



A Division of Ventura County Health Care Agency

TBS May 2009 Meeting Summary for Ventura County:

Two TBS meetings were held in Ventura County in May 2009. The presentations were prepared by Meredyth Alpert, LCSW, Behavioral Health Manager II and TBS Clinical Coordinator and presented by Ms. Alpert and Beau Godtel TBS Program Manager of Casa Pacifica. On May 21, 2009, the public forum for the general public was held. Over 100 individuals were invited representing education providers, parents and youth, group home providers, officers of the court, members of the faith community, Community Based Organizations, public agency staff and volunteers. Attached you will find the sign in sheets. 19 individuals attended the May 21st meeting.

Invitations were also sent to the stakeholders and county representatives, with a request that if they were unable to attend, that they send their designees with appropriate authority to the May 29th meeting. Many RSVP'ed that they were attending, but only two invitees attended that meeting. Attached is the sign in sheet.

Four Questions:

1. **Are the children and youth in Ventura County who are Emily Q class members and who would benefit from TBS, getting TBS?**

As reported on the TBS dashboard, during the fiscal years 2005, 2006, and 2007 statewide 1.68%, 1.83% and 1.99% respectively of EPSDT Children receiving Mental Health services received TBS services. The benchmark established by DMH was 4%. In Ventura County during that same time period, 11.25%, 11.10% and 11.41% of EPSDT Children receiving Mental Health services also received TBS services. Ventura County exceeded the 4% benchmark.

Additionally, TBS services in Ventura County lasted longer, with more contacts per TBS episode. The average number of minutes per TBS contact statewide was 178 minutes during the 2005, 2006 and 2007 calendar years. In Ventura County the average number of minutes per TBS contact was 125 minutes during the 2005, 2006 and 2007 calendar years. However, while the average number of contacts per TBS Episode statewide was 36, in Ventura County a child receiving TBS received an average of 67 contacts. Further statewide, the average duration in days per TBS Episode was 76 days, while in Ventura County a child received on average 124 days of TBS services.

2. Are the children and youth who get TBS experiencing the intended benefits?

Quarterly outcomes measures assess if children and youth receiving TBS are experiencing the intended benefits. Data on maintenance level of placement, progress on individualized target goals, and whether caregivers have been taught tools/skills and are able to demonstrate that they can adequately maintain the client's behaviors during the TBS episode are collected. For the 2007-2008 fiscal year, 83% of the children either maintained their level of placement or transitioned to a lower level of placement, 93% achieved their targeted goals, and 83% of the caregivers learned and demonstrated the tools/skills taught during the TBS episode.

3. What alternatives to TBS are being provided in Ventura County

In Ventura County, Wraparound and CMFRT are the two alternatives to TBS. Each program provides adjunct services that are added to the existing mental health services.

4. What can be done to improve the use of TBS and/or alternative behavioral support services in the county?

Ventura County Department of Behavioral Health is collaborating with Casa Pacifica, the contracted provider for TBS in Ventura County, to increase knowledge and access to TBS for Community Based Organizations. This included inviting CBO representatives to the May 2009 Public Forum as well as providing continued outreach and presentations to community partners and VCBH by the TBS program manager.

Additionally, VCBH and Casa Pacifica are working to increase collaboration between the mental health providers and TBS specialists. VCBH, in collaboration with Casa Pacifica is planning two trainings annually for TBS providers and clinicians from all agencies in Ventura County who are serving clients with open TBS cases. The first mandatory training is scheduled for July 15, 2009. The intention of this training is to put both the mental health providers and the TBS staff in the same room, to train them together so that all hear and understand the same information. By creating a mutually shared educational opportunity, it is our hope that collaboration and cooperation between providers in all agencies will be increased to the benefit of the TBS clients and their families/caregivers.

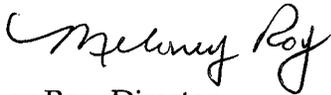
Ventura County has the benefit of having established a positive collaborative working relationship with the contracted TBS service provider. Managers from both agencies are meeting on a regular basis to review protocols, delivery of service, problem solve and collaborate on improving TBS services and accessibility. It is not uncommon for emails and phone calls between managers to occur on a weekly basis. TBS clients in particular and the TBS program in Ventura County benefits from this positive collaborative working relationship. We are initiating the implementation of an outcome measure that will be completed with the TBS referral and then at 90 days to provide data on improvement in functioning.

By continuing to be a friendly, accessible service without stigma, TBS in Ventura County is a service that remains highly desirable by clients and their families/caregivers.

In summary the steps that Ventura County intends to take in "good faith" to insure the best possible access to and use of TBS members of the Emily Q class include:

1. Continued provision of services in the manner established, such that accessibility and provision of services continues to exceed DMH benchmarks, while evaluating the program to improve upon what we are doing.
2. Continued regular meetings between program managers of TBS and Ventura County (Behavioral Health Manager/TBS Clinical coordinator)
3. Ventura County currently has a performance improvement plan for EPSDT services. Our project is to evaluate TBS as it is provided in Ventura County and to formulate recommendations for changes in protocol of TBS services by increasing efficiency without jeopardizing integrity.
4. Ongoing co-facilitated biannual training of clinicians who have open TBS episodes and TBS staff.

Prepared by Meredyth Alpert and
Approved by,



Meloney Roy, Director
Ventura County Behavioral Health

**VENTURA COUNTY
TBS Presentation
Wednesday, May 20, 2009
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Training room**

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Organization	Phone	Email
G. Sandoval	Rio School Dist	947-7197	gsandoval@rio.k12.ca.us
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David Friedlander	" "	"	david@kidsandfamilies.org
Pat McMahon	Oxnard School District	487-3918 X519	mcgovern@oxnard.sdsd.org
Keis Bennett	Aspiranet	805-289-0120	kbennett@aspiranet.org
David Conroy	"	"	dconroy@
Cynthia Angel	Oxnard School		
Vanessa Braamontes	Children's Learning Center	487-4353	vanessa.braamontes@yahoo.com
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