

MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2026

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

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Divine, Carole Schaudt, Bea Gonzalez, Jim Jones.

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 SAPT Clinic Supervisor, RUHS – BH, Elizabeth Aguilar; Family Advocate, RUHS – BH, Jay Rembold; Senior Peer Support Specialist, RUHS – BH, Refugio Vivanco; Senior Peer Support Specialist, TAY Drop-in Center, Erika Edney; Peer Support Specialist and TAY Housing Navigator, RUHS – BH.

OTHERS PRESENT: Amber Duffle; Desert ARC (Prospective Board Member), Honor Moore; 417 Recovery Center.

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS:

Tori St Johns called the meeting of the Riverside County Desert Behavioral Health Board to order at 12:07 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 March 10, 2026 meeting. The following corrections needed to be made:

- Maura Fisher should be listed as “excused absence” rather than present for the meeting,
- Mary Carpio and Denise Morgan needed to be removed from staff members who were present because they were absent,
- Maura Fisher is listed as reporting on her committee report, but she was not present at the meeting, and this report should be listed as tabled until April 14, 2026 meeting,
- Spelling of Staff Member Anthony Moen last name should be reflected as Morgan instead of Moen,
- Spelling of Staff Member Victor Nate Rairez last name should be reflected as Ramirez instead of Rairez,
- Joe Butts said he was unable to attend the Veterans Committee meeting because it was cancelled,

Maura Fisher made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Joe Butts seconded the motion, and it passed by a unanimous vote.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Housing Navigator Program:

Erika Edney gave a PowerPoint Presentation about the Housing Navigator Program that was instituted for youth at the TAY Drop-in Center in La Quinta. She said the program is supported by a grant from the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. Youth do not need to receive services for Mental Health to be eligible to participate in the program. The purpose of the program is to connect homeless youth with housing and prospective participants can either drop in at the TAY Center or call for an appointment.

Site Visits Form Review to Update Questions and Wording:

Tori St Johns said it was decided that each supervisory district would get two site visits to complete, and she added she would be in Blythe tomorrow, April 15, 2026 doing a site visit. The other site visit she signed up for was the Methadone clinic in Palm Springs. Dr. Janice Quinn said she wanted to take this one step further and have our board visit all the new programs in the desert region, as opposed to the ones previously visited, and to review the site visit form for any recommendations as to the existing questions and/or any new questions that may need to be added. A copy of the site visit form is attached to the notes for future reference.

Other New Business:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Dr. Quinn said the next Arts Festival is still scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 between the hours of 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Taj Mahal building at the Riverside County Fairgrounds. Various people volunteered to assist with the prep work on the Sunday and Monday before the show itself as well as on the day of the event.

Other Old Business:

None.

MONTHLY UPDATE AND REPORT:

Substance Abuse Program Update:

Gabe Kason said if anyone knows anyone who is having trouble getting services through the CARES line, they can always send them to any of the clinics as a walk-in and get the process started. He added construction on their new building is still progressing and it is slated to be completed by November 2026. He also said that most of his people now are undergoing Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) training.

Gabe also said they are seeing more people coming into his clinics for "Kratom" dependency due to its psychoactive properties. Gabe said they are developing test strips for Kratom and they hope to get some in their clinics soon. Gabe concluded by saying there are going to have their next drug court graduation (five graduates) will be occurring the week of April 20, 2026.

Peer Support and Resource Center:

Tabled until the June 9, 2026 meeting.

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Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program Update:

Refugio Vivanco updated the group on the happenings at the TAY Center. For mor information, refer to the attached calendar of events.

CHILDRENS SERVICES MANAGER COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno reported on this matter on behalf of Candace Hildebrand. She said they are continuing to develop Full-Service Partnership (FSP) services within the High-Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) program by July 1, 2026. She also added they are sunsetting Children's FSP services in Outpatient (OP) programs because they will now be offered through the HFW programs. She concluded by saying Childre's ECM services had a successful pilot last week and as a result will officially beginning services, with the first ones starting in mid-county this week.

ADULT SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno reported the following:

- Blythe is currently serving 357 members.
 - The Blythe Collaborative was held on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 12:00 PM at the new Peace from Chaos location. She said it was well attended, including staff from the Palo Verde Unified School District (PVUSD).
 - The Blythe 67th Annual Outlook Conference took place on April 2, 2026 which included remarks by Supervisor Perez. It was well attended with a resource fair and lunch provided.
 - Blythe recruiting: Clinical Therapist (CT) and a Social Services Assistant (SSA) recruitment are ongoing.
- Indio: currently serving 1367 non-FSP members, 178 FSP members.:
 - Indio's 20/20 and GIFT students are graduating soon, and they are looking forward to welcoming them into full-time opportunities with RUHS.
- Windy Springs is serving 163 members.
 - Recruiting: 1 PSS, 1 CT and 1 BHSS; the supervisor posting went live April 14, 2026.
 - They are continuing to work towards standing up the ACT/FAST team and hope to begin providing services on or around July 1, 2026.
- Banning: Serving 807 non-FSP members, 79 FSP members.
 - Banning is recruiting for one BHS III position, and all the other positions are fully staffed.

Older Adults Administrator's Comments:

Tabled until the June 9, 2026 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Children's Committee Report:

Tabled until the June 9, 2026 meeting.

Adults Committee Report:

Tabled until the June 9, 2026 meeting.

Mature Adults Committee Report:

Tabled until the June 9, 2026 meeting.

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Housing Committee Report:

Tabled until the June 9, 2026 meeting.

Legislative Report:

Tabled until the June 9, 2026 meeting.

Membership Report:

Tabled until the June 9, 2026 meeting.

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Report:

Tabled until the June 9, 2026 meeting.

Criminal Justice Committee Report:

Tabled until the June 9, 2026 meeting.

Veteran's Committee Report:

Tabled until the June 9, 2026 meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Maura Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Joe Butts seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:34 PM.

The next formal meeting of the Riverside County Desert Board of Behavioral Health will be **Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at the Oasis Adult Conference Room at 12:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark Miller, Desert Board Secretary

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION SITE REVIEW

The information provided is to educate other board members and the general public regarding the mental health and substance abuse services being provided in their region of Riverside County. ***The Site Review Form will be completed in collaboration with staff or the supervisor of the facility that is being reviewed.***

SUPERVISOR/ STAFF: Prior to the personal visit from Commissioner/ Regional Board member, please complete the following sections:

- SUPERVISOR/ STAFF COMPLETING FORM
- DATE COMPLETED
- NAME OF FACILITY/ PROGRAM
- ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER
- TYPE OF PROGRAM
- REGION SERVED
- PROGRAM SUPERVISOR, PHONE NUMBER, E-MAIL
- PROGRAM/ CLINIC INFORMATION
- MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES OFFERED
- STAFF ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION/ COMMENTS

After completing the form, please return to Behavioral Health Commission Liaison, Sylvia Bishop either by e-mail (SBishop@ruhealth.org) or interoffice (MS #3810).

COMMISSIONER/ REGIONAL BOARD MEMBER: Please complete the following sections:

- COMMISSIONER/ REGIONAL BOARD MEMBER REVIEWING FACILITY
- DATE COMPLETED
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER OR
- REGIONAL BOARD MEMBER; INDICATE REGION.
- ACCESSIBILITY & SECURITY
- BOARD RECOMMENDATION/ COMMENTS

After completing the form, please submit to Behavioral Health Commission Liaison, Sylvia Bishop either by e-mail (SBishop@ruhealth.org) or by mail at: 2085 Rustin Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507, ATTN: Sylvia Bishop. Commissioner or Board Members are required to present findings at the next Commission or Regional Board meeting (BHC Liaison will confirm date). Please be prepared to give a 5-minute presentation providing information and highlights of the program/clinic.

SUPERVISOR/ STAFF COMPLETING FORM:

DATE COMPLETED:

COMMISSIONER/ REGIONAL BOARD MEMBER REVIEWING FACILITY:

DATE COMPLETED:

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER

☐

REGIONAL BOARD MEMBER

☐ Desert☐ Mid-County☐ Western

NAME OF FACILITY/ PROGRAM:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

TYPE OF PROGRAM: (Check what applies)

☐ Mental Health☐ Substance Abuse☐ County Facility☐ Contract Provider

REGION SERVED:

☐ Desert ☐ Mid-County ☐ Western

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR:

PHONE NUMBER:

E-MAIL:

ACCESSIBILITY & SECURITY

Is the Program/ Clinic Easily Located:

☐ YES ☐ NO

Is there ample parking:

☐ YES ☐ NO

Is the entrance easily located:

☐ YES ☐ NO

Handicap Parking Spaces:

☐ YES ☐ NO

Wheelchair Ramps:

☐ YES ☐ NO

Automatic Doors for handicap access:

☐ YES ☐ NO

Low clearance counters:

☐ YES ☐ NO

In case of emergency, are exits clearly marked:

☐ YES ☐ NO

Description of program/ clinic space: *(Check all that apply)*

☐ Lobby/ waiting room

☐ Indoor area

☐ Outdoor area

☐ Childcare or kid space

☐ Recreational areas

☐ Cafeteria or vending machine

Security: *(Check all that apply)*

☐ Security fence around clinic

☐ Security cameras in facility

☐ Cameras in parking lot

☐ Emergency exits

☐ Security guard

PROGRAM/ CLINIC INFORMATION

Program/ Clinic Type(s): *(Check all that apply)*

☐ Outpatient

☐ Inpatient

☐ Day Treatment

☐ Residential

Does this program require a referral:

☐ YES ☐ NO

Program Age Group: *(Check all that apply)*

☐ Children/ Youth (0-16)

☐ Transition Age Youth (16-25)

☐ Adult (19-59)

☐ Older Adult (60+)

Type of Services provided: *(Check all that apply)*

☐ Assessment/ Intake

☐ Physical Health Screenings

☐ Medication Assisted Treatment

☐ Individual Therapy

☐ Group Therapy

☐ Detoxification

☐ Classes or Education Groups

☐ Peer Supports

☐ Crisis Intervention

☐ Case Management

☐ Integrated Care

Program/ Clinic
Capacity:

Max Possible:

Monthly Average:

Daily Average:

Does this facility provide medication:

☐ YES ☐ NO

Are medications stored in a secure area (behind two locks *or* badge entry):

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ Not Applicable

Please indicate which staff handles and provides medication: (Check all that apply)

☐ Physician ☐ Physician Assistants ☐ Nurses (LVN, RN, etc.)
☐ Pharmacist ☐ Other (authorized personnel) ☐ Not Applicable

Average length of stay in facility, time requirement/ allowance for participation in program/treatment:

☐ 14-Days ☐ 30-Days ☐ 60-Days ☐ 90-Days ☐ Not Applicable

Number of clinical staff (psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist, counselor, nurse, etc.):

☐ 5-10 ☐ 10-15 ☐ 15-20 ☐ 20 or more ☐ Not Applicable

Number of administrative staff (office assistants, secretaries, accounting, etc.):

☐ 5-10 ☐ 10-15 ☐ 15-20 ☐ 20 or more ☐ Not Applicable

Type of staff in clinic/ program/ treatment: (Check all that apply)

☐ Peers ☐ Family Advocates ☐ Parent Partners
☐ Behavioral Health Specialist ☐ Clinical Therapist ☐ Psychologist
☐ Psychiatrist ☐ Physician/ Primary Care ☐ Physician Assistant
☐ Nurse ☐ LVN/ Psychiatric Technicians ☐ Office Assistant
☐ Community Services Assistant ☐ Not Applicable

How does this program/ clinic implement the "Recovery Model": (Check all that apply)

☐ Client Choice ☐ Client Empowerment ☐ Cultural Competency ☐ Installation of Hope
☐ Self-Help ☐ Not Applicable

What "Evidence-Based Practices" does this program/clinic use: (Check all that apply)

☐ Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT)
☐ Treatment Foster Care Oregon Formerly (MTFC)
☐ Aggression-Replacement Therapy (ART)
☐ Wraparound
☐ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
☐ Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
☐ Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
☐ Incredible Years (IY)
☐ Triple P
☐ Depression Treatment Quality Improvement (DTQI)
☐ Strengthening Families Program
☐ Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Trauma in Schools (CBITS)
☐ Mobile PCIT

"Evidence-Based Practices": (Continued)

- ☐ Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
- ☐ Recovery Management (RM)
- ☐ Integrated Co-occurring Disorders Treatment (COD)
- ☐ Assertive Community Treatment/ Integrated Services Recovery Centers
- ☐ Specialty Multidisciplinary Aggressive Response Treatment (SMART)
- ☐ Nonviolent Crisis Intervention
- ☐ Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)
- ☐ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for Late Life Depression
- ☐ Seeking Safety
- ☐ Mamas Y Bebes (Mothers & Babies)
- ☐ Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives for Seniors (PEARLS)

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES OFFERED

Housing Assistance:
(Section 8, Vouchers, etc.)

☐ YES ☐ NO

Benefits Assistance:
(SSI, healthcare, etc.)

☐ YES ☐ NO

Transportation Available:
(Drop-off/ Pick-up)

☐ YES ☐ NO

Meals/ snacks available:
(Provided or for purchase)

☐ YES ☐ NO

Home Visits:

☐ YES ☐ NO

Follow-up Care:

☐ YES ☐ NO

STAFF ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: (if any)

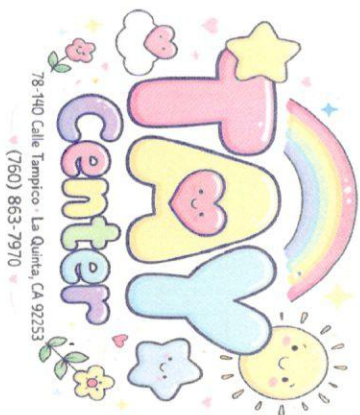
BOARD RECOMMENDATION/ COMMENT(S): *(If any)*

SUPERVISOR/ STAFF INSTRUCTIONS:

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April
2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 PUMP & PROTEIN 2-4PM	2 YOGA STUDIO 12-1PM TASTE OF TAY 1:30-3PM	3 SNACK-CHAT 2-4PM PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY 1-2PM	4
5 LATTE 'S & LAUGHS 2-3PM ARTAV 3-4PM	6 LATTE 'S & LAUGHS 2-3PM ARTAV 3-4PM	7 BRO-TIME 1-2:30PM	8 PUMP & PROTEIN 2-4PM	9 YOGA STUDIO 12-1PM TASTE OF TAY 1:30-3PM	10 PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY 1-2PM DESSERT & MOVIE 2:30-4PM	11
12	13 LATTE 'S & LAUGHS 2-3PM ARTAV 3-4PM	14 BRO-TIME 1-2:30PM RISE & THRIVE (PARENTS GROUP) 2-4PM	15 PUMP & PROTEIN 2-4PM	16 YOGA STUDIO 12-1PM TASTE OF TAY 1:30-3PM	17 SNACK-CHAT 2-4PM PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY 1-2PM	18
19	20 LATTE 'S & LAUGHS 2-3PM ARTAV 3-4PM	21 BRO-TIME 1-2:30PM	22 PUMP & PROTEIN 2-4PM	23 YOGA STUDIO 12-1PM TASTE OF TAY 1:30-3PM	24 PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY 1-2PM DESSERT & MOVIE 2:30-4PM	25
26	27 LATTE 'S & LAUGHS 2-3PM ARTAV 3-4PM	28 BRO-TIME 1-2:30PM RISE & THRIVE (PARENTS GROUP) 2-4PM	29 PUMP & PROTEIN 2-4PM	30 YOGA STUDIO 12-1PM TASTE OF TAY 1:30-3PM		



LATTES & LAUGHS is a safe and supportive space designed for young women to connect, grow, and uplift one another. Each session offers a warm, café-style atmosphere with fresh coffee, and pastries to help everyone feel comfortable and at ease. This group focuses on meaningful conversations that encourage confidence, self-expression, and emotional wellness. Members are invited to share their experiences, explore personal strengths, and build positive relationships with peers. Through open discussions, guided activities, and shared stories, girls learn to empower themselves and each other while creating a strong sense of community. Whether you're looking for support, connection, or simply a welcoming place to unwind, the Girls Latte & Laughs provides a nurturing environment where every voice can be heard and every girl can shine. **sonia**

ATTAY A WELCOMING art group that uses creative expression to support mental health, build connection, and encourage self-exploration in a safe, judgement-free space. **Joviana (Doe)**

BRO-TIME is a safe and welcoming space where men can come together to talk, learn, and support each other while building the tools to handle life's challenges. In group, we'll explore topics like social roles and expectations, mental health, substance use, and the importance of self-care. We'll also look at relationships with family, friends, and partners, as well as ways to strengthen support systems in our lives and communities. Members will have the chance to reflect on who they are—their values, beliefs, motivation, and purpose—while also connecting with others on a similar journey. Along the way, we'll keep things engaging with weekly discussions, social outings, and motivational media or guest speakers that inspire growth and positive change.

RISE & THRIVE (Parent Group) is a safe and supportive space for parents and caregivers of transitional age youth (ages 16-25) receiving services. This group provides an opportunity for families to connect with others who are navigating similar challenges, share experiences, and receive encouragement from peers who understand the journey. The group focuses on building knowledge, strengthening communication, and learning practical strategies to support youth in their mental health recovery, independence, and overall well-being. Topics may include understanding mental health, navigating systems of care, improving family relationships, self-care for caregivers, and accessing community resources. The group is facilitated by a parent partner who brings lived experience and offers guidance, empathy, and practical tools to help families feel supported, empowered, and less alone. **ALESIA**

PUMP & PROTEIN -nutrition and fitness this group is all about fueling our bodies with fresh fruit and veggie juices, protein shakes, and staying active through gym workouts and sports. We're here to support healthy habits, build strength, and feel our best together. Join us for motivation, wellness tips, and accountability on the journey to a stronger lifestyle. **JUDEN & ALESIA**

YOGA is designed to support you in strengthening your mental, emotional, and physical well-being. This group offers a safe inclusive and judgement-free space where you can explore gentle movement, mindfulness and breathing practices to help manage stress, increase self-awareness and build healthy coping skills. This group is open to all levels. There is no yoga experience required. Our goal is to empower you to build resilience and develop healthy tools they can use beyond the group setting. **ALESIA & JUDEN (Doe)**

TASTE OF TAY is a cooking, where you'll learn the fundamentals to enhance your cooking skills. Our hands-on session will teach you how to prepare quick, nutritious, & delicious meals. Expect to dive into the basics of cooking with guided, practical sessions that focus on creating healthy and flavorful meals, gain confidence in the kitchen, and connect with fellow TAY members in a supportive and fun environment. This is a close group requires reservation by Tuesday of each week, to ensure proper food accommodations. **DEANETTE**

SNACK-CHAT is a fun, interactive social-skills and community-building group designed to help TAY youth connect, communicate, and practice healthy peer interaction - all while enjoying creative snack-themed challenges. Each session blends icebreakers, teamwork, problem-solving, and friendly competitions that encourage youth to step out of their comfort zones in a supportive environment. Participants will have opportunities to build social confidence and practice communication skills, strengthen teamwork and cooperation, express creativity through themed snack challenges engage in positive peer support and relationship-building, explore mindfulness, values, and self-reflection woven naturally into each activity. SNACKCHAT promotes self-esteem, social wellness, emotional regulation, and pro-social behavior, aligning with individualized service goals such as increasing community participation, improving daily functioning, and enhancing coping skills. This group is open to all TAY youth and is facilitated by staff who create a safe, inclusive, and uplifting space for everyone. **ANTHONY & ALEX**

PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY this group is designed to provide individuals with the knowledge, tools and support needed to better understand and navigate the challenges of substance use. Led by experience professionals with lived experience, participants that will engage with open discussions, explore coping strategies and develop healthier habits to prevent and manage substance use. Self-help support meetings off site 12-1:00PM- **JUDEN**

DESSERT & MOVIE a relaxed and supportive recovery-focused group designed especially for youth and young adults. This group provides a safe, welcoming space to connect with peers, enjoy a movie together, and share meaningful conversations about recovery, self-growth, and wellness. Through film themes and group discussion, participants will explore topics such as coping skills, emotional awareness, healthy relationships, resilience, and personal goals - all while enjoying dessert in a comfortable, judgement-free environment. This group encourages connection, positive socialization, and building community support while reinforcing that recovery can include moments of joy, creativity, and shared experiences while enjoying dessert. **ALEX**