

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

General Committee Meeting Minutes

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)

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

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Monday, August 18, 2025, 2:00 – 4:30PM

BHAB Members Present:

Cheryl Heitmann, Chair

Dianne McKay, 1st Vice Chair

Soledad Barragan

Daniel Bednar

Genevieve Flores-Haro

John C. Stenzel

Chris Dyer

Supervisor Matt LaVere

Reveka Grigorian

Michael Rodriguez

Dr. Andrei Bobrow

Guests:

Alejandrina Carrasco, Interface

Theresa Comstock, CALBHB/C

Amy Peake, BOS District 5

Heidi Allison, Nate's Place

Maria Torres, Social Security Commission Gvt.

Lourdes Solórzano, BOS District 1

Suzanne Weist, VCOE

Ricardo Garcia, Spanish interpreter

Glady's Ramos, Spanish interpreter

Tina Wang, County Exec Office

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Staff Present:

Dr. Loretta L. Denering, Director

Dr. John Schipper, Forensics, Justice-Involved, & Re-Entry Services Division Chief

Sara Sanchez, Critical Care and Navigation Services Division Chief

Karen Lee, Managed Care Operations Division Chief

Narcisa Egan, Chief Financial Officer

Raena West, LCSW Outpatient Clinical Operations Division Chief

Courtney Lubell, Special Projects MHSA/BHSA Manager

Jennifer Dougherty, Sr. Behavioral Health Manager, Outpatient Clinical Operations

Hilary Carson, Sr. Program Administrator, MHSA

Ana Magbitang, Sr. Behavioral Health Manager, Managed Care Operations

Michael Aldrich, Administrative and Financial Operations Division Chief

Selene Manzo, BHAB Administrative Assistant

Lupita Martinez, Executive Administrative Assistant

Martha Garcia, Program Administrator, Office of Health Equity

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 2:02PM by Chair Cheryl Heitmann.
- II. **Interpretation Instructions** – Ricardo, the Spanish interpreter, introduced himself and his colleague, Gladys, and provided instruction on the interpretation services available for the meeting.
- III. **Introductions** – All members introduced themselves and a physical quorum was confirmed.
- IV. **Roll Call of Members with Just Cause** – NONE.
 - a. State others present in the room over the age of 18.
- V. **Requests for Emergency Circumstances** – NONE.
- VI. **Approval of the Agenda** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board General Committee agenda for August 18, 2025, was approved (Rodriguez/Bobrow/Passed).

- VII. Approval of the July 21, 2025, Minutes** – The Behavioral Health Advisory Board General Committee minutes for July 21, 2025, were approved (Bobrow/Bednar/Passed). It was motioned to approve as written by majority vote through roll call.
- VIII. Public Comments** – Brenda Guillen shared her opinion about the proposed new mental health facility, expressing gratitude for its establishment and emphasizing the importance of a warm handoff from acute care.
- IX. Chair Announcements** – Chair Heitmann requested Courtney Lubell present a brief overview of the upcoming Community Planning Meetings for the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) (flyer attached to the agenda). She emphasized the importance of sharing this information with others to raise awareness and support.
- X. Director’s Report** – Director, Dr. Loretta Denering, presented the Director’s Report. Dr. Denering introduced new Administrative and Financial Operations Division Chief Michael Aldrich, highlighting his extensive experience in financing and operations at both the federal and state levels.
- XI. Presentation: Board Orientation** - Theresa Comstock, Executive Director of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHB/C). Theresa delivered a presentation via Zoom, emphasizing the importance of being an active member on the board. She discussed key roles and responsibilities, encouraging engagement and participation to strengthen board effectiveness.
- XII. Board Member Comments and Announcements** – Michael Rodriguez noted that the CARE Act has impact beyond the numbers highlighted in the Director’s Report, showing it is working effectively. Thanks were extended for the update.
- XIII. Old Business**
- A. Bylaws-** Chair Heitmann reported that the draft of the bylaws has been provided to board members, who will have four weeks to review them before the draft is presented as an action item next month.
 - B. Workgroups** - Chair Heitmann emphasized the importance of workgroups, noting that changes to the Board composition have slowed progress this year. Next month, there will be a discussion to establish two workgroups with the focus on crisis services and one on Transitional Age Youth (TAY). In October, a separate meeting will focus on goal setting. The September General Meeting will include a Prop 1 update from the department that may help identify goals and assess current progress.

Dianne McKay noted that Prop 1 goals have evolved. Michael Rodriguez highlighted key crisis-related issues. Prop 1 will be the priority topic.

XIV. New Business

A. Presentation Requests – All presentation requests can be sent to the Chair, Cheryl Heitmann, at cherylheitmann@gmail.com and at bhabadmin@ventura.org with a description of the subject and who will be conducting the presentation.

XV. Contracts – NONE.

XVI. Public Comments – NONE.

XVII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:41PM by Chair Cheryl Heitmann.

Next Meeting Date – September 15, 2025