

## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES FOR June 5, 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 12:00 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 May 1, 2024, Greg Damewood seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS –**

Madam Chair, Tori St. Johns announced it was the end of her term as the Commission's Chair and provided a cake to thank everyone.

### **COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –**

Richard Divine thanked the department for their efforts and participation around May is Mental Health Month events, each year they are getting bigger and better with greater turn out.

April Smith agreed with Richard Divine and shared that she attended the Directing Change event and the Mid County Public Hearing and both were greatly attended.

Daryl Terrell also took the time to thank the Department and Greg Damewood for his support with the site reviews and public hearing they served on.

Beatriz Gonzalez announced she attended the Friday Night Live event which had a great turn out. Attendees were able dress the part as a detective to go with the theme, she had gotten arrested, Mrs. Johnson was the Warden and she concluded by stating it was a huge success.

Debbie Rose announced that the Board of Supervisors Budget Hearings for the fiscal year 2024/25 would begin taking place next week on Monday June 10, 2024 at 9:30am and Tuesday June 11, 2024 at 1pm. Public comment would begin after department presentation on the floor of June 10, 2024. More information to be sent by the Behavioral Health Commission Liaison.

### **PUBLIC REMARKS –**

None

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT –**

Tabled

### **CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Parent Support (Maria Arnold)**

Lisa Guynn, Peer Support Specialist with the Parent Support and Training Program introduced Mr. and Mrs. Hansen. Mrs. Hansen shared her recovery journey began when she was referred to Substance Use services in Temecula and then took Triple P, a parenting program that helped her develop tools and it

was during that time that she met her parent partner Lisa Guynn. Lisa was there to provide support, guidance and assistance when Mrs. Hansen's children returned to her care and because of these programs offered by the department Mrs. Hansen expressed she is able to be a better parent, person and spouse. Her husband Mr. Hansen also shared their parent partner Lisa has been instrumental in their family dynamic and he also took the Nurturing Fathers Program where he was able to meet other families with similar experiences that gave him hope. After going through homelessness, CPS investigations and accepting the help and services through the department he announced he, his wife and family will be moving into their apartment on 6/24/2024 and thanked the staff and programs that helped his family overcome their challenges and for offering their continued support.

## **NEW BUSINESS-**

### **1. Chair Elections (Action Item)-**

The nomination committee recommended Richard Divine for Chair, Brenda Scott for Vice Chair and April Smith for Secretary for next fiscal years 2024/2025 Executive Team. The nomination committee asked if any board members wanted to make a motion of floor nominations, which none were made and then asked for a motion to approve the nomination committee's recommendation. Victoria St. John's made the motion to approve, Carole Schaudt made a second, a quorum of board members were in favor with 3 abstentions from April Smith, Beatriz Gonzalez and Lauana Wilson.

### **2. CBAT Presentation- (Kristen Miller)**

Kristen Miller, Behavioral Health Services Administrator shared a power point explaining the history of the Community Behavioral Health Assessment Team (CBAT) and that it started in 2006 with one clinician at RPD and in 2014 RPD agreed to a dedicated officer assigned to CBAT to work alongside with the clinician in the field. Originally there were three CBAT locations in Riverside, Hemet and Moreno Valley, but since 2014 there has been continuous growth and now there are additional locations in Temecula, Perris, Lake Elsinore, Jurupa, Thermal, Palm Desert, Cabazon, Cathedral City, Menifee, Banning and Indio.

Ms. Miller introduced Deputy Nulud and Clinical Therapist Chris Reece who explained CBAT is a specialized unit that consists of a CT and a Sheriff or Officer partner, CBAT functions as a first/second responder as a rapid response team that is 911 field based for calls related to mental health, substance use, 51/50 crisis and homeless engagement. The unit offers crisis intervention, risk assessment, linkage and referrals. The goals of CBAT is to offer quick response and support and diversion of hospitalization and/or arrest and to strengthen partnerships and a sense of unity between the community, law enforcement and behavioral health.

Deputy Nulud and Chris Reece, explained CBAT calls for service are initiated by 911 dispatch or patrol officers/deputies, once the call is identified as a crisis related to mental health and/or substance use CBAT can take over due to their complexity that requires longer response to determine the best intervention, which allows other enforcement patrol units to remain in service to the community at large. Since 2022-2023 there has been 4,464 CBAT requests that involve crisis, homeless outreach and welfare check. Of those calls 44 percent were diverted by CBAT. Currently from 7/2023 through 5/2024 there has been a total of 7,642 calls for CBAT services. Deputy Nulud and Mr. Reece then concluded by sharing one of many success stories where they were able to deescalate a crisis situation successfully and provide linkage and support to an individual who is being supported currently with mental health and medication services.

3. **May is Mental Health Month “Art of Wellness”-** (Shannon McCleerey-Hooper and Kristen Duffy)  
Shannon McCleerey-Hooper, Deputy Director of Peer Support Services, shared photos from the Art of Wellness fair and expressed her appreciation to the Board of Supervisors, Commission, leadership, media team and May Is Mental Health Month committee for their support and hard work that went into each regional fair. She concluded by sharing approximately 3,200 people in the community were outreached in total at these events. Kristen Duffy, Consumer Peer Services Programs Manager, also thanked all the volunteers and shared the success of each event. Ms. Duffy concluded by announcing September 26, 2024 will be the Recovery Happens event.

#### OLD BUSINESS-

1. **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update** - (David Schoelen and Robert Youssef)  
David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator, provided feedback regarding MHSA Public Hearings and shared that both the Desert and Mid County Public Hearings were well attended, unfortunately the Western Region was not and continued by sharing the efforts being made to expand advertising to obtain more public participation. He accepted questions, comments and concerns from the Commission. Robert Youssef, Senior Public Information Specialist, then provided a brief presentation on the MHSA Marketing and Media Outreach efforts.
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 May 21, 2024 was the ROC Softball Tournament and Riverside took the Trophy. She also shared the National Association of Drug Court Professionals in Anaheim was well attended. Ms. Frey then concluded by announcing the RFP process is complete and new contractors have been notified and there will be a provider’s meeting on June 20, 2024.  
Heidi Gomez, assistant regional manager with SAPT programs shared that the Friday Night Live Awards Banquet was a successful event and was appreciative of the support from the staff and all those who attended. She concluded by sharing Friday Night Live will have one last event to end the year this coming weekend for a Beach Cleanup Day to serve the community.
3. **Care Court Update** – (Marcus Cannon)  
Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on Care Court sharing that there are currently 52 civil court petitions, 14 criminal court referrals for investigation, 35 referrals for investigation from other sources, 11 active cases ordered into the program and 78 CARES line integrated referrals. He also announced there will be a CARE Act virtual Town Hall meeting both in person and online on Wednesday June 26, 2024 from 6pm to 7:15pm. Mr. Cannon then concluded by sharing more resources can be found on [www.Care-Act.org](http://www.Care-Act.org).

#### COMMITTEE UPDATES –

Victoria St. Johns shared the Children’s Committee had a presentation on Soluna that was presented by Celeste Gasio and she would share the flyer with the BHC liaison to share with all.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

By Law approval suggested by Sylvia Bishop.

Housing presentation suggested by Launa Wilson and reminded that others suggested Detention services and Self Help Court.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:03 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	ML	P
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
Carole Schaudt, District 4	ML	A	A	P	ML	P	P	P	P	P
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	P	A	P	P	A	P	A	A	A	P
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Launa Wilson, District 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P
Richard Divine, District 2	P	P	P	P	ML	P	P	P	P	P
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	ML
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 1	P	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	Laurence Gonzaga
Lucy Lopez	Israel Torres	Misty Martin
Selenne Contreras	Melissa Vasquez	Quintillia Avila
Sylvia Bishop	Guillermo Vargas	Conni Ryder
Deborah Johnson	Rosy Vargas	Girlyanne Lacson
Kristen Duffy	Joseph Page	Lawrence Blake
Francisco Huerta	Cynthia Ferreiro	Jason Hansen
April Frey	Danielle Damewood	Candace Hansen
Maureen Dopson	Dylan Colt	Glenis Ulloa
David Schoelen	Sandy Murrillo	Danielle Gonzalez
Marcus Cannon	Lauren Adamson	Shannon McCleerey-Hooper
Heidi Gomez	Christopher Reece	Maria Martha Moreno
Kristin Miller	Aboo Nasar	
Robert Youssef	Jennel Rand	
Diana Gutierrez	Sheila Mallett-Smith	
Nisha Elliott	Lisa Guynn	
Lisa Erazo	Deputy Nulud	

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY	
Devin H.	Orli Zapir
Leah Newell	Beverly McKeddie
Carolina Ayala	Kelly Grotsky
Rhyan Miller	Miriam Resendiz
Eva Guenther-James	Kristy Johnson
Corinne Awad	Lydia S.
Robin Smith	Dr. Tweedy