

RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Mid-County Region Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Thursday, May 7, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT		BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT			GUEST PRESENT
Dolores DeMartino	Dr. Vernita Black	Martiza Camacho	Jacqueline Markussen	Sandy Idle	Ana Solis	Kelli Sierras
Brenda Scott			Hilda Gallegos	Lorena Olds	Lacy Fourong	D.A. Member
Walter T. Haessler, M.D			Steven Willis	Roselia Cervantes	Tracy Dewing	L.M. Member
Ramon Amado			Sheree Glidden	Ruby Sanchez		Kelly Felton
Don Kendrick			Art Hernandez	Melenie Johnson		

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
Call To Order and Introductions	Brenda called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. All in attendance introduced themselves.	
Minutes	Meeting minutes of April 2, 2026, were reviewed and accepted.	
Announcements	Brenda announced that FSA along with the HOPE Collaborative is having a Summer Kick-Off Resource event on June 5, 2026, from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. at the Hemet Public Library. This is a free community event and encouraged all to attend. Provided flyers with more information. Also NAMI is having a Regional Town Hall event on Wednesday, May 20, 2016, from 5:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. at the Temecula Valley Hospital. Provided flyers with information on how to sign up for this free event. They will also serve dinner. Come and learn more about SB 43, which redefines the definition of grave disability in California. Also, Prop 1/ BHSA, CARE Court, Collaborative Courts and what they mean for the community. Don announced that The Art of Wellness Mental Health Fair is next week on Thursday, May 14th, at Fairmount Park in Riverside from 11:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. He encouraged everyone to attend and noted that there will be free food, opportunity drawings, live music, entertainment and lots of resources. There will only be one MiMH month event this year. Don mentioned along with the fair a public hearing "The Anchor & The Sail" event will take place at the Stewarts Boathouse at Fairmount Park. Brenda will send out flyer with additional information to send out. Tracy announced that the TAY Arena offers two family support groups, one in-person every Tuesday from 4-5pm and the other is virtual on Wednesday's 4-5 pm. They are open to the community. There is also one held at Myers once a month. The TAY center has been doing lots of community outreach, especially with our system of care providers to offer support to their families.	
Public Comments	Dr. Haessler commented if anyone had heard back from member suffering from homelessness who addressed this Board last month. Sheree shared that she does see member at the Peer Support Resource Center in Temecula quite a bit but have not spoken to her.	
Correspondence	No Correspondence received.	
New Business- Hemet Adult BH	Sandy Idle, Supervisor of the Hemet Adult BH clinic, welcomed everyone to the clinic. She noted that this facility provides compassionate and comprehensive behavioral services to the Hemet and San Jacinto communities. This clinic is staffed by experienced and highly trained professionals who are committed to helping every member achieve their mental health goal, whether they are seeking therapy, medication management, or other support services. Their mission is to promote and improve mental health and well-being at individual and community levels. She's proud of her staff because they provide excellent service, they really go above and beyond. Services that are available include psychiatric evaluations, medication management, peer support services, group therapy, crisis intervention, telehealth services, substance use treatment services at a lower level, case	

New Business- Hemet Adult BH	management, family advocates and groups. In addition, Pathways to Success comes in and helps with employment services and noted that ever since Elizabeth Lagunas has been assisting, they've had at least 10 members get employed. They have HOPE embedded in this clinic. They offer 31 groups, 25 are in English, 6 are in Spanish. Two of those are FSP groups, which are in English and two-family groups, one English, one in Spanish. Also, one English substance use group. Pathways also have one group a month and have recently asked to have one more here at this clinic. Total Hemet BH clinic members being served is 1515 members and 238 FSP members being served. Staff include four locum doctors, two are full-time and two are part-time. Has two physician assistants (PA), one registered nurse (RN), and one license vocational nurse II (LVN). Her clinical therapist team includes one senior CT, two CT II, four CT I, and two CT interns. She added that every year she takes on two CT interns. BHS team includes; one BHS III, six BHS II and three BHS II for FSP members she is happy to report that she will soon have an additional BHS II join the FSP team. Client and Family Support team includes; three Certified Peer Support Specialists (PSS) and two Certified Family Support Specialists. Sandy thanked Brenda for her support with one of her peers. She was able to get into NAMI, take the classes, pass her test in time and she is now back. She has two CSA's who do transportation. Front office staff include one Supervising OA II, one OA III, and five OA II. Is happy to report that she has been fully staffed for one year. Sandy reported that her clinic has been chosen, and they've agreed to host (ACT/FACT) Assertive Community Treatment/ Forensic Assertive Community Treatment for Mid-County. She thanked Jacqueline and new Deputy Director, Kelly Grotsky who advocated for them. Her current Senior CT will be transferred over to ACT/FACT along with one of her peers and have already hired one LVN which is in the onboarding phase. Just received final approval for the rest of the positions and will begin interviewing. They are working on making space so will renovate one of the group rooms to accommodate this team. Brenda commented that NAMI has been advocating for ACT/FACT for over 30 years, so is happy to see this finally taking place. Don asked what type of services this team will be providing. Sandy replied that everything that they do at the clinic but out in the field. She added that she is being very clear when conducting interviews that this is field based program and not the clinic. They will still be part of the Hemet team, but they will be field-based, and they will cover all of Mid-County, which means lots of travel. Jacqueline added that each region will have its own team. Member L.M. shared her experiences with receiving services at this clinic. She noted that she came to this clinic in November because she was not feeling like herself, staff opened their arms to her, and she feels happier now that she's here. They are very gentle, caring, and added that the peer support groups have really helped her, so she is very grateful. She shared that before she came to this clinic, she was in a board & care home. She has been in different board & cares since she was 20 years old. They moved here, from San Pedro, to find a better clinic she felt they didn't help her. She feels that she found a good fit and shares that this is a great program. Staff are "cool", they don't judge you, they are very nice and gentle. They don't say anything bad to hurt your feelings and they do their job perfectly. Lorena added that the member has been working on anxiety and cognitive behavior therapy, and coping skills. Member is working on things that are important to her, so she is currently attending school and working on her final exam. Member D.A. also share her experience with receiving services at this clinic. She was referred to this clinic by a social worker back in late 2018 because of a suicide attempt. She suffered from severe alcoholism, anxiety and was prone to depression. Attended some meetings and all the counselors were very comforting and very professional. She sees the psychiatrist once a month and it's helped a lot to be monitored, knowing that you have somebody to check in with. It's very comforting to know that this place is here if she needs someone to talk to desperately. She is currently focusing on selling some tote bags on Etsy.	
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New Business-Hemet Adult BH	Brenda thanked both members for sharing their story. It takes a lot to be able to get out in front of a bunch of people that you don't know, so we really appreciate your story. Dr. Venita also thanked them for coming in and sharing and noted that it was very enlightening what they're going through and noted it's going to get better overtime. Brenda noted that the Happier Life Project could not be present today but has been rescheduled for a later date in the year.	
New Business Nominations	Brenda reported that the slate for election candidates are as follows. Brenda chair, Dr. Vernita vice chair, and Dolores secretary. A copy of the bylaws was disseminated among the board members for their review of the officers' duties.	
Old Business	No old business items to discussed.	
Administrator/Managers Report	Jacqueline provided her update for the adult programs. Temecula Adults has 625 members and 11 FSP. Vacancies include one office assistant III and consumer peer. They are currently interviewing for both positions. They currently offer five groups a week and are working on adding an additional one now that staff have been hired. Lake Elsinore Adults has 484 members and 42 FSP. Vacancies include office assistant II and office assistant III. Currently interviewing for both positions. They currently offer 17 groups a week in both English and Spanish. Staff member Cynthia Harrigan, who is a BHS II, was recognized at the last Board of Supervisors meeting for her 30 years of service. Hemet Adults offers 33 groups a week in both English and Spanish. Newly approved ACT/FACT team will provide services to all Mid-County starting July 1st. Supervisor is currently working on hiring a team. Training rolling out for RivCoONE, the Whole Person Health Score (WPHS) will begin next week. The entire team will get trained on this. Goal is to have all clinics trained. So far Perris BH Clinic and now Hemet will roll out. Lake Elsinore Clinic and Temecula Clinic will be trained later in the year. Perris Adults have 785 and 89 FSP. Have no vacancies currently. They offer 13 groups a week in both English and Spanish. Lacy provided update on the Mid-County SAPT Clinics- Perris has a caseload of 234, with a vacant OA and peer support position. San Jacinto has a caseload of 275 with a vacant peer. They are currently conducting interviews. Lake Elsinore caseload is 218. Administrator and her conducted interviews and she just made an offer to an office assistant III. Temecula has 156 on their caseload, and they are also interviewing and are working to on board a community services assistant (CSA). They are actively working on making a summer fun calendar for prevention students. Essentially this would be having art days here at the clinic, movie days, dance days, meditation and taking them on park outings and or even equine team building events, as well as bowling amusement parks here in the area to keep them out of trouble over the summer. To keep them engaged and show them that they can do fun things while learning to be sober. They are also taking a spin on that with the adults. They are doing different types of events where the peer support will take members out to the art museum in downtown Riverside, UCR Botanical Gardens. They are offered to whoever is interested in doing additional events, on top of whatever their supportive program is doing. They offer 16 groups.	

Committee Reports	<u>Behavioral Health Commission (BHC)</u> – Brenda reported that at the last BH Commission was held on Zoom. They heard a celebrate recovery moment from parent named Gloria, a mother of four boys. She talked about her journey as a family member and how much the family advocate has supported her. Site Reviews were discussed. Brenda reported that she reviewed the New Life Program in San Jacinto. That building has recently been renovated and made recommendations for improvement. Brenda reported that discussion was held on changes that are coming with H.R.1. It's estimated that hundreds of millions of dollars be lost and maybe thousands of people will lose access. They had nominations for the upcoming year, updates from BHSA, Substance Use, and Care Court. It was announced that Daryl Terrell resigned from the BHC. Also, acknowledgement of an anonymous letter received by the Housing Committee and then the Desert Board regarding housing vendors that are not happy. Dr Hasseler commented that Marcus gave a very thoughtful, eloquent, response as it comes down to what the consumer needs. Residents have different emphasis, different genders, different ages, and different diagnoses. The Commission felt it was not for them to take this up. <u>Membership Committee</u> – No report available. <u>Children's Committee</u>- Don reported that at the last Children's Committee they had presentations form the Wylie Center and noted that the center offers EMDR. FSA announced that they will be having a foster youth graduation on June 18, 2026, at March Air Force Base. Don shared flyers that included Express Care for the RUHS Community Health Services, Open Doors Support Group, Nurturing Fathers, A Safe Place for Parent & Caregivers. <u>Older Adults Committee</u> – Brenda reported that she attended the Older Adult Committee which was held in Desert Hot Springs. Had a presentation by from DPSS C.A.R.E Program which addresses elder and dependent adult abuse. <u>Adult System of Care Committee</u>- Discussion on the governor's budget and the loss of crisis funding. Presentation that was scheduled cancelled. Had update from the Desert Region. <u>Criminal Justice Committee</u> – Dolores reported that there is no report available as this meeting will be held on May 13th. <u>Housing Committee</u> – Brenda reported that the Housing Committee received and anonymous letter from housing vendors who are not happy with the department. <u>Legislative Committee</u> – Dr. Haessler reported that this meeting meets every other month. Next meeting is scheduled in June. <u>Veterans Committee</u> – Dr. Black reported that a Veterans & Families Appreciation Day will be held on Wednesday, May 20th, at Rustin, entrance one at 9:00 am. Dr. Black will send out flyers with more information on how to register with a QR code. Those interested need to register by the 15th. This event is to honor military personnel.	
Public Comments	No public comments were made.	
Board Member Comments	None	
Agenda Item Request	Brenda suggested having a presentation from the ACT/FACT and RivCoONE later in the year to allow the clinics to roll out first.	
Next Meeting	Next Mid-County Regional Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2026, at Perris Adult BH Clinic, 450 E. San Jacinto Ave Suite 1, Perris, CA 92571.	June 4, 2026
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.	

Mid-County Region Behavioral Health Advisory Meeting Attendance												
Calendar Year 2026												
Members	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1. Walter Haessler, M.D.	x	x	x	x	x							
2 Brenda Scott	x	x	x	x	x							
3. Dr. Vernita Black	A	x	x	x	x							
4. Don Kendrick	A	x	x	A	x							
5. Dolores DeMartino	x	x	x	x	x							
6. Maritza Camacho	A	A	A	x	A							
7. Ramon Amado	A	A	A	A	x							