



# COUNTY *of* VENTURA

## Grand Jury

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800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
Tel (805) 477-1600  
Fax (805) 658-4523  
[grandjury.countyofventura.org](http://grandjury.countyofventura.org)

This response was given using the 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report form. The form should have reflected the Ventura County Grand Jury Report form 2021-2022.

We regret any confusion this may cause.

Sincerely,

Keith Frost  
Foreperson  
Ventura County Grand Jury (2022-2023)



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SEP 1 2022

Ventura County  
Grand Jury

### Response to 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report Form (Please See California Penal Code Section 933.05)

Report Title: Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools

Responding Entity: Oxnard Union School District

#### FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered: 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered: 13, 14, 15  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01 have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a summary indicating the timeframe for implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ require further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation to include: scope and parameters of the analysis or study and timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion with the agency or department head. The timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the report.)
- Recommendations numbered 02, 03, 04 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8/29/22

Signed: [Signature]

Title: Superintendent  
OXNARD UNION High School District

Number of pages attached: 1\*  
\* 2 sided

**Oxnard Union High School District agrees with the Findings numbered**

**F-12** *The Grand Jury finds that Ventura County school districts have obtained time-limited funding for initial establishment of Wellness Centers*

Oxnard Union High School District agrees with this finding. Oxnard Union successfully used the Mental Health Services Administration (MHSA) grant managed by the Ventura County Office of Education with funds received from the county of Ventura to establish eight physical Wellness Centers on our campuses. MHSA funding complimented local funding from the District's Local Control Funding Formula Supplemental and Concentration grants as articulated in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) to ensure that the Wellness Centers were each staffed with two Student Wellness Specialists, and a wellness Guidance Technician. MHSA funding also supported outside provider Mental Health Services as well as furnishings and engaging environments for the Wellness Centers.

**Oxnard Union High School District wholly or partially disagrees with the Findings numbered**

**F-13** *The Grand Jury finds that current funding for Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools is not adequate for long term sustainability.*

Oxnard Union High School District partially disagrees with this finding. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in Ventura County have access within the Local Control Funding Formula to dollars designated to specifically support Low Income (LI) students, English Learners (EL), and Foster Youth (FY). These monies, designated Supplemental and Concentration funding and distributed through the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), vary depending on the unduplicated number of students in these groups enrolled in the LEA. Those LEAs with ongoing access to this funding can organize these dollars to create a sustainable source of funding for Wellness Centers within the District's current resources. Clearly, LEAs without this funding source, or where it is not robust, will not have the same access to this sustainability.

**F-14** *The Grand Jury finds that school districts in other California counties have successfully claimed Medi-Cal MH MAA matching funds to finance school-based mental health services*

Oxnard Union High School District partially disagrees with this finding. Despite our best efforts in Oxnard Union to claim these funds over the last six years, the process is so complicated that there is almost no financial return from our efforts to claim these dollars. We are unaware of LEAs in other California counties that have a successful system for reclaiming these funds, other than the one we attempt to participate in each year. We would like to be made aware of the identity of these LEAs in order to contact them and discover how they are using the system to reclaim these funds with more success.

**F-15** *The Grand Jury finds that Medi-Cal MH MAA is under-utilized as a funding source for mental health services by Ventura County school districts.*

Oxnard Union High School District partially disagrees with this finding. Again, the process for reclaiming these funds is so complicated and time consuming that there is almost no financial return from our efforts to claim these dollars. To utilize this funding source as a sustainable income for mental health services would require a state-wide systems change to simplify the reimbursement process so that it can be reasonably completed by the LEA during each school year. The infrastructure necessary to claim these funds on a regular basis will need assistance from state and county governments that lead the process that creates reimbursements. This is not a task local school districts can take on without assistance from those who govern Medi-Cal.

### **Recommendations**

**R-01** *The Grand Jury recommends that by June 30, 2024, VCBH in collaboration with VCOE, expand the Wellness Center pilot program into all Ventura County public high schools. (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-04, F-05, F-06, F-09)*

Oxnard Union High School District opened Wellness Centers on eight campuses during the 2021-2022 school year

**R-02** *The Grand Jury recommends that by June 30, 2025, VCBH in collaboration with VCOE, develop a strategy to expand the Wellness Center pilot program into Ventura County public middle schools. (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-04, F-05, F-06, F-12)*

Oxnard Union High School District is grades 9 through 12 and does not include any middle schools.

**R-03** *The Grand Jury recommends that pursuant to Wellness Center continuity and expansion VCOE, Conejo Valley Unified School District, Simi Valley Unified School District, and Ventura Unified School District seek and obtain sustainable funding from public and private sources. (F12, F13, F14, F15)*

Oxnard Union High School District is available to assist any Ventura County LEA by sharing our experiences funding Wellness Center programs.

**R-04** *The Grand Jury recommends that pursuant to Wellness Center continuity and expansion, VCOE, Conejo Valley Unified School District, Simi Valley Unified School District, and Ventura Unified School District create an infrastructure to claim Medi-Cal MH MAA funds for Wellness Centers. (F-12, F-13, F-14, F-15)*

Despite our best efforts in Oxnard Union to claim these funds over the last six years, the process is so complicated that there is almost no financial return from our efforts to claim these dollars. The infrastructure necessary to claim these funds on a regular basis will need assistance from state and county governments that lead the process that creates reimbursements. This is not a task local school districts can take on without assistance from those who govern Medi-Cal.