

MEETING MINUTES
June 9, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tori St Johns; Chairperson, Dr. Janice Quinn; Vice-Chairperson, Mark Miller, Eva Guenther-James, Joe Butts (owl), Bruce Sherr, Huynh Cuc Nguyen, Jim Jones.

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Divine, Carole Schaudt, Maura Fisher, Bea Gonzalez.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Gileno; Adult Services Administrator, Mary Carpio; Secretary to Rachel Gileno, Denise Morgan; Secretary to Candice Hildebrand, Shawn Harris; Senior Parent Partner; Parent Support & Training Program – Desert Region, Gabe Kason; Indio SUDCCII Supervisor, RUHS – BH, Elizabeth Aguilar; Family Advocate, RUHS – BH, Jay Rembold; Senior Peer Support Specialist, RUHS – BH, Victor “Nate” Ramirez; RUHS – BH – Mature Adults, Kelly Grotsky; Regional Director – Adults and Mature Adults, RUHS - BH.

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS:

Tori St Johns called the meeting of the Riverside County Desert Behavioral Health Board to order at 12:05 PM. Self-introductions of all who were in attendance in person or by teleconference followed.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Limit 3 minutes per speaker):

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Tori St Johns asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions to the board minutes of the April 14, 2026 and May 12, 2026 meetings. There were no corrections that needed for the April minutes, and Huynh Nguyen said her middle name was misspelled on the May minutes and should reflect Huynh Cuc Nguyen rather than Huyen Cue Nguyen. Bruce Sherr made a motion to accept the April minutes, and Huynh Nguyen seconded the motion, it passed by a unanimous affirmative vote. Huyen Nguyen then made a motion to accept the amended May minutes, and Bruce Sherr seconded the motion, and it also passed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Suicide Prevention as a Goal Topic:

Dr. Janice Quinn gave a presentation on the topic, focusing specifically on what signs to look out for and what to say to these individuals. She brought up an article from the Desert Sun newspaper, dated June 7, 2026 which covered this topic. She discussed the highlights of the article and gave out a copy of the highlights of the article, including the signs and symptoms of depression, and what to say and what not to say to someone who may be considering

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suicide. She also explained how Lithium is being used on people considering suicide and the successes they have seen using this drug. A copy of these topics is included as an attachment to these minutes.

May is Mental health Month / John J. Benoit Behavioral Arts Festival Update:

Dr. Janice Quinn provided a recap of the Art Show debriefing meeting that took place prior to the June meeting. Among the things discussed were asking the Indio Police Chief Brian Tully to be the Master of Ceremonies at the 2027 Art Show since he has done a fantastic job over the last 2 years. The other major change that was discussed was changing the date of the 2027 Art Show from the second Tuesday in May to the First Tuesday in May (May 4, 2027) so as not to conflict with Mother's Day, which occurs on the first setup day of the Art Show.

Other Old Business:

Other New Business:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

MONTHLY UPDATE AND REPORT:

Substance Abuse Program Update:

Gabe Kason said the construction on their new building is still progressing with the ceilings and walls finished. Gabe added that once the building process has been completed and they have moved into the facility, he would like to host one of our monthly meetings there. He said all clinics now contain "Barney Boxes", which enable the distribution of naloxone and the test strips for fentanyl.

Gabe also said it is taking about a week to a week and a half to place individuals into residential treatment programs. The next drug court graduation will take place on July 22, 2026.

Peer Support and Resource Center:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program Update:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

CHILDRENS SERVICES MANAGER COMMENTS:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

ADULT SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno said the adults Evidenced Based Practice, the Assertive Community Treatment and Forensic Assertive Community Treatment, is launching on July 1, 2026. She added that staff have been hired as well as existing staff who have been identified and retrained. She said it will be located on the Windy Springs campus. Rachel said the other Evidenced Based Practice for adults, IPS (Individualized Placement and Support), will initially be housed in Riverside, with the hopes it will eventually expand to other areas of the county. She said one of the individuals with this program will be housed at Windy Springs.

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Older Adults Administrator's Comments:

Nate Ramirez provided an update on this program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Children's Committee Report:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

Adults Committee Report:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

Mature Adults Committee Report:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

Housing Committee Report:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

Legislative Report:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

Membership Report:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Report:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

Criminal Justice Committee Report:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

Veteran's Committee Report:

Tabled until the July 14, 2026 meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Mark Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Jim Jones seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:31 PM.

The next formal meeting of the Riverside County Desert Board of Behavioral Health will be **Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at the Oasis Adult Conference Room at 12:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark Miller, Desert Board Secretary