

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (BHAB)
PREVENTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES - Tuesday, September 13, 2022**

<p>Members Present</p> <p>Janis Gardner, Chair BHAB Prevention Committee Claudia Z. Armann, BHAB Member Elizabeth R. Stone, BHAB Member Liz Warren, BHAB Member & The Client Network Patricia Mowlavi, BHAB Member Katherine Kasmir, BRITE Youth Melissa Hannah, United Parents Mark Stadler, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Ratan Bhavnani, NAMI Volunteer Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)</p>	<p>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers/Staff Present</p> <p>Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Sr. Manager Annastasia Flores, SUS DUI Manager Dan Hicks, Manager, SUS Prevention Sheila Murphy, SUS Prevention Cari Kawell, SUS Prevention Greg Bergan, MHSA Patricia Alamillo, VCBH Administration & Zoom Engineer</p> <p>Lorena Suarez, Interpreter, Homeland Language Services</p> <p>NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. Ventura County Behavioral Health - 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036</p> <p>Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85118862194?pwd=ZmwwRVQ1cDNRY2pFQ1kwCHA3Y0VvUT09 Meeting ID: 851 1886 2194 Password: 332632 Dial-in: 669 900 9128</p>
<p>Others Present</p> <p>Connor Kubeisy Jeanne Spencer, IDEA Engineering</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>Call to Order - Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call) Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m. Chair Gardner welcomed everyone. Patricia Alamillo, Zoom Engineer, read the Meeting instructions. Roll call was completed by Chair Gardner.</p>		
II.	<p>Approval of the Agenda Ms. Gardner asked the Committee to review and approve the September 14, 2022, agenda. Agenda was approved as written.</p>	<p>The agenda was approved as written. M/S/C</p>	<p>Motion: Claudia Armann Second: Liz Warren</p>
III.	<p>Approval of the Minutes Ms. Gardner asked members to review and approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022, meeting. Minutes were approved with one request: Moving forward, please add "BHAB Member" next to Liz Warren's name.</p>	<p>The minutes were approved as written with a request. M/S/C</p>	<p>Motion: Liz Warren Second: Claudia Armann</p>
IV.	<p>Chair Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved the week of September 18 – 24, as "Fall Prevention Awareness Week" in Ventura County. There is a Suicide Prevention Forum on Wednesday, September 21 beginning at 9:30 a.m. entitled, "Preventing Suicide – Connection & Community" – Registration is free. The event will be held at Ventura College. The virtual Suicide Prevention Forum will be held on Thursday, September 29. Governor Newsom has announced that nearly \$700 million has been introduced in grants for 19 communities across California. The City of Thousand Oaks will receive \$27 million in State Funding from Project Homekey and will use these funds to help 2 private investors buy the 40-year-old Quality Inn & Suites Motel on Hillcrest Drive. The City of Thousand Oaks will turn the Quality Inn & Suites Motel into an apartment complex where individuals will pay a reduced rent where tenants can receive services like substance abuse counselling and job placements. There is no time limit on how long a person can stay. The 2nd part of the City of Thousand Oaks' 2-pronged approach is to find another site location for an emergency shelter. 		

V.	<p>Public Comments Liz Warren, BHAB Member/The Client Network asked Katherine Kasmir, BRITE for more clarification and information about the BRITE/VCBH video studio.</p>		
VI.	<p>BHAB Prevention Committee Member Comments None.</p>		
VII.	<p>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Updates</p> <p>A. Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky, MHSA Sr. Manager, thanked Chair Gardner for mentioning the Suicide Prevention Forum and introduced Greg Bergan, MHSA Program Administrator who gave MHSA updates.</p> <p>B. Greg Bergan, MHSA Program Administrator, thanked Chair Gardner for mentioning the 7th Annual MHSA Suicide Prevention Forum entitled, <i>“Preventing Suicide Connections & Community”</i> which will be held on Wednesday, September 21st. It is an in-person event and registrations are full. A stand-by list is available.</p> <p>The 7th Annual Suicide Prevention Forum will also be held virtually on Thursday, September 29th from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Registration is open for this event. More information can be found at: www.wellnesseveryday.org</p> <p>The MHSA community planning process continues and the results from the community health needs assessment will be reviewed at the end of November. There will be more information to follow once this information is gathered and assessed.</p> <p>C. Dan Hicks, Manager – SUS Prevention gave updates that included:</p> <p>Prevention Services has been extremely busy with its community outreach efforts. They’ve been to more than 50 community events over the last several months. The focus has been on Overdose Prevention and Awareness.</p> <p>August 31st was International Overdose Awareness Day. As a result, there has been media coverage not only nationally and regionally, but also locally.</p> <p>Ventura County has seen an increase in Fentanyl overdose deaths. Between 2020 and 2021, Ventura County went from 87 Fentanyl-involved ODs to 164 Fentanyl-involved overdoses. This is an 88.5% in a single year. Given the trends of Fentanyl use and availability and the limits of interdiction it is expected that there will be more overdoses, however, working together, we also expect to see more reversals.</p> <p>To date, Ventura County’s lay Naloxone program with overdose education has distributed 7523 overdose rescue kits. In addition, there have been 2023 overdose reversals documented locally since program inception.</p> <p>Over the next several months there will be even more expanded media and community outreach campaign efforts, looking at fake pills as a real danger. Many pressed pills include Fentanyl but may not be labelled as such and they are really wreaking havoc. People are thinking they are getting street stimulants or Xanax but are instead receiving potentially lethal doses of Fentanyl.</p> <p>For more information, on overdose and overdose prevention, please visit: www.venturacountyresponds.org</p> <p>Enhanced messaging will be on GoldCoast Transit both inside and outside of their buses across Ventura County. SUS Prevention will be featured with other transportation companies for additional messaging which will include radio in both Spanish and English.</p> <p>There will be a variety of Fentanyl direct messaging through convenience stores, laundromats, barber shops and other channels to get the word out to help increase the perception of harm and bring people closer to available care.</p>		
VIII.	<p>Time Certain Presentation – Commander James Fryhoff, Ventura County Sheriff’s Office presented, <i>“Sheriff’s Office Prevention Efforts Overview”</i> which included the following: Commander Fryhoff began by sharing that when people end up in jail because they’ve committed offenses, and if there is substance abuse, they need to be alive to get treatment.</p> <p>In 1998, Commander Fryhoff worked at The Honor Farm. When substance abuse was defined back then, it was the frequency and number of times that a person would need to try it and try recovery. People fail out of recovery numerous times. People need to be prepared for what multiple failures look like and to know what additional resources need to be provided and how long people can be kept alive, so they have a better chance of really wanting the treatment.</p>		

<p>VIII.</p>	<p>Time Certain Presentation (continued)</p> <p>Jails are different than they used to be. It has become more of a prison than a county jail system because of the realignment with the nonviolent, nonserious, and non-sexual (“non, non, nons”) offenders who are doing jail time locally instead of going to prison. There are now people doing multiple years in custody which at some point will fill up the Ventura County Jail which is already to the point where if somebody is arrested for just being “under the influence” they’re not filing charges on them for that charge. They’re released again and they go right back to the same cycle of “using” again. It used to be that the jail could do 30/60/90 days of incarceration. There were more people seeking treatment than they do now.</p> <p>All kinds of drugs now are mixed with Fentanyl. It is no longer just an opiate problem. Youth need to be educated to not start down the disastrous path of drug usage that can kill with one use.</p> <p>Ventura County patrol deputies carry Naloxone for overdose reversals. Naloxone is in the jail sections where the inmates are housed so that inmates can self-rescue before officers get there so that there’s not a delay in response. Videos are being offered on how to self-rescue one another.</p> <p>Amnesty Boxes are in the jails. People come to jails, and some are hiding drugs when they get arrested. They don’t want to get charged with it. The purpose of the Amnesty Boxes is to get to a point of a booking facility where there is a last opportunity to not get charged for bringing drugs into the jail. Surrender the drugs and inmates will not be charged. There has been great success with people surrendering narcotics. This also helps greatly reduce potential overdoses within the jail facility.</p> <p>Commander Fryhoff made reference to programs throughout Ventura County which include, “<i>Stand Proud</i>” which helps to reduce bullying that goes on in the middle school environment; it helps student self-esteem and reduces desire for self-harm.</p> <p>Another program that Commander Fryhoff would like to see emulated throughout Ventura County is called, “<i>Safe Passage.</i>” This program limits gang membership and targets young kids who were growing up in gang neighborhoods. TOPD partnered with Cal-Lutheran University and the Conejo Valley Park District to provide tutors and resources to get youth to and from school. It also provided them with technology assistance. Fortunately, these components were in place before the COVID pandemic, so these kids had a way to continue their education.</p> <p>The Ventura County jail system was built to hold people for 1 year. They are now housing people up to 10 years – those who normally would have gone to prison, but now because the CA State Prison System sent them to County jails on the “non-non-nons” program, inmates are now doing much longer sentences than ever before at the County-level.</p> <p>Another program that was implemented in the past was the “<i>Social Host</i>” program. This program wasn’t taken from a criminal perspective in that people were facing jail time, instead it was done as a civil assessment to teach parents that you can’t host underage house parties. You will be fined \$2500 for the 1st offense, \$3500 for the 2nd offense and \$5000 for the 3rd offense.</p>		
<p>IX.</p>	<p>Provider and Stakeholder Comments</p> <p>A. Katherine Kasmir, Executive Director, BRITE, shared that the new school year has been great with schools calling to coordinate with BRITE to educate students and parents. The Wellness Centers have been a great addition to providing space for these workshops.</p> <p>A Reality Party for Parents is scheduled for Saturday, December 10, in the Thousand Oaks area to help get the word out about the Social Host Ordinances. As opioid use has become more of a factor in Ventura County, the educational content of the BRITE Reality Parties has changed.</p> <p>Ms. Kasmir mentioned that the Reality Parties have been held in Thousand Oaks, but BRITE would like to have the events also take place in other cities within Ventura County.</p> <p>The VCBH video studio that is housed in the BRITE office is up and running. This studio is available for VCBH and community partners who are assisting with staffing and support. For those who would like to do video messaging around Prevention, BRITE would consider hosting in the studio with VCBH authorization.</p> <p>Additional questions were posed by Liz Warren, BHAB Member & The Client Network to Katherine Kasmir, BRITE regarding more clarification on the BRITE/VCBH video studio.</p> <p>Ms. Kasmir asked Dan Hicks, VCBH SUS - Prevention to speak about the BRITE/VCBH video studio.</p> <p>Mr. Hicks added that the medium is part of the message and that to effectively communicate,</p>		

IX.	Provider and Stakeholder Comments (continued)		
	<p>having digital access and the capacity to make messaging is crucial. Supplemental funds were available to make a space in collaboration with BRITE and others so that there could be enhanced local capacity. There are limitations, rules, and restrictions to using the studio, but, if VCBH Prevention messaging needs to be created either by video or audio, it might be possible to use the BRITE studio managed by Ms. Kasmir.</p> <p>For more information, please contact: info@BRITEyouth.org</p> <p>B. Melissa Hannah, United Parents, provided the following updates: United Parents recently moved to a new location in Camarillo behind Wood Ranch BBQ. An open house/meet & greet will be held at the new, smaller location on Tuesday, September 20th from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. There will be a raffle and a resource area for participants to exchange information or bring promotional/educational materials.</p> <p>United Parents has begun participating in more in-person community events around Ventura County to promote their services and network with VC residents.</p> <p>United Parents will be participating in the Suicide Prevention Forum on Wednesday, September 21 and will provide childcare. They also will be participating in the Suicide Prevention Walk on Saturday, September 17th.</p> <p>United Parents will continue to provide their Zoom parent/caregiver support groups on the 3rd Wednesday of every month in both English & Spanish at separate times. They will try to host these in-person soon.</p> <p>Just recently, United Parents started hosting a parent storytelling webinar – each month they invite parents from throughout California to share their stories of raising their children with mental health needs. This provides hope for other parents.</p> <p>For more information, please visit: www.unitedparents.org or email Melissa Hannah at: mhannah@unitedparents.org</p> <p>C. Mark Stadler, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), announced the following: Recently, CIT Ventura County attended the CIT International Conference in Pittsburg, PA. They gave a 1-hour presentation to approximately 70 people. About 1400 attendees were at the conference.</p> <p>The presentation included a history about CIT and how to build and strengthen a CIT program. CIT Ventura also shared about its collaboration with Ventura County Behavioral Health.</p> <p>Mr. Stadler recently presented at a nationwide webinar talking about Law Enforcement and Mental Health Crisis Response. There were about 140 people in attendance for that webinar.</p>		
X.	VCBH Contracts Review Chair Gardner invited the meeting participants to comment on the latest contracts that were shared with them. No comments were made.		
XI.	Old Business n/a		
XII.	New Business Chair Gardner invited the BHAB PC Meeting providers and contractors to make presentations for the November 8th BHAB PC Meeting and asked all to email her ideas at: janis@panacea-ent.com No additional comments were made by the meeting attendees.		
XIII.	Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.		