



COUNTY OF VENTURA
Behavioral Health Advisory Board

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Jerry M. Harris, Chair
February 26, 2019

Ventura County's Two Years of Challenge

- * Thomas Fire
- * Borderline Bar and Grill Mass Shooting
- * Woolsey and Hill Fires

VCBH – Committed to Serving Our Community

- * Immediate Behavioral Health Response to all 3 events.
- * Staff were on site from start to finish of each event during the day, night and on weekends.
- * Follow-up as needed after the conclusion of each event.
- * Exceptional dedication to the residents of Ventura County.

Purpose and Authority of County Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions

- * Section 5604 of the Welfare and Institutions Code

- F. Submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors on the needs and performance of the County's behavioral health system.

Another BHAB Successful and Productive Year

- * Fiscal Year 2017-18 can be described as a year of transition.
 1. Began the process of improving the performance of the BHAB.
 2. Formalized the approach to decision making by utilizing management theory and tools.
 3. Made data-driven decisions to the fullest extent possible.
 4. Integrated committee functioning into the work flow of the BHAB.
 - a. Committees recommend objectives to the BHAB.
 - b. Once objectives are approved, the committees are assigned applicable objectives.
 - c. Action Plans are used by the committees to work on accomplishing objectives.
- * As a result, the BHAB was able to improve its effectiveness and the amount of work accomplished during the past year.

BHAB Philosophical Approach

- * We as a community can do better to improve services to the Seriously and Persistently Mentally Ill and individuals with substance use disorders.
- * Understanding that progress is made on an incremental basis over time.
- * Members are committed to the long haul.
- * Progress is achieved through advocacy.
- * BHAB members are persistent in advocating for improved and expanded behavioral health services.

Global BHAB Concerns

- * The safety and protection of adults, older adults, transitional age youth and children within their homes, their communities and their schools.
- * The projected 73 percent increase in the older adult population in Ventura County by 2030 as compared to 2010.
- * The need to change the substance use disorder treatment philosophy to an aggressive outreach and engagement approach to more effectively address opioid and heroin epidemics within our communities.

Assessment of the County's 2017-18 Behavioral Health Needs – Gaps in Service and Unmet Needs

- * Appropriate housing for the Seriously and Persistently Mentally Ill and individuals with substance use disorders.
- * The development of a Crisis Stabilization Unit(s) within the County.
- * The availability of an adequate number of psychiatric inpatient beds for adults, children and adolescents, and older adults within Ventura County to address the needs of the community.
- * Support the certification and designation of a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) in the space formerly occupied by Assessment & Referral (A&R). Support the restoration of the 13 beds currently used for observation to inpatient psychiatric beds. These changes would help address the inpatient psychiatric bed crisis within Ventura County.

Assessment of the County's 2017-18 Behavioral Health Needs – Gaps in Service and Unmet Needs - Continued

- * The availability of a sufficient number and levels of supportive care and placement options to address the needs of the community. These include but are not limited to:
 - Residential care for youth and adults.
 - Adequate housing options for the Seriously and Persistently Mentally Ill and those suffering from substance abuse disorders.
 - A psychiatric inpatient facility to address the needs of older adults.
 - Crisis residential services for youth.

Limitations to What Can Be Accomplished

- * 15 years of improvement within the County's System of Care.
- * Ensure equity in the availability and provision of services.
- * By law, there is only so much that the County can do to address the needs of the Seriously and Persistently Mentally Ill and those individuals with substance use disorders and their families.
- * Need to update the Lanterman Petris Short Act (LPS) enacted in 1967, which is that portion of the Welfare and Institutions Code that governs involuntary civil commitment to psychiatric hospitals in California.

Where Do We Go From Here?

- * Continue to be vigilant and persistent in our efforts to identify behavioral health needs within the County and opportunities for service improvement.
- * Continue to work closely with VCBH by maintaining an effective partnership.
- * Continue to work together to provide clients and families with hope for a better tomorrow.
- * Continue to serve our community to the best of our abilities.

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