

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR October 2, 2024 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS –

Chair, Richard Divine called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:02 pm and Greg Damewood led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll call and followed by introductions.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –

Victoria St. Johns made a motion to approve minutes as written from September 4, 2024, Greg Damewood seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – none

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –

Greg Damewood reported he attended the Recovery Happens event and shared there were more attendees there than at the May is Mental Health Month Fair event.

Victoria St. Johns reported she also attended the Recovery Happens event at Fairmount Park and there was a huge turn out and the department leadership participated in the dunk tank.

PUBLIC REMARKS –

Dakota Brown shared she would like to discuss with the commission ideas she has regarding raising attendance for the BHC meeting to make it more accessible to members of the public.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT –

Dr. Chang reported briefly reported that Recovery Happens was well attended and thanked Ms. Deborah Johnson for bringing her granddaughter to help at the event. He continued by sharing the state hospitals are currently focused on IST and putting emphasis on the county working with various partners including the DA and RSO. They are currently discussing ways to perform evaluations with that population.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Parent Partner (Maria Arnold)

Maria Arnold, Parent Partner Program Manager, introduced Irnero Pinedo. Mr. Pinedo shared he received services through the parent partner program and was encouraged to also attend the Triple P program. He shared his struggles growing up with dyslexia, being in special ed and the challenges he had with his own mother. Mr. Pinedo explained that his mother had custody of his children but by receiving services with the department and with the help of his parent partners he was able to get into a shelter, receive help with reading and writing and regain custody of his children. Mr. Pinedo expressed his gratitude to the department, the program and the parent partners and is hopeful for his and his family's future with the continued support.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. **Wellness and Recovery for Mature Adults** – Tony Ortego

Tony Ortego, Behavioral Health Services Administrator for Mature Adults, provided a presentation on the services provided. He explained there are three comprehensive programs, Full Service Partnership (FSP), Wellness and Recovery Program and Prevention and Early Intervention.

The FSP S.M.A.R.T. program serves mature adults ages 60 and older who have a severe and persistent mental illness and are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or at risk of being incarcerated, or have recently been hospitalized for psychiatric care. These individuals are supported with behavioral health services that include case management services, psychiatric care, medication monitoring and other integrated services. Mr. Ortego continued to share the Wellness and Recovery Program provides services to mature adults ages 60 and older who have severe and persistent mental illness, and these services also include psychiatric care, monthly case management services that are less intensive, integrated age-related services, ongoing recovery support with the goal to prevent hospitalization, incarceration and homelessness. Both programs accept medical and some managed care plans that are accepted upon approval from IEHP, Kaiser and Molina. Those accepted may include a sliding fee scale or share of cost. Both these programs encourage independence and stability and support consumers to manage their physical health as well as their mental health. Mr. Ortego continued to explain that both programs offer groups, transportation services and linkage, housing linkage, peer support and family advocacy, benefit linkage for SSI, SSA, IHSS, payee services etc.

He then shared that the Prevention and Early Intervention offered services that included mental health liaisons located at the Office on Aging at two of their locations which provide consultation, education, cognitive behavioral therapy for late life depression consumers who are experiencing recent onset depressive symptoms, community outreach and direct services. Services are an evidence based practice with regular monitoring of client progress, these services are time limited geared towards seniors who are generally stable but have had recent setbacks. The goal is to empower consumers to address their mental health issues, promote medication use, decrease ER visits and hospitalization, reduce isolation, improve quality of life, increase consumer access to care, improve coordination of care to the older adult population and improve collaboration.

Mr. Ortego concluded by introducing two guest speakers Mr. John and Mrs. Laura, who are current consumers of Wellness and Recovery for Mature Adults. They both gave powerful testimonies sharing their personal struggles and challenges with their mental health and one of them sharing their struggle with substance use. They also shared their recovery stories and that choosing to receive services, attending groups and taking medications as prescribed have benefited them and given them a positive outlook on life and that they chose to help others through sharing their stories and giving them hope.

OLD BUSINESS-

1. **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update** - (David Schoelen/Diana Gutierrez)

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator, reported that the transition of MHSA to BHSA is in effect and there are members of the department that sit on the work group. Currently the State advocacy group is working with the state to refine the language but there is nothing formalized yet. Mr. Schoelen also reported that Prop 1 goes into effect in January of 2025 so there are timelines embedded into deadlines for MHSA, therefore although prop 1 goes into effect in January of 2025 it is not active until the first BHSA plan is due in 2026.

Diana Gutierrez, Prevention and Early Intervention Administrative Service Manager, announced October 3, 2024 is the 3rd Annual Suicide Coalition and it will be live streamed on Rivco.spc.org at 9am and there will be a youth panel in the afternoon with a suicide crisis response and key note speakers. The event will also be recorded if anyone is interested and can reach out to pei@ruhealth.org.

2. Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (SAPT) Update – (Heidi Gomez)

Heidi Gomez, Substance Use and Prevention Treatment Program Administrator, announced October is Substance Use Prevention Month and Friday Night Live (FNL) clubs are offered to 4th grade-12th grade students. She shared that FNL was piloted back in 1984 and Riverside was one of three counties to be apart of the pilot. She continued by announcing October 23rd-31st is Red Ribbon week and there will be speakers and events taking place at the 85 chapters of the schools that are involved. Mrs. Gomez continued by sharing the FNL youth ambassadors which are comprised of 9th-12th graders, 13 ambassadors' total. She concluded by announcing on November 2, 2024, FNL is taking 2,500 students to Six Flags Magic Mountain.

3. Care Court Update – (Marcus Cannon)

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on Care Court sharing that there are currently 83 petitions, with 50 of those being integrated referrals that became Care Court petitions and 33 of those petitions were filed directly in civil Court. Mr. Cannon also shared the first petitions for step down from LPS conservatorship have been filed, the department of state hospitals will begin filing petitions and he will present at NAMI Regional Meeting in Visalia on 10/10/24. Mr. Cannon concluded by providing the below link where resources can be found.

Resources Available:

www.Care-Act.org

COMMITTEE UPDATES –

Greg Damewood reported the Western Regional Board meets after the BHC meeting each month at 3pm and encourages all to attend as well as attend the Criminal Justice committee meeting which takes place every other month and will meet in November at 12pm at 3625 14th Street, Riverside, CA 92501.

Richard Divine reported the Desert Regional Advisory Board meets next Tuesday at the new Coachella Health Center and all are welcome to attend.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

WET Employee Appreciation Winner suggested by Marybel Buchler.

Holiday meeting discussion suggested by Sylvia Bishop.

Legislative Committee meeting discussion suggested by April Smith.

CIT presentation suggested by Robin Smith.

Fiscal Update Report and Budgets suggested by Brenda Scott.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:48 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

April Smith, BHC Secretary

Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

FY 2024/25 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

MEMBERS	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
April Smith, District 3	A	A	A							
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	P							
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	A							
Carole Schaudt, District 4	P	P	ML							
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P	P							
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	A	A	A							
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P							
Harshita Arunkumar, Dist. 1	P	ML	P							
Launa Wilson, District 1	A	P	P							
Quintilla Ávila, District 2	-	-	P							
Richard Divine, District 2	P	P	P							
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	P	P	ML							
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P							
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 1	ML	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	Miriam Resendiz	Dakota Brown
Lucy Lopez	Israel Torres	Carmela Soto
Sylvia Bishop	Sandy Awad	Rachel Gileno
Dr. Chang	Misty Martin	Marisela Gil
Willard Wynn	Lawrence Blake	Maria Laurel
Deborah Johnson	Ashley Housley	Dani Damewood
Francisco Huerta	Jacob Stephenson	Robert Martinez
Heidi Gomez	Aaron Perez	Linda Craig
Brandon Jacobs	Chris Galindo	Conni Ryder
David Schoelen	Lydia Mekonnen	Gloria Moriarty
Marcus Cannon	Angeles Camacho	
Sujei Larkin	Irin Pinedo	
Rhyan Miller	Ms. Pinedo	
Shannon McCleerey-Hooper	Laura D.	
Diana Gutierrez	Sheila Mallett-Smith	
Kristen Duffy	Irais Andre	
Maria Arnold	Carolina Ayala	
Tony Ortego	John Insunza	
Kristen Miller	Sandy Murillo	
Jacqueline Markussen	Marcus Oare	
Maria Martha Moreno	John Smith	

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY	
	Jane Beamer
Lydia Session	Nancy Stevens
Elizabeth Del Rio	Debbie Rose
Christopher Duffy	Luis Lamadrid
Oliver Emerson	Nisha Elliott
Leah Newell	Jasmine Harris
Orli Zaprir	Laurence Gonzaga
Manuel Medina	Robert Youssef
Robin Smith	Elizabeth Whitteker