

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR September 6, 2023 • 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 12:02 pm and led the committee into the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner attendance taken by roll-call and then followed by introductions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS –

Madame Chair, Tori St. Johns welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –

Daryl Terrell shared he was recently appointed to the Moreno Valley planning commission.

Brenda Scott announced there is an English and Spanish family to family class taking place in person in Hemet at the RUSD parent resource room. NAMI walk is November 4th at the Diamond Valley Lake for the Inland Empire. She also announced on November 16th in Murrieta there will be Multi Cultural Symposium Day that she is collaborating with the Cultural Liaisons for this event.

Bea Gonzalez expressed Coachella Valley got hit hard by Hurricane Hillary and appreciates the support and services offered to the community.

PUBLIC REMARKS –

Tony Ortego announced Behavioral Health and Public Health services were being offered in Desert and working with the emergency management department, offering the services at the Cathedral City library. Mr. Ortego thanked Kristen Miller for the services provided by the Crisis Mobile team and mentioned Older Adult services would also be provided during the week.

Willard Wynn announced the vacant Senior Peer position in mid county was filled after a year of vacancy.

Kristen Duffy announced there were two internal Senior Peer promotions and adding a third senior peer position in mid county for Crisis Support System of Care. She also announced that this Sunday in Riverside at the Riverside Convention Center they will be having their Riverside Pride event.

Dakota Brown announced Blythe will be having their 2nd annual Suicide Summit Candle-Light Vigil.

Maria Martha Moreno announced La Clave integration went live last week.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – Minutes from 7/5/23 were reviewed, Brenda Scott moved to approve the minutes as stated and Rick Gentillalli seconded the motion.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dr. Chang announced the first Wellness Village is moving forward in Mead Valley. He also announced they are moving forward with Care Court and will be going live in October 2023.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- (Willard Wynn)

Willard Wynn, Family Advocate Program manager introduced Ashley Housley, Senior Family Advocate of Substance Abuse. Ms. Housley began by sharing she was removed from her home and parents care by CPS at a young age and moved with her grandparents due to substance abuse and domestic violence that took place in her home. She continued to express how she developed a codependency relationship for her mother because into her teen years she was constantly taking care of her mother who was addicted to substances. Ms. Housley shared that when she was fifteen her mother was clean and sober but that is when she herself started self- medicating with substances from age 15 to 25 because she felt unworthy and not loved. Her addiction caused her to become incarcerated on several occasions and she went to 12 treatment centers but when she became pregnant and developed a support system that changed and she learned how to set boundaries, recently obtained her real estate license, became employed with the county and through her trauma and recovery story she is able to help others in similar situations to seek support and services and make better decisions for a healthier life.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Suicide Prevention Coalition Updates & Activities- (Diana Gutierrez)

Diana Gutierrez, Prevention and Early Intervention manager who also serves as co-chair of Riverside County Suicide Prevention Coalition provided an overview on the Suicide Prevention Coalition. She shared their vision statement is working collaboratively in Riverside County to eliminate suicide deaths and suicide attempts and increase resources and supports. Mrs. Gutierrez also shared that the Suicide Crisis Path is a model that intends to integrate multiple approaches and frameworks within context of an individual's suicide experience and by doing so matching the intervention approach with protective factors to prevent a suicide from happening. She continued by sharing the community partners and sub-committees that develop strategies and effective methods to prevent suicide. Mrs. Gutierrez highlighted 988 and the one-year anniversary of the transition, 988 routes callers to the national network of crisis centers to provide immediate support to callers.

Mrs. Gutierrez concluded by sharing Suicide Prevention Month which is the month of September and Suicide Awareness Week begins September 10, 2023 and announced several activities taking place. The theme this year is Share Hope Together and a tool kit for Suicide Prevention Week can be requested through the following link www.suicideispreventable.org. The Out of Darkness Walks kick-off event is on September 30th at Fairmount Park in Riverside as well as two others in Rancho Cucamonga on October 21st and Palm Desert on October 28th. Several trainings are offered and you can obtain additional information and register at www.rivcospc.org or email pei@ruhealth.org. And SAVE the DATE October 26th for the Suicide Prevention Coalition 2nd Annual Summit being held at the Agua Caliente Casino Rancho Mirage.

2. Fiscal Year 22/23 Annual Behavioral Health Commission Report-

Votes were done by roll-call and each member of the Commission approved to submit the Behavioral Health Commission Annual Report FY 22/23 to the Board of Supervisors office. (The Commission had quorum during the meeting but note there were three absences, Carole Schaudt, April Jones and Debbie Rose.)

OLD BUSINESS-

1. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update:

A) Approval of MHSA Annual Plan Update

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator for the department provided summary of MHSA community participation process and reported that they have completed finalizing the MHSA

Annual Plan Update and requested approval from BHC to submit the document to the Board of Supervisors office. Greg Damewood made motion to approve the document and Beatriz Gonzalez seconded the motion. Votes were done by roll-call and the plan was approved. (The Commission had quorum during the meeting but note there were three absences, Carole Schaudt, April Jones and Debbie Rose.)

2. Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (SAPT) Update – (Rhyan Miller on behalf of April Frey)

Rhyan Miller, Deputy Director of Integrated Programs introduced the Departments Medical Director Dr. Benetiz.

Mr. Miller also announced the \$24 million grant was received for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing and will be distributed amongst renovations for an adult residential facility and its operation as well as towards the recovery residents/sober living homes. He also announced September is Recovery Month which on October 12th there will be a Recovery Happens event at Fairmount Park from 11am to 4:30pm. Mr. Miller then concluded by reviewing the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment caseload report.

COMMITTEE UPDATES- tabled

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Greg Damewood suggested extending BHC meeting to 2:15pm for an open forum to generate more ideas and discuss further paper ballot use, office support but remain in compliance with Brown Act. He also suggested the Veterans Committee meeting every other month and site reviews.

Daryl Terrell suggested discussion of permanent solution to allow members of the commission with disabilities access to attend.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:05 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 Jones, District 3	A	A								
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P								
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P								
Carole Schaudt, District 4	ML	A								
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P								
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	P	A								
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P								
Richard Divine, District 2	P	P								
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	P	P								
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P								
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 1	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

OTHERS PRESENT		
Bill Brenneman	Misty Martin	
Lucy Lopez	Russ Hockman	
Selenne Contreras	Robert Youssef	
Diana Gutierrez	Ashley Housley	
David Schoelen	Danielle Gonzalez	
Rhyan Miller	Tom Behr	
Marcus Cannon	Brandon Behr	
Dr. Matthew Chang	Laurence Gonzaga	
Deborah Johnson	Lydia Mekonnen	
Kristen Miller	Maria Rodriguez	
Brandon Jacobs	Melissa Noone	
Williard Wynn	Sean Fredriksen	
Nisha Elliott	Dakota Brown	
Maureen Dopson	Akram Razzouk	
Tony Ortego	Janet Zimmerman	
Maria Martha Moreno		
James Grisham		
Janine Moore		
Kristen Duffy		
Michelle Downs		