

PREVENTION COMMITTEE
2021/2022 Annual Report
Submitted by Janis Gardner, Chairperson

Prevention Committee Members

Janis Gardner, Chair
Claudia Armann -BHAB-
Patricia Mowlavi BHAB
Katherine Gross, Saving Lives
Liz Warren, Client Network, BHAB Member
Melissa Hannah-United Parents
Mark Stadler, CIT
Scott Walker, CIT
Gabe Teran, Ventura County Office of
Education Katherine Kasmir, BRITE
Ratan Bhavnani, NAMI Volunteer
Maya Lazos, Vista Del Mar Hospital

Participants

Cynthia Salas, Equity Services Manager

Theresa Plante, Casa Pacifica	Vicky Gonzales, V.C. Public Health
V.C. Behavioral Health	Katherine Gross, Saving Lives Camarillo
V.C. Probation	Sandra Tovar, Logrando Bienestar
V.C. Public Health	Stuart Fiedler, The Client Network
V.C. Sheriff's Office/CIT	Lisa Miller, CVUSD
Casa Pacifica	Vanessa Alva, Straight Up
Community Coalition United	
Conejo Valley Unified School District	
MICOP	
Pacific Clinics TAY Tunnel	
Lorena Suarez, Interpreter Homeland Language services	
Patricia Alamillo, VCBH Administration & Zoom Manager	

Staff

Dan Hicks, SUS Prevention Manager
Sheila Murphy, SUS Prevention

Cari Kawell,, Prevention Services and
Prevention Committee Administrative Assistant
Jamie Rotnofsky, MHSA
Anastasia Flores, SUS DUI Manager

MISSION

To promote measures which prevent mental illness and/or substance use issues from becoming destabilizing components in the lives of Ventura County residents. Our aim is to collaborate
To and help support education, prevention and early intervention efforts with particular emphasis on community health, engagement and the interaction of mental health and substance use challenges.

INTRODUCTION

The BHAB Prevention Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:15-4:30. Participating members in the Prevention Committee include individuals who have an interest in helping to mitigate mental illness and substance use challenges for adults, transitional aged youth and children who reside in Ventura County. Its participants and partners include persons from various entities around the county including, but not limited to, persons from multiple county agencies, stakeholders, contract providers, VCBH staff, health care professionals, law enforcement, consumers and members of the community-at-large.

The Prevention Committee brings forward to the BHAB issues and risk factors facing our community as well as current and proposed measures to limit or prevent community harm. Therefore, advocacy for community action and support, along with VCBH interaction, are key to the work of the Prevention Committee

OBJECTIVES 2019/2020

- Support and collaborate efforts with VCBH and the BHAB in advocating to prevent the onset of substance use and mental illness amongst multi-generational populations.
- Promote vaping and flavored cigarette prevention efforts for youth
- Promote Suicide Prevention efforts

OBJECTIVES 2021/2022

- Support and collaborate efforts with VCBH and the BHAB in advocating to prevent the onset of substance use and mental illness amongst multi-generational populations.
- Identify strategies, including advocacy to address gaps in services for underserved populations youth, adults and children related to mental health and substance use prevention and treatment.
- Support Naloxone and Opioid prevention efforts throughout the county
- Support Naloxone and Opioid prevention efforts for youth in schools
- Identify housing options and prevention efforts for the unhoused population.
- Support prevention efforts in the justice system for youth and adults.
- Support education and prevention efforts regarding Mental Illness and Substance Use

- Help to destigmatize perceptions regarding mental illness, substance use concerns and wellness for community members, adults, young people and Transitional Age Youth, (TAY).
- Support Fentanyl, opioid and other SUS prevention efforts.
- Support prevention efforts concerning unhoused populations
- Support prevention efforts concerning suicide prevention.
- Support efforts to build SUS rehabilitation centers for both men and women.
- Support efforts for additional psychiatric beds in the IPU, CSU and VCMC
- Support efforts for an East County CSU
- Support efforts for a Lewis Road Mental Health Rehabilitation Clinic, (MHRC)
- Continue to support Cannabis education and awareness for youth

ACHIEVEMENTS-

- The Prevention Committee added numerous new stakeholders and community participants.
- Advocated for and supported prevention efforts surrounding Suicide Prevention
- Attended the annual Suicide Prevention Conferences
- Supported Latino Community Outreach efforts
- Supported Mixteco Community Outreach efforts
- Supported and participated in VCOE's Mental Health Youth Conferences
- Attended Rx Heroin and Opioid Workgroup Meetings
- Participated in VCBH Needs Assessment
- Participated in EQRO stakeholder meeting
- Participated in the NAMI Walk and fundraisers
- Advocated for BRITE (formally "Straight Up) Reality Parties" and SUS Education for Parents
- Advocated for and participated in, VCOE's "Teens Kick Ash" conferences
- Participated in MHSA Community Input meetings
- Supported VCBH/ SUS Naloxone distribution program events
- Supported prevention Cannabis education and awareness for youth
- Advocated for mental health and substance use prevention and early intervention programs, including those in collaboration with VCBH, providers and contractors
- Advocated and supported Opioid and Fentanyl mitigation programs, educational efforts and events.
- Advocated for prevention efforts surrounding the Human Trafficking problem in Ventura County.

COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS-

BHAB Prevention Committee Presentations are carefully selected. These presentations allow BHAB Prevention committee members, stakeholders and providers to learn about and oftentimes collaborate concerning current research, educational opportunities and trends within the Ventura County community. The BHAB Prevention Committee participants share community campaign efforts, projects and resources with one another. They in turn, bring relevant information to their staff, clients and various agencies who then further disseminated this information throughout Ventura County and into the community-at-large.

July 2021-

Mark Stadler-Program Administrator, Crisis Intervention Team, (CIT) presented a "CIT Update" and an overview of the Ventura County CIT Programs.

September-

Jeanne Spences, Idea Engineering presented, "Suicide Prevention" -VCBH Outreach Campaigns. Jeanne presented event promotion for the upcoming Suicide Prevention Forum called, "Conversations about Suicide" Help and Hope. A slide show that included other campaigns was presented.

November-

Commander James Fryoff presented, "Therapeutic Management Inmate Unite, TIMU. Prevention Services Manager, Dan Hicks presented the, "Safe Choices Campaign".

January 2022-

Gabe Teran, Operations Specialist, Friday Night Live, Health & Prevention Programs, Ventura Office of Education, presented a PowerPoint Presentation entitled, "Recent Advances and Adaptations in serving Ventura County Youth.

March-

Katherine Gross, Coalition Coordinator, Saving Lives Camarillo gave a presentation entitled, "CADCA Forum and Coalition Updates".

May-

Suzanne Weist, Program Coordinator, Amber Macias, Operations Specialist and Deanna Salas, Administrative Assistant from Ventura Office Of Education's Comprehensive Health and Prevention Programs Department presented, "VCOE Wellness Centers".

CHALLENGES

- There are concerns about increased access to highly potent opiates such as Fentanyl within Ventura County
- To date there are no men's residential substance use facilities in Ventura County
- A need for an increase in access to prevention services serving indicated higher risk populations
- Continued concerns regarding suicides amongst various age groups
- A need for additional prevention efforts concerning suicide prevention
- A need for additional prevention efforts for populations with mental health challenges
- A need for increased mental health and substance use services in public and private hospitals
- A need for additional beds and services for mental health inpatient and Crisis Stabilization units
- A need for additional mental health and substance use prevention efforts amongst the unhoused population