



**Western Region Behavioral Health - Advisory Board**  
**Minutes**  
**April 1, 2026**  
**Hybrid TEAMS and in Person**  
**2085 Rustin Ave Ste 5, Riverside, CA 92507**

Board Members			
Chair		Member	
Greg Damewood, Chairperson	P	Karen Franks, PSS/Blaine	P
		Joseph Page, Hemet Beat	P
Western Region Administration			
Alea Jackson, WR Adult Services	P	Elena Martinez BHSIII	A
Kelly Grotsky, WR DD	P	Novanh Xayarath, WR BHSA	A
Tony Ortego, WR BHSA	P	Lorissa Villarreal, HHOPE Service Admin	A
Girlyanne Lacson, WR BHSS	A		
Staff			
Francisco J Huerta, Sr. Family Advocate	P	Misty Martin, Sr. Family Advocate	A
Dakota Brown, Cultural Competency Liaison/Disabilities	A	Maria T Gonzalez, Sr. Parent Partner	P
Stacy Anderson, Executive Assistant	P	Jennel Rand, Sr. PSS	A
Guests			
Omara Moreno	P	Janette Patterson	P
Danielle Damewood	P	Claude Davis	P
Joshua Smith	P	Amanda Ruiz	P
Jennifer Hayford	A	Renee Osborne	P
Cheath Roun	A	Huriya Tesfaliase	P
April Frey	P		
Victoria Smith	P		
Lilian Zepeda	P		

*P: Present      A: Absent*

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting called to order at 3:00 P.M. Meeting facilitated by Greg Damewood.
2. INTRODUCTIONS – Introductions proceeded.
3. REVIEWED MINUTES
  - The minutes of March 2026 were reviewed and accepted as is
4. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS
  - All three regions will be participating in May is Mental Health Art of Wellness Fair-**Thursday, MAY 14, 2026 - RIVERSIDE** - Fairmount Park, 11:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
  - Coffee supply at JWC- Alea addressed
  - Member concern with Crisis (police involvement) at JWC- Alea addressed
  - Short staff of Psychiatrists- Alea informed members County is diligently trying to fill vacancies, Telehealth is available, and Blaine is assisting in the interim.

5. SITE VISIT REPORT(S)
  - Commissions signed up for 3 site visits, which should be completed by the end of April
  
6. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Sean Frederickson- Mental Health Court
  - Power point presented and attached to email
  - Located in Riverside, Temecula, and Indio
  - Mental health court- 12 month phased program
  - Mental health diversion- up to 2 years
  - Member had concerns that once she was released to general population, she was stripped of her MH Court benefits and released with no meds.
  
7. CHAIR'S REMARKS
  - Stacy Contact Sylvia Bishop for Wellness Village presentation and CARE ACT
  
8. REGIONAL REPORTS
  - A. *Adult Manager's Report* – Alea Jackson, BHSA
    - Blaine St. Clinic continues to provide individual therapy, groups, peer services, medication support family advocacy and case management services. Blaine St Clinic currently has 20 groups offered including post-traumatic stress disorder groups. Blaine currently has 138 members enrolled in its FSP program and 1550 in the non-FSP program. Onboarding SUP OAll, no vacancies
    - Jefferson Wellness Center currently has 16 groups and Caseload 243enrolled members. No vacancies.
    - Pathways to Success is in Riverside and Temecula and it's a vocational rehabilitation program in which we partner with the Department of Rehabilitation to assist our members in finding work such as attending trade school or getting certified in certain specializations. There are 201 members enrolled between the Riverside and Temecula site's location. The program is fully staffed.
  
  - B. *Children's Manager Report* – Novanh Xayarath, Children's Administrator:
    - Eating Disorder IOP Mindful Body and Recovery doing pilot to expand service age to 16-25. Piloting program at Stepping Stones beginning this month. Also, working to see if we can have an EPIC build for IOP so it'll be easier for PCP to do direct referral to program.
    - TFCBT booster training happening next month, April 30th. This is required training marking staff's hallway point in completing training. We have staff from county programs and contract providers going through this training.
    - Children's Treatment Services: 288 open cases. 34 referrals for the month. Had one CT resigned. Will wait to backfill position when program direct service goes up higher.
    - Riverside Family Wellness: 156 open cases. 18 referrals for the month. Currently recruiting for Community Service Assistant position.
    - Stepping Stones: 274 open cases, 30 referrals for the month. A CT just resigned. Looking to backfill position as program is getting a lot of referrals and currently backlog with intake.
    - MVCHIP - 330 open cases. 22 referrals. Program has no vacancies and continues to be busy providing individual, family therapy, medication, and group services.

- C. *Corona Wellness Updates* – Alea Jackson for Girlyanne Lacson
- For Corona Wellness & Recovery Center we have 969 open Members (588 in Adult, 116 in Children's, 145 in SAPT, 86 FSP Adults and 34 FSP Children's).
  - Eggtravaganza is tomorrow, 4/2 4:30-7pm, we are excited to have our family come and play games, hunt for eggs and have a few snacks.
  - We continue to build our programming, increasing group services and coordinating more family-based services. We currently have 1 OAll position, Sr. CT and PSS vacant.
- D. *Older Adults Manager Report* - Tony Ortego, Mature Adults Administrator
- Total Members served in Riverside- 650
  - Wellness members-500
  - FSP Members- 150
  - Clinic is piloting & collaborating with the "Take My Hand" Program to ensure digital literacy for our members. This is a 12-week evidenced-based group
  - Older Adults continues to collaborate with the Adult clinics to ensure smooth and warm handoff with OA referrals –program name: Pathways Forward
  - The Family Advocate continued to address food insecurity through ongoing monthly enrollment in supportive nutrition services
  - Groups expanded with the addition of new evidence-based and skill-building groups, while attendance remained strong across both in-person and virtual formats.
  - 13-week Life Skills Curriculum designed by BHS III Laurel M.-to start soon
  - 12-week Digital Literacy Group graduated & was a success
  - New Grief and Loss group starting soon
- E. *Western Region SAPT Program* – Elena Martinez BHSIII
- Rustin- 421 members,41 in prevention services
  - No Vacancies
  - Moreno Valley- 71 members with 151 Prevention programs
  - No vacancies
  - Month of May celebrating Collaborating courts and ROCK program, softball tournament 5/19/26  
Beaumont
- F. *Western Region HHOPE Service Administrator- Dr. Lorissa Villareal Presented by Cheath Roun*
- No Report
- G. *Western Peer Support Regional Updates* – Jennel Rand, Sr. PSS
- No Report
- H. *WR Children's Parent Partner Regional Updates* – Maria T. Gonzalez, Children's Sr. Parent Partner:
- Parenting group- monthly held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday from 5:30pm-7:30pm, also young empowerment group offered at the same time for parents' children
  - New 11–13-week curriculum course for men- Nurturing Father's in English and Spanish

**Western Region Behavioral Health - Advisory Board  
Minutes  
April 1, 2026  
Hybrid TEAMS and in Person  
2085 Rustin Ave Ste 5, Riverside, CA 92507**

- Parenting autistic children's group- Wed 10-11 am
- I. *Western Adult Family Advocate Updates* – Francisco J. Huerta, Sr. FA Specialist
- 7 Family Advocates throughout the Western Region
  - Vacancies- TAY and ETS/ITF
  - Continue to offer family support groups in the clinics and community vis ZOOM in English and Spanish
  - 1090 Crisis Referrals to date
9. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORTS
- *Children-* Victoria ST John
    - No report.
  - *Criminal Justice* – Greg Damewood
    - Meets Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> 12PM at 14<sup>th</sup> St location. Anyone can attend.
  - *Membership* - (Greg Damewood) Brenda Scott
    - No report
  - *Older Adults-* Brenda Scott
    - No report.
  - *Housing Committee-* Brenda Scott
    - No report.
  - *Adult-* Brenda Scott
    - No report.
  - *Legislative-* April Smith
    - Meets bi-monthly
  - *Veterans Committee-* Rick Gentillalli
    - Meets bi-monthly
10. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:
- Revisiting May is Mental Health event
11. CONTINUED BUSINESS:
- Please keep inviting people. All that are interested in becoming a member of are appreciated. Ideas are appreciated. If anybody wants to become a voting member, please apply via our form to be considered for membership.
12. NEW BUSINESS:
- Please have peers continue to attend with members of the public
  - 5 Member applications were given to members



**Western Region Behavioral Health - Advisory Board  
Minutes  
April 1, 2026  
Hybrid TEAMS and in Person  
2085 Rustin Ave Ste 5, Riverside, CA 92507**

13. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting ended 4:15pm

**NEXT MEETING: May 6, 2026**