

## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES FOR April 3, 2024 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

### **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS –**

Madam Chair, Tori St. Johns called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:01 pm and asked Kelly Grotsky to lead the committee into the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll call and followed by introductions.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS –**

Madam Chair announced she attended the Poisoning and Overdose Awareness 5K Walk in Palm Desert on March 27 that was well attended and pleased with the event. She also shared that she attended the walk for Peace from Chaos event in Blythe and praised the support from the department at this event. Madam Chair concluded by giving a brief update on her site visit review to the John Benoit jail she visited.

### **COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –**

Daryl Terrell thanked Dr. Chang for his leadership and the service provided to the consumers by the department. He mentioned he went to the Palm Springs Navigation Center and was pleased with the information and services it provides and would like to know how a similar Navigation Center can be provided in Moreno Valley. He concluded by sharing he is completing site visits with Greg Damewood.

Greg Damewood shared that the site visits he conducted were fairly easy and welcoming and thanked Rhyan Miller and his staff for their involvement.

Brenda Scott inquired about Proclamations for the May is Mental Health Month events and if the Executive Committee can be open to the public.

Beatriz Gonzalez recognized Madam Chair Tori St. Johns for receiving a Humanitarian Award from Barry Manilow who sang a song tailored to her. The award she received was for 40 years of volunteer work helping patients with HIV Aids and therapy in hospice.

### **PUBLIC REMARKS –**

Richard Juarez from Moreno Valley shared the challenges, struggles and barriers he is currently facing with his 36-year-old son who has a diagnosis and receiving services with the county of Riverside. He expressed his frustrations and the need for additional support for his son.

The Crisis Team was in attendance at the BHC meeting and met with Mr. Juarez after the meeting to provide additional support and resources for his son.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –**

Richard Divine made a motion to approve minutes as written from March 6, 2024, during discussion Launa Wilson asked that moving forward the minutes capture any request of items for additional information to be documented for follow up.

Rick Gentillalli seconded Richard Divine's motion, all approved minutes as written.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT –**

Dr. Chang gave praise to the Crisis Team for the work they do and gave thanks to Ms. Johnson and Rhyan Miller and expressed the importance of the Crisis System of Care. He said the program has gone above and beyond what the state is requiring, and they are to be commended. Dr. Chang continued by sharing a few weeks ago he went to the California Behavioral Health Association in Sacramento and met with law makers and shared challenges the Behavioral Health Department is having and had the opportunity to learn there are several bills CBHDA are sponsoring and supporting the removal of stigmatizing language for behavioral health and substance use. He concluded by sharing he had the opportunity to share some of the work Riverside County is doing with the Crisis System and Wellness Villages.

## **CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Consumer Peer Services (Kristen Duffy)**

Consumer Peer Services Program Manager and Supervisor of Consumer Senior Peer Specialist Introduced Erika Edney, Desert Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist. Ms. Edney began by sharing she witnessed domestic violence during her childhood and when her mother left her father she was raised by a single mother with substance use. During the ages of 7-10 her mom was incarcerated, and the choices of her mother affected how she viewed the world. Ms. Edney shared she was kidnapped and trafficked and began experiencing panic attacks at the age of 14 and because of this traumatic experience she was introduced to therapy. She found therapy difficult to accept due to stigma around it and had multiple attempts of suicide. She moved around constantly and continued to be subjected to abuse and ended up in foster care and was also abused while in foster care and turned to substances to numb the pain. She was sent to ETS and admitted for a week and attended groups there, she wanted help but didn't know how to accept it. Ms. Edney was in an abusive relationship that involved criminal activity and she was incarcerated and kicked out of her foster home and became a pregnant homeless teenager who felt like another statistic.

Child Protective Services were called, and she was given a choice to have her son removed from her care or go to a shelter, she chose a shelter and that is where her recovery journey began. She was reintroduced to therapy and chose to break the generational traumas so that her son would not endure the same traumas she did. She was able to receive services, transitional housing, assistance with finding a job and independent living skills. Ms. Edney shared she still had setbacks and learned to do the work she was learning in therapy and learn to apply those tools as she was responsible for her own recovery. She advocated for herself, and identified her own triggers and now as a peer support specialist she works with children and young adults ages 12-26 and advocates for them and helps them learn what works for them. Ms. Edney is now in a healthy relationship and her children have a healthy mom in recovery and she has built a relationship with her mother and is currently in school to become a social worker. She is an example that recovery is possible.

## **NEW BUSINESS-**

### **1. Crisis Update and Report (Rhyan Miller)**

Rhyan Miller, Deputy of Integrated Programs, presented on the Crisis Team and thanked Ms. Johnson and Dr. Chang for their support. He began by introducing the leadership of his Crisis Team; Tiffany Boulware, Kristin Miller, Heather Sylvester, Maria Martinez, Patricia Oare, Erika Armendariz, Don Kendrick, Conni Ryder, and Joel Galindo. Mr. Miller then shared the Tranquil Springs CRT is now open in Indio, and Jackson House is the new CRT provider in Temecula, and there will soon be a MH Urgent Care in Indio with an adolescent unit and an adult unit which is currently being remodeled. He also provided updates with staffing changes and funding allowed for new positions which consisted of AOD counselors, clerical staff, Mobile Crisis Management Teams (MCMT), Behavioral Health Services Supervisors, SBHS, BHS IVs, Senior CTs and Senior Peers, also CBAT was expanded.

Mr. Miller announced the mobile crisis response is now available 24/7 at 951-686-HELP and which provides a rapid response, as locations have a coverage area of a 30-minute drive time.

The Crisis response teams offer individual assessment and community-based stabilization to those experiencing a behavioral health crisis. A complete response includes initial face to face crisis assessment, mobile crisis response, crisis planning, facilitation warm hand off if needed, referral for ongoing services if needed and follow up check ins. In efforts to outreach the community and make them aware of these services, presentations are offered, postings on billboards, social media, and fliers. Mr. Miller concluded by sharing the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Update and mentioned he will be a part of the 988 Policy Advisory Group in Sacramento every two months and requests feedback from the community to share at this advisory group meeting for them to take into consideration.

## **OLD BUSINESS-**

### **1. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update - (David Schoelen)**

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator, announced prop 1 passed and stated updates to come. Mr. Schoelen also announced Public Hearings would take place in May in each region and requested volunteers from the commission that would conduct the Public Hearings. Daryl Terrell and Greg Damewood volunteered for the Western Public Hearing on 5/28/24. Brenda Scott and Rick Gentillalli volunteered for the Mid County Public Hearing on 5/21/24. And Richard Divine, Carole Schaudt, Tori St. Johns, and Beatriz Gonzalez volunteered for the Desert Public Hearing on 5/23/24.

### **2. Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (SAPT) Update – (Heidi Gomez)**

Heidi Gomez, assistant regional manager with SAPT programs shared a video for the 1 Life 1 Heart Poisoning & Overdose Awareness 5K Walk. She announced the next walk would be on April 13, 2024, in Riverside at Fairmount Park beginning at 8am and there will also be another on April 27, 2024, in Murrieta at the Murrieta Town Square Park beginning at 8am.

### **3. Care Court Update – (Marcus Cannon)**

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on Care Court sharing there are currently 44 civil court petitions, 14 criminal court referrals, 18 referrals for investigation from other sources, 5 active cases ordered into the program and 70 referrals from CARES Line. He stated Care Court is for those 18 and older and is a voluntary program and the consumer can opt out. Mr. Cannon concluded by sharing there will be a hybrid CARE Act Townhall meeting expected in June.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES – None**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-**

Greg Damewood and April Smith suggested review and approval of the bylaw drafts.

Daryl Terrell suggested a thorough CBAT presentation.

Brenda Scott and Richard Divine suggested update on Prop 1 or asked when they should expect an update.

Greg Damewood and Tori St. Johns suggested site visit updates.

**ADJOURN** – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

# Sylvia Bishop

Rick Gentillalli, BHC Secretary  
 Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

## FY 2023/24 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

| MEMBERS                        | JUL | SEP | OCT | NOV | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| April Smith, District 3        | A   | A   | P   | P   | A   | P   | P   | P   |     |     |
| Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4   | P   | P   | A   | P   | P   | A   | P   | P   |     |     |
| Brenda Scott, District 3       | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |     |
| Carole Schaudt, District 4     | ML  | A   | A   | P   | ML  | P   | P   | P   |     |     |
| Daryl Terrell, District 5      | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | A   | P   |     |     |
| Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2  | P   | A   | P   | P   | A   | P   | A   | A   |     |     |
| Greg Damewood, District 5      | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |     |
| Launa Wilson, District 1       | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | P   | P   |     |     |
| Richard Divine, District 2     | P   | P   | P   | P   | ML  | P   | P   | P   |     |     |
| Rick Gentillalli, District 3   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |     |
| Victoria St. Johns, District 4 | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |     |
| Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 1   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   |     |     |

Present = P • Absent = A • Medical Leave = ML

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 To request copies, please contact the BHC Liaison at 951-955-7141 or email SBishop@ruhealth.org

| PRESENT           |                          |                      |                |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Bill Brenneman    | Sujei Larkin             | Dylan Colt           | Alea Jackson   |
| Lucy Lopez        | Israel Torres            | Lauren Adamson       | Rhyan Miller   |
| Selenne Contreras | Miriam Resendiz          | Laurence Gonzaga     | Maria Martinez |
| Sylvia Bishop     | Cindy Sanchez            | Joel Galindo         | Don Kendrick   |
| Deborah Johnson   | Melissa Vasquez          | Jennel Rand          | Conni Ryder    |
| Dr. Chang         | Elizabeth Lagunas        | Rachel Gileno        |                |
| Francisco Huerta  | Patricia Oare            | Tiffany Boulware     |                |
| Willard Wynn      | Matthew Maltoucedo       | Erika Edney          |                |
| Francisco Huerta  | Sean Frederick           | Jacob Ruiz           |                |
| David Schoelen    | Carina Gustafsson        | Lizbet Castanea      |                |
| Marcus Cannon     | Maribel Monreal          | Heather Sylvester    |                |
| Heidi Gomez       | Akram Razzouk            | Sheila Mallett-Smith |                |
| Kelly Grotsky     | Shannon McCleerey-Hooper | Cecilia Huerta-Mateo |                |
| Tony Ortego       | Maria Martha-Moreno      | Dakota Brown         |                |
| Chris Benitez     | Erika Armendariz         | Carmela Soto         |                |
| Kristin Miller    | Glenis Ulloa             | Diana Gutierrez      |                |
| Kristen Duffy     | Maureen Dopson           | Janine Moore         |                |

| OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY |                    |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Leah Newell              | Robert Youssef     | Girlyanne Lacson   |
| Zuly Martinez            | Lydia Mekonnen     | Melissa Noone      |
| Nosheen Samuel           | Dolores DeMartino  | Eva Guenther-James |
| Andrea Putnam            | Carolina Ayala     | Ahley Housley      |
| Julie Egle               | Anniemarie Morales | Jane Beamer        |
| Harshitaa Arunkumar      | Amy McCann         | Maria Arnold       |
| Nancy Stevens            |                    |                    |