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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ventura County Behavioral Health Expands Services in South Oxnard

(Oxnard, Calif.) – The Ventura County Health Care Agency announces the expansion of mental health outpatient services in South Oxnard. Two new clinics, Adult Services, and Youth & Family Services have opened at 2500 C Street, in the Centerpoint Mall. This is just the latest of many projects that Ventura County Behavioral Health has successfully implemented in order to improve access for the county's Latino population. These projects, including the implementation of Triple P Parenting County-wide and outreach and engagement projects in Fillmore, Santa Paula and Oxnard improved the rate of service for Latino Medical beneficiaries by 63% between 2006 and 2013.

"We are very proud of the outreach we have undertaken in communities such as Oxnard and Santa Paula," says Meloney Roy, Chief Deputy Director for the Ventura County Health Care Agency and outgoing Behavioral Health Director. "In order to accommodate working families, for example, the Behavioral Health Department clinics -- including these two new Oxnard clinics -- are open later hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday until 6:00 pm, and on Wednesdays until 7:00 pm. These expanded hours will allow working families to more easily access care."

Transportation can also be a barrier to access and can be particularly difficult for people with mental illness. The new clinics in Oxnard are close to public transportation, but if people can't get there, Behavioral Health has risen to the challenge. Through the purchase of 24 vehicles several years ago, Behavioral Health staff provides 4,000 rides annually at various clinic sites. To further improve that access, Behavioral Health in 2012, contracted with a transportation vendor who provides an additional 5,000 rides annually. This is one of many examples of the commitment Behavioral Health has shown in making sure that those who need services are able to get them.

Behavioral Health offers a full range of services, starting with prevention, assessment and early intervention, outpatient services, residential services, as well as Wellness and Recovery. These two new clinics in Oxnard will provide clinicians, case managers and peer recovery coaches who are available to be deployed into the community, with the goal of providing services in a culturally sensitive, non-stigmatizing manner to meet the needs of the community.

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