

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR May 6, 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 –

Victoria St. Johns made a motion to approve minutes as written from April 1, 2026 and April Smith seconded the motion.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Madam Chair Brenda Scott, announced the resignation of Commissioner Daryl Terrell and expressed her gratitude for his years of service. She also shared the NAMI walk would be held on 5/20/26 in Temecula.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS – Victoria St. Johns shared she went to the ROC graduation and it filled her heart to witness the support of family and friends they gave to their loved ones who accomplished this milestone.

PUBLIC REMARKS – Kristen Duffy announced the May is Mental Health Month event will be held on 5/14/26 at Fairmount Park beginning at 11:30am and hoped to see the Commissioners present.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dr. Matthew Chang

Dr. Chang briefly discussed the challenges the department is facing with H.R.1 funds in regard to Medi Cal and health coverage and expressed the departments is monitoring the impact this has on service deliveries and will adjust as needed.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Family Advocate (Willard Wynn)

Ashley Housley, Senior Family Advocate, introduced Gloria. Gloria shared she is a mother of four boys and had a particularly difficult time with one of them. She expressed she was desperately in need of services for her son who was psychologically abusing her, she stated he is very intelligent, but she didn't know how to help him or provide the support he needed. She would seek services but would get denied as they didn't qualify due to their income. But when she came to Rustin and was walking around someone referred her to Ashley, who has been a great blessing for her and her family. Ashley has helped her set boundaries, gave her hope and the will to not give up on her son. Ashley has helped her manage the MH court issues involving her son, Gloria and her husband were frightened but with the support of Ashley and the Family Advocate program no longer feel that way and feel very hopeful.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Site Review Updates

Beatriz Gonzalez shared she visited Desert Hot Springs SAPT and the Wellness Recovery for Mature Adults and the passion she witnessed from the staff to serve others was uplifting and overall great visits.

Victoria St. Johns visited the Desert Comprehensive Treatment Center and Blythe Adult BH Clinic. She shared the staff were excited and welcoming to have the opportunity to share their site and show the improvements made and how all staff at both sites and management were amazing.

April Smith visited the Lake Elsinore Adult BH Clinic and the Lake Elsinore SAPT Clinic and shared the buildings looked wonderful with new improvements, noticed the passion and excitement from staff from both programs, but did observe lack of signage as she was not able to distinguish which program was which since they are next door to each other and there is no fenced in area for the county vehicles.

Brenda Scott visited the San Jacinto New Life Clinic and expressed it was a very nice building, had ample parking, signage was an issue but was informed there was a work order in place and noted that the clinic needs a nurse and more bilingual staff.

Sheila Mallet Smith visited the Temecula Pathways to Success and the Temecula Adult BH Clinic which are next door to each other and expressed there is strong coordination between all services, staff is professional, organized, engaged and overall, she was very impressed.

Greg Damewood visited the TAY FSP program and noted the building needs more signage as well as BHSIII staff. He shared the program offers individual group therapy and case management services to those ages 16-25 years old and individuals at risk or actively homeless.

Launa Wilson visited Whiteside Manor men's facility and witnessed a group taking place, had an hour to an hour and a half tour with the program director and learned program has been there for 50 years and shared it was a pleasant visit.

Quintilia Ávila visited the Corona Wellness Recovery Programs and learned there were three programs all located on the second floor next to each other. The programs offered services for adult BH services, SAPT services and children services. She said it was clean, accessible, well run, caring staff, sufficient parking and great integrated model of care. She did note that staff would like better coordination with 51/50 handoffs, flexible funding for members to participate in outings and a dedicated MD to clinic downstairs.

2. Nominations

Behavioral Health Commission Liaison asked commissioners who wanted to nominate themselves for Chair, Vice Chair and/or Secretary for the new fiscal year 26/27 for the executive committee. Liaison took nominations via roll call and afterwards announced the ballot would reflect the following candidates: Quintilia Ávila, Greg Damewood, Victoria St. Johns and Launa Wilson for Chairperson, Quintilia Ávila, Greg Damewood, April Smith and Launa Wilson for Vice Chairperson, Quintilia Ávila, Greg Damewood and Launa Wilson for Secretary.

3. **Acknowledgement of Anonymous Letter/Response Letter**

Commission acknowledged receipt of anonymous letter and Housing response letter, both of which were emailed to the commission prior to the BHC meeting to allow sufficient time to review. Both letters were accepted by the commission, and grievance was addressed by all parties and considered resolved.

OLD BUSINESS-

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

Diana Gutierrez, MH Services Administrator, announced Directing Change will take place on 5/13/26 at the Fox Theater in Riverside and shared a slide from the PEI Collaborative where they celebrated all contractors and revisited the history of PEI over the past 18 years. (please find link below of ppt slide shared).

<https://www.ruhealth.org/media/10181>

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

Heidi Gomez, SAPT Administrator, announced May is National Drug Court Month and will be having a graduation to celebrate and recognize individuals for their accomplishments. She also announced that the annual softball tournament will be held on 5/19/26 in Beaumont from 8am to 2pm.

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/10186>

COMMITTEE UPDATE – TABLED

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

RivCo1 Public Health Presentation suggested by April Smith.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

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<http://www.ruhealth.org/behavioral-health/advisory-committees>

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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 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	
Carole Schaudt, District 4	P	P	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
Elysse Rico, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Launa Wilson, District 1	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Quintilia Ávila, District 2	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Rick Gentillalli, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	
Sheila Mallet-Smith, Dist. 3	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 3	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	

Present = P • Absent = A

PRESENT			
Dr. Chang	Gloria	Kristen Miller	
Sylvia Bishop	Alma Quinn	Dakota Brown	
Lucy Lopez	Steven Willis	Dani Damewood	
Israel Torres	Rubit Romero	Miranda DeShields	
Ashley Housley	Jane Beamer	Lisa Erazo	
Diana Gutierrez	Rita Massie	Ashley Trevino-Kwong	
Heidi Gomez	Kami Winston	Leah Newell	
Marcus Cannon	Lupe Madrigal	Socorro Gomez	
Amy McCann	Jeff Myers	Francisco Huerta	
Lacy Fourong	Tyrone Peterson	Nancy Stevens	
Jamie Stallings	Elena Martinez	Dr. Benitez	
Jaqueline Markussen	Heidi Gomez	Novanh Xayarath	
Carina Gustafsson	Candice Hildebrand	Steve McNally	
Elizabeth Del Rio	Lorissa Villarreal	Laurence Gonzaga	
Kendra Theroith	Erica Tadeo	Dolores DeMartino	
Janine Moore	AJ	Rachel Gileno	
Kristen Duffy	Melissa Dalke	Karen Franks	
Carmela Gonzalez-Soto	Orli Zaprir	Rachel Robbins	
Shannon McCleerey-Hooper	Jacob Ruiz		