

## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES FOR May 1, 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 led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll call and followed by introductions.

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

Richard Divine made a motion to approve minutes as written from April 3, 2024, Beatriz Gonzalez seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS –**

Madam Chair, Tori St. Johns announced that tomorrow 5/2/24 is the Desert Mental Health Awareness Fair "The Art of Wellness" in Indio at the Coachella Valley History Museum beginning at 11:30am.

### **COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –**

Rick Gentillalli asked for a status of the Cultural Competency Veteran Liaison hiring process considering it has been vacant for 2 years. Mr. Gentillalli also asked for information about Equine Therapy and PAIR. David Schoelen explained the challenges of filling the Veteran Liaison position and shared recent interviews were held for that position. Janine Moore shared that Equine Therapy and PAIR are merged and work collaboratively.

Greg Damewood shared he attended the Poisoning and Overdose Awareness 5K Walk and shared it was well attended because it was held on a Saturday and family friendly.

Brenda Scott shared she attended a Fentanyl Awareness Walk and hopes the department continues to host this event annually.

Richard Divine announced the John J. Benoit Behavioral Health Arts Festival, Art Show and Creative Writing Contest would be held on May 14, 2024, at the Taj Mahal Building, Riverside County Fairgrounds beginning at 11am.

### **PUBLIC REMARKS –**

Janine Moore announced the Directing Change event would be taking place on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Fox Performing Arts Center at 5pm.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT –**

Dr. Chang announced the Wellness Village project received final approval from the Board of Supervisors to move forward and will break ground in June of 2024 to begin construction and it is anticipated to be completed by December of 2026. Dr. Chang thanked the commission and all those who advocated for this project and have participated.

## **CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Family Advocate (Willard Wynn)**

Family Advocate Services Program Manager Willard Wynn introduced Mrs. Patricia Edwards who began receiving services from the Family Advocate Program in January of 2022. Although Mrs. Edwards admitted she was skeptical at first, she is glad she was receptive to receiving services because the program has not only made an impact in her son's life but hers as well. Mrs. Edwards provided an amazing testimonial and gave praise to the program, its staff, and the department of Behavioral Health for the support and invaluable dedication they have provided to numerous families. Mrs. Edwards shared the challenges she had at the beginning of her journey and the negative experiences she encountered with the police department and behavioral health department. She shared that she has used those experiences to help other families struggling with similar challenges as her family. Mrs. Edwards shared she has been able to support her family members with their addictions and behavioral health challenges by referring them to programs the county offers which she learned about through the groups and community she is involved with. Mrs. Edwards concluded by stating through the word of mouth we can all help one another!

## **NEW BUSINESS-**

### **1. WET Employee Appreciation Winner (Marybel Buchler)**

Marybel Buchler, Senior Clinical Therapist with Workforce Education and Training announced Misty Martin, Sr. Family Advocate, as the employee who was recognized and nominated as this quarter's Employee Appreciation Winner. A video was shared, Mrs. Martin was presented with a plaque, and her managers, David Schoelen and Willard Wynn as well as Michelle Downs, gave praise and recognition for her outstanding work. Mrs. Martin concluded by giving thanks to her supervisor and co-workers for the recognition.

### **2. Approval of Updated BHC Bylaws (Action Item)-**

Brenda Scott made a motion for the commission to approve the amended and updated BHC bylaws and that they be sent to County Counsel for review and approval. Greg Damewood seconded the motion and the BHC Bylaws were approved by the majority (10) with two (2) absences.

### **3. Nomination Committee-**

Commissioners Carole Schaudt, Greg Damewood and Walter Haessler were appointed as the nominating committee for F/Y 24/25.

### **4. Site Review Updates-**

Commissioners Greg Damewood, Daryl Terrell, Rick Gentillalli, Tori St. Johns and Brenda Scott each took turns providing feedback and sharing their experiences with the sites they visited throughout each region (Desert, Mid County and Western). They each shared the pros and cons of the site's location, parking, building structure inside and out, services being offered, staffing interaction and professionalism, as well as the accessibility to the disability community and public.

## **OLD BUSINESS-**

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

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator, announced there would be three (3) Public Hearings being held in person on 5/23/24 at the Elk's Lodge in Hemet, 5/28/24 at the Moreno Valley Conference Center, and 5/30/24 at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission in Indio. There will be a Forum from 3pm till 5pm and then Public Hearing from 5:30pm till 7:30pm which is when the commissioners who volunteered to be on the panel must be present.

Mr. Schoelen provided a brief update on Proposition 1 sharing some of the changes would affect the MHSA plan and as MHSA transitions to BHSA with implementation strategies set in place there would be a MHSA and BHSA annual report due, but he did not currently have the refinement language. He shared BHSA would include more state controls, oversight, transparency, direct revisions, and permissions through BHSA. Mr. Schoelen concluded by sharing amendments to Proposition 1 should be posted in June that could possibly address some of the questions from the commission.

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

Heidi Gomez, assistant regional manager with SAPT programs shared slides for the 1 Life 1 Heart Poisoning & Overdose Awareness 5K Walk and thanked the commission for their support and those who attended. She also thanked Rhyan Miller and April Frey for their continued support. Ms. Gomez concluded by announcing the Friday Night Live Awards Banquet would be held on Friday May 24, 2024 at 5:30pm at the Riverside Convention Center and this year's theme is "The Lost Award" and dress as a Detective.

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

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on Care Court sharing there are currently 48 civil court petitions, 14 criminal court referrals, 28 referrals for investigation from other sources, 9 active cases ordered into the program and 73 referrals from CARES Line. Mr. Cannon provided some information on the Schizophrenia spectrum disorders from which the commission inquired about at last month's BHC meeting. He concluded by announcing the RUHS-BH team planning CARE Act Townhall meeting will take place on June 26, 2024 at 6pm.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES –**

Greg Damewood announced the Western Regional Board meets at 3pm following the BHC meeting and all are encouraged to attend as well as the Criminal Justice Committee next week on May 10, 2024.

Brenda Scott announced the Mid County Regional Board meets tomorrow 5/2/24 at the Hemet clinic at 3pm. She also announced that the Adult System of Care meeting alternates its meeting site between Rustin and Perris and offers Spanish interpreters. She concluded by sharing the Housing Committee will meet on May 14, 2024 at 11am.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-**

Officer Chair Elections suggested by Sylvia Bishop.

Mental Health Fair update suggested by Tori St. Johns.

Crisis Behavioral Assessment Team (CBAT) presentation suggested by Daryl Terrell.

Self Help Court and ECM presentations suggested by Brenda Scott.

Housing Presentation discussing resources and expansion suggested by Launa Wilson.

Detention Services suggested by Richard Divine.

**ADJOURN** – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

*Sylvia Bishop*

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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	ML	
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Carole Schaudt, District 4	ML	A	A	P	ML	P	P	P	P	
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	P	A	P	P	A	P	A	A	A	
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Launa Wilson, District 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	
Richard Divine, District 2	P	P	P	P	ML	P	P	P	P	
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 1	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	

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

Minutes and agendas of meetings are available upon request and online at [www.rcdmh.org](http://www.rcdmh.org).  
To request copies, please contact the BHC Liaison at 951-955-7141 or email [SBishop@ruhealth.org](mailto:SBishop@ruhealth.org)

PRESENT			
Bill Brenneman	Sujei Larkin	Danielle Gonzalez	Joel Lucero
Lucy Lopez	Israel Torres	Lauren Adamson	Karen Franks
Selenne Contreras	Miriam Resendiz	Laurence Gonzaga	Maria Martinez
Sylvia Bishop	Nisha Elliott	Joel Galindo	Don Kendrick
Janine Moore	Carolina Ayala	Tauna Butler	Conni Ryder
Dr. Chang	Ashley Housley	Rachel Gileno	Lawrence Blake
Francisco Huerta	Maria Martha-Moreno	Annette Tomas	
Willard Wynn	Alea Jackson	Kristy Johnson	
Jaqueline Markussen	Dylan Colt	Michelle Downs	
David Schoelen	April Frey	Sandy Murillo	
Marcus Cannon	Dakota Brown	Maria Rodriguez	
Heidi Gomez	Ingrid Butler	Misty Martin	
Kelly Grotsky	Shannon McCleerey-Hooper	Marybel Buchler	
Tony Ortego	Girlyanne Lacson	Richard Yarbrough	
Diana Gutierrez	Patricia Oare	Lisa Erazo	
Kristin Miller	Jennel Rand	Patricia Edwards	
James Lucero	Maureen Dopson	Luis Anderm	

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY		
Leah Newell	Nancy Stevens	Maria Arnold
Akram Razzouk	Luis Lamadrid	Jane Beamer
Brandon Jacobs	Michelle Salado	Rhyan Miller
Devin H.	Elisabeth Winchell Jones	
Tiffaney Boulware	Lydia Session	
Harshita Arunkumar	Nosheen Samuel	
Andrea Putnam	Robin Smith	