

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR June 3, 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 12:01 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 with corrections from May 6, 2026 and Launa Wilson seconded the motion.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Madam Chair Brenda Scott, expressed concerns of budget cuts being proposed by the governor that would affect the mobile crisis services statewide and encouraged those who shared the same concerns to send a letter opposing the budget cuts.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS – Greg Damewood shared he attended the May is Mental Health Month Fair at Fairmount Park and it was a huge success. He also attended the last Directing Change event, which was very inspiring and thanked the department for their continued efforts with these events.

PUBLIC REMARKS –

Sandra expressed her concerns of obtaining her son's medical records and the departments policy and the challenges she encountered.

Pinky addressed the commission and shared the barriers she has faced with supporting her son who has a diagnosis and was released from jail. She expressed that the program offered to him is not adjusted to the needs of those with a diagnosis/disability and he cannot be successful which then presents the issues of her son being removed from the program, violated by his probation officer and would face new charges that can place him back in jail.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dr. Matthew Chang

Dr. Chang briefly announced that BHSA will go into effect on July 1, 2026 and the department is preparing for the changes and the requirements of Prop 1 and redirecting funds towards the unhoused population.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Parent Support (Maria Arnold)

Maria Arnold, Parent Support Program Manager, welcomed Jessica Jackson, Certified Peer Support Specialist, to introduce the Recovery Speaker. Ms. Jackson then introduced Alyssa Morales, to share her recovery story. Ms. Morales stated she was homeless for 7 years and in active addiction because she had no family and no support. She expressed every time she sought help from county services they denied her, leaving her feeling hopeless. She ended up in court facing a 6-year sentence for a crime she didn't commit because she tried helping someone, but they misled her. At that time, she was pregnant with twins and had her other children removed out of her care and when CPS got involved, she felt they caused her mental health to decline. It was when she was in court, she was

finally offered support, and she accepted help because she was ready to lead a better life and remove herself from the situation she had been in and was placed into the MFI program. The program offered classes, therapy and outpatient services. When she completed the program, she was introduced to outpatient services where she met her parent partner Ms. Jackson who has helped her and guided her, she has a psychiatrist and a sponsor as well. She shared she is now sober and next year will mark 1 year and she will receive her 1-year chip. Ms. Morales continues to work closely with Ms. Jackson and now has her boys back in her care and continues to call upon support from Ms. Jackson who motivates her, gives her strength and encouragement. Ms. Morales said she has overcome many challenges in her life and now has sincere friends, a support system and even looking forward to being a sponsor for someone else.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. MIMHM Presentation

Shannon McCleerey-Hooper, Deputy Director of Peer Support Services, shared a slide show of the MIMHM events, the Desert Art Show and the Art of Wellness, the link can be found below.

<https://bit.ly/3QbWINq>

2. Elections

The commission was provided with a ballot of the slate of candidates for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary from last month's nominations. The behavioral health commission liaison received the ballots and tallied the votes. It was announced the executive committee elected for F/Y 26/27 was as follows, Chair Victoria St. Johns, Vice Chair April Smith and Secretary Greg Damewood.

3. Corona Wellness Recovery Program Presentation

Girlyanne Lacson, BHS Program Manager, provided a presentation of the Corona Wellness Recovery Programs for adults, children and SAPT. (Please see power point presentation below.)

<https://www.ruhealth.org/media/10676>

OLD BUSINESS-

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

Diana Gutierrez, MH Services Administrator, shared a brief update on the BHSA plan and Directing Change event. (please find link below of ppt).

<https://www.ruhealth.org/media/10671>

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

Heidi Gomez, SAPT Administrator, announced the Recovery Happens event will take place on 9/24/26 and flyers will be distributed. She also shared the SAPT caseload report for April 2026, please view link below.

<https://www.ruhealth.org/media/10681>

3. Care Court Update – (Marcus Cannon)

TABLED

COMMITTEE UPDATE –

Tori St. Johns announced the Children’s committee will meet on 6/23 and shared the Desert Art show took place and was a great event.

Greg Damewood announced the Western RAB meets today in person at 3pm and the Criminal Justice Committee will meet again in July.

Rick Gentillalli shared the Veterans & Families Appreciation event took place on 5/20/26 at Rustin and he received an invite, he shared it was a good turn out and the first event like this to take place.

April Smith shared that the Legislative meeting took place this morning and they voted on their meeting dates and times to align with the legislative calendar and will meet again on September 2, 2026.

Brenda Scott announced the Mid County meeting would take place on 6/4, Housing committee would take place on 6/9 along with the OASOC meeting to follow, both via MS Teams. She also shared the ASOC meeting would take place on 6/25 at the Perris clinic.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

August training – Greg Damewood

Annual Report – Greg Damewood

AI discussion – Walter Haessler

Trip presentation – Brenda Scott

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:00 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 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P
Carole Schaudt, District 4	P	P	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Elysse Rico, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Launa Wilson, District 1	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Quintilia Ávila, District 2	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Rick Gentillalli, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
Sheila Mallet-Smith, Dist. 3	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 3	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

Present = P • Absent = A

PRESENT via MS Teams			
Dr. Chang	Gloria	Kristen Miller	Ashley Housley
Sylvia Bishop	Alma Quinn	Dakota Brown	
Lucy Lopez	Steven Willis	Dani Damewood	
Israel Torres	Rubit Romero	Miranda DeShields	
Maria Arnold	Jane Beamer	Lisa Erazo	
Alyssa Morales	Rita Massie	Ashley Trevino-Kwong	
Jessica Jackson	Kami Winston	Leah Newell	
Shannon McCleerey-Hooper	Lupe Madrigal	Socorro Gomez	
Diana Gutierrez	Jeff Myers	Francisco Huerta	
Girlyanne Lacson	Tyrone Peterson	Nancy Stevens	
Heidi Gomez	Elena Martinez	Dr. Benitez	
Amy McCann	Heidi Gomez	Jacob Ruiz	
Carina Gustafsson	Candice Hildebrand	Steve McNally	
Elizabeth Del Rio	Lorissa Villarreal	Laurence Gonzaga	
Kristen Duffy	Erica Tadeo	Dolores DeMartino	
Janine Moore	Pinky	Rachel Gileno	
Sandra Colon-Williams	Melissa Dalke	Karen Franks	
Carmela Gonzalez-Soto	Orli Zaprir	Rachel Robbins	