

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR February 7, 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 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 shared she attended the Drug Court graduations and Work for Solutions and expressed her gratitude to Riverside County for these programs and being able to witness the changes these programs make to the consumers and their families. Madame Chair also made mention of Jim Grisham's retirement party and the bittersweet farewell.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –

Rick Gentillalli attended Veteran's Court graduation a month ago and shared everyone who goes through the program is successful and encouraged all to attend and gave praise to Riverside County.

Greg Damewood shared the bylaws are still currently being worked on and welcomed any feedback and input from anyone.

PUBLIC REMARKS –

Lawrence Gonzaga, with Molina Health Care, shared Molina provides its members a public health plan that offers an incentive-based app to help members achieve care goals with substance use and behavioral health. Members earn points as they achieve their goals and once they have met that goal they receive gift cards up to \$800 per year.

Kristen Duffy announced the first annual One Life One Heart, Poisoning and Overdose Awareness 5K Walks will be taking place regionally. The Desert Region walk will take place on March 27th, the Western Region walk will take place on April 13th and the Mid County walk will take place on April 17th. Volunteers are needed and there are flyers available if interested.

Ms. Duffy also announced the May is Mental Health Month regional events, Art of Wellness, will take place in Indio on May 2nd, and in San Jacinto on May 9th and in Riverside on May 23rd.

Francisco Huerta shared there was a Care Act presentation provided to the families and community and they were delighted that there were 80 people in attendance. The next meeting will be held on February 28th and highlight a presentation by Dr. Wilson.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – Tabled

DIRECTOR'S REPORT –

Dr. Chang provided an update on the Crisis Response teams, sharing that they have answered 5400 calls in the last year and are currently adding mobile crisis response vans. He also shared the County is proud to be one of the first seven counties to offer Care Court and receiving numerous calls from interested parties wanting to gain more information. Dr. Chang also gave praise to Shannon McCleery-Hooper and Maria Martha Moreno for the Take My Hand app as well as the ASL pilot program. He concluded by sharing the County is still advocating for Wellness Villages.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY-

Rosie Pescador, Behavioral Health Services Supervisor, introduced Michael Hill, BHS III with the Desert Youth Hospitalization Intervention Program. Mr. Hill shared he lost his father to addiction at a young age and his mother also struggled with addiction. He shared that around the age of 10 due to his own substance use and poor choices it led him to juvenile hall until he was released at the age of sixteen. Upon his release the court had made arrangements for him to receive services throughout the county and met a case manager by the name of Salafa who worked with him even through the darkest of times and continued to be consistent and never gave up on him. Mr. Hill recently shared his experience as a youth with a coworker who assisted him with reconnecting with Salafa. He wrote a letter expressing his gratitude and the impact she had on his life and how grateful he was to her. When he was lost, broken and troubled and felt the world was against him she remained a constant. He was still struggling to deal with his mother's addiction and the loss of his father, but Salafa showed him consistency. When he was being difficult, she never gave up on him and through her support and care he was able to empower himself and break through his generational cycle. He continues to apply his coping tools and work on his own healing. Today he is happily married and has four children that will not have to endure the same experiences and struggles he had and what his siblings continue to still struggle with today. Mr. Hill works hard, and his family is his driving force that encourages him to continue to better himself. He began as a parent partner before becoming a BHS III and is grateful to his supervisor Rosie Pescador and Kelly Grotsky for the opportunity and honored to be a part of their team. Mr. Hill concluded that he is fortunate to be able to share his unique perspective as a former consumer who could relate to other's experiences with substance use and wants to be impactful as others were to him.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. **Dr. Chang Award Recognition for Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award from the Riverside County Medical Association (Brenda Scott & Rick Gentillalli)**
Brenda Scott announced Dr. Chang was recognized and received an award for the 2023 Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award from the Riverside County Medical Association at the Mission Inn. The Medical Association stated Dr. Chang received the award because he has been a key figure in helping to create a new continuum of care with the focus on the right care, the right time, the right place. Under his leadership RUHS BH has opened over 550 beds over the past several years, which is more than any other Behavioral Health Department in California combined.
Rick Gentillalli expressed how honored he was to be in attendance to witness Dr. Chang receive his award and although Dr. Chang is very humble, he gets results and is proud he is our Director and thankful to him for what he has done for our community.

2. **Riverside County's 22-23 Youth Development Survey Results (Lupe Madrigal)**

Lupe Madrigal, program coordinator of Friday Night Live and Prevention Services, shared the program supports the youth by offering them safe and healthy alternatives with engagement skills, leadership, advocacy, relationship building and skill building activities in hopes to deter them from substance use. She reviewed the yearly survey results from California FNL which is the program that offers FNL oversight and training. Ms. Madrigal also introduced team members, Nitzia Leal, program coordinator 1 for the FNL program in the Desert Region and Nhan Pham, program coordinator 1 for the FNL program in the Western Region. She continued by introducing a youth member of FNL, Eva Arreola, who attends Coachella Valley high school and shared her experience with the FNL program. Ms. Arreola shared she has been a part of FNL since 5th grade and is now in her 8th year of being in the FNL program. She was encouraged by her peers to join and seeing all the activities they got to participate in. She stays motivated to continue because her school counselors and FNL program coordinator praise her for continuing to be a part of the FNL program and keep her involved in the activities and functions. Ms. Arreola shared the program has taught her many skills and she is a part of the youth council and encourages her peers to participate in the program so they can benefit and learn from the program as she has.

OLD BUSINESS-

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

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator, announced that the Innovation Eating Disorder proposal was submitted to the state for review and on their calendar for consent on 2/22/24. He also shared that the suggestions from the commission were taken into consideration and the proposal will be presented to school districts to obtain their feedback. Mr. Schoelen also shared on behalf of Diana Gutierrez, that PEI offers monthly virtual and in person trainings which are free of charge and the upcoming trainings will take place on 2/15 and 2/28. All are welcomed to attend and encourage others to attend, for those interested they may contact PEI via email at PEI@ruhealth.org or call at 951-955-3448.

3. **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (SAPT) Update – (Lupe Madrigal on behalf of April Frey)**

Lupe Madrigal substance use prevention and treatment programs have expanded services by adding MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) services to the continuum of care. She explained these services slightly differ from the MAT services in the past, which were offered if the consumer also participated in the program and now MAT services are being offered in full continuum from induction to maintenance and the consumer does not have to participate in the outpatient program. The consumer would call the nearest clinic and inquire about the MAT services at which time they would be assessed and if meet criteria then they would be scheduled for an appointment.

Recovery happens planning any suggestions recommendations please inform Lupe and encourage the one life one heart flyer to be shared.

3. Care Court Update – (Marcus Cannon)

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update explaining Riverside was 1 of the 7 cohort counties to go live in October. People can petition the civil court to order treatment for someone they know and have a relationship with that meets the criteria. There has been 55 calls to date, 33 civil court petitions, 9 referrals from criminal court, 10 referrals for investigation from other sources such as adult protective services and 3 active cases ordered into the program.

COMMITTEE UPDATES –

Desert Regional Board- Richard Divine reported there was a presentation on Snowflake and Christmas Families and said farewells to Jim Grisham and presented him with a plaque and introduced the new manager.

Mid-County Regional Board- Brenda Scott reported committee met in Hemet and had a celebrate recovery story from a consumer with the Older Adult/Mature Adult Program in San Jacinto who told her story and how the program has helped her. Ashley Alvarado presented the Enhanced Care Management program.

Western Regional Board- Greg Damewood reported the committee would be meeting today at 3pm and all are encouraged to attend.

Adult System of Care Committee- Brenda Scott reported committee met at Rustin building and decided they would alternate between Rustin in Riverside and Perris. There was also a presentation by Heather Sylvester on 24/7 Mobile Crisis team.

Children's Committee- Victoria St. Johns reported the committee had a presentation from SPARK program (Support Partnership Advocacy and Resource for Kids) and the next committee meeting will take place on 2/27.

Criminal Justice Committee- Greg Damewood reported committee met in January and will meet again March.

Housing Committee- Brenda Scott reported committee had a presentation from Starting Over Housing Program and had a discussion on Room and Board Coalition.

Legislative Committee- April Smith reported committee met this morning and decided they would keep their meeting monthly due to higher attendance and should attendance decline will revisit the option of meeting every other month or quarter. She also announced with support of the department Timothy Kirkconnell will be providing monthly reports. There was a discussion and update on Proposition 1 and the 6.38 billion bond measure to rebuild Behavioral Health infrastructure and the reform of MHSA (Mental Health Service Act) to BHSA (Behavioral Health Service Act). Ms. Smith also shared the BOS voted to support Prop 1.

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

Quality Improvement Committee- Daryl Terrell had nothing to report.

Veterans Committee- Rick Gentillalli reported Veterans Committee meets every other month and met this morning and will meet again in March and hope membership will grow and revisit returning committee monthly should membership grow.

Membership Committee- Richard Divine reported there are currently 11 members and 1 new commissioner joining us in March for District 1 with two others interested. There are currently 4 vacancies so if anyone is interested feel free to refer them to Richard or Sylvia for more information.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Richard Divine suggested a presentation on prop 1
 Greg Damewood suggested discussion on Bylaws and Roberts Rule of Order
 Nisha Elliott suggested WET Employee Appreciation Winner
 David Schoelen suggested MHSa Annual Update Presentation

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:44 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

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 Smith, District 3	A	A	P	P	A	P				
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	A	P	P	A				
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Carole Schaudt, District 4	ML	A	A	P	ML	P				
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	P	A	P	P	A	P				
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Richard Divine, District 2	P	P	P	P	ML	P				
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 1	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.
 To request copies, please contact the BHC Liaison at 951-955-7141 or email SBishop@ruhealth.org

PRESENT		
Bill Brenneman	Dakota Brown	Tauna Butler
Lucy Lopez	Avery Downey	Kristen Duffy
Selenne Contreras	Lawrence Gonzaga	Kristin Miller
Sylvia Bishop	Carina Gustafsson	Steve McNally
Deborah Johnson	Carolina Ayala	Nancy Stevens
Dr. Chang	Corinne Awad	Leah Newell
Rosie Pescador	Danielle Gonzalez	Lisa Erazo
Michael Hill	Eva Gunther	Maria Martha Moreno
Lupe Madrigal	Francisco Huerta	Zuly Martinez
David Schoelen	Girlyanne Lacson	Mareen Dopson
Marcus Cannon	Bruce Hocks	Melissa Noone
Alea Jackson	Jane Beamer	Michelle Downs
Andrea Putnam	Janine Moore	Miriam Resendiz
Beverly McKeddie	Jannel Rand	Misty Martin
Christopher Benitez	Johnathan Kaatz	Dolores (NAMI)
James Ortego	Julie Eagle	Nhan Pham
Nisha Elliott	Nitzia Leal	Rachel Gileno
Robin Reid	Shannon McCleery-Hooper	Sheila Smith
Kelly Grotsky	Sophia Cande`	Ava Arreola