>Javier Bautista made positive comments regarding VCBH’s efforts to lead the way in mental health to provide needed services during the pandemic. TAY Tunnel classes are now held via Zoom. Masks, cloths, showers, laundry services and care packages are being provided to their youth. Appointments, coronavirus information pamphlets and prevention information are available at their office located at 141 S. 5th Street, Oxnard. People are welcome to drop off any donations to assist their program.</p> <p>Claudia Armann asked whether TAY Tunnel had been assisting clients with filling out the Census. Javier Bautista will follow-up with his supervisor.</p>		
<p>IX.</p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. Priorities and Goals for Forthcoming Zoom Meetings</p> <p>Ms. Gardner noted that although the Committee is currently meeting bi-monthly, the revised schedule should not deter the Committee from accomplishing its goals. She noted that the Committee will complete its annual report.</p> <p>Dan Hicks reminded all that the Committee’s goals should align with the goals and objectives of VCBH and have available funding.</p> <p>Claudia Armann suggested a priority to provide social and emotional support to students who are isolated at home. Ms. Gardner and Javier Bautista agreed with this idea.</p> <p>Katherine Kasmir suggested sharing their photovoice project at the next Committee meeting, provide an update on their programs and discuss VCBH’s support on how their information can be best shared. Ms. Gardner requested that Katherine Kasmir provide a synopsis of the available programs in preparation for placing this on the September Committee agenda.</p> <p>In answer to a question from Liz Warren, Javier Bautista noted that one idea to overcome the hurdle for isolated clients in the justice system, would be to development a peer-supported letter-writing campaign that could include pamphlets and information in addition to the personal touch of a letter. Liz Warren offered to assist through the Client Network. Further discussion took place about how to approach starting the letter-writing campaign on a small scale.</p> <p>Gina Johnson noted that Tim Dowler, who oversees Juvenile Services, could attend future Prevention Committee meetings to discuss specific prevention measures for youths who are getting into trouble.</p> <p>Anna Flores made positive comments about Javier Bautista’s peer-supported letter-writing campaign idea and noted that there is published research and science behind handwritten letters preventing suicide and reengagement to treatment. Ms. Flores will provide Javier Bautista with the link to Stanford Research for his information.</p>		
<p>XIII.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.</p>		