

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
Youth & Family COMMITTEE  
2017-2018 Annual Report**

Submitted by Denise Nielsen, Chair  
Discussed on 8/8/18

**Youth & Family Committee members**

Denise Nielsen, Committee Chair  
Gane Brooking, BHAB  
Margaret Cortese, BHAB  
Marlen Torres, BHAB  
Martie Miles, Aspiranet  
Marika Collins, Casa Pacifica  
Ken McDermott, Children's Family Services  
Heather Davidson, First 5 Ventura County

Crystal Cummings, Kids & Families Together  
Laurie Jordan, Rainbow Connection  
Regina Reed, SELPA  
Tyler Baker-Wilkinson, Seneca  
Dr. Steven Graff, Tri-Counties Regional Center  
Lori Litel, United Parents  
Sheri Long, Vista Real Charter Real High School

**Organizations that participate occasionally or regularly**

Ventura County Behavioral Health  
Ventura County Probation Agency  
Interface Children & Family Services

New Dawn  
Vista del Mar Psychiatric Hospital

**DRAFT 1**

**MISSION**

The BHAB Youth & Family Committee advocates for the continuum of care and development in the delivery of services for youth and their families, believing that addressing the unique needs of minors and their caregivers is essential to the health of the community.

**INTRODUCTION**

The BHAB Youth & Family Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 10:00 to noon at the Ventura County Behavioral Health Administration building in Oxnard. Attendance and participation are open to the families of youth receiving mental health services from Ventura County Behavioral Health, service providers, Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) members, and anyone with an interest in the children and youth residing in Ventura County. The Youth and Family Committee is responsible to look into the needs, programs and services for children and youth, and to report on these matters to the BHAB.

**2017-18 OBJECTIVES**

**1. Continuum of Crisis Stabilization Options**

- a. Monitor the Crisis Stabilization Unit. Identify remaining gaps in the continuum of crisis services.
- b. The Committee will receive ongoing updates from the Suicide Prevention workgroup.

**2. Continuum of Care Reform**

Follow and evaluate the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). Identify further needs or gaps in services to children in foster care.

### 3. Community and Parent Outreach

- a. Engage community agencies to schedule presentations regarding the role and activities of this Committee.
- b. Recruit community members to serve on the Committee, and inform families about mental health services available.
- c. Create innovative strategies to increase parent participation in this Committee.
- d. Raise awareness of alcohol and drug use information. Actively disseminate alcohol and drug use prevention information to the community partners, including community-based organizations (CBOs), law enforcement, and school districts.
- e. Maintain the availability of relevant materials on the Ventura County Behavioral Health's WellnessEveryDay/SaludSiempre website.
- f. Continue to oversee the development of the family resource app.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

1.

**DRAFT 1**

## 2017-18 PRESENTATIONS

November 2017: Straight Up Reality Improv, presented by Katherine Kasmir.

February 2018: Alcohol & Drug Programs, presented by Richard LaPerriere.

April 2018: Collaborative Educational Supports (COEDS), presented by Aliya Maki.

May 2018: Ventura Early Intervention Prevention Services (VIPS), presented by Denise Pont.

June 2018: 2-1-1 Ventura County, presented by Kelly Brown.

## CHALLENGES

## OPPORTUNITIES

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**DRAFT 1**

### 2018-19 OBJECTIVES

#### 1. Continuum of Care

- a. Follow and evaluate the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). Identify further needs or gaps in services to children in foster care.
- b. Monitor the Crisis Stabilization Unit. Identify remaining gaps in the continuum of crisis services for both children covered by Medi-Cal and children with private insurance.
- c. Advocate for the availability of psychiatric hospital beds in the county for the pediatric population. Ensure communication and care coordination of medical information between care providers.

#### 2. Community and Parent Outreach

- a. Engage community agencies to schedule presentations regarding the role and activities of this Committee.
- b. Recruit community members to serve on the Committee, and inform families about mental health services available.
- c. Create innovative strategies to increase parent participation in this Committee.
- d. Raise awareness of alcohol and drug use information. Actively disseminate alcohol and drug use prevention information to the community partners, including community-based organizations (CBOs), law enforcement, and school districts.
- e. Maintain the availability of relevant materials on the Ventura County Behavioral Health's [wellnesseveryday.com](http://wellnesseveryday.com) website.
- f. Continue to oversee the development of the family resource app.
- g. Raise awareness of services for children ages 0-5 and access to those services.