



COUNTY *of* VENTURA

Grand Jury

800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
Tel (805) 477-1600
Fax (805) 658-4523
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)



COUNTY of VENTURA

Grand Jury

800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
Tel (805) 477-1600
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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: Ventura County Behavioral Health

FINDINGS

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01, R-02 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 _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 6/23/2022

Signed: 

Title: Assistant Director

Number of pages attached: 3

**Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools
Ventura County 2021 – 2022 Grand Jury Final Report
Responses from Ventura County Behavioral Health**

FINDINGS:

- **F-01: Partially Agree**
 - Although the recognition of mental health needs among youth is more readily identified, the statement “widespread, severe and have long-term repercussions” is an overstatement of the prevalence and impact. The current data regarding severity and prevalence rates indicate: 1) Mental health problems can fall in the range of mild to severe and 2) Many factors including the individual youth, their family, and social determinants of health have an impact as to whether or not mental health problems will have long-term repercussions. We disagree that all mental health problems experienced by youth would all fall in the category of severe. Instead, studies show that prevalence of Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED) in youth is approximately 10%¹. Additionally, for youth with any mental disorder, it is estimated that 22.2% of those would be categorized as severe impairment as defined by as defined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)².

- **F-02: Agree**

- **F-03: Partially Agree**
 - Serving youth through a Wellness Center setting serves to reduce access barriers, improve awareness and reduce stigma, support overall resilience, and offers stress reduction and ways to enhance coping skills. Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) agrees these are effective interventions that provide a mental health and wellness focus, and that Wellness Centers are well-suited to providing Tier 1 and some Tier 2 services. For youth with needs requiring a more comprehensive and focused intervention, it will likely require resources in addition to those appropriate for a campus setting. We affirm that that a full-range of mental health care and services may be better suited to off-campus specialized providers to address Tier 3 needs.

- **F-04: Agree**

- **F-05: Agree**

- **F-06: Agree**

- **F-09: Agree**

¹ Prevalence of Serious Emotional Disturbance Among U.S. Children: A Meta-Analysis. Jan. 2018. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28859585/> Accessed June 23, 2022.

² National Institute of Mental Health Jan. 2022. https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness#part_2632, Accessed June 23, 2022.

- **F-10: Agree**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **R-01: This recommendation is partially implemented**

- The initial Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) grant of 2019 allowed for the development of the eight high school Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) Wellness Centers through this pilot program VCBH participates in. As of June 17, 2022, the VCBH/Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) team in partnership with VCOE, applied for a third round of grants with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for \$11 million. If the grant is awarded, Wellness Centers will be expanded to more Ventura County public high schools. This potential expansion of Wellness Centers in high schools will be dependent on two crucial factors: 1) schools agreeing to host Wellness Centers as VCBH cannot mandate participation in the grant process, and 2) availability of funding. Funding will allow VCOE to expand the Wellness Center model to additional school districts and schools in Ventura County. The additional funds will also support the existing grant by expanding the current service model to fund additional clinicians, hired by the school districts, to support early intervention.
- Upon securing this noted round of grant funding, VCBH will continue to partner with VCOE to onboard the two new school districts (Conejo Valley Unified School District and Oak Park Unified School District) and expand in one existing school district (Ventura Unified School District). Within these three districts, seven new Wellness Centers sites will be developed:
 1. Ventura High School (Ventura Unified School District)
 2. Foothill Technology High School (Ventura Unified School District)
 3. Pacific High School (Ventura Unified School District)
 4. Newbury Park High School (Conejo Valley Unified School District)
 5. Thousand Oaks High School (Conejo Valley Unified School District)
 6. Westlake High School (Conejo Valley Unified School District)
 7. Oak Park High School (Oak Park Unified School District)

- **R-02: This recommendation has been partially implemented.**

- Ventura County Behavioral Health is and will continue supporting this recommendation as additional funding opportunities arise. In April 2022, VCBH directed \$2 million MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) dollars to the VCOE Wellness Center expansion. This allocation will support the addition of six middle schools to join the existing VCOE Wellness Center pilot program. Individual school district and school participation are voluntary and cannot be mandated. However, several districts and middle schools have committed to this expansion opportunity. They include:
 1. Conejo Valley Unified School District
 2. Fillmore Unified School District

3. Oxnard Unified School District
 4. Ojai Unified School District
 5. Pleasant Valley Unified School District
 6. VCOE- Gateway Community School
- Ventura County Behavioral Health has also supported VCOE and Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) in their collaboration to expand Wellness Centers to school-age youth in the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)-funded Student Behavioral Health Incentive Plan (SBHIP). The SBHIP kick-off launched in May 2022. Utilizing data from the Ventura County Community Health Needs Assessment, Gold Coast Health Plan has identified districts/schools that will include Oxnard Union, Rio Elementary, Fillmore Unified, Santa Paula Unified and Hueneme Elementary. Ventura County Behavioral Health will continue to support VCOE and CGHP in this exciting opportunity for expanded partnerships.



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Sevet Johnson, PsyD

Interim County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit

Assistant County Executive Officer

Kaye Mand

County Chief Financial Officer

Shawn Atin

Assistant County Executive Officer/
Human Resources Director

Labor Relations

July 26, 2022

Board of Supervisors
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Approval of Responses to the 2021-2022 Ventura County Jury Reports, Entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County" and "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools" for Submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that your Board consider and approve, with or without modification, the responses to the 2021-2022 Ventura County Grand Jury Reports, entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County" (Exhibit 1) and "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools," (Exhibit 2) pertaining to County Government under your Board's authority, for submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in accordance with Penal Code section 933(c).

DISCUSSION:

Penal Code §933 and §933.05 require that your Board comment on the Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury pertaining to County government under your authority.

The 2021-22 Grand Jury issued a report dated May 11, 2022, entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County." The Grand Jury required a response from your Board and from the Public Works Agency (PWA). The response for your Board was prepared by the PWA and the County Executive Office for your Board's approval and is attached as **Exhibit 1**.

The Grant Jury Report recommends water purveyors within the County take various actions related to cybersecurity to protect water supplies from two primary areas of vulnerability: the systems used to bill customers and record water usage; and the operational systems used to control, monitor, treat, and deliver the water supply to the community. Contained within the Grand Jury Report were six (6) recommended actions

for water purveyors to implement to better mitigate the threat of these vulnerabilities and improve the cybersecurity of their water systems.

As noted in the response from PWA to the Grand Jury Report, findings within the report generally identified inconsistencies with the level of complexity, training, and reporting of cybersecurity across the numerous water purveyors rather than specific deficiencies of an individual water purveyor, including PWA. As a result, PWA determined that the recommendations of the Grand Jury are already in place and meet the standard of the Grand Jury's Report as implemented.

The 2021-22 Grand Jury issued a report dated June 2, 2022, entitled "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools." The Grand Jury required a response from your Board and requested a response from the Health Care Agency's Behavioral Health Department (BHD). The response for your Board was prepared by the

BHD and the County Executive Office for your Board's approval and is attached as **Exhibit 2**.

The Grand Jury Report recommends the BHD, in collaboration with the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), expand the Wellness Center pilot program into all Ventura County public high schools by June 30, 2024. The Grand Jury Report also recommends the Behavioral Health Department, in collaboration with the VCOE, develop a strategy to expand the Wellness Center pilot program into Ventura County public middle schools by June 30, 2025.

Both recommendations are currently in the process of being implemented. The BHD/Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) team, in partnership with VCOE, have applied for a third round of grant funding with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) to expand the Wellness Center program to additional high schools in Ventura County. As approved and ratified by your Board on May 24, 2022, BHD directed \$2 million of MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) dollars to the VCOE Wellness Center expansion, which will support the addition of six middle schools to the existing VCOE Wellness Center expansion.

Note that both recommendations to expand Wellness Centers are dependent on two factors: 1) voluntary participation and hosting of Wellness Centers by the school districts, and 2) availability of funding.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller's Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Pettit, Assistant County Executive Officer, at (805) 654-2720.

Board of Supervisors
July 26, 2022
Page 3 of 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sevet Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
Interim County Executive Officer

Exhibit 1: Response to Grand Jury Report "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County"

Exhibit 2: Response to Grand Jury Report "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools."

Exhibit 3: Copy of Grand Jury Reports for Reference



**BOARD MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**SUPERVISORS MATT LAVERE, LINDA PARKS,
KELLY LONG, ROBERT O. HUBER AND CARMEN RAMIREZ
July 26, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE - Approval of Responses to the 2021-22 Ventura County Grand Jury Reports, Entitled Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County and Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools for Submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

- (X) All Board members are present.

- (X) Upon motion of Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Long, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves recommendations as stated in the Board letter.

By: Lori Key
Lori Key
Deputy Clerk of the Board



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

August 8, 2022

Sent via email

Kaye Mand
County Chief Financial Officer

Honorable Bruce A. Young
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Superior Court of California, Ventura County
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Shawn Atin
ED Assistant County Executive Officer/
Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

AUG 15 2022

Ventura County
Grand Jury

Subject: Approval of Responses to the 2021-2022 Ventura County Jury Reports, Entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County" and "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools" for Submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Honorable Judge Young:

In accordance with State requirements, the responses from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to the 2021-2022 Ventura Grand Jury reports referenced above are hereby submitted, along with copies of the board letter and minute order.

By way of this email, copies of the responses to the subject reports (Exhibits 1 and 2); copy of Grand Jury reports for reference (Exhibit 3); Minute Order; and the July 26, 2022 board letter were provided to the Ventura County Clerk, to Superior Court Jury Services, and to the Foreperson of the 2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury. As has been the usual practice in past years, Jury Services will provide copies of the responses to the State Archives.

Should you have any questions, please call me at 654-2864.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1: Response to Grand Jury Report "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County"
- Exhibit 2: Response to Grand Jury Report "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools."
- Exhibit 3: Copy of Grand Jury Reports for Reference
- Minute Order
- Board Letter dated July 26, 2022

Copies:

- County Executive Officer, Sevet Johnson, PsyD
- County Clerk, Mark Lunn
- Foreperson, Keith Frost
- Jury Services, Nan Richardson, Manager