

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

### Prevention Committee Meeting Minutes

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)

1911 Williams Dr, Training Room (first floor) · Oxnard, CA 93036

### IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

#### Members Present:

Janis Gardner, Chair

Melissa Hannah, United Parents

Naomi Marrufo, BHAB Member

#### Guests:

Samantha Argabrite, Community

Mari Celedon, Spanish Interpreter

Stuart Fiedler, The Client Network

Aaron Kitzman, VCSO CIT

Ashley Nettles, Two Trees Community

Jessica Rodriguez, TAY Tunnel

Jeanne Spencer,

Erik Sternad, Interface

Claire Triplett, ILRC

Maria Uribe, Spanish Interpreter

Szonja Vidosa, Saving Lives Camarillo

#### Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

Dan Hicks, Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention Manager

Erika Fernandez, Prevention Community Services Coordinator

Jakeline De Leon, Management Assistant/Zoom Engineer

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 3:16 PM by Chair Janis Gardner. All who joined the meeting introduced themselves. Maria Uribe, the Spanish Interpreter, introduced herself and provided instruction on the interpretation services available for the meeting.
- II. **Roll Call to Determine Physical Quorum** – Chair Gardner conducted the roll call; a physical quorum was present.

- III. **Roll Call of Members with Just Cause – NONE.**  
State others present in the room over the age of 18.
- IV. **Approval of the May 28, 2024 Agenda –** The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Prevention Committee agenda for May 28, 2024, was approved (Hannah/Marrufo/Passed). Chair Gardner requested to move item 12A up after the chair comments. It was motioned to approve as amended.
- V. **Approval of the March 14, 2023 Minutes –** The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Prevention Committee minutes for March 14, 2023, were approved (Hannah/Gardner/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written. Ms. Marrufo abstained.
- VI. **Approval of the September 26, 2023 Minutes –** The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Prevention Committee minutes for September 26, 2023 were approved (Hannah/Marrufo/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written.
- VII. **Chair Announcements –** Chair Gardner announced Dr. Loretta Denering, the Ventura County Behavioral Health Director gave a notice of decision to Aurora Vista del Mar and quoted from the notice, “I have determined that it would be in the best interest of those patients to lift the current suspension and reinstate Vista del Mar’s LPS designation, if and only so long as VDM and Signature enter into and fulfill the requirements of a Compliance and Monitoring Agreement.” Chair Gardner also congratulated Nate’s Place for receiving a \$400,000 dollar grant from the Department of Health Care Services.
- VIII. **Public Comments – NONE.**
- IX. **Time Certain Presentation –** Ashley Nettles, Two Trees Community Program Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation on, “Expanding Overdose Prevention: Data-Informed Strategies in Ventura County”. The presentation will be attached to these minutes.
- X. **Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Updates**
  - A. **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)/BHSA –** There was no update provided.

**B. SUS Prevention Services** – Mr. Dan Hicks provided the update for Substance Use Services (SUS) Prevention. Ventura County Behavioral Health has been recognized with the 2024 ASTER award in the *Government Agency* category for Excellence in Healthcare Advertising. This is in recognition of a special video production series. The “Speak Up on Fentanyl” video was shared on the screen, which can be found through this link in English, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8whMemO0Uk> and in Spanish, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIB43T4pfQA>. -

Ms. Jeanne Spencer also mentioned there are different channels in which the advertising is taking place such as social media platforms, cable, and posters on the campaign are also being placed in different convenient stores throughout the county.

**XI. Old Business** – NONE.

**XII. New Business**

**A. Proposed Integration of BHAB Committees** – Chair Gardner opened the discussion by mentioning multiple BHAB committees have had trouble meeting quorum, therefore, there has been discussion to integrate the BHAB Prevention committee with the BHAB Adult Services committee. Ms. Hannah commented that her concern with this integration is that it will be focused on adults and will move away from prevention. Chair Gardner mentioned it would be best to look at the mission statements from each committee to determine if integration is the most appropriate decision. Ms. Hannah also suggested adding more members to the BHAB Prevention committee to meet quorum. Chair Gardner will be informing the full BHAB of this discussion.

**XIII. VCBH Contracts Review** – No comments.

**XIV. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:28PM by Chair Janis Gardner.

**OVERDOSE**  
**PREVENTION**  

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**PROGRAM**

# Ventura County Overdose Prevention Program Expansion



# TWO TREES COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

# Who is Two Trees Community AKA Community Outreach Center

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

Every day the Ventura Avenue community confronts isolation and hopelessness due to barriers to services, addiction, generational poverty, and unsafe streets.

We provide life changing hope through connecting the houseless, youth, working families, and underserved marginalized Hispanic community to services and programs that offer practical direction, purpose, and connection.

The Community Outreach Center (COC) is a team of Avenue residents and champions who partner with various public and private organizations in order to foster a thriving community with safe and clean streets and transformed people.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

- We Connect our houseless neighbors to life changing services and programs
- We clean up our neighborhoods by picking up trash and removing graffiti
- We connect youth to counseling services and afterschool programs focused on STEM, vocational skills, and art.
- We host Back to School and Christmas events to bless families and their children.
- We walk alongside those that are struggling with substances in their road to recovery by providing rides, advocating and visiting in the hospital, supporting at court appointments, connecting them with family and treatment resources



# Impact

## Community Engagement

- 2,250 Lives impacted through street outreach, programs, and events
  - This is 17% of the total population of the Avenue
- 70 Partnerships established with local public and private organizations
- 782 Volunteer hours of service

## Sobriety in our neighborhoods + Support for anyone in need of life recovery

- 82 Houseless individuals we established a relationship with
- 15 Individuals who became housed and in recovery

## Safe and Clean Streets

- 22 Outreach events hosted
- 3,360 Pounds of trash removed from Avenue streets
- 4,663 Graffiti tags and stickers removed
- 1,663 Loads of laundry washed for houseless and low income Avenue residents

## Youth Programs

- 5 After School Programs provided for Avenue youth focused on STEM based learning, counseling, art, physical fitness, and entrepreneurship.
- 120 Kids participated in programs

## Westside Events

- 5 Westside Community events hosted
- 204 Families served for Christmas
- 600+ Kids received Christmas gifts; More than 2,000 gifts were given
- 300+ Kids received a backpack and/or shoes before going back to school

## Additional Highlights

- We launched our website
- **Partnered with Ventura County Behavioral Health Overdose Prevention Program**

# DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

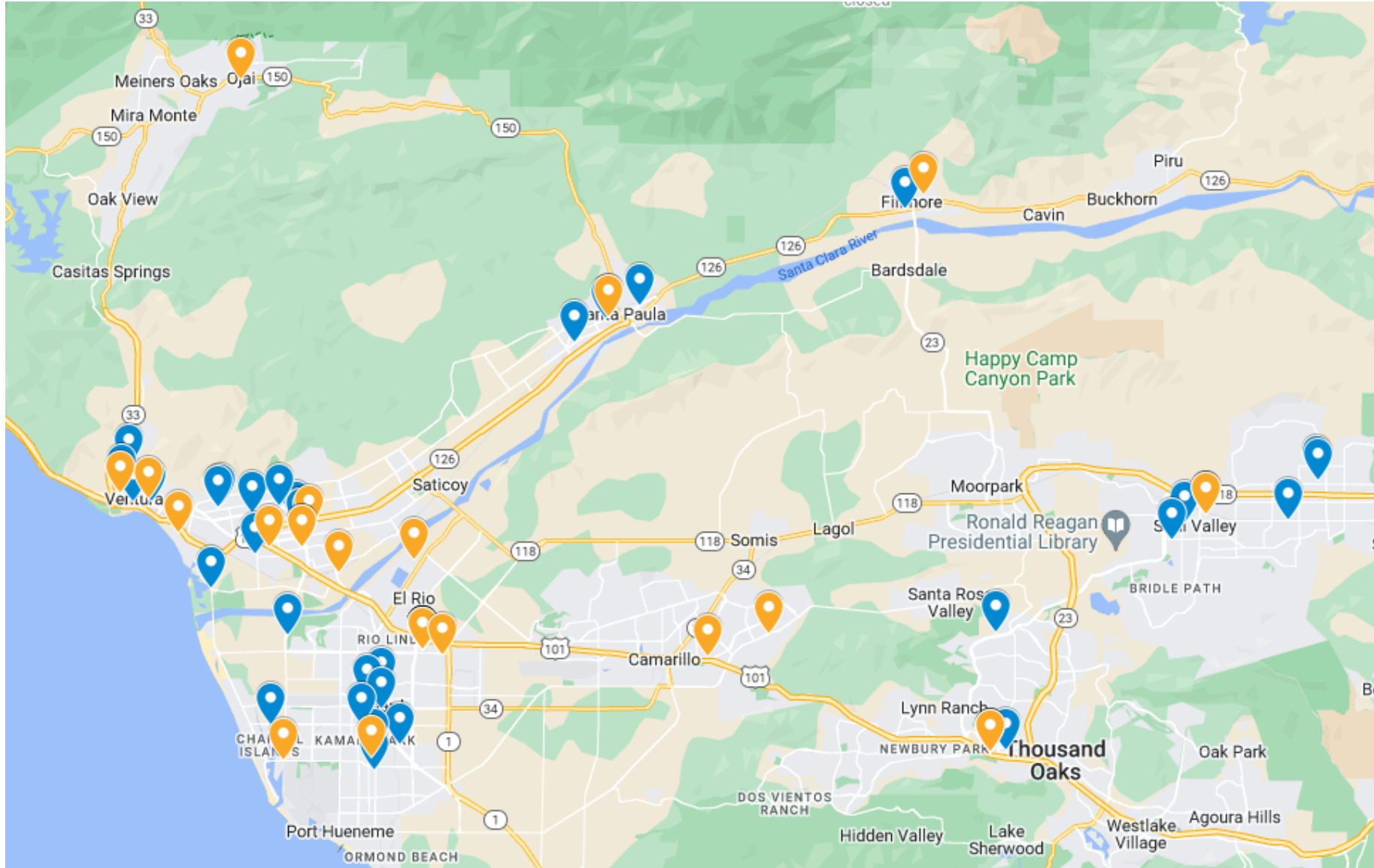
# Overdose Prevention Education & Resource Distribution

- **Saving Lives:** The primary purpose of the Ventura County Overdose Prevention Education and Resource Distribution program is to save lives threatened by overdose, addressing the opioid crisis in our county.
- **Education Focused:** The program aims to educate individuals and families with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent overdose incidents through comprehensive education opportunities
- **Ensuring Accessibility:** Through distribution partnerships, the program seeks to reach every family impacted by the opioid crisis, ensuring that no one is left without access to vital resources and support.
- **Leveraging Community Organizations:** By collaborating with trusted community organizations, the program harnesses existing relationships and infrastructure to effectively reach vulnerable individuals and families.
- **Empowering Partners:** The program empowers distribution partners by providing them with training, resources, and tools necessary to become overdose prevention educators, thereby extending the reach of the program and increasing its impact.

# Ventura County Overdose Prevention Distribution Sites

Currently have **82** sites

Two Trees efforts have added **20** sites since getting started in **July 2023**.



# Empowering Partners Through Education

Since July 2023

Two Trees has provided 28 Educator Trainings

Certifying 297 Overdose Prevention Educators



# INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAM

# Empowering Institutions to Respond to Overdose Emergencies

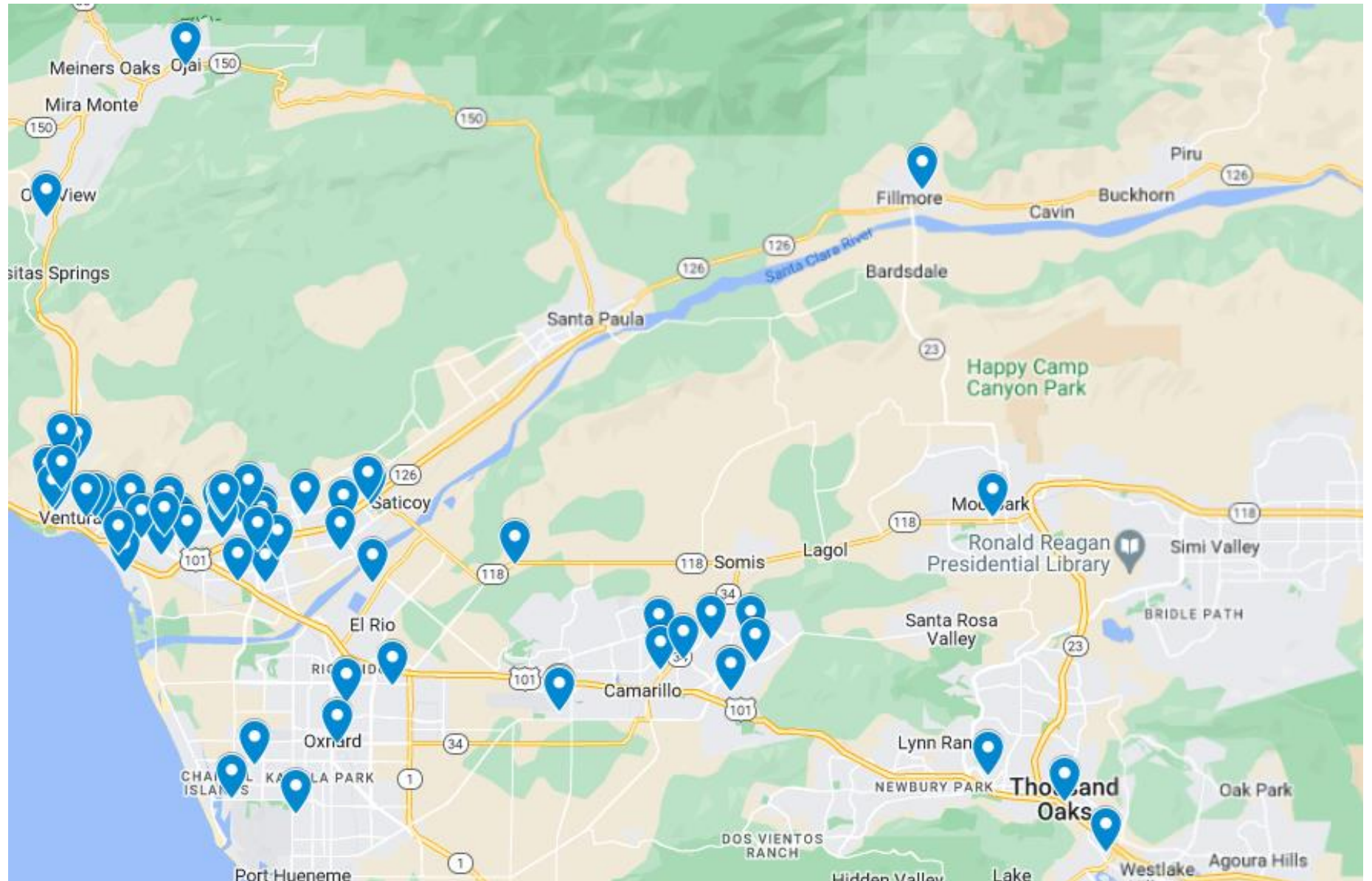
- **Targeted Response to Crisis:** The Ventura County Institutional Overdose Prevention Program responds directly to the opioid crisis by offering specialized support within institutions where high-risk individuals frequent, recognizing the urgency of addressing potential overdose incidents in these settings.
- **Empowering Staff & Volunteers:** The program empowers various organizations and institutions serving at-risk populations by providing them with the necessary resources and training to effectively respond to potential overdose situations within their premises.
- **Focused Training Initiative:** Through concise 45-minute overdose rescue response training sessions, staff and volunteers within participating institutions receive focused education on identifying and managing overdose emergencies, enhancing their capacity to intervene promptly and confidently.
- **Accessible Life-Saving Supplies:** Participating institutions receive life-saving rescue kits at no cost, ensuring that they have readily accessible resources available to intervene in overdose scenarios swiftly and potentially save lives within their communities.

# Institutional Site Expansion

**Two Trees Efforts  
have added 64  
Institutional sites  
since July 2023.**

Includes:

- K – 12 School Districts
- Community Based Organizations (nonprofit)
- County Agencies, like County Clerks Office



# Empowering Partners Through Education

Since July 2023

Two Trees has provided 21 Institutional “Aka Responder” Trainings  
Certifying 161 Overdose Prevention Responders



# SPANISH LANGUAGE OVERDOSE RESPONSE

COMMUNITY EVENTS

# Serving our Spanish Language Community



**Created workgroup to develop cultural and linguistically appropriate overdose prevention content to meet the needs of our underserved neighbors.**

**Workgroup consisted of:**

- All Members were community Members of the Hispanic community in the Ventura Avenue Area and spanish speaking.
- A mother who lost her son to Overdose
- A sister that lost her brother to Overdose
- Local Pastors and nonprofit leaders
- Local experts in providing services to those dealing with homelessness and recovery services

# Serving our Spanish Language Community

Hosted our first Overdose Prevention Response Training for the Spanish Language community on May 15th



The Next Event is Scheduled for July 17th at the Bell Arts Factory on Ventura Avenue.

## Prevenir y Responder a una Sobredosis

Un evento de educación y conocimiento completamente en español



**¿CUÁNDO?**  
Miércoles 15 de Mayo de 2024

- 6PM – Bienvenida
- 6:30PM – Inicio del evento principal
- Tiempo para preguntas y respuestas (Q&A)
- Distribución de kits de rescate para participantes que califican

**¿DÓNDE?**  
Oficina de Two Trees Community COC  
Sala de reuniones, 110 N. Olive St., Ventura

**¿QUIÉN PUEDE ASISTIR?**

- Todos los miembros de la comunidad
- Padres, seres queridos
- Cualquier persona que pueda estar en riesgo de sobredosis



GRATIS • Refrescos serán proveídos

No se requiere registrarse.

Para más información, favor de llamar al (805) 402-8414.

Cuidado de niños no será disponible para este evento

PROGRAMA DE  
PREVENCIÓN DE  
SOBREDOSIS

# OVERDOSE DEATH NOTIFICATION LETTERS

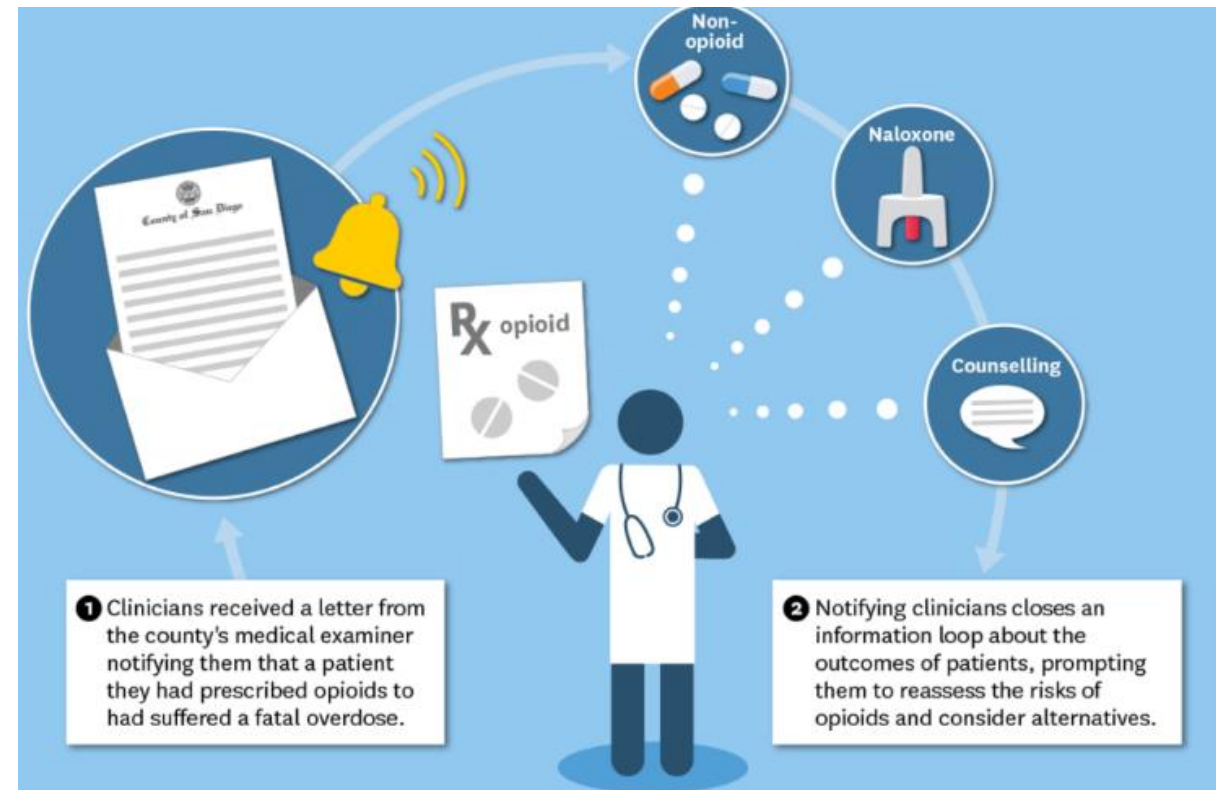
INFORMING PRESCRIBERS OF PATIENTS DEATH

# The Death Notification Project

**Telling Doctors their patients fatally overdosed reduces opioid prescriptions up to one year later.**

Research conducted in San Diego, conducted by USC, revealed a significant 9.7% decrease in opioid prescriptions. This reduction was observed after physicians were routinely notified of patients' fatal overdoses.

Learning from the Monterey County project as well, we gained valuable insights into the effectiveness of this approach in addressing the opioid crisis.



# Ventura County Notification Letter

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

**This is a courtesy notification to inform you that your patient \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_) died on \_\_\_\_\_ . The use of prescribed medication(s) was either the primary cause of death or contributed to the death.**

[meo.ventura.org](http://meo.ventura.org)

MM/DD/YYYY

proportion of deaths are due to the combination of multiple prescription medications. Patients may obtain legitimate prescriptions for opioids, benzodiazepines, muscle relaxants, and sleep aids from more than one prescriber. When taken in any combination, these medications put patients at greater risk of death. **We also see many deaths that are a result of when prescription medications are used in combination with alcohol or other illicit substances.**

many deaths that are a result of when prescription medications are used in combination with alcohol or other illicit substances.

The Controlled Substance Agency is dedicated to avoiding prescription drug misuse. CURES contains information about your patient. This type of information includes types of medications from ordering, administering, or 2018.

The following evidence-based practices:

1. **Avoid co-prescribing a benzodiazepine and an opioid.** The risk of overdose and death is increased when these medications are prescribed together.
2. **Minimize opioid prescribing.** The CDC, clinicians should avoid immediate-release opioids for chronic pain. First-line or routine therapy should be non-opioid analgesics.
3. **Taper opioids to safer doses.** For long-term opioid therapy, taper to a dose that is lower than 50 milligrams of morphine equivalent and that slow

**Learning of your patient's death can be difficult. We hope that you will take this opportunity to join us in preventing future deaths from drug overdose. For more resources visit**

[www.meo.ventura.org/letter](http://www.meo.ventura.org/letter)



SCAN ME

prescribers who are more than good.

instances to your duplicate or additive or to prescribing, give on October 2,

aid deaths involving

Control and Prevention dose of be considered

term opioid high

# Project Impact



Since July 2023, Two Trees has reviewed over 150 cases, and sent 36 letters

# National Conference Representation

## Presented at National Rx and Illicit Drug Summit in Atlanta Georgia

- Co Presented with Dr. Young and Dr. Vlaskovits
- Over 100 conference participants attend our session titled “ Medical Examiner and Doctors Face Fentanyl Together; From Data-Informed Death Notifications to Prescribers Care Discussion Series.”



**OVERDOSE  
PREVENTION**  

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**PROGRAM**

**THANK YOU**  
**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Ashley Nettles

661-204-2849

[ashley@cocventura.org](mailto:ashley@cocventura.org)



**Ventura County Behavioral Health**

Board Letter Summary of Contracts for January 2024

Board Date	Contract	Amount	Term	Description
1/9/2024	Khepera House	\$634,651	October 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 Khepera House Agreement for Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services.</b> Khepera House will offer DMC-ODS SUD treatment services and will fill a critical need in our County by adding additional residential beds. Khepera will provide one level of residential treatment services and one level of withdrawal management treatment services with a capacity of up to twenty-four (24) men. The treatment service includes clinically managed low-intensity residential services and withdrawal management for adult males. The proposed agreement includes: 1) one time funding for three months of start-up expenses and salaries, 2) payments according to the Medi-Cal fee schedule for direct SUD services to clients, and 3) room and board services. Khepera shall use the start-up funds to: 1) complete staff recruitment and hiring costs, 2) train staff, 3) create and implement compliance policies, 4) make changes to provider information and billing systems, 5) address technology costs such as hardware or software, 6) purchase other supplies and equipment, and 7) other related start-up costs as pre-approved by Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH).</p> <p>The agreement with Khepera, is in the amount of \$634,651 to add additional residential beds for DMC-ODS SUD treatment services. This agreement is funded by Opioid Settlement Funds, State General Fund, 2011 Realignment, AB 109 funds, and Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUBG) discretionary funding.</p>
1/9/2024	Health Care Foundation for Ventura County, Inc. (HCFVC)	\$416,361	July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 HCFVC Amendment for Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Mentored Internship Program (MIP), and Southern County Regional Partnership (SCRIP) Pipeline funded educational stipend and basic needs program funding supports and administration services.</b> HCFVC provides administration and disbursement services for the following VCBH activities: 1) MHSA funded Full Service Partnership (FSP) and Rapid Integration Support and Engagement (RISE) program basic needs payment services for clients, in immediate crisis, such as clothes, food, housing, and for FSP "Whatever It Takes" purposes and 2) MIP grant funded internships stipends for undergraduate and graduate students, pursuing a degree in clinical behavioral health fields at an educational institution with which VCBH has a Memorandum of Understanding, who are receiving their practicum experience at VCBH. HCFVC serves as the fiscal agent for these funds and makes payments to VCBH selected service providers, on behalf of clients, and directly to MIP interns, in line with established policies and timeframes.</p> <p>In September of 2023, VCBH received \$668,734 in additional MIP Round 2 Grant funds from the California Department of Health Care Services to support its MIP internship activities. VCBH currently has thirteen MIP internship students. These new grant funds will be used to extend the MIP internship services through December 31, 2024. In addition, VCBH is including SCRIP Pipeline workforce education funds into the agreement with HCFVC. The SCRIP Pipeline funds will be utilized to support four undergraduate students who are completing their internship at VCBH programs that are not a MIP site.</p> <p>The First amendment to the agreement with HCFVC will increase the maximum contract amount by \$134,981 to fund additional MIP internship stipends and SCRIP Pipeline undergraduate students. This agreement is funded by the MHSA, MIP Grant and SCRIP Pipeline funding.</p>

**Ventura County Behavioral Health**

Board Letter Summary of Contracts for February 2024

Board Date	Contract	Amount	Term	Description
2/6/2024	Antioch University Santa Barbara (Antioch University)	\$5,000	October 1, 2023 Through December 31, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for Mentored Internship Program (MIP) and Intern Recruitment Related Services with Antioch University.</b> California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) awarded Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) two additional MIP Round Two grant awards, each in the amount of \$334,367, to support the expansion of MIP services at the VCBH North Oxnard and Conejo locations. The MIP Round Two grants will provide up to twenty-three (23) internship opportunities for doctoral level, graduate level, and undergraduate level students.</p> <p>VCBH will use the MIP grant funding to implement, within the existing VCBH Internship Program, an in-house MIP designed to improve the quality of training and number of persons interested in joining the behavioral health workforce. Through the proposed Antioch University MOU and the five MOUs directly below, VCBH and its partner universities and colleges will expand an internship program that includes a standardized clinical experience and a curriculum of structured supervision, training, and career preparation that is uniform for all participating student interns. The proposed MOUs will strengthen the collaborative relationships between VCBH and the educational institutions by facilitating intern recruitment, mentored internship program sustainability, and VCBH recruitment. Each educational institution will receive stipend funds, in varying amounts, to cover the MIP and intern recruitment efforts.</p> <p>Antioch University will set forth the roles and responsibilities of a MIP at the Facility, where 1) graduate level students in Social Work, Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, or Psychology will obtain clinical experience and training under the supervision of licensed practitioners and 2) undergraduate students who are enrolled in appropriate coursework will obtain field experience under administrative and mentoring supervision. Students participating in these MIPs may be referred to as "Interns," "Trainees," or "Practicum student," depending on their level of training and discipline.</p> <p>The MOU with Antioch University, is in the amount of \$5,000, to support the expansion of MIP services at the VCBH North Oxnard and Conejo locations. This MOU is funded by MIP 2 Grant funding.</p>
2/6/2024	California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB)	\$5,000	October 1, 2023 Through December 31, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 MOU for MIP and Intern Recruitment Related Services with CSUSB.</b> CSUSB will set forth the roles and responsibilities of a MIP at the Facility, where 1) graduate level students in Social Work, Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, or Psychology will obtain clinical experience and training under the supervision of licensed practitioners and 2) undergraduate students who are enrolled in appropriate coursework will obtain field experience under administrative and mentoring supervision. Students participating in these MIPs may be referred to as "Interns," "Trainees," or "Practicum student," depending on their level of training and discipline.</p> <p>The MOU with CSUSB, is in the amount of \$5,000, to support the expansion of MIP services at the VCBH North Oxnard and Conejo locations. This MOU is funded by MIP 2 Grant funding.</p>
2/6/2024	California State University Northridge (CSUN)	\$8,250	October 1, 2023 Through December 31, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 MOU for MIP and Intern Recruitment Related Services with CSUN.</b> CSUN will set forth the roles and responsibilities of a MIP at the Facility, where 1) graduate level students in Social Work, Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, or Psychology will obtain clinical experience and training under the supervision of licensed practitioners and 2) undergraduate students who are enrolled in appropriate coursework will obtain field experience under administrative and mentoring supervision. Students participating in these MIPs may be referred to as "Interns," "Trainees," or "Practicum student," depending on their level of training and discipline.</p> <p>The MOU with CSUN, is in the amount of \$8,250, to support the expansion of MIP services at the VCBH North Oxnard and Conejo locations. This MOU is funded by MIP 2 Grant funding.</p>
2/6/2024	California State University Channel Island (CSUCI)	\$12,375	October 1, 2023 Through December 31, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 MOU for MIP and Intern Recruitment Related Services with CSUCI.</b> CSUCI will set forth the roles and responsibilities of a MIP at the Facility, where 1) graduate level students in Social Work, Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, or Psychology will obtain clinical experience and training under the supervision of licensed practitioners and 2) undergraduate students who are enrolled in appropriate coursework will obtain field experience under administrative and mentoring supervision. Students participating in these MIPs may be referred to as "Interns," "Trainees," or "Practicum student," depending on their level of training and discipline.</p> <p>The MOU with CSUCI, is in the amount of \$12,375, to support the expansion of MIP services at the VCBH North Oxnard and Conejo locations. This MOU is funded by MIP 2 Grant funding.</p>
2/6/2024	California Lutheran University (CLU)	\$8,250	October 1, 2023 Through December 31, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 MOU for MIP and Intern Recruitment Related Services with CLU.</b> CLU will set forth the roles and responsibilities of a MIP at the Facility, where 1) graduate level students in Social Work, Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, or Psychology will obtain clinical experience and training under the supervision of licensed practitioners and 2) undergraduate students who are enrolled in appropriate coursework will obtain field experience under administrative and mentoring supervision. Students participating in these MIPs may be referred to as "Interns," "Trainees," or "Practicum student," depending on their level of training and discipline.</p> <p>The MOU with CLU, is in the amount of \$8,250, to support the expansion of MIP services at the VCBH North Oxnard and Conejo locations. This MOU is funded by MIP 2 Grant funding.</p>
2/6/2024	Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD)/Oxnard	\$0	October 1, 2023 Through December 31, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 MOU for MIP and Intern Recruitment Related Services with VCCCD.</b> VCCCD will set forth the roles and responsibilities of a MIP at the Facility, where 1) graduate level students in Social Work, Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, or Psychology will obtain clinical experience and training under the supervision of licensed practitioners and 2) undergraduate students who are enrolled in appropriate coursework will obtain field experience under administrative and mentoring supervision. Students participating in these MIPs may be referred to as "Interns," "Trainees," or "Practicum student," depending on their level of training and discipline.</p> <p>The MOU with VCCCD, has no financial impact, to support the expansion of MIP services at the VCBH North Oxnard and Conejo locations. This MOU is funded by MIP 2 Grant funding.</p>

2/27/2024	Traditions Psychology Group, Inc. (Traditions)	\$19,393,764	July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 First Amendment with Traditions for Psychiatric Services.</b> Traditions provides medical psychiatric physician services at various clinic/program sites throughout the VCBH system. The proposed first amendment to the agreement for Psychiatric Services with Traditions is to: 1) change the contractor's legal entity name from Traditions Psychology Group, Inc. to Traditions Psychiatry Group, P.C. dba Traditions Behavioral Health, 2) revise the scope of work to add 5.58 full time equivalent (FTE) to include 2.20 FTE in the Youth &amp; Family Division, 3.05 FTE in the Adults Division which includes 1.5 FTE for Short Term Treatment Team (STTT) psychiatrist, and 0.33 FTE in the Adults Substance Use Services Division, 3) add Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Training and Collaboration duties, 4) adjust FTEs across the various VCBH divisions, 5) modify the Training Schedule, and 6) revise the compensation terms to add rates for Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Training and Collaboration duties and correct the Telehealth Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist Services rate from \$260.80 to \$269.80. These revisions are needed to align the amount of physician services to VCBH's service delivery needs, provide an avenue for psychiatrist training of psychiatric nurse practitioners, and ensure appropriate compensation for Telehealth psychiatrists.</p> <p>The First Amendment to the agreement with Traditions, will increase the maximum contract amount by \$3,019,610 to provide medical Psychiatric services. This agreement is funded with 2011 Realignment, 1991 Realignment, Short Doyle/Medi-Cal (SD/MC) Federal Financial Participation (FFP), Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), and Drug Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (DMC-ODS FFP) funding.</p>
2/27/2024	Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Provider Incentive Plan	\$23,019,656	Upon Execution Through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 SMHS Provider Incentive Plan to incentivize Medi-Cal SMHS Providers in meeting the new requirements and systems associated with CalAIM.</b> CalAIM, is a California Department of Health Care Services initiative to reform and transform the Medi-Cal program by implementing a broad delivery system, program and payment reform, and knowledge learned from various successful pilot programs to transform the delivery of behavioral health services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. In FY 2023-24, VCBH's Medi-Cal delivery system underwent a variety of CalAIM related changes and significant transition, including: 1) significant revision to the Medi-Cal and Drug Medi-Cal agreements to reflect CalAIM's payment reform requirements, 2) implementation of a new electronic health record (EHR) to streamline and expand the way data is collected and managed, 3) and other service requirements that were designed to improve outcomes for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.</p> <p>To support Medi-Cal SMHS Providers through this transition, VCBH has designed a one-time Incentive Plan that is designed to incentivize Medi-Cal SMHS Providers in meeting the new requirements and systems associated with CalAIM. VCBH's Incentive Plan structure is organized around four (4) key areas, each designed to optimize the delivery of behavioral health services and support Medi-Cal SMHS Providers in adapting to the evolving Medi-Cal landscape. Medi-Cal SMHS Providers may choose to participate in any one or all the incentive categories.</p> <p>The incentive categories are as follows: 1) fiscal optimization emphasizing financial efficiency and resource utilization, this category encourages Medi-Cal SMHS Contract Providers to explore strategies that contribute to overall cost-effectiveness while upholding the quality and accessibility of SMS services, 2) ensuring Network Adequacy is a critical aspect of delivering comprehensive care. Providers are incentivized to make their networks robust, meeting the diverse needs of the community and promoting accessibility to behavioral health services for all individuals who seek assistance, 3) SmartCare Integration is part of the broader initiative to implement the new EHR, Medi-Cal SMHS Contract Providers who are not fully integrated into SmartCare are incentivized to seamlessly integrate into the system. This involves not only technical proficiency but also an understanding of how to leverage SmartCare to enhance patient care, streamline processes, and improve overall efficiency, 4) Medi-Cal Certified Peer Support Specialist Program acknowledges the significance of peer support in behavioral health, this category focuses on the Medi-Cal SMHS Providers participating in the Medi-Cal Certified Peer Support Specialist program. The incentive focuses on fostering a supportive environment that leverages the unique insights and experiences of peer support specialists to enhance the overall quality of care.</p> <p>The agreements with the SMHS Providers for Incentive Plan services, will increase the maximum contract amounts overall by \$1,507,275 from \$21,512,381 to \$23,019,656, to assist providers in meeting the new requirements and systems associated with CalAIM. These services are funded by MHSA funding.</p>

**Ventura County Behavioral Health**  
Board Letter Summary of Contracts for March 2024

Board Date	Contract	Amount	Term	Description
3/26/2024	Performance Standard Agreement #21-10126 A1 (Agreement)	\$0	July 1, 2024 Through June 30, 2025	<p><b>FY 2024-25 First Amendment with the Performance Standard Agreement with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Relating to Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS), Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG), Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP), Bronzan-McCorquodale Act, and Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SUBG) Services.</b> DHCS administers the MHSA, LPS Act, PATH, MHBG, CCP, Bronzan-McCorquodale Act community mental health services, and SUBG programs. VCBH is required to meet certain conditions and requirements to receive funding for these program services. The proposed amendment extends the term of the Agreement for these services an additional fiscal year, through June 30, 2025. There are no other changes to the existing Agreement's terms and conditions.</p> <p>The First Amendment to the Performance Standard Agreement with DHCS has no financial impact to administer the MHSA, LPS Act, PATH, MHBG, CCP, Bronzan-McCorquodale Act community mental health services, and SUBG programs. This Amendment is funded by DHCS, Realignment, MHSA, and SUBG.</p>
3/26/2024	Performance Standard Agreement (Interoperability Solution)	\$581,013	January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026	<p><b>FY 2024-26 First Amendment with the Performance Standard Agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) for the Interoperability Solution.</b> CalMHSA is a Joint Powers Authority, created by California counties and cities to focus on the efficient delivery of California mental health projects for its member entities. The proposed Agreement relates to an Interoperability Solution (IS Agreement) and addresses DHCS and Federal requirements around Patient Access Application Programming Interface (API), Provider Directory API, and a Data Exchange Framework for ADT (Admission, Discharge, and Transfer events). The IS Agreement will cover the development and maintenance of "connectivity" mechanisms for required Interoperability compliance, as outlined in the Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) 22-068, the Interoperability and Patient Access Final Rule, and BHIN 23-032, which describes the Interoperability &amp; Patient Access Final Rule Compliance Monitoring Process.</p> <p>The First Amendment to the Performance Standard Agreement with CalMHSA for the Interoperability Solution is in the amount of \$581,013 to cover the development and maintenance of connectivity mechanisms for required Interoperability compliance. This agreement is funded by Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program (BHQIP).</p>
3/26/2024	Performance Standard Agreement (Data Archive Agreement)	\$63,704	January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026	<p><b>FY 2024-26 First Amendment with the Performance Standard Agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) for the Data Archive Solution.</b> Data Archive Solution Agreement (Data Archive Agreement) – The Federal requirement for Patient Access API is to provide people in care with their health information as far back as 2016. To support compliance with this requirement, CalMHSA's Connex API system requires a dedicated, limited archive that would satisfy minimum access requirements and help Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) comply with the Federal rule. The Data Archive Agreement covers the development and maintenance of this dedicated archive, which would house some historical data from VCBH's previous electronic health record system (AVATAR). This dedicated archive will be limited only to the Patient Access API requirements and will not act as a complete archive of VCBH data.</p> <p>The First Amendment to the Performance Standard Agreement with CalMHSA for the Data Archive Solution is in the amount of \$63,704 to cover the development and maintenance which will house some historical data from VCBH's previous electronic health record system. This agreement is funded by BHQIP funding.</p>
3/26/2024	Aurora Vista Del Mar, LLC (VDM)	\$0	Reinstatement of the LPS for VDM	<p><b>Receive and file report regarding application of VDM for Reinstatement of its Lanterman Petris Short Act (LPS) Designation at its Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital in the City of Ventura.</b> On October 9, 2023, then Acting Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Mental Health Director Loretta L. Denering, DrPH, MS notified a local psychiatric hospital, owned by VDM, that its prior designation under the LPS Act would be suspended effective October 16, 2023. This notice did not affect the facility's license to operate and treat voluntary psychiatric patients, which is under the oversight of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).</p> <p>Since that time, Acting Behavioral Health Director Denering has reviewed an application and supporting materials submitted by VDM for reinstatement of its LPS designation. Acting Behavioral Health Director Denering has also obtained expertise from the Chartis Group, LLC (Chartis), in reviewing and assessing VDM's eligibility for LPS Act reinstatement. Chartis has brought psychiatric, medical, and nursing expertise in support of the review and its team, along with VCBH, has made multiple onsite visits to VDM, interviewing staff, patients and reviewing specific episodes of care. The review has also included copies of the facility's related policies and procedures and methods for monitoring compliance with those policies. The reviewers evaluated the individual's assigned responsibility for both compliance and monitoring compliance in relation to the applicable provisions of the California Code of Regulations Title 9 and California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) related to behavioral health patients' rights and safety.</p> <p>Chartis is completing a report of findings from the onsite reviews that will be provided to VDM for its response, if any. VCBH's Acting Behavioral Health Director Denering will then review both the Chartis report and VDM's response to decide if she can support reinstatement of VDM's LPS designation. VCBH will continue to provide the Board with periodic updates on this topic via this Board's public agenda.</p> <p>There is no fiscal impact related to the receive and file report regarding application of VDM for Reinstatement of its LPS Designation.</p>

3/26/2024	Evalcorp	\$305,725	July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 First Amendment with Evalcorp for prevention and early intervention related services.</b> Evalcorp provides data collection and analysis services on various projects on behalf of VCBH. Evalcorp is currently providing these services to support the Wellness Centers coordinated with Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE). The primary objective of the agreement is to: (1) collaborate with VCBH and VCOE to continue refining data collection tools as needed and/or create new evaluation tools to ensure high-quality ongoing evaluation data, (2) implement a school-wide survey to assess the impact of the Wellness Centers on issues related to awareness of and access to school-based mental health services, (3) conduct required data monitoring for thirty-two (32) additional middle and elementary school Wellness Centers as needed to inform quarterly and yearly reporting requirements, (4) conduct requisite univariate and multivariate statistical analyses, (5) develop the annual evaluation reports and (6) prepare for and facilitate monthly evaluation meetings with VCBH and VCOE.</p> <p>The First Amendment to the Agreement with Evalcorp, will increase the maximum contract amount by \$120,001 to expand their current scope of work to: (1) create a wellness expansion initiative evaluation plan, (2) provide evaluation of Suicide Prevention Strategies, and (3) provide Network Expansion Grant evaluation. This Agreement is funded by MHSA funding.</p>
3/26/2024	Idea Engineering, Inc. (PEI)	\$354,094	July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 Fifth Amendment with Idea Engineering (PEI) for prevention and early intervention related services.</b> Idea Engineering, Inc. (PEI) aids with ongoing creative development, support, and dissemination of online communications and outreach materials supporting MHSA PEI goals of suicide prevention and mental illness stigma reduction. Idea Engineering, Inc. also provides strategic consultation, project management, and purchases media and materials to support MHSA communications and campaigns.</p> <p>The Fifth Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc., will increase the maximum contract amount by \$59,094 to expand their current scope of work to: (1) provide expanded services for event promotion, support, and development of communications materials with suicide prevention and mental wellness messaging, (2) provide expanded services for development of communications materials with suicide prevention and mental wellness messaging for media dissemination and event promotion, and (3) purchase more media and promotional items on behalf of VCBH to promote MHSA events and Mental Health Awareness Month. This Agreement is funded by MHSA funding.</p>
3/26/2024	Idea Engineering, Inc. (STAY)	\$142,500	July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 First Amendment with Idea Engineering (STAY) for prevention and early intervention related services.</b> Idea Engineering, Inc. (STAY) created a suicide prevention campaign that is designed to reach several high-risk groups including military and first responders, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ+), teens, middle-aged men/women, and older adults. This initiative reframes the conversation around suicide in a way that is accessible to all viewers. Idea Engineering, Inc. gives critical time for resources to be enacted for people to give themselves time and find the support that's needed. Suicide is a complex public health issue. Yet, despite its complexity, suicide can be prevented.</p> <p>The First Amendment to the Agreement with Idea Engineering, Inc., will increase the maximum contract amount by \$57,500 to: (1) expand the spring 2024 STAY suicide prevention public service campaign, (2) develop Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper training posters, flyers, and a landing page to sign up for Question Persuade Refer (QPR) training on the Wellness Everyday/SaludSiempreVC website, and (3) create a suicide prevention trifold brochure, a Ventura County specific Pronouns Save Lives Flyer, and training resources for five (5) suicide prevention implementation subcommittees/workgroups. This agreement is funded by MHSA funding.</p>
3/26/2024	Promotoras Y Promotores Foundation (PYPF)	\$261,000	July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 Second Amendment with Promotoras Y Promotores Foundation (PYPF) for prevention and early intervention related services.</b> Promotoras Y Promotores Foundation (PYPF) provides PEI services targeting immigrant Latina women and their family, who are at risk of experiencing early signs of depression. PYPF's primary focus is on the Santa Clara Valley but their secondary focus includes other Ventura County cities as well. PYPF's main goal is to increase awareness and education about depression, make appropriate referrals to community resources, and reduce stigma associated with mental health services.</p> <p>The Second Amendment to the Agreement with PYPF, will increase the maximum contract amount by \$11,000 to revise their scope of work to plan and execute one (1) Mental Health Awareness Conference to be held in May for Mental Health awareness month, and (2) to reduce stigma in the Latino community. This agreement is funded by MHSA and Mental Health Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MH MAA) funding.</p>

3/26/2024	One Step A La Vez	\$303,711	July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 Second Amendment with One Step A La Vez for prevention and early intervention related services.</b> One Step a la Vez provides PEI services aimed at reducing adverse outcomes in adolescents living in poverty or with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by increasing core competencies and building resilience. One Step a la Vez's main goals are to increase awareness and knowledge regarding mental health in the Latino community in Filmore and to increase the sensitivity in the community to the issues faced.</p> <p>The Second Amendment to the Agreement with One Step a la Vez, will increase the maximum contract amount by \$39,500 to amend the agreement to: (1) provide program promotion tools and resources to help retain and increase teen engagement, (2) host a mental wellness fair in the Santa Clara Valley, (3) update computer technology, equipment, and office supplies for daily program activities, (4) provide educational scholarships as an incentive to improve mental wellness for high school teens who are transitioning into higher education, and (5) allow staff to attend Girasol Young Women's Rites of Passage Curriculum Certification Training. This agreement is funded by MHSA funding.</p>
3/26/2024	Turning Point Foundation	\$1,054,223	July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 First Amendment with Turning Point Foundation for prevention and early intervention related services.</b> Turning Point Foundation provides adult wellness and rehabilitation centers and mobile wellness services throughout Ventura County. The primary objective of the agreement with Turning Point Foundation is to provide, (1) mobile wellness services to be provided in local board and care facilities and facilitate Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) groups, (2) Evidence Based Peer Support groups, (3) linkage and access to resources and (4) socialization opportunities as well as step down treatment for individuals in need.</p> <p>The First Amendment to the Agreement with Turning Point, will increase the maximum contract amount by \$25,420 to provide: (1) an increase in expenditure for Benefits, Staff expenses, Utilities, and Regular Salaries Facilities (Repairs &amp; Maintenance), and Janitorial Services, (2) increase expenditure for Program Costs for additional food, hygiene kits, and prizes for participation and attendance, as these incentives are major draws for attendance, and (3) additional Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) training to ensure compliance due to staff turnover. The program served 370 individuals across this contract last fiscal year and from July through January it has already reached 331 individuals. They are requesting additional funding to continue services for the expanded number of attendees. This Agreement is funded by MHSA funding.</p>

**Ventura County Behavioral Health**

Board Letter Summary of Contracts for April 2024

Board Date	Contract	Amount	Term	Description
4/23/2024	Elms Manor Corporation	\$11,450	July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 Elms Manor Corporation Agreement for augmented board and care services.</b> Elms Manor Corporation provides augmented board and care services for adults with serious and persistent mental illness which have resulted in significant functional impairments requiring 24-hour care and supervision to promote safety and recovery. The acuity level of these individuals is high in that they require daily assistance in one or more areas of life functioning, including: attending to self-care and basic needs, attending to medical and medication needs, maintaining participation in supportive mental health/substance abuse and other recovery-based support programs, and socializing and re-integrating into the community. Currently, forty-three (43) clients are residing at Elms Manor Corporation. The First Amendment to the Agreement with Elms Manor Corporation will increase the maximum contract amount by \$11,450 to ensure sufficient funding for clients placed at this facility through fiscal year end. This agreement is funded by Tobacco Settlement Realignment, Community Care Expansion (CCE), and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).</p>
4/23/2024	Sunrise Manor	\$13,300	July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 Sunrise Manor, LLC Agreement for augmented board and care services.</b> Sunrise Manor, LLC provides augmented board and care services for adults with serious and persistent mental illness which have resulted in significant functional impairments requiring 24-hour care and supervision to promote safety and recovery. The acuity level of these individuals is high in that they require daily assistance in one or more areas of life functioning, including: attending to self-care and basic needs, attending to medical and medication needs, maintaining participation in supportive mental health/substance abuse and other recovery-based support programs, and socializing and re-integrating into the community. Currently, forty-seven (47) clients are residing at Sunrise Manor, LLC. The First Amendment to the Agreement with Sunrise Manor, LLC will increase the maximum contract amount by \$13,300 to ensure sufficient funding for clients placed at this facility through fiscal year end. This agreement is funded by Tobacco Settlement Realignment, Community Care Expansion (CCE), and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).</p>
4/23/2024	Health Care Foundation for Ventura County, Inc.	\$17,250	July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 Second Amendment with Health Care Foundation for Ventura County, Inc. (HCFVC) for Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Mentored Internship Program (MIP) and Southern County Regional Partnership (SCRIP) Pipeline Funded Educational Stipend and Basic Needs Program Funding Supports and Administration Services.</b> HCFVC provides administration and disbursement services for the following Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) activities: 1) MHSA funded Full-Service Partnership (FSP) and Rapid Integration Support and Engagement (RISE) program basic needs payment services for clients, in immediate crisis, such as clothes, food, and housing, and for FSP “Whatever It Takes” purposes, 2) Mentored Internship Program (MIP) Grant funded internship stipends for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing a degree in clinical behavioral health fields at an educational institution with which Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) has a Memorandum of Understanding, and who are receiving their practicum experience at VCBH, and 3) MHSA funded Housing fund services for clients in immediate need of financial assistance to access supplemental housing resources, such as application fees, moving expenses and utilities. HCFVC serves as the fiscal agent for these funds and makes payments to VCBH selected service providers, on behalf of clients, and directly to MIP interns, in line with established policies and timeframes. The Second Amendment to the Agreement with HCFVC, will increase the maximum contract amount by \$17,250 to add Housing Fund fiscal administration services. This Agreement is funded by MHSA, MIP Grant, and SCRIP Pipeline.</p>

4/23/2024	California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA)	\$35,000	May 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024	<p><b>FY 2023-24 Participation Agreement with the CalMHSA for the Quality Measures and Performance Improvement Program (Participation Agreement").</b> CalMHSA, a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) created by California counties in 2009 to jointly develop and support behavioral health services and education programs for members. The Quality Measures and Performance Improvement Program (Program), developed in response to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Comprehensive Quality Strategy (CQS), will provide specialized data analysis to support State reporting mandates. The CQS aims to support quality improvement within behavioral health systems in California. It outlines nine priority behavioral health measures from the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) which counties must analyze, monitor, and report for defined time periods. The Participation Agreement with the CalMHSA for the Quality Measures and Performance Improvement Program is in the amount \$35,000, of which a one-time cost of \$30,000 is associated with participation in the program. An additional \$5,000 is being added to the agreement as a contingency to fund additional analyses that may be needed and will be payable as specified in the agreement. This agreement is funded by Short Doyle/Medi-Cal (SD/MC) Federal Financial Participation (FFP), 2011 Realignment; 1991 Realignment.</p>
4/23/2024	CalMHSA	\$0	May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025	<p><b>FY 2024-25 California Mental Health Services Authority(CalMHSA) Agreement for the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Program (Participation Agreement).</b> The proposed program will be designated to respond to the needs of the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System populations. This program is in response to Senate Bill 803 (Beall) which authorized the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish statewide requirements for the development of Medi-Cal certification programs for peer support specialists. DHCS released Behavioral Health Information Notice 21-041 establishing the statewide requirements and delegated CalMHSA to implement and administer all components of the Peer Support Specialist Certification Program. The CalMHSA Peer Support Specialist Certification is needed for Peer Support Specialists hired by the County or County Contracted Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for the services provided by the Specialist to be reimbursed by Medi-Cal. Under the proposed agreement, CalMHSA will act as the fiscal and administrative agent, and the certifying entity for the program. On behalf of participating counties, CalMHSA will implement and administer all components of the program, including: (1) required data collection and submission to DHCS, (2) certification of peers, (3) exam administration, (4) investigations, and (5) approval, auditing, and monitoring of training vendors. The Agreement with CalMHSA for the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Program will not have any fiscal impact . There could be future costs in subsequent phases of the project that will be initiated through a separate agreement, that would be funded by MHSA funds. Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) will return to the Board with any future agreements that require funding.</p>