

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
PREVENTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES - Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Members Present Janis Gardner, Chair BHAB Prevention Committee Claudia Armann, BHAB Patricia Mowlavi, BHAB Gabe Teran, Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) Javier Bautista, TAY Tunnel Katherine Kasmir, Reality Improv Connection - BRITE Liz Warren Lori Litel, United Parents Maya Lazos, Vista del Mar Hospital Melissa Hannah, United Parents Sandra Tovar, Logrando Bienestar Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Stuart Fiedler, Client Network Theresa Plante, Casa Pacifica Vicky Gonzales, Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) Yaakov Cahnman, Saving Lives Camarillo	Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers/Staff Present Dr. Loretta Denering, SUS Division Chief Anastasia Flores, Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Program Cynthia Salas, VCBH Ethic Services Manager Dan Hicks, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention David Tovar, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Clara Barron, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Cari Kawell, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Mariella Aguilar, EHR/Avatar Team, Zoom Engineer NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 10th, 2020, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.
Others Present Carmen Wyttenbach, Ventura County Human Services Agency (VCHSA) Dawn Anderson, VCOE Rosa Padilla, Ventura County Probation Ruth Morales, United States Department of Justice	Ventura County Behavioral Health 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036 Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85118862194?pwd=ZmwwRVQ1cDNRY2pFQ1kwchA3Y0VyUT09 Meeting ID: 851 1886 2194 Password: 332632 Dial-in: 669 900 9128
Note: The committee has not yet approved these minutes. There may be additions/deletions or corrections before the minutes are accepted in final form.	

	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 the September 8, 2020 agenda. The motion carried unanimously through roll call.	The agenda was approved as written. M/S/C	Motion: Maya Lazos Second: Liz Warren
III.	Approval of the Minutes Ms. Gardner asked the committee to review and approve the minutes of the July 14, 2020 meeting. The motion carried unanimously through roll call.	The minutes were approved as written. M/S/C	Motion: Claudia Armann Second: Maya Lazos
IV.	Welcome and Introductions Ms. Gardner welcomed everyone and asked for self-introductions.		
V.	Chair Announcements BHAB Prevention Committee Chair Janis Gardner made the following announcements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2020 is Suicide Prevention Month. • The Ventura County Medical Examiner’s statistics from January 1, 2020 to August 21, 2020 listed 43 completed suicides – age 0 to 18 had none – age 19 to 25 had six – age 26 to 45 had 11 suicides, and ages 49 to 59 had 11 suicides. Over age 65 had 15 suicides. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vagabond Inn, a hotel in Oxnard, CA, could soon transition from an affordable hotel option to permanent housing for 70 of Ventura County’s homeless population. • In Ventura County, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has several webinars and classes available. For more information visit: www.namiventura.org • The Chief Executive Officer of Ventura County, Mike Powers, will be giving the 2020 State of Ventura County address on Thursday, September 17th. 		
VI.	Public Comments None were mentioned.		
VII.	Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Updates A. Dan Hicks, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Services <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In a recent Mortality and Morbidity weekly report, the SAMHSA Deputy Director indicated there were increases in mental health issues & substance use because of social isolation due to COVID-19 social distancing and sheltering-in-place. B. David Tovar, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Services <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A copy of recent Issue #8 of the VCBH SUS - Prevention <i>Community Connections</i> newsletter was shared onscreen with the group. This newsletter supports the Prevention Healthy Habits campaign. 2. Once the COVID-19 pandemic and stay at home orders began, all DUI Prevention and DUI enforcement activities came to a standstill. As past studies have shown, DUI Checkpoints are an excellent tool for enforcement. Studies have also shown checkpoints are an effective means to promote education regarding driving under the influence and community awareness of dangers. 3. VCBH SUS Prevention and DUI have been working with Ventura County’s law enforcement agencies on checkpoint operations and how they can be done in a socially distanced manner while providing education and prevention information. 4. The DUI Checkpoint presentation was shown onscreen. 5. The Ventura County Opioid Abuse Suppression Task Force (COAST) program is funded by a \$1 million, 3-year grant from the Department of Justice. This program assists the County of Ventura with opioid surveillance and data collection to support upstream efforts to reduce prescription medication’s negative consequences. 6. In early September, a public-facing COAST data dashboard was launched. For more info, visit: www.coastventuracounty.org C. Dr. Loretta Denering, Chief, SUS Division <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thanks were expressed to the BHAB and also her team for their continuing outreach efforts even with limited staffing during the COVID-19 pandemic. 2. The SUS Division is continually being asked by the Feds and California State to closely monitor and provide to them the real time data from Ventura County for all of the treatment systems, the prevention and DUI work. By working closely with OES and the Medical Examiner’s Office, among others, gathering and providing this data has been possible. D. Clara Barron, MHSA/PEI (Prevention Early Intervention) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MHSA/PEI is currently (since April 1, 2020) collecting data to gauge programming and services pre-COVID-19 and current COVID-19 environment. The PEI evaluation will be able to capture impact of COVID-19 on PEI programming services, along with the pandemic impact on clients’ mental health. 2. MHSA is undergoing an MHSA audit that is being conducted by the California State Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS). The results of the audit will reveal the gaps in services, strengths and weaknesses. This will enable MHSA to have an Action Plan with respect to all MHSA programs. 3. Logrando Bienestar has been expanded and is now funded under MHSA/PEI. 4. Kiran Sahota, Sr. BH Manager/MHSA will be retiring in September 2020. E. Sandra Tovar, Logrando Bienestar <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currently, there is a Request for Proposal (RFP) in process. 2. The expansion of Logrando Bienestar includes hiring all five of their Community Service Coordinators (CSCs) who have been working since the end of August 2020. 		

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. They have been assessing the community impact of COVID-19 and how it has affected their programs. They changed their service method to phone screenings. 4. They have been receiving referrals for mental health services and have been active during the COVID-19 pandemic. <p>F. Cynthia Salas, VCBH Ethnic Services Manager</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Logrando Bienestar was established in 2016 and was designed to reach the Latino community in Oxnard and the Santa Clara Valley. 2. Psycho-education workshops are being held to help reduce discrimination and stigma around mental health. 3. Since the pandemic began, they have been actively assessing local school operations will be in order to adapt their methods to meet community needs. 4. Logrando Bienestar is creating workshops in local parks that will be compliant with COVID-19 requirements; working with faith-based and grass-roots organizations; and, going to food distribution sites to provide information. <p>G. Vicky Gonzales, VCPH updated the group with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On August 31, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law the banning of the sale of tobacco flavors throughout California. 2. The Tobacco Industry is going to take this issue to the voters to appeal the aforementioned law that would be enforced on January 1, 2021. 3. In Ventura County, it is still recommended that for any jurisdiction that wants to adopt a tobacco retail licensing program to include “flavors” in their language. 4. In December 2020, the Simi Valley Youth Council is advocating their City Council to adopt a tobacco retail licensing program and a secondhand smoke ordinance. 5. A Ventura County Action on Smoking and Health (VC-ASH) coalition meeting will be held on September 24, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. 6. A meeting about the smoke-free, multi-unit housing taskforce will be held on Sept 17, 2020 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. 		
VIII.	<p>Prevention Committee Member Comments None were mentioned.</p>		
IX.	<p>Presentation: Katherine Kasmir, Executive Director, Reality Improv Connection – BRITE, presented, “BRITE Youth & Prevention Update”</p> <p>Ms. Kasmir shared that during COVID-19, BRITE is doing a tremendous amount of work through ZOOM because their audience is in large part mostly participants through Ventura County schools.</p> <p>Most of BRITE’s work falls under all five of the VCBH SUS Prevention initiatives with additional efforts that fall under the VCOE Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) grants. This includes opioid and overdose prevention education, in addition to marijuana education and the related issues that it may cause regarding the developing teen brain and regarding increased youth access to marijuana.</p> <p>Click below link to presentation for details: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mZYy0ArpKqr36FHN7qnsCDDXE-Lo7Pd/view?usp=sharing For more information, please visit: https://brite.mykajabi.com/</p>		
X.	<p>Provider and Stakeholder Updates</p> <p>Gabe Teran, VCOE gave updates that included the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On October 7, 2020, VCOE will be hosting the countywide, “2nd Annual Youth Mental Health and Wellness Conference.” This year’s conference will be completely virtual. They are currently in the planning stages of discussion about the event with their collaborators. They will be able to accommodate up to 450 youth using the Zoom platform. 2. With all the distance learning and remote work as a result of COVID-19, Friday Night Live has been working on how they can best continue to serve Ventura County youth in a virtual environment. 		

<p>XI.</p>	<p>Old Business</p> <p>Chair Gardner reminded the group that at the last BHAB PC Meeting the Prevention Committee explored how youth can be supported with Prevention efforts and Mental Health and Substance Use Services during this time of isolation from peers.</p> <p>When the new FY2021-2022 Prevention Committee Objectives are written, they should align with the goals of VCBH and have available funding.</p> <p>Chair Gardner invited the group for discussion and asked that the “goals” topic be readdressed at the next BHAB PC meeting on November 10, 2020.</p>		
<p>XII.</p>	<p>Items for the Next Meeting Agenda</p> <p>Chair Gardner invited the Providers who did not have time to give updates at today’s meeting to speak at the November 10, 2020 BHAB PC meeting.</p>		
<p>XIII.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.</p>		