

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR April 1, 2026 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

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

Madam Chair Brenda Scott called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:00 pm. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll call and followed by introductions.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –

April Smith made a motion to approve minutes as written from March 4, 2026 and Greg Damewood seconded the motion.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Madam Chair Brenda Scott, shared she was disappointed with the decision of the Supreme Court.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS – None

PUBLIC REMARKS – None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dr. Matthew Chang

Tabled

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Consumer Peer Services (Kristen Duffy)

Kristen Duffy, Consumer Peer Services Program Manager, introduced Kimberlee Samberson, Sr. Certified Peer Support Specialist, who then introduced Rhianon Dominguez. Ms. Dominguez shared her lived experience, including the challenges she faced growing up with parents who struggled with addiction. She explained that she lacked a safe foundation and often had to focus on daily survival, which led her into repeated cycles of trauma. With services from the department—and the support of Ms. Samberson and many other staff, she has regained custody of four of her six children and remains committed to reunifying with the remaining two. Ms. Dominguez also shared that, after speaking with Ms. Samberson about pursuing employment with the department to help others with similar experiences, she returned to school and will be graduating on May 21, 2026. She expressed her desire to be an example her children can look up to, demonstrating that no matter how far one falls, it is always possible to rise and come back.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. RUHS Foundation – Jill Eaton

Jill Eaton, Foundation Director, provided presentation on the RUHS Foundation. Please see power point link below.

<https://www.ruhealth.org/media/9741> Foundation

2. **Franklin Clinic Update -Heena Hemani**

Heena Hemani, Behavioral Health Services Administrator, presented on the Franklin Clinic and Adult Residential Facility. Please see power point link below.

There was also a guest speaker, a current consumer of these services who shared their lived experience and expressed how the services received have been beneficial in their recovery journey.

<https://www.ruhealth.org/media/9736> Franklin

OLD BUSINESS-

1. **Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Update - (Diana Gutierrez)**

Diana Gutierrez, MH Services Administrator, shared a brief update on the Behavioral Health Transformation Behavioral Health Services Act, Integrated Plan. Please see power point link provided below.

<https://www.ruhealth.org/media/9731>

2. **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (SAPT) Update – (Lupe Madrigal)**

Lupe Madrigal, MH Services Administrator for SAPT, shared the opening of the upcoming sober center and gave a brief update of Friday Night Live and the end of year celebration being held at the Convention Center on May 22, 2026. She also announced that the former Carole Addis Calendar is now called the Deborah Johnson Calendar and the artwork included is drawn by the student youth of Riverside County.

3. **Care Court Update – (Marcus Cannon)**

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on CARE Court. Please see power Point presentation below.

<https://www.ruhealth.org/media/9726>

COMMITTEE UPDATE –

Brenda Scott shared she attended the Children’s committee meeting and announced the upcoming meetings for Mid County RAB and the ASOC meeting.

Victoria St. Johns expressed her gratitude to both Commissioner’s April Smith and Brenda Scott for attending the Children’s Committee and announced the Desert Art Show will be held on 5/12/26 at the Taj Mahal from 11am-2pm.

Greg Damewood announced the Western Regional Advisory Board meeting will meet today 4/1/26 at 3pm and the Criminal Justice Committee will meet again in May.

April Smith announced the Legislative Meeting met and discussed bills and proposals and will meet again in June.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Greg Damewood requested presentation from FSA.

April Smith requested overview of SB 910.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

Minutes and agendas of meetings are available online at:
<http://www.ruhealth.org/behavioral-health/advisory-committees>

To request copies, please contact the BHC Liaison at 951-955-7141
or email SBishop@ruhealth.org

FY 2025/26 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

MEMBERS	JUL	SEP	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
April Smith, District	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P		
Carole Schaudt, District 4	P	P	A	A	A	A	A	A		
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P		
Elysse Rico, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A		
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Launa Wilson, District 1	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Quintilia Ávila, District 2	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Rick Gentillalli, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A		
Sheila Mallet-Smith, Dist. 3	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P		
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 3	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		

Present = P • Absent = A

PRESENT In Person / Present Virtual			
Deborah Johnson	Summer Green	Miranda DeShields	Dorothy Cockrell
Sylvia Bishop	Melissa Noone	Janine Moore	Orli Zaprir
Lucy Lopez	Rhianon Dominguez	Shannon McCleerey-Hooper	Kami Winston
Israel Torres	Kimmie Samberson	Tony Ortego	Akram Razzouk
Kristen Duffy	Dani Damewood	Debra Lacy	Rubit Robero
Rhyan Miller	Travis Queen	Beverly McKeddie	Martha Burns
Lupe Madrigal		Laurence Gonzaga	Rita Massie
Ashley Housley		Melissa Dalke	Williard Wynn
Melissa Vasquez		Mary Carpio	Kelly Grotsky
Diana Gutierrez		Robert Youssef	Nosheen Samuel
Pat Scot		Jacob Ruiz	Dr. Benetiz
Heidi Gomez		Mary Walsh	Girlyanne Lacson
Alexandre Uben		Elizabeth Del Rio	Carolina Ayala
Heena Hemani		Lauren Adamson	Miriam Resendiz
Marcus Cannon		Jacqueline Markussen	Rachel Gileno
Amy McCann		Steven Willis	Dolores DeMartino
Claude Davis			
Socorro Gomez			
Nisha Elliott			