

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

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

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

Chair, Richard Divine called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:00 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll call and followed by introductions.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –

Victoria St. Johns made a motion to approve minutes as written from June 5, 2024, Daryl Terrell seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS –

Mr. Divine thanked the executive committee for being elected as the Chairperson for the BHC.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –

Brenda Scott thanked Marcus Cannon and Nina Magno for the Care Court presentation provided at the NAMI event.

Greg Damewood wished everyone a Happy and safe 4th of July.

Rick Gentillalli thanked Rick Ramirez and Supervisor Gutierrez for his appointment to District 5.

Daryl Terrell attended the groundbreaking ribbon cutting event for the Wellness Village and thanked all those involved in the project and for the event that took place.

PUBLIC REMARKS –

A public member shared that she and her family are from Kenya and were given a visa due to her son's medical condition and treatment needed. She expressed her challenges and the support her son has been receiving through county services but asked for additional support. County staff from the family advocate, parent partner and medical center were in attendance for the meeting and offered to meet with her after the meeting to offer additional support and resources.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – TABLED

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Consumer Peer Services (Kristen Duffy)

Kristen Duffy, Consumer Peer Services Program Manager and Supervisor of Consumer Senior Peer Specialist Introduced Bill Dailey. Mr. Dailey shared his sobriety date of August 2016 and prior to that how he struggled with alcoholism and how his day-to-day life was a struggle. He fell into criminal behavior to support his addiction and ultimately homelessness and as a result was not present as a father or brother. Mr. Dailey continued with sharing he had been arrested several times but in August of 2016 while sitting in court and facing the judge he felt hopeless and broken and accepted the fact he would go to prison but the judge offered him a drug care program and he thought to himself how could the judge who doesn't even know him believe in him, and it was a pivotal moment in his life. Mr. Dailey gave 110 percent of his effort into the program and still does till this day and has learned self-awareness and how to humble himself when he loses gratitude for this second chance.

Mr. Dailey shared when he started the ROC program, he had to learn to change the behaviors he knew and make better choices and decisions. He has learned through his peers who he witnessed rise and fall and because of that it gave him the strength he needed. He reconnected with his children and family and mended the damage he caused. He chose to make a change and now is able to be a part of their lives and witness his children's milestones such as marriage, school graduations and grandchildren. After he completed the ROC program, he wanted nothing more but to help others that could relate to him and his experiences, so he became a peer support specialist for the department and later a counselor at the ROC program and went to school. He was able to share his story with others and give them hope and an opportunity for change, which he expressed was the most rewarding job he ever had. Mr. Dailey is currently a safety inspector for the roads and shared when times get tough, he reminds himself of when he was homeless and the struggles and challenges, he faced to humble himself. He concluded by saying "Life today is beyond what I could have imagined and I'm forever grateful to the Judge, the ROC program and the Peers who offered me a second chance, I did the work, but the life of recovery is well worth it."

NEW BUSINESS-

1. By Laws Final Draft (Action Item)-

Brenda Scott made a motion to approve the By Laws as written and send to the Board of Supervisors for final approval. Victoria St. John's seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2. Self Help Court Presentation- (Nina Magno)

Nina Magno, Managing Attorney with the legal court system provided a presentation discussing Self Help Court and explained that self help court provides assistance to customers with navigating through the court system and are usually staffed by two paralegals. She shared the services self help offers are in the scope of family law involving, civil court and probate court which you are your own attorney they just offer general information. Self Help Court is able to teach litigants how to navigate their case through the court system, provide legal information, explain the court process, teach litigants how to complete court forms but the litigant remains responsible for the completion and accuracy of the completed form, and they can provide other legal resources. However, self help court cannot provide services to litigants represented by an attorney, they cannot represent anyone, there is no attorney-client privilege, they cannot provide legal advice/strategy, they cannot read/write declarations, they cannot fill out the forms and cannot be involved in the discovery process.

Ms. Magno continued sharing there are brief triage services in the following areas of family law, civil court, probate and CARE Act and the phone lines are available Monday through Thursday from 8am to 12pm at 951-274-4499 or 760-393-2163, closed every last Friday of the month. In person customers are referred to the events calendar. They offer form review services in both English and Spanish and appointments are offered via telephone, zoom or in person at self help centers. In person and zoom events are also referred to the events calendar at <https://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/selfhelpevents/>. They also offer teaching workshops that are only offered via zoom and those are for evictions, divorce and family law. Ms. Magno also explained that with the CARE Act they found there were a lot of families in need of support navigating through the court system for mental health services and there is a team available to provide the assistance and support needed. She concluded by stating since self help court is not available for all case types, customers can be provided with referrals when a service outside of their scope is needed.

3. **BH Enhanced Care Management-** (Monique Rodriguez-Torres)

Monique Rodriguez-Torres, Administrative Services Manager for the HHOPE Program provided a presentation discussing Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and what it is. Enhanced Care Management is a Medi-Cal benefit designed to provide comprehensive, coordinated services to high-need Medi-Cal beneficiaries. It is a key component of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative. ECM is governed by Medi-Cal regulations and guidelines, specifically under the CalAIM initiative which aims to streamline and transform Medi-Cal to better serve its members by addressing social determinants of health and improving care coordination. The Whole Person Care (WPC) was a pilot program with limitations of counties and populations it served, but aimed at providing coordinated care for high risk, high cost Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The transition from WPC to ECM under CalAIM builds on the infrastructure and lessons learned from WPC to provide a more integrated and comprehensive approach to care statewide. ECM is an approach that integrates health, behavioral health and social services to provide patient centered care. Components include care coordination, health, education, social support and resource linkage to improve health outcomes by addressing both medical and non-medical needs. There are nine populations of focus served which are individuals experiencing homelessness, at risk for avoidable hospitalizations, those with serious mental health and/or substance use disorder needs, transitioning from incarceration, adults living in the community and at risk for long term care institutionalization, adults nursing facility residents transition to the community, children and youth enrolled in California Children's Services or Whole Child Model, children and youth involved in child welfare, and the birth equity population of focus which include adults and youth pregnant or are postpartum through a twelve month period.

Ms. Rodriguez-Torres went on to explain that ECM services and providers through interdisciplinary teams is a high touch, person centered program that is provided primarily through in person interactions with eligible Medi-Cal members where they live, seek care or prefer to access services. The managed care providers are IEHP members and Molina members. The seven core ECM services are to outreach and engage, comprehensive assessment and care management plan, enhanced coordination of care, health promotion, comprehensive transitional care, member and family support and coordination of and referral to community and social support services. The goals of service are to connect all ECM enrolled client so primary care physicians, advocate for clients during any and all scheduled appointments, provide transportation if needed, create an individual comprehensive care plan based on each client's comprehensive health assessment, connect all clients suffering from behavioral health challenges to behavioral health clinics or treatment facilities and improve outcomes of health and housing. The Behavioral Health ECM teams are located at the Western HHOPE, Mid-County HHOPE, Desert HHOPE and the Jefferson Wellness Center. The ECM team utilizes a team-based care approach to deliver the seven ECM core services. The team consists of a registered nurse care manager, substance abuse care manager, behavioral health care manager, peer support care manager and community services assistant.

The ECM referrals and screening process consist of a self-referral through IEHP or Molina when a member can contact their member services and request a screening, another referral can come from a managed care provider when they identify a member who would benefit from the ECM services and other referrals can come from hospitals, doctor's offices, clinics etc. The ECM workflow begins with a successful outreach attempt, an obtained client consent and referral screening performed and approved if eligible, then member is enrolled to a tier level at which a lead ECM care manager is assigned within the first ninety days of enrollment to complete the assessment and care plan followed by ongoing care management and support.

Ms. Rodriguez-Torres concluded by sharing three new Behavioral Health Youth ECM teams will be launching soon designed to serve youth aged 0-20 and four new Behavioral Health Justice Involved Adult ECM teams dedicated to serving this specific population and establishing connections with individuals while they are in custody to ensure effective discharge planning and retention services are in place upon release from detention. For further information you can contact the HHOPE ECM at bh-ecm@ruhealth.org or Jefferson Wellness Center at ecm_jwc@ruhealth.org.

OLD BUSINESS-

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

a. Approve MHSA Annual Update – **Action Item**

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator, asked the commission for approval of the MHSA Annual Update plan so it could be sent to the Board of Supervisors. Greg Damewood made the motion to approve, Daryl Terrell seconded the motion, the majority were in favor with one abstention from Beatriz Gonzalez.

Brenda Scott thanked Mr. Schoelen for the exceptional work he did on the plan this year and each year and Chair, Richard Divine, agreed with her comments of Mr. Schoelen.

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

April Frey, Administrator of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs announced Heide Gomez is the new SAPT administrator and now over seeing the DHCS CA Prevention, SAPT Western and Mid-County clinics, school-based treatment and PEI services, Friday Night Live, Prevention contractors, Prevention and Early Intervention QI, SAPT QI Liaison, Impaired Driver Program, IEOCC, Contingency Management and Public Health Contracts.

Ms. Frey announced the RFP process has been completed and several contracts were renewed, and new providers included the Hemet Unified School District, Riverside RCC and recovery homes. She concluded with announcing that the Recovery Happens event would take place on September 26, 2024.

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

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on Care Court sharing that there are currently 61 civil court petitions, 14 criminal court referrals for investigation, 43 referrals for investigation from other sources, 13 active cases ordered into the program and 82 CARES line integrated referrals. He also shared that he presented at the NAMI Regional Meeting in Beaumont on June 22, 2024, conducted the CARE Act Townhall meeting on June 26, 2024, and continues to work with research on data reporting and continues to work with Marketing to communicate with the community. Mr. Cannon concluded by thanking Nina Magno for her presentation on the Self Help Court as well as Susan Juarez-Williamson from research and Andrea Putnam with marketing.

Resources Available:

www.Care-Act.org

COMMITTEE UPDATES –

Rick Gentillalli reported Honorable Judge Mark Johnson attended the Veterans committee meeting that took place 7/3/24 and was a dynamic speaker who wrote the book “Scars and Stripes” and encourages all to attend the committee every other month when it takes place.

Greg Damewood reported the Western Regional Board meets after the BHC meeting each month at 3pm and encourages all to attend as well as attend the Criminal Justice committee meeting which takes place every other month and meet again on July 10, 2024 at 12pm at 3625 14th Street, Riverside, CA 92501.

Brenda Scott reported the Older Adult Integrated System of Care Committee and Housing committee meet the same day (second Tuesday of each month beginning at 11am) and encourage all to attend both and get involved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

- BHC annual report suggested by Sylvia Bishop.
- Detention Services update suggested by Richard Divine.
- Housing presentation previously suggested by Launa Wilson.
- Older Adult presentation suggested by Carole Schaudt.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

Rick Gentillalli, BHC Secretary
 Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

FY 2024/25 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

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

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

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

PRESENT		
Bill Brenneman	Michelle Downs	Lydia Mekonnen
Lucy Lopez	Israel Torres	Andrea Hernandez
Selenne Contreras	Melissa Vasquez	Joanne Cuevas
Sylvia Bishop	Sujei Larkin	Conni Ryder
Willard Wynn	Orli Zaprir	
Kristen Duffy	Ashley Housley	
Francisco Huerta	Nina Magno	
April Frey	Danielle Damewood	
Maria Martha Moreno	Dylan Colt	
David Schoelen	Bill Dailey	
Marcus Cannon	Lauren Adamson	
Heidi Gomez	Lawrence Blake	
Rhyan Miller	Carina Gustafsson	
Shannon McCleerey-Hooper	Jennel Rand	
Diana Gutierrez	Sheila Mallett-Smith	
Nisha Elliott	Kristen McGue	
Lisa Erazo	Carolina Ayala	
Tony Ortego	Rachel Gilen	
Andrea Deaton	Miriam Resendiz	
Jacqueline Markussen	Vanessa DelaTorre	
Monique Rodriguez-Torres	Shani William	

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY	
Lizbet Limon	Quintillia Avila
Leah Newell	Beverly McKeddie
Janine Moore	Debbie Rose
Akram Razzouk	Steve McNally
Nosheen Samuel	Jane Beamer
Elizabeth Del Rio	Andrea Putnam
Dakota Brown	Carmina Hernandez
Misty Martin	