

Riverside County Health Coalition (RCHC) | April 15, 2026

Meeting Notes

Meeting Format: Hybrid (In-person & virtual)

Number of Attendees: In-Person (40), Virtual (44)

Facilitator: Irene Hjelmervik | RUHS Public Health, Program Coordinator II

Scribe: Marina Carbajal | RUHS Public Health, Program Coordinator II

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Irene Hjelmervik | RUHS Public Health, Program Coordinator II

- Irene opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Land acknowledgement was presented, recognizing Native land (referenced via Native-Land.ca and Sean Milovich video).
- Agenda overview and meeting logistics were reviewed:
 - Restroom locations
 - Sign-in process
 - Availability of captions, ASL, and Spanish interpreters
 - Instructions for virtual attendees (name entry, captioning access)
 - Slides will be shared post-meeting
- Coalition mission emphasized: promoting and improving community health through collaboration.
- Purpose of convening: strengthen partnerships and align efforts to support prevention initiatives.
- Riverside County Health Coalition (RCHC) website highlighted community resources and events.

Vendor Recognition:

- AEGIS
- Angel View
- DAP Health
- Healing Rainbows
- Mi Salud en Acción
- One Legacy
- RUHS Health Education Community Outreach
- Vision y Compromiso

Presentation: Lift to Rise

Speaker: Joe Mota, Director of Power Building

- Vision: A future where all Coachella Valley families are healthy, stable, and thriving.
- Goal: Reduce rent burden in the Coachella Valley by 30% through housing production.
- Key challenge: Local workforce increasingly unable to afford housing.

Key Takeaways:

- Strong reliance on partnerships across sectors
 - Funding raised remains dedicated to the Coachella Valley
 - Opportunities for residents to engage through local committees and monthly meetings
 - Leadership Academy participation available via direct contact with Joe Mota
 - Homeownership workshops currently offered in-person only
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Presentation: Blue Zones Palm Springs

Speaker: Mihai Patru, Executive Director

- Mission: Empower individuals and communities to live longer, healthier lives
- Framework: “Power 9” principles – making healthy choices easier and more accessible

Focus Areas:

- People, Places, Policy (Life Radius approach)
- Building environments that support healthier lifestyles

Regional Partnership:

- Cities: Riverside, Banning, Coachella
- Sponsors: IEHP, Kaiser Permanente, Molina Healthcare, RUHS Public Health, Eisenhower Health, City of Palm Springs

Community Engagement:

- Free events supported by sponsors
- Collaboration with local organizations
- Participation encouraged through personal pledge

Additional Highlights:

- Partnership with Convergence Beauty Wellness Summit
- “Tour of Life” concept: framing lifespan as 28,835 days to encourage intentional living

Discussion/Questions

- Importance of stronger city-level engagement
 - Increasing resident awareness and participation
 - Suggestion raised regarding fuel-efficient transportation options
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CHIP Action Group Updates

Speakers: Marina Carbajal and Robert Gonzalez, CHIP Co-Chairs

- 3 Priorities:
 - Housing
 - Mental and Behavioral Health
 - Access to Equitable and Just Care and Resources

What We've Accomplished

- Launched 3 Action Groups
- Established co-lead model (Public Health + MCP + Community)
- Hosted kickoff meetings
- Reviewed data to guide priorities

What's Next

- Finalize action plans + measurable objectives
- Begin implementation
- Continuing monthly meetings
- Report on progress at RCHC

Meet the Co-Leads:

- **Mental and Behavioral Health**
 - **Sean Cortes**, Health Education Asst II, RUHS PH
 - **Mindy McFarland**, BH Services Supervisor, RUHS BH
 - **Gillian Stucki**, Medi-Cal Local Engagement County Lead, Kaiser
 - **Ebony Staten**, Assoc. Marriage and Family Therapist, Black Girls MH Collective
- **Access to Equitable and Just Care and Resources**
 - **Juanita Irvin**, Program Coordinator I, RUHS PH
 - **Sarah Murad**, Program Manager, Molina
 - **Steven Hardacre**, Director of Health Workforce Outcomes, Reach Out
- **Housing**
 - **Miguel Vazquez**, Health Equity Urban and Regional Planner, RUHS PH
 - **Terri Smyth Canillo**, Vice President, Community Housing Opportunities Corp (CHOC)

Meeting Cadence

- Housing
 - Second Wednesday of the month 3-4 PM
- Mental and Behavioral Health
 - Third Tuesday of the month, 2-3 PM
- Access to Equitable and Just Care and Resources:
 - Third Tuesday of the month, 3:30-4:30 PM

CHIP Engagement Activity

- Gift Card Winners:
 - Alondra Julian
 - Benina Zavala
 - Ebony Staten
 - Julian Vondra
 - Karla Flores Rosas
 - Kristi Bethel
 - Luz Moreno
 - Perla Elezade
 - Sandra Ramirez
 - Sarah Murad
 - Suzanna Caranza
 - Terri Smyth
 - Tracy Montarez
 - William VanHemmert

General Announcements:

- EquiTea Podcast promoted
- Social media: @equityinrivco
- RCHC website continues to host community resources and event listings
- Monthly newsletter available for updates
- Action Groups ongoing, encouraged participation
- Attendees asked to complete post-meeting survey and share feedback