

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (BHAB)

PREVENTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES - Tuesday, November 8, 2022

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| Members Present Janis Gardner, Chair BHAB Prevention Committee Claudia Armann, BHAB Member Patricia Mowlavi, BHAB Member Alejandra Valencia, IDEA Engineering Mark Stadler, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Ratan (Nina) Bhavnani, NAMI Volunteer Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) | Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers/Staff Present Dan Hicks, Manager, SUS Prevention Greg Bergan, MHSA Joanna Peterson, VCBH Administration & Zoom Engineer Lorena Suarez, Interpreter, Homeland Language Services |
| Others Present Carmen Wyttenbach, Human Services Agency, APS Connor Kubeisy, Simi Valley Resident Gail C. Parker, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Administration, Operations | Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. 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 |
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| I. | Call to Order - Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call) Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Chair Gardner welcomed everyone. Joanna Peterson, Zoom Engineer, read the Meeting instructions. Roll call was completed by Chair Gardner. | | |
| II. | Approval of the Agenda Ms. Gardner asked the Committee to review and approve the November 8, 2022, agenda. The agenda was approved as written. | The agenda was approved as written. M/S/C | Motion: Claudia Armann Second: Scott Walker |
| III. | Approval of the Minutes Ms. Gardner asked members to review and approve the minutes of the September 14, 2022, meeting. The Minutes were approved as written. | The minutes were approved as written. M/S/C | Motion: Scott Walker Second: Claudia Armann |
| IV. | Chair Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) community planning process is beginning. There are several in-person meetings for the community to express their thoughts and concerns about mental health. The first meeting is in Oxnard at the Oxnard School District building on November 29th from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The address is 1051 South A Street. The second meeting will be held in Santa Paula on November 30th from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center located at 530 West Main Street. These meetings will also be held online. To register, please visit: www.wellnesseveryday.org/mhsa-planning Ventura County has put in an offer for a stand-alone building in Moorpark located at 145 Park Lane off Los Angeles Avenue. This will be for the East County CSU. As a member of the community, to support this effort, feel free to attend any of the Moorpark City Council meetings. The City of Thousand Oaks (T.O.) has settled on a developer to build 59 affordable town homes at the former site of the Hillcrest Christian School. In Moorpark, a 60-unit condominium development has finally been greenlighted by the city. Moorpark Mayor Janice Parvin said that 15% of the units will be affordable housing. Regarding Suicide Prevention, Caltrans has drawn up plans for an arched fence to be built on the freeway at the intersection of the 23 and the 118 where there have been multiple suicide events. The California Transportation Commission will be funding this metal arched bridge fencing. Chair Gardner later mentioned that all the BHAB meetings are in both Spanish and English. Chair Gardner thanked Lorena Suarez, Interpreter, for participating the November 8th, BHAB PC Meeting. | | |

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| V. | <p>Public Comments Connor Kubeisy, Simi Valley Resident, asked if he could apply to be a Prevention Committee member. BHAB PC Chair Gardner, and Dan Hicks, SUS Prevention Manager, shared the application process.</p> | | |
| VI. | <p>BHAB Prevention Committee Member Comments None.</p> | | |
| VII. | <p>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Updates</p> <p>A. Greg Bergan, MHSA Program Administrator, announced that there is a new member to the MHSA team who starts at the end of November. This new position is for a Suicide Prevention Program Administrator/Coordinator who will lead the bi-monthly Suicide Prevention Council and the Suicide Prevention Sub-Committee Team. This individual will cover all things related to VCBH MHSA Suicide Prevention efforts. The Suicide Prevention Sub-Committee objective is to create a Ventura Countywide Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Mr. Bergan thanked Chair Gardner for mentioning the upcoming MHSA Community Planning Process Meetings which are stated above in <i>“Section IV. – Chair Announcements.”</i> For questions or to register by email, please visit: mhsa@ventura.org</p> <p>B. Dan Hicks, Manager, SUS Prevention, gave updates that began with a screenshare recognizing Kathy Mulford. Ms. Mulford recently retired at the end of October 2022 from VCBH as the acting Substance Use Services (SUS) Division Chief and Sr. BH SUS Manager for who retired after 30+ years of public service with the County of Ventura. Her many contributions included key roles in leading the DUI program, the SUS Division, and many important advances in substance use disorder care within the Behavioral Health Department. During COVID- 19 for many months, Ms. Mulford also led a major vaccination clinic in Oxnard. She went on to become acting Division Chief for Substance Use Services until her retirement.</p> <p>Mr. Hicks announced the new SUS Division Chief, Raina West, from Humboldt County who brings a wealth of experience with Substance Use Services and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).</p> <p>Mr. Hicks screen-shared the recent media focus on a young person on school grounds during school hours in Los Angeles-and the related discussions about rainbow Fentanyl and pressed pills.</p> <p>Mr. Hicks wanted the Prevention Committee to know that SUS Prevention put together and successfully launched the first in a series of meetings on November 1st a <i>“Fentanyl Strategies for Schools”</i> that includes an Overdose Prevention program with Naloxone as a part of the institutional Overdose Rescue Kit program. Twenty-eight people attended with very strong representation from area school districts.</p> <p>Mr. Hicks screen-shared a key document that explains to schools what is required to get them through the process of being able to have Naloxone on campuses. Naloxone like other public-serving agents such as AEDs, First Aid Kits or EpiPens is very important to have on-hand. People need to understand how to identify the medical crisis and respond effectively.</p> <p>VCBH SUS Prevention has an Overdose Prevention Program which is an education and prevention program that also distributes Naloxone. However, this program is not a saturation model that can accommodate getting large amounts of Naloxone out on the street, distributed to anyone for free.</p> <p>With the demand from schools and other youth-serving organizations being so strong in recent weeks, it was very good timing for the media to highlight this topic.</p> <p>The CA Department of Public Health has an almost real-time way of getting a standing order that works for schools and makes sure that policy is set-up and that the school is in the position to have a policy enacted.</p> <p>SUS Prevention is working with District Representatives to figure out how to tailor to their needs based on a “discovery call” talk with them about their staff. This is the one place within the SUS Prevention OD Prevention Program that is a “Train the Trainer” model under Ed Code and CA State Law. Licensed professionals within the school are the ones who get trained and then train staff at school sites.</p> <p>So far, there are 6 districts lined-up that have completed the training. At the November 1st meeting, Lisa Wyrick, an Oxnard Union High School District nurse, was a panelist along with Ashley Nettles, SUS Prevention OD Program staff, helped attendees understand the process of training first and,</p> | | |

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| <p>VII.</p> | <p>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Updates (continued)</p> <p>Naloxone second. Ms. Wyrick and Ms. Nettles focused on getting people through the training process and understanding how they take responsibility for making sure people know how to respond to an overdose event to keep people alive. Naloxone is so important in helping with overdose response.</p> <p>Mr. Hicks made sure that the BHAB Prevention Committee was aware that SUS – Prevention keeps the OD Prevention Program going systematically so it is sustainable, helping Ventura County schools be in a very strong position to recognize and respond effectively to overdose.</p> <p>Chair Gardner asked if there was school participation in East County Ventura. Mr. Hicks stated that there was absolutely and that including but not limited to administration and health staff from Moorpark, Conejo Valley and Pleasant Valley School Districts.</p> <p>The early adopter for the biggest District is Oxnard Union High School District with their High Schools and health staff. They have already taken delivery of their rescue kits.</p> <p>There is representation from across the County from Ojai to Conejo. The Breakthrough Assistance Program at Conejo Valley Unified School District shared a set of anecdotes about why this is timely and important. There is also representation from the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office and Ventura Unified School District in terms of school resource officers.</p> <p>In addition, Redleaf Resources is a training and technical assistance provider on school-based services student assistance programs using BRRIM – a Brief Intervention approach. Discussion was had not only about being opioid-aware and prepared from a staff and parent standpoint, but how to be overdose <i>response ready</i>. Also discussed at the recent meeting was Postvention and how it’s important to engage with the student after the immediate crisis is over.</p> | | |
| <p>VIII.</p> | <p>Time Certain Presentation – 3:45 p.m. – Mark Stadler, CIT Sr. Program Administrator & Scott Walker, CIT Program Administrator presented, <i>“Ventura County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT): Education, Prevention, Intervention & Collaboration” (20 minutes)</i></p> <p>Mark Stadler, CIT Sr. Program Administrator began by sharing a screen image that illustrated CIT’s collaboration in Ventura County since its inception almost 22 years ago. The main Law Enforcement Agencies that CIT works with include the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office, the Ventura Police Department (PD), Oxnard PD, Port Hueneme PD, Santa Paula PD, Simi Valley PD as well as Ventura County Behavioral Health.</p> <p>Ventura County is the only County in the State of California that has a wide variety of Law Enforcement Agencies participating in the same Crisis Intervention Program.</p> <p>CIT also collaborates with the Naval Base in Ventura County, in addition to training County Fire and Ambulance personnel, CSU Channel Islands, Ventura County Community College District and the FBI – every Law Enforcement Agency that has a presence in Ventura County.</p> <p>The CIT Program started in Memphis, TN, in 1988 as a combination of the Memphis Police Department, the University of Memphis and NAMI - Memphis. They went through a series of officer involved shootings and recognized that there had to be a better way of handling mental health crisis calls without resulting in injuries to officers where the person in crisis ends up going to jail and instead would get them the help that they need.</p> <p>In late 1999, Ventura County also had a series of Law Enforcement Officer shootings. Ventura County Law Enforcement leaders came to the same conclusion – that there had to be a better way. Researchers were sent out to find a solution and the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) was discovered.</p> <p>Factors impacting the Ventura County Community were the closure of the State Hospital, the good weather in California and community services that draw a lot of homeless and mentally ill to Ventura County. This creates a greater impact on emergency services within the County.</p> <p>Mr. Stadler mentioned officer involved shootings that can result in lawsuits and impact Law Enforcement (L.E.) Officers with post-traumatic stress and related traumas.</p> <p>When the research was done to find CIT, they realized that this is one that could work for Ventura County because officers were given additional skills because they didn’t just handle full time mental health calls but could also handle regular service calls between other mental health calls.</p> | | |

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| VIII. | <p>Time Certain Presentation (continued)</p> <p>The CIT Program Mission Statement is to develop partnerships with mental health consumers and their family members and other agencies and organizations. CIT Officers will respond to individuals who are in crisis because of a mental health disorder and shall assess and assist those individuals in the most effective and compassionate manner possible.</p> <p>Some goals of the CIT Program include de-escalating crisis situations and the necessity for the use of force, reduce the use of jail, decrease recidivism, and facilitate the empowerment of mentally ill individuals by increasing their lawful self-reliance and health-enhancing behaviors.</p> <p>When a 911 call comes in, the best person to respond to a mental health crisis is a firefighter, a paramedic, a mental health worker or a police officer. The reality is that Law Enforcement is out on the street 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so it makes sense that they are CIT trained.</p> <p>Scott Walker, CIT Program Administrator added some CIT statistics that included sharing that 5% of 911 calls during a particular 1-year period that were handled by an in-field deputy officer requested a Crisis Team person to come assist and relieve them of the situation. This low % was of concern to the Crisis Team. They advised that this was because of very low staffing. The following year which was at full staffing showed that their workload more than doubled and increased the number to 12% of the time a Crisis Team member was called for support.</p> <p>CIT continues to train more L.E. officers with their knowledge to keep up with demand.</p> | | |
| IX. | <p>Provider and Stakeholder Comments</p> <p>None.</p> | | |
| X. | <p>VCBH Contracts Review</p> <p>Chair Gardner invited meeting participants to comment on the latest contracts that were shared with them. No comments were made.</p> | | |
| XI. | <p>Old Business</p> <p>n/a</p> | | |
| XII. | <p>New Business</p> <p>Chair Gardner invited the BHAB PC Meeting providers and contractors to make presentations for the January 10th BHAB PC Meeting and asked all to email her ideas at: janis@panacea-ent.com</p> <p>No additional comments were made by the meeting attendees.</p> | | |
| XIII. | <p>Adjourn</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.</p> | | |

Ventura County Behavioral Health
Board Letter Summary of Contracts for September 2022

| Board Date | Contractor | Amount | Term | Description |
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| 9/13/2022 | California Health and Human Services Agency | \$0 | Effective January 31, 2023 | Data Sharing Agreement with the California Health and Human Services Agency. The California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program (BHQIP) is a California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) incentive payment program to support Mental Health Plans (MHP), Managed Care Plans (MCP), Drug Medi-Cal State Plans (DMC), and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery Systems (DMC-ODS) to prepare for changes to the delivery and payment of mental health and related services as part of the implementation of the CalAIM initiative and other Newsom Administration priorities. Under the CalAIM BHQIP, VCBH is eligible for a portion of the incentive payments provided that VCBH achieves certain milestones related to its ability to exchange client and patient data for the implementation of CalAIM. In order to receive 100% of the available CalAIM BHQIP incentive funds, VCBH must demonstrate that it has begun to improve its data exchange capabilities by September 30, 2022, specifically by preparing and executing a data sharing agreement that commits VCBH to sharing certain records and information through an electronic health record system that meets certain operability standards. In recent communication with DHCS regarding how to fulfill the requirements of this milestone, DHCS informed VCBH that it must specifically sign the Data Exchange Framework DSA established by CalHHS. The Data Exchange Framework DSA was developed by CalHHS, DHCS, and other stakeholders in response to state legislation requiring, among other things, improved data exchange between MHPs, MCPs, DMCs, and DMC-ODSs. The DSA is intended to facilitate data exchange between the participants in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local health privacy laws and regulations, including but not limited to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), federal law governing the confidentiality of substance use disorder records, and Welfare and Institutions Code section 5328. The goal is to prepare a single data sharing agreement that establishes a common set of policies and procedures that governs the exchange of health information among California MHPs, MCPs, DMCs, and DMC-ODSs for the implementation of CalAIM. There is no fiscal impact for this Agreement. |
| 9/20/2022 | DHCS | \$0 | July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027 | Standard Agreement with DHCS for the Provision of Specialty Mental Health Services to Medi-Cal Beneficiaries. VCBH is designated as Ventura County's local mental health plan (MHP) administrator by DHCS and is responsible for providing or arranging for the provision of specialty mental health services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries in Ventura County. The Standard Agreement with DHCS specifies the federal and state requirements that VCBH must meet to participate as a MHP and be reimbursed for all medically necessary covered services provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The Standard Agreement includes terms and conditions related to: (1) scope of services, (2) financial requirements, (3) management information systems, (4) quality improvement system, (5) utilization management program, (6) access and availability of resources, (7) provider network, (8) documentation requirements, (9) coordination of continuity of care, (10) information requirements, (11) beneficiary problem resolution, (12) program integrity, (13) reporting requirements, (14) peer support services, (15) budget and payment provisions, and (16) other general terms and conditions related to the services. New terms and conditions incorporated into the Standard Agreement include: (1) criteria for beneficiaries to access specialty mental health services, (2) provisions and guidelines for the delivery of Medi-Cal peer support services, (3) MEDSLITE Access account and data management requirements, and (4) additional electronic and IT accessibility non-discrimination requirements. There is no change to the amount of the Standard Agreement; it remains at zero dollars. DHCS determined that this amount made the most sense because the funding that is used to pay for specialty mental health services flows through different payment mechanisms (realignment distributions and estimated total cost of the Federal Financial Participation); the Standard Agreement is not the method by which those funds are paid to counties. In addition, the zero dollar amount eliminates the need for future amendments to change funding amounts based on actual or estimated expenditures. There is no fiscal impact for this Agreement. |
| 9/20/2022 | Dennis M. Giroux & Associates, Inc. (DMG) | \$466,924 | July 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023 | Eighth Amendment to the Agreement with DMG for the Provision of DMC-ODS Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services. DMG provides outpatient DMC-ODS SUD treatment services to adults involved in the criminal justice system at various locations in Ventura County, including Oxnard, Ventura, and the Todd Road County Jail as well as in the Juvenile Justice Facility. DMG is also completing contingency management pilot program start up services for VCBH for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with stimulant use disorder. DMG uses the following evidence-based practices: matrix, seeking safety, and moral reconnection therapy. In April 2022, VCBH conducted a site review audit of DMG to review their FY 2021-22 program, utilization review, fiscal, staffing, and physical plant operations. The site review process, designed to ensure that DMG is in compliance with the requirements specified in the contract and all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations, resulted DMG being issued a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) that identified various issues that require remediation. Because of these issues, VCBH limited its FY 2022-23 extension of its contract with DMG to a three-month term, specifically July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022, pending review and finalization of the site review audit CAP. VCBH requires additional time to complete its review and finalize the DMG site review audit CAP process. The Eighth Amendment extends the agreement with DMG at existing terms for an additional four months ending January 31, 2023 and increases the maximum agreement amount accordingly to allow VCBH to complete its review and audit process. This agreement is funded by Drug Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (DMC FFP), Realignment, AB 109 funds and DHCS BHQIP funds. |