

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
Youth & Family Committee
2015-2016 Annual Report
Submitted by Denise Nielsen, Chair

Committee members:

Denise Nielsen, Committee Chair
René Beauchesne, BHAB
Martie Miles, Aspiranet
Detra Young, Aspiranet
Jody Kussin, Casa Pacifica
Erick Elhard, Casa Pacifica
Marika Collins, Casa Pacifica
Karin Lucero, City Impact
Lisa Connolly, CFS
Laura Gutierrez Woolridge, Interface
Laurie Jordan, Rainbow Connection

Regina Reed, SELPA
Lori Litel, United Parents
Jody Tompkins, Ventura County Jewish Family Services
Jorden Waverek, Vista del Mar
Sarah Wade, Vista del Mar
Deborah Thurber, M.D., VCBH Y&F Medical Director
Susan Kelly, VCBH Youth & Family Division Manager
Janet Kaplan, VCBH Prevention Services
Pam Roach, Transformational Liaison
Edith Pham, Recording Secretary

Activities and accomplishments for 2015-2016

During the past year, the Committee:

- Received regular updates on the changes that Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) made to the handling of crisis calls related to children and youth. VCBH contracted with Casa Pacifica to respond by phone and in person to children and youth in crisis. For the Fiscal Year 2016-17, VCBH did not renew the contract. As of 7/1/16 VCBH will begin providing crisis response to youth and families as part of the Crisis Team. This shift was implemented over several months in collaboration with Casa Pacifica.
Committee members were concerned that this change may result in a decline in the quality of the response.
- Received updates on the opening of a children's Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) in Oxnard. It will provide services to children age 6-18 who are in crisis but for whom hospitalization is not appropriate. VCBH is also planning to open in the same building a short-term residential program for children and youth age 12-18. It is hoped that these programs will prevent many out-of-county hospitalizations and reduce hospital re-admissions.
The Committee has long advocated for such programs, which broadens options for the continuum of care of children and youth.
- Received regular updates on the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), which is an expansion of the "Katie A" initiative. Under this State-mandated program, Ventura County Behavioral Health and the Human Services Agency collaboratively provide mental health screening to all children entering the foster care system; when appropriate, short-term or ongoing services and treatment are provided.

- Received updates on the Suicide Prevention Committee, which meets monthly, and on other news and activities related to suicide prevention.
- Received updates on the state curriculum for parent partner certification. Once in place, the certification should help recruit parents.

The following presentations were given to the Committee throughout the year:

- Ventura County Behavioral Health Alcohol and Drug Programs services to teens. Based on medical necessity, these services include group counseling; some are offered on high schools campus. Clients are getting younger, and some are in the 6th grade.
- First 5. Each neighborhood for Learning focuses on early learning and family strengthening. Most services are free.
- Beacon Health Options, which contracts with Gold Coast Health Plan to provide mental health services to its members with mild to moderate impairment in mental, emotional or behavioral functioning.
- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) overview, including how the funds are used: 80% for treatment and community support services, and 20% for prevention and early intervention.

2016-2017 Goals