

## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES FOR January 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 Daryl Terrell led the committee into the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll call and followed by introductions.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS –**

Madame Chair, Tori St. Johns welcomed everyone and wished all a Happy New Year.

### **COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –**

Daryl Terrell thanked RUHS Behavioral Health staff and fellow Commissioners for their hard work and dedication to the community.

Rick Gentillalli made mention that Dr. Chang would be receiving the Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award.

### **PUBLIC REMARKS – None**

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –** Minutes from November 1, 2023 were reviewed, Brenda Scott motioned to approve the minutes as written and Rick Gentillalli seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as written.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tabled**

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

Ashley Housley, Senior Family Advocate Peer Support Specialist introduced Jackie Sanchez on behalf of Willard Wynn. Mrs. Sanchez shared she is the mother of an adult son with a co-occurring disorder and serious brain disease, she explained she prefers that term over mental illness because mental illness adds to the already existing stigma. Ms. Sanchez shared her son's challenges began when he was between 13 and 14 years old and in 2006, she and her husband admitted him into a dual diagnosis program and then transitioned into a sober living home. She shared that her son did well and was sober but took him to see his primary doctor because she knew her son needed more resources and the doctor suggested she call the department of Mental Health. Mrs. Sanchez did call the department of Mental Health and she received a call back from a family advocate who encouraged Mrs. Sanchez to attend family support groups, NAMI, CORE group and other resources that were available to her so she could better understand what her son was experiencing. The family advocate also suggested she receive support for herself.

In 2012 through 2016 Mrs. Sanchez facilitated family to family classes and met hundreds of families who needed the same support she and her family did, and she supported them. Mrs. Sanchez mentioned that the family advocate that she had come to build a relationship with suggested she apply for SSI for her son, and he was awarded it in 2013. In 2014 her family advocate then encouraged her to apply with the county of Riverside with Crisis Support System of Care and Mrs. Sanchez was hired and had a wonderful experience. In 2015 her manager asked her to become a member of the 5150-training team

to help teach others. In this role she was able to provide a family perspective to doctors, nurses and other staff. She continued to encourage all staff to share the family advocate number whenever they received a call from family members seeking support for their loved one so they could be provided with the same support she received. In 2016 she transferred to the family advocate program and became a family advocate at Blaine Street until 2021 when she retired and now encourages others to become family advocates. She stated she had mixed feelings about attending groups as a member again now that she's retired but the family advocates that are there welcomed her back with open arms. She was proud to share that as of August 2023 her son began attending the groups with her and went into a recovery residence. Mrs. Sanchez concluded by expressing she was thankful to the department and how much they have helped her, her family and done so much for the community.

## **NEW BUSINESS-**

### **1. Eating Disorder IOP Presentation-** (Leah Newell & Novanh Xayarath)

Leah Newell, Cultural Competency Innovation Lead and Social Service Planner and Novanh Xayarath, Western Region Administrator presented the Eating Disorder Intensive Outpatient Program and Training Proposal. They shared RUHS-BH is committed to providing the best care for those struggling with Eating Disorders through an innovative plan. The plan includes a three-pronged approach including training, education, and an Intensive Outpatient Program Clinic serving as the project hub. This innovative project will test novel and creative methods of mental health practices to produce successful outcomes that can be integrated into the mental health system.

The primary problem the proposed innovation plan addresses are the lack of an effective and integrated treatment approach for eating disorders (ED) in the Riverside County behavioral health system. Eating disorders have the second highest mortality rate of all mental health disorders, surpassed only by opioid addiction. Currently eating disorder clients have only one level of care available in the RUHS-BH County system, outpatient services with trained eating disorder staff. An integrated eating disorder Intensive Outpatient Program (ED IOP) which functions as a day treatment program is a level of care not currently available.

The Eating Disorder Intensive Outpatient Program (ED-IOP) and Training proposal brings this acute level of care to the most fragile eating disorder consumers. IOP providers do not typically accept public insurance, and if approved, RUHS would be one of the first County healthcare systems to have a fully integrated medical and behavioral healthcare IOP in the public sector. An IOP is an intensive, nearly daily service provided for 6 -9 months in an integrated medical setting. In addition to the IOP, our proposal includes education and training for both medical providers and community/families to increase awareness of symptoms and facilitate interventions earlier for these often-deadly disorders. Both the general community and primary care physicians do not receive extensive knowledge on the recognition of eating disorder symptoms, especially in diverse communities. This results in under-diagnosed and untreated illness.

With the IOP, functioning as an eating disorder training hub, a culturally sensitive training structure will be created that will break down silos and bring professionals that work with the eating disorder population together. This three-pronged approach (IOP/Training/Education) is designed to reach those currently suffering from an eating disorder, those who diagnose and treat them, and those who support them; thereby reaching as many people as possible. This project seeks to examine the following questions. Will the establishment of a county-operated ED IOP program that integrates behavioral and physical health care increase access to high-quality eating disorder services for diverse groups of youth in Riverside County? Will the establishment of an ED IOP clinic that functions as a hub for integrated ED training and ED consultation increase the knowledge, confidence, and competency of RUHS primary care

physicians, psychiatric residents, emergency department doctors and nurses, and behavioral health staff? Will the development and provision of family support groups and education that incorporates parent(s)/caregiver(s) voices increase continued engagement in treatment services, and reduce stigma? And will the development of culturally tailored community education presentations increase knowledge of eating disorders among specific cultural groups, decrease stigma, and increase attitudes toward help-seeking?

The project proposed Budget for the 5 years is \$29,193,565.28. The numbers will progress from inception to a gradual increase in the numbers served: IOP: initially 40 adolescents (ages 12 to 18 years old) in the first year, expanding into the following years, with a length of treatment: 3-4 days/week for an average of 6 - 9 months.

Education: 80-100 families/caregivers reached the first year, expanding in the following years. The community outreach education component, into schools, churches, and other natural gathering places, is expected to serve a large number of Riverside County residents annually.

Training: 60-75 medical providers in the first year expanding in the following years.

David Schoelen, MHSA Administrator, made a motion to receive support and approval from the BHC commission to move forward with the Innovation Eating Disorder Proposal so it can be brought to the MHSOAC for state approval. Rick Gentillalli made a first to approve and Brenda Scott made a second to approve, all commissioners then voted in favor of the proposal with their suggestions taken into consideration.

## 2. **Site Reviews**

Commissioners volunteered to complete Site Reviews for different locations.

## 3. **Veterans Committee Meeting**

Rick Gentillalli made a motion, suggesting that the Veterans Committee meet every other month until the Chair deems it necessary to return to monthly meetings. Once the committee gains more members, the Chair will then reevaluate and decide to return to monthly meetings. The motion was seconded by commissioner Greg Damewood, and all were in favor.

## 4. **Legislative Committee Meeting- Tabled**

### OLD BUSINESS-

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

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator, announced the Annual MHSA stakeholder process has begun and his assistant will begin reaching out to each committee to secure a date on their agenda. Mr. Schoelen also thanked the regional board chairs for suggesting locations and venues for the public hearing process.

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

Rhyan Miller, Deputy Director of Integrated Programs, on behalf of April Frey, reviewed the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Caseloads Report for December of 2023 as well as the Sobering Center and Arlington Recovery Community Summary Report. Mr. Miller discussed the BHI Navigation Team Treatment Report for Fiscal Year 22/23. He concluded with the 24/7 Mobile Crisis Response Announcement.

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

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on the Care Court sharing it launched on 10/2/23 and two teams are being established for Western Region and the Desert

Region. Mr. Cannon continued to explain it is a voluntary program and last resort for those who are on the Schizophrenia spectrum and untreated.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES -**

Desert Regional Board- Victoria St. Johns reported committee is planning for MIMHM Art of Wellness.

Mid-County Regional Board- Brenda Scott reported committee received in depth overview of Care Court from Marcus Cannon.

Western Regional Board- Greg Damewood reported the committee is in need of more members and all are welcome to attend.

Adult System of Care Committee- Brenda Scott had nothing to report.

Children's Committee- Victoria St. Johns had nothing to report.

Criminal Justice Committee- Greg Damewood reported committee will be meeting next week and all are welcome to attend.

Housing Committee- Brenda Scott reported committee met and continues to discuss the Room and Board Coalition.

Legislative Committee- Brenda Scott reported Rhyan Miller presented and it was a great meeting and in need of more members to attend.

Older Adult System of Care Committee- Brenda Scott reported PEI gave a presentation on the Suicide Prevention Coalition and it was a great turn out and there was discussion on FSP services.

Quality Improvement Committee- Daryl Terrell had nothing to report.

Veterans Committee- Rick Gentillalli reminded everyone that the committee would be meeting every other month and will meet again in March at 10am and all are welcome to attend. He also reported that he attended Veterans Court and there were two graduates, and the testimonials were great to witness.

Membership Committee- Greg Damewood reported that the committee would meet next week, and more members are needed for the Western Region and Mid County Region.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-**

Daryl Terrell suggested update on HHOPE team.

Brenda Scott suggested update on the Innovation Project for Eating Disorder IOP proposal.

**ADJOURN** – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.

*Sylvia Bishop*

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Rick Gentillalli, BHC Secretary

Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

## FY 2022/23 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

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

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON		
Bill Brenneman	David Schoelen	Lucy Bustos
Lucy Lopez	Maureen Dopson	Monique Madrid
Sylvia Bishop	Maria Martha Moreno	Amelia Diaz
Selenne Contreras	Nisha Elliott	Ingrid Butler
Jaqueline Markussen	Leah Newell	Danielle Gonzalez
Deborah Johnson	Novanh Xayarath	Dakota Brown
Brandon Jacobs	Ashley Housley	Laurence Gonzaga
Kelly Grotsky	Jackie Sanchez	Robert Watson
Kristen Miller	Rhyan Miller	Maria Rodrigues
Marcus Cannon	Sandy Awad	Sandy Murillo
James Grisham	Miriam Resendiz	Chris Benitez
Diana Gutierrez	Misty Martin	Lisa Erazo
Tony Ortego	Carmela Soto	Israel Torres
Michelle Downs	Lydia Mekonnen	Melissa Vasquez

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY		
Cheryl Coson		
Tauna Butler		
Jane Beamer		
Melissa Noone		
Carina Gustafson		
Janine Moore		
Andrea Putnam		
Julie Eagle		
Zuly Martinez		
Russ Hockman		
Carolina Ayala		
Eva Gunther-James		
Robin Reid		
Vanessa Lopez		
Beverly McKeddie		
Luis Lamadrid		