

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE
MINUTES ■ Wednesday, March 10, 2021

<p>Members Present Kevin Clerici, Committee Chair Martie Miles, Aspiranet Carole Shelton, Rainbow Connection Dr. Danielle Shaw, Community member/Pediatrician Marika Collins, Casa Pacifica Steve Graff, Tri-Counties Mayra Tamayo, ICFS in attendance Juliana Cervantes Michael Rodriguez, BHAB Carrie Vredenburgh, Probation Savannah Eden, Kids & Families Together Scott Walker, Law Enforcement CIT Regina Reed, SELPA Laurie Jordan, Rainbow Connection</p> <p>Others Present Soledad Barragan, BHAB Maya Lazos, NAMI/Vista del Mar Hospital Clarise Cajiau, Interpreter Chandra Schlee, Gold Coast RN Stephen Kass- Housing Authority San Buenaventura</p>	<p>Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Managers/Staff Present Dina Olivas, Youth & Family Division Chief Hilary Carson, MHSA Program Administrator – Innovations Gracie Lopez, Management Assistant Joanna Peterson, Management Assistant Jennifer Dougherty, Youth & Family Division Senior Manager Dr. Jamie Rotnosfsky, MHSA Manager</p> <p>NEXT MEETING: April 14, 2021</p>
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Note: The committee has not yet approved these minutes. There may be additions/deletions or corrections before the minutes are accepted in final form.

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
I.	Call to Order Chair Clerici called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.		
II.	Approval of the Agenda Mr. Clerici asked the Committee to review and approve today's agenda. Carole Shelton moved to approve; Dr. Danielle Shaw seconded. The motion carried unanimously through roll call.	The agenda was approved as written. M/S/C	
III.	Approval of the December 9, 2020 Minutes Mr. Clerici asked the committee to review and approve the minutes of the December 9, 2020 meeting. Steve Graff moved to approve; Carole Shelton seconded. The motion carried unanimously through roll call. "A minor word change and correction to add three members inadvertently not listed was noted".	The minutes were approved as written. M/S/C	
IV.	Welcome and Introductions Mr. Clerici welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.		
V.	Chair Announcements None.		
VI.	Public Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carole Shelton spoke to advocate for those with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) noting that March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and April is Autism Acceptance Month. She stated that she will continue to advocate for equal and equitable access for individuals with I/DD at this Committee and through VCBH and Tri-Counties Regional Center. 		
VII.	Presentation: None		

VIII.	Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Annual Report – Review and Approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Clerici reviewed the FY 2019/2020 Annual Report with all Committee members. Discussion took place and various questions were answered. Carol Shelton moved to approve; Steve Graff seconded. The motion carried unanimously through roll call. 	FY 2019/2020 Annual Report was approved as amended. M/S/C	
IX.	Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Youth & Family Division Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth & Family Division – Dina Olivas, Division Chief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dina thanked Denise Nielsen for her years of dedication to the Youth & Family Services Committee and for her leadership and thanked Kevin Clerici for stepping up as the new Chair. In terms of focus, the Youth & Family Division’s attention has been on continuing services even though there are restrictions due to the pandemic. The seven Youth and Family Clinics remain open. Specialty programs, ERSSES school based, Juvenile Justice Facility and contractual services are operational via many of the agency partners. Continue to work with families to provide services. Also had an opportunity to meet with CBO partners who are providing services to some of the Division’s highest risk youth and dependency youth. Youth & Family Division has approximately three quarters of its staff rotating into the clinics. A large portion of the Youth & Family team have been vaccinated. Clinics are continuing to offer services via telehealth and in person services and are taking the lead of the families that we serve in terms of their own safety. Moving forward with one initiative which is an evidence-based outreach program called La Clave that targets the Latino community and teaches the community at large to identify serious symptoms of mental illness. Also continuing to provide specialized treatment regarding eating disorders. Juvenile justice continues to operate the INSIGHTs program and currently has 24 youth who are in that program and are getting services to ensure once they come out of the facility that youth and families are engaged in mental health services. Training opportunities: On April 14th we have the Academy of Cognitive Therapy. Dr. Leslie S. will be training on CBT for substance use and sustaining recovery. Training information is on the website at vcbhtraining@ventura.org. Another training will be Community Resiliency Model introductory course with Dr. Joy T. If interested this is a great opportunity. VCBH continues to have some of its staff reassigned. One of Youth & Family Services managers was reassigned and is running a clinic for vaccinations. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) – Hilary Carson, Program Administrator, Innovations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update: Hired a new manager for MHSA. Her name is Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky. Dr. Denering will continue to maintain that role as the chain of command. Next Suicide Prevention Council meeting on April 2nd at 10:00a.m. Dr. Lisa Firestone who’s also doing a training for VCBH. A much longer training is going to take place along with a presentation on Suicide Prevention. The opening of the Public Comment period for the Innovations project, Mobile Mental Health, will take place at Monday, March 15, at the BHAB meeting. Feedback will be posted on the website. The Public Hearing is scheduled at the April 19 BHAB meeting. The CAATS project final report is now posted on the wellness everyday program underneath the Innovations section. How does MHSA fit in with Youth and Family? We do the least amount because they have other funding. MHSA supports the INSIGHTS program, COMPASS program, variety of PEI programs outside the clinical services. VCBH staff and community partners are being trained for the La Clave program. It’s a 12-hour training for facilitators and the training itself is only 45 minutes and is done in Spanish. Working on getting facilitators certified so community members and VCBH staff can practice. Please let Hilary know of anyone else interested in the training. 		

X.	Items for the Next Meeting Agenda Not discussed.		
XI.	Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.		

APPROVED

3/10/21

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE**

2019-20 Annual Report

Submitted by Denise Nielsen, Chair

Committee members

Denise Nielsen, Committee Chair

Marlen Torres, BHAB

Martie Miles, Aspiranet

Marika Collins, Casa Pacifica

Ken McDermott, Children's Family Services

Heather Davidson,

Joelle Vessels, Interface

Scott Abeson, Ventura County Probation

Laurie Jordan, Rainbow Connection

Carole Shelton, Rainbow Connection

Tyler Baker-Wilkinson, Seneca

Ariann Bulger, Seneca

Dr. Steven Graff, Tri-Counties Regional Center

Lori Litel, United Parents

Danielle Shaw, M.D.

Participants

Ventura County Behavioral Health

Scott Walker, Crisis Intervention Team

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.

2018-19 OBJECTIVES OF THE BHAB YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE

- 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 learn about parents/caregivers' needs and concerns.
 - 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.
 - g. Raise awareness of services for children ages 0-5 and access to those services.

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 to the BHAB on these matters.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic were addressed by Behavioral Health and every other agency to continue to deliver services without interruption.
2. The committee received regular updates on the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), its successes and challenges.
3. The number of children and youth placed outside the home, either in foster care or Juvenile Justice, has been reduced thanks to early intervention and Trauma-Informed Care.
4. The Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit has continued to prevent the hospitalization of about half the children and youth who were assessed.
5. VCBH and providers provided outreach and engagement in psychoeducation to help parents learn to describe what their children are experiencing and to help reduce stigma.
6. Dr. Shaw reached out to primary care physicians (PCPs) and mental health providers to increase their awareness of the mental health services available and create a collaborative care network.
7. Continued support was provided to the community following the Borderline shooting.
8. Ongoing collaboration between various agencies and VCBH continues to improve the services available.
9. Eating disorders program was developed within the VCBH Youth & Family clinics.
10. The continuum of crisis care has been strengthened.

2019-20 PRESENTATIONS

September 2019: Youth Homeless Shelter, presented by Ralph Reyes, Director and Mayra Tamayo, Manager, Interface Housing Support Services.

November 2019: Neighborhoods for Learning (NFL), presented by Elizabeth Hardin, Director and Andrew Huizar, Associate Director, Interface Early Child and Family Development.

February 2020: Diversity Collective Ventura County presented by Grace Stephenson.

March 2020: Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Update presented by Gabriela Aguila and Lauren Nagel.

CHALLENGES

1. Barriers exist in the process of placing youth coming from outside Ventura County.
2. Additional foster families are needed.
3. Reunification for children and youth in foster care or group homes is problematic.
4. Respite care for parents and caregivers is desperately needed, especially until the COVID-19 pandemic is resolved.
5. A Children's CSU is needed in the East County.
6. Increasing the number of parent partners is needed.
7. A curriculum to train Peer Specialists must be developed.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Funding will become available during the next couple of years to implement new Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue to work toward developing an Innovation project that focuses on children ages 0-5.
2. Design an Innovation project focusing on identifying the early signs of possible mental illness in its early stages.
3. Consider implementing a tool for threat assessment on school campus that is applicable to students and adults alike and standardized across school campuses and law enforcement agencies.

2020-21 OBJECTIVES OF THE BHAB YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE

1. **Continuum of Care**
 - a. Follow the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). Identify further needs or gaps in services to children in foster care.
 - b. Follow the continuum of crisis care for children covered by Medi-Cal and children with private insurance. Provide feedback to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB), Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) and community providers.
 - c. Ensure communication and care coordination of health record 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 learn about parents/caregivers' needs and concerns.
 - d. Raise awareness of alcohol and substance use resources. Actively disseminate alcohol and substance use prevention resources 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 explore the use of technology to enhance access to services and resources.
 - g. Identify and address system barriers for access to service needs for children ages 0-5. Advocate for improvement in the continuum of services.