

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 3, 2020 | 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INTRODUCTIONS – Chairperson, Richard Divine called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:00 pm. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll-call.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Mr. Divine quickly went over the rules for the Zoom conference meeting: 1.) To avoid any confusion, all callers are asked to save all comments and questions until after the presentations/reports are completed; 2) For the purposes of the minutes, callers are requested to state their name before making comments or asking questions; and 3) To reduce background noise, callers are asked to mute their phones unless they are asking a question or making a comment. Mr. Divine thanked all that were able to take the time to attend the meeting and is happy to see and hear everyone is doing well.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS – Rick Gentillalli and Dildar Ahmad both shared some information regarding a contact tracing course being offered through Johns Hopkins University. Both Mr. Gentillalli and Dr. Ahmad encouraged everyone to take the course to learn more about COVID-19. Dr. Ahmad added that the course fees have been waived and is free for anyone interested.

April Jones reported that the Public Advocacy and Legislative Committee met earlier that day and discussed the current tensions occurring in the community. Ideas they discussed having are town hall meetings or public forums to give people a voice regarding the current national tensions with COVID-19, unemployment, and racial injustices. They also discussed creating a type of resource to provide districts or businesses, so leaders in these areas can feel competent to address some of the concerns with students or employees, i.e. directing them to tools, resources, or curriculums they can utilize. Supporting or developing legislation that encourages implicit and bias training, anti-discrimination training for students and staff.

Brenda Scott reported there will be a Zoom Pride event for Mid-County on June 19. Details will be provided as they become available.

PUBLIC REMARKS – None

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – Minutes were accepted as written

NEW BUSINESS

1. BHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION FY 20/21 RESULTS: For FY 20/21, the BHC Officers will be: Tori St. Johns – Secretary; Beatriz Gonzalez – Vice Chair; and Richard Divine – Chair.
2. FISCAL UPDATE: Amy McCann, Assistant Director of Administration, provided an update regarding the fiscal impacts of COVID-19. Ms. McCann noted things are changing quickly and the overall economic hardship created by COVID-19 has caused a great deal of fiscal uncertainty, which will result in difficult budget decisions in the future. Significant decreases in sales and income taxes is having a direct impact on the state budget. With the pandemic shutting down local businesses and halting everyday spending habits, sales taxes on all goods and services are experiencing a decline. Income tax is also experiencing the same decline due to rising unemployment, which is currently

just above 15% in Riverside County. The current analysis reflected on the Governor's budget revision shows approximately 25% decrease in those two revenue sources for next fiscal year. The County anticipates a \$100,000,000 impact next fiscal year. For RUHS-BH, this means approximately \$400,000 – 600,000 reduction in funding, which is used for acute inpatient hospital bed days. The direct feed of state sales tax through the 1991 and 2011 Realignment, which the County already struggles with its inequities, will also see a decline. The 1991 Realignment will experience a \$5,000,000 reduction and the 2011 Realignment will experience a \$6,500,000 reduction next fiscal year.

Another source of funding being impacted by COVID-19 is the MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) funding. Ms. McCann reported that they are still analyzing and getting information from the state and what they've experienced thus far are decreases in monthly payments, which are interim payments based on the income taxes we all pay. The true impact won't be known until the income taxes of those earning a million dollars or more are filed. Those taxes are not yet filed and can take several years for it to be processed until it finally reaches the Department. Ms. McCann reported that the Department will not know the final impact of COVID-19 on MHSA funding until FY 22/23.

The County and the Department is doing everything they can to recover and there are several funding opportunities that have been presented, most of which come from the Federal CARES Act. The CARES Act allows the County to claim any additional costs incurred due to COVID-19, however it cannot be utilized for any lost revenue due to COVID-19. Ms. McCann stated that in the last year and a half, the Department has been doing significant work improving operating efficiencies. While no one was prepared for the overall impacts COVID-19, it is worth noting that the Department has been working on significant financial planning, which affords them some time to adjust to these reductions in funding. There's so much that remains unknown, but the length and depth of these cuts will depend greatly on what happens next and the time it will take for the economy to recover. Ms. McCann noted that they continue to work closely with the state and the County to keep up-to-date on revenue projections so they are prepared to adjust as needed.

3. ALL PROVIDER SAPT MEETING UPDATE: Rhyann Miller, Deputy Director of Forensics and Substance Abuse Prevention, gave highlights from the All Provider Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Meeting and Crisis In Housing Provider Meeting. Mr. Miller reported when lockdown due to COVID-19 initially started many community members assumed all of the clinics were closed. To confirm, there was indeed a dramatic cease in operations due to concerns of transmission. Roughly 75% of different levels of residential care froze operations to determine safety procedures and establishing telehealth services to protect the health and safety of consumers. In addition, staff also worked diligently by posting videos and information on the Department's social media platforms to notify the community that clinics were still open and services/treatment were available. Mr. Miller reported that service levels are slowly returning to normal and will continue to update the Commission as things develop.

The lockdown due to COVID-19 delayed the access integration of the SU CARES and MH CARES Line. They were previously scheduled to move into the Rustin Campus in March, but has been re-scheduled to relocate on July 16.

Marcus Cannon and April Marier have been working together over the last three years on securing different grant funds for opioid use disorders. They received a grant for \$3 million dollars to fund five different levels of HHOPE Housing and sober living. Mr. Miller reported the state was so

impressed by the efforts of the Department and providers that they were granted an additional \$3 million to continue for the next three years. The grant expanded the availability of services to also include those struggling with methamphetamine addiction, which helps cover everyone in the spectrum with the exception of youths.

A specialized team trained in CREST (Community Response Evaluation and Support Team), REACH (Regional Emergency Assessment at Community Hospitals), and ROCKY (Resilient Outcomes in the Community for Kids & Youth) has been stationed in Lake Elsinore to provide field-based screenings, housing placement, service linkage, and street outreach services. The team consists of four team members and will be reporting to Mark Thuve in Mid-County. They initially had a Zoom meeting scheduled to introduce the team to the City of Lake Elsinore and its surrounding cities on Wednesday, June 3, but was re-scheduled to Wednesday, June 10.

Lastly, Mr. Miller provided an update on the DMC-ODS Waiver (Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Waiver). Mr. Miller shared an infographic showing the overall dramatic increase of sites, services, consumers, staffing, and funding since the Department's implementation of the DMC-ODS Waiver. Funding for services increased from \$4.4 million in 2015 to \$94.7 million in 2020, which allowed for the expansion of programs and services, resulting in the significant increase of consumers served. The number of sites that Substance Use services has expanded increased by 95%. Services have expanded from 40 sites to 78, which include 20 school sites and five group homes and field services. Staffing increased by 83%, growing from 126 County staff in 2015 to 230 by 2020. Adult services increased by a total of 222% and youth services increased by 198% between 2015 and 2020. There were seven levels of care added to SAPTs system of care, which includes Early Intervention, Outpatient Withdrawal Management (1.0 and 2.0), Intensive Outpatient Treatment, Partial Hospitalization (2.5), Residential Treatment (3.1 and 3.3), and Inpatient Withdrawal Management (3.7).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Dr. Chang provided an update regarding efforts surrounding re-opening, a new level of care in Juvenile Hall, possible new treatments in mental health, and recent resignation of Dr. Bruce Gage.

Dr. Chang reported that the Department is involved in the larger discussion with RUHS and the County regarding the re-opening of facilities. They are working on reducing barriers in the plan while being mindful that facilities throughout the County are very different from one another, thus requiring different standards for safety.

The Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) is a new level of care recently opened on the grounds of Riverside Juvenile Hall. The MHRC is a level of care that bridges the gap from acute psychiatric facility down to augmented board and care for young men. The facility has three units, which at full capacity, can accommodate 38 consumers. This level of care are for consumers who are conserved in ITF (Inpatient Treatment Facility) or PHF (Psychiatric Health Facility) waiting for lower level of care. Dr. Chang stated that the establishment of this level of care is somewhat related to COVID-19 as there have been growing concerns regarding capacity at ITF, which made social distancing nearly impossible at the start of the lockdown. MHRC has allowed ITF and PHF to decongest and decompress the facility, providing additional space for distancing.

The Department has been considering the addition of treatments for individuals struggling with severe cases of depression that are unresponsive to medication and/or therapy. Treatments include ECT

(electroconvulsive therapy) and TMS (transcranial magnetic stimulation) and some neuro treatments, such as Esketamine. It is generally known that these treatments carry some negative stigma, which Dr. Chang offered to address at a later time. Dr. Chang noted that the Department is exploring how to provide these additional treatments (which has never been offered by the Department) for individuals that struggle with depression so severe that it is resistant to medication and/or therapy and has a history of hospitalizations. Separately, these treatments have shown to have positive effects with individuals struggling with treatment resistant depression and it would be beneficial for consumers to have it as an option for treatment. Dr. Chang reported that this is a new development the Department is considering and if implemented, will have space at the brand new medical surgical center in Moreno Valley.

Dr. Bruce Gage recently submitted his resignation as the appointed mental health expert for Riverside County jails. Dr. Gage resigned from his duties due to serious illness and is unable to continue his work. The Department is working closely with County Counsel and Board of Supervisors in terms of appointing a new psychiatrist to fill his position.

Lastly, Dr. Chang announced the passing of Amy Litteral, Supervisor for the New Life San Jacinto Program and the Temecula and Indio Day Reporting Centers. Ms. Litteral succumbed to injuries she suffered from a car accident on Friday, May 22. Ms. Litteral was well known, respected, and liked in the community and by colleagues throughout the Department. The memorial service will be held on Thursday, June 11 at 11:00 am at Galway Downs in Temecula. Those who wish to pay their respects are welcome to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1.) MHSA UPDATE: David Schoelen, Behavioral Health Services Administrator, provided an update regarding the Annual MHSA Planning process. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, they have made several modifications and arrangements in order to have public hearings and complete the report in accordance with the state's timeline. They initially ran into some posting issues on May 8, but was able to resolve it and post the plan on May 11. Mr. Schoelen stated that despite the delay, they are still meeting their 30-day posting requirement and maintaining their timelines. They are currently working on composing the virtual public hearing recordings, which will be posted on June 12 – 17 and the comment period will remain open through June 24. The public hearings will be available in English and Spanish, and will feature closed captioning as well as a picture-in-picture frame for an American Sign Language interpreter. This way our hearing impaired and Spanish speaking communities will have the opportunity to participate. All feedback and comments will be reviewed and implemented on June 30 with the help of a few Commission members. Beatriz Gonzalez, Brenda Scott, April Jones, and Carole Schaudt volunteered to assist Mr. Schoelen and staff in reviewing the feedback. Mr. Schoelen noted that they are working diligently to maintain their timeline and plan to have the MHSA Annual Plan Update completed and on the BHC's agenda on July 1 to adopt and approve submission to the Board of Supervisor's Office.
- 2.) SAPT UPDATE: April Marier, Behavioral Health Services Administrator, provided an update regarding how services are faring amid the pandemic. The SUD Navigation Team has returned to the hospital and as of Monday, received 17 new referrals for treatment and service. They also recently completed their Care Compact, which is the Department's agreement with the hospital that outlines the responsibilities of each team. Ms. Marier noted that this is a program initially started by the Department, however, they later learned of a grant available for this type of

program. Ms. Marier stated they decided to apply for the grant funding and are waiting for the response.

The Arlington Recovery Community with the sobering center is the fully integrated residential program, which they also applied for grant funding. There were two phases to this project and they were able to receive grant funding for Phase 1, but were unable to obtain it for Phase 2, which would include the sobering center. Ms. Marier stated that Phase 2 did not meet the parameters to which the grant required, however the Department's leadership decided it was an important part of the program and approved its addition. They are currently establishing the Scope of Work and will be releasing the RFP soon.

Ms. Marier announced that the FNL (Friday Night Live) Award Ceremony will be held virtually on Friday, June 5. Invitations have been sent out and for those who have either not received or lost their invitation, will be sent a new one.

Lastly, Ms. Marier echoed Mr. Miller's thanks and appreciation for the Substance Use team as they have really shown commitment and pulled together during these uncertain times. Providers and Department staff worked very hard together to come up with new processes and procedures to keep everyone safe while providing services to our community. Providers with multiple sites offered to bring people in for quarantining and transition them over to other providers with residential beds. County clinics worked diligently to get tele-health services off the ground, which proved to be a real challenge in the beginning. Now, a majority of counselors are providing telehealth services and in reviewing recent reports, data shows staff providing 50-55% of their services through tele-health. Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOT) also had struggles in the beginning as they are required to provide 9-19 hours of service a week. In the beginning, it was difficult to provide that level of service through phone and tele-health, but with the help of Brandon Jacobs and his team, they were able to obtain appropriate Zoom licenses allowing them to hold 1.5 hours of groups again. Ms. Marier noted that one of the greatest things they observed out of tele-health is that they are seeing more families engage in services with the youth. Now, they are able to participate and engage at home and complete a session. Ms. Marier expressed how proud she is of the Team and thanked everyone for their continued support.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

DESERT REGIONAL BOARD: Mr. Divine reported that they have not met since the beginning of COVID-19, but plan to meet on Tuesday, June 9 via Zoom.

MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BOARD: Ms. McElroy reported that the group met via teleconference and established an ad hoc committee to look at goals and objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. McElroy noted that with the approval of the Regional Board Bylaws, they feel better equipped to move forward and examine ways they can work with the Commission and establish some goals and objectives for them as well.

ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE: Ms. Scott reported that the group met virtually and had a presenter speak about their food program in Moreno Valley.

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE: Tori St. Johns reported that Mr. Schoelen presented on the MHSA Update at the Children's Committee meeting. Ms. St. Johns expressed her admiration and appreciation for all of

Mr. Schoelen's efforts surrounding the Planning process in making sure it is inclusive and accessible to the community amid the pandemic.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Greg Damewood reported that the group hopes to meet via Zoom in July, if not in person, assuming restrictions are lifted.

HOUSING COMMITTEE: Ms. Scott reported that Marcus Cannon presented on updates regarding housing and additional grant funding they received due to COVID-19, which allowed them to provide housing for the homeless during the lockdown.

OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE: Ms. Scott reported that Tony Ortego has returned as the Behavioral Health Administrator for Older Adults. Everyone is excited to have him back and look forward to working with him again.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE: Daryl Terrell reported that QIC conducted their annual telephone survey, which took place between January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. The survey is to determine consumer satisfaction with services received through Behavioral Health. Overall, the majority of the clients receiving services reported they were satisfied with their services – 92% reported they found their providers to be appropriate and sensitive to their cultural background; 83% reported they were satisfied with the quality of services they received; and 92.4% reported they were generally able to get services from their providers when they needed them.

VETERANS COMMITTEE: Rick Gentillalli reported that the group met via teleconference and had a good turnout. They had callers from Veterans Affairs, CalVet, and staff from the Department. On July 1, they plan to hold their meeting via Zoom and all are invited to attend.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: None

ADJOURN: The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Maria Roman

Tori St. Johns, BHC Secretary

Maria Roman, Recording Secretary

FY 2019/20 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

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

Present = ✓ | 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 at MYRoman@rcmhd.org.