

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
PREVENTION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES - Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

<p><b>Members Present</b></p> <p>Janis Gardner, Chair BHAB Prevention Committee          Claudia Armann, BHAB          Elizabeth R. Stone          Gabe Teran, VCOE          Javier Bautista          Katherine Gross, Saving Lives Camarillo          Katherine Kasmir, BRITE          Liz Warren, The Client Network          Melissa Hannah          Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)          Stuart Fiedler</p>	<p><b>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers/Staff Present</b></p> <p>Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky, MHSA Sr. Manager          Dan Hicks, Manager, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention          Cari Kawell, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention          Greg Bergan, MHSA          Katie Stefl, MHSA          Joanna Peterson, VCBH Admin &amp; Zoom Engineer          Facundo Alvarez, Interpreter, Homeland Language Services</p> <p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b>  <b>Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.</b></p>
<p><b>Others Present</b></p>	<p>Ventura County Behavioral Health - 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036</p>
<p>None.</p>	<p><b>Zoom link:</b></p> <p><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85118862194?pwd=ZmwwRVQ1cDNRY2pFQ1kwHA3Y0VvUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85118862194?pwd=ZmwwRVQ1cDNRY2pFQ1kwHA3Y0VvUT09</a></p> <p><b>Meeting ID:</b> 851 1886 2194  <b>Password:</b> 332632  <b>Dial-in:</b> 669 900 9128</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.	<p><b>Call to Order - Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)</b>            Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.            Chair Gardner welcomed everyone. Joanna Peterson, Zoom Engineer, read the Meeting instructions.            Roll call was completed by Chair Gardner.</p>		
II.	<p><b>Approval of the Agenda</b>            Ms. Gardner asked the Committee to review and approve the March 8, 2022, agenda. The motion carried unanimously through roll call.</p>	<p>The agenda was approved as written.  <b>M/S/C</b></p>	<p><b>Motion: Liz Warren</b>  <b>Second: Claudia Armann</b></p>
III.	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes</b>            Ms. Gardner asked the committee to review and approve the minutes of the January 11, 2022, meeting.</p>	<p>The minutes were approved as written.  <b>M/S/C</b></p>	<p><b>Motion: Claudia Armann</b>  <b>Second: Liz Warren</b></p>
IV.	<p><b>Chair Announcements</b>            Chair Gardner shared the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved two agenda items which are of interest to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board and may affect the BHAB Prevention Committee and its efforts. The first item is to direct and advise the Ventura County Healthcare Agency to perform a comprehensive needs assessment of the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care Delivery System of individuals who are experiencing severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders. This was brought to the Board by Dr. Sevet Johnson. The second item is the authorization of VCBH to sign and participate in the agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authorization Cal-Mesa for peer support specialist certification services in the amount of \$0, effective January 2022 and for authorization of the VCBH Director to sign</li> </ul>		

IV.	<p><b>Chair Announcements (continued)</b> full amendments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to an analysis of U.S. National Government data, nationally between 2020 and 2021, nearly 79,000 people between the ages of 18 and 45 died of Fentanyl overdoses.</li> <li>• In 2021, it was recorded that 41,587 people from 18 to 45 died from Fentanyl overdoses.</li> <li>• Last month, during the Prevention Committee report, Chair Gardner reported on the Ventura County Medical Director’s information about Fentanyl overdoses in Ventura County.</li> </ul>		
V.	<p><b>Public Comments</b> None.</p>		
VI.	<p><b>BHAB Prevention Committee Member Comments</b> Elizabeth R. Stone shared that part of her responsibilities are doing outreach for people that are experiencing homelessness. She is in partnership with some downtown City of Ventura partners. Recently, Ms. Stone received a call to meet someone for whom she was able to provide peer support perspectives. This 2<sup>nd</sup> generation homeless individual had graduated with an associate degree and was in an online Bachelors’ program. Ms. Stone along with the assistance of the Ventura partners were able to help this person take an airplane to fly to their school location to be able to attend in person. By giving this helpful support, the cycle of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation homelessness was successfully broken.</p>		
VII.	<p><b>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Updates</b></p> <p>A. Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky, MHSA Sr. Manager, spoke about a recent webinar that they had a few weeks ago on the topic of stress and coping. This webinar was recorded and uploaded to the <a href="http://www.wellnesseveryday.org/videos">www.wellnesseveryday.org/videos</a> website along with other videos from the “Suicide Forum.”</p> <p>“May is Mental Health Awareness Month” during which MHSA will be conducting community outreaches with Esperanza Mata, MHSA Outreach Coordinator, to gather information from the “Each Mind Matters” campaign. MHSA will also be hosting a few webinars. More information can be requested at <a href="mailto:mhsa@ventura.org">mhsa@ventura.org</a></p> <p>B. Greg Bergan, MHSA Program Administrator, mentioned that PEI is going through programs that are funded by MHSA are going through contract season reviewing Scopes of Work for FY 2022-23.</p> <p>The MHSSA grant which puts Wellness Centers into the Ventura County Schools might provide an opportunity to receive some enhancements and additional funding. They are currently working to bring additional Wellness Centers to Ventura County. The feedback has been fantastic and many of the School Districts have asked how they could get involved. MHSA is not yet certain because they haven’t had confirmation from the State of California, but they may be able to add an additional clinician for the students and a CSC to each Wellness Center.</p> <p>C. Dan Hicks, Manager – SUS Prevention shared the following:</p> <p>The Suicide Prevention Campaign that ran between December 15, 2021, and January 15, 2022, had great exposure and impressions. The Director recently shared a PowerPoint slide with the full BHAB emphasizing the links between substance use and suicide. Our recent campaign was across Broadcast TV, streaming video, and targeted website ads.</p> <p>The Overdose Prevention Program continues to expand and there are now more than 1623 documented overdose reversals to date since inception in 2014. The OD Program has brought hundreds of Ventura County residents’ closer to the they need. Mr. Hicks gave thanks to the willingness of local organizations to come up with creative solutions to keep carrying the message of Overdose Prevention &amp; Response in positive ways.</p> <p>In late 2014, when SUS - Prevention Services started their Overdose Prevention efforts using Naloxone, there were 6 sites across Ventura County where people at elevated risk of overdose could access Naloxone. Now there are 52 active distribution sites, and they are continuing to build that out.</p> <p>Thru the SUS – Prevention Services collaboration with Logrando Bienestar, the Prevention Fentanyl awareness campaign materials associated with the “Fentanyl is “Forever” campaign are being shared across Ventura County. Fentanyl can be found in almost every illicit drug available. For more information, please visit: <a href="http://www.fentanylventuracounty.org">www.fentanylventuracounty.org</a></p> <p>Group discussion was held regarding the Ventura County misconceptions on social media about Naloxone being used as a “safety net” when drug users overdose. Mr. Hicks mentioned that this was a good opportunity for the community to discuss the risks around Naloxone and overdose prevention.</p>		

VII.	<p><b>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Updates (continued)</b></p> <p>Naloxone is being distributed by all the VCBH SUS – Mental Health sites and Naloxone distribution sites. For a list of the 52 Naloxone Distribution sites, please visit: <a href="http://www.venturacountyresponds.org">www.venturacountyresponds.org</a></p>		
VIII.	<p><b>Time Certain Presentation</b> – Katherine Gross, Coalition Coordinator, Saving Lives Camarillo (SLC), gave a presentation called, “<i>CADCA Forum and Coalition Updates</i>” that included the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Gross recently attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Forum and participated in multiple educational sessions that included: “<i>Combating Trends</i>” and “<i>Data Walk</i>” which helped her understand how important it is to pay attention to what is going on within the local community to address specific topics such as Fentanyl use for effective prevention efforts.</li> <li>• Saving Lives Camarillo is a diverse group of people who focus on reducing underage drinking and drug use within the Camarillo Community through education, campaigns, and programs.</li> <li>• Youth marijuana and vaping use are a continued problem in the Camarillo Community.</li> <li>• THC Zero, also known as THC acetate, is a synthetic marijuana that is nearly 300x as powerful as the THC in non-synthetic marijuana. This synthetic substance is lethal and not plant based.</li> <li>• Ms. Gross also mentioned that at the CADCA Forum, she learned about training their SLC Staff and Volunteers about how to help them become leaders before they’re able to be in leadership.</li> <li>• SLC is working on creating student internships and having their volunteers do research, and, in turn, they’re creating social media posts for SLC including PowerPoints and presentations, allowing them to learn and help the community while gaining valuable work experience.</li> <li>• SLC representatives were able to speak with some members of Congress and U.S. Senate – from California, including two of the representatives from Diane Feinstein’s office. SLC had several parents represent California and talk about their experiences with Fentanyl and unexpectedly losing their children to overdoses with this drug. Several youths spoke with Senators about substances and how they can be affected by them, and their request the more resources for mental health awareness.</li> <li>• SLC has a program in schools called, “<i>A Quiet Moment,</i>” where they teach students how to focus on their values to gain coping skills. Students talk with parents and then go into their classroom and for the 1<sup>st</sup> minute of the day, the teacher has the class stay quiet, so they all can reflect on what is important to them; taking a moment to reflect on what is meaningful to them.</li> <li>• SLC also has a door hanger and Rx lockbox campaign that focuses on safe medicine disposal and storage. SLC also has a sticker campaign at local Camarillo pharmacy called “<i>The Medicine Shoppe</i>” where a sticker is placed on the outside of prescription bags and a plastic card inserted inside to remind the public of safe medicine disposal.</li> <li>• For more information, please contact Katherine Gross, SLC at: <a href="mailto:communitydirector@savinglivescamarillo.net">communitydirector@savinglivescamarillo.net</a></li> </ul>		
IX.	<p><b>Provider and Stakeholder Comments</b></p> <p>A. Gabe Teran, VCOE, mentioned that currently it is a very busy time of year for VCOE as they are having a number of upcoming conferences for students including: the last week of February 2022 – the Tobacco Use Prevention Education virtual conference (1763 registrants) called, “<i>Teens Kick Ash</i>” – the theme is “gaslighting” giving participants an opportunity to look at how the tobacco industry historically and the vaping industry has currently potentially “gaslit” the youth of various generations into utilizing their products - possibly taking the responsibility of using tobacco and vaping off of the Industry and instead putting it on individuals and generations; the other upcoming live virtual conference on March 19, 2022, is the, “<i>Friday Night Live Youth Leadership Conference.</i>” This conference focuses on looking at the bright side of things and maintaining a positive mindset as our Ventura County community comes out of COVID to help with understanding that we can be aware of challenges and get positive lessons from them. This conference is planned by youth and their adult allies who participate in the Friday Night Live program. They’ve been working since Autumn 2021 to put this conference together.</p>		
X.	<p><b>VCBH Contracts Review</b></p> <p>Chair Gardner invited the group to discuss the application for the Substance Abuse Prevention &amp; Treatment Block Grant supplemental funding which include discretionary allocation Friday Night Live set-aside funding; pre-natal set-aside funding; primary prevention set-aside funding; and recovery housing support set-aside funding. VCBH will develop and expand Fentanyl awareness efforts and direct outreach activities to prevent drug overdose, acquire software by partnering with substance use disorders to purchase equipment for community prevention pop-up events and more.</p>		

<p><b>X.</b></p>	<p><b>VCBH Contracts Review (continued)</b>  Chair Gardner also mentioned a couple contracts that were more treatment oriented including the 3<sup>rd</sup> amendment to the agreement for the narcotic treatment program Drug Medi-Cal services with Aegis for outpatient services for patients addicted to addiction treatment; and, the DMC-ODS services Health Right which is going to provide 3 levels of residential treatment services and 1 level of withdrawal management treatment services for women and their children.</p> <p>Additional group discussion was held.</p>		
<p><b>XI.</b></p>	<p><b>Old Business</b>  n/a</p>		
<p><b>XII.</b></p>	<p><b>New Business</b>  Chair Gardner invited attendees to give ideas for future presentations – it was proposed that a possible topic could be an update on what the health navigators are doing in emergency departments when people overdose and what they’re doing to link them to services.</p>		
<p><b>XIII.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b>  The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.</p>		