



BH CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting the 4th Tuesday of Every Month

Recorder: Saida Spencer: Executive Assistant II
sspencer@ruhealth.org 951-358-7348

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
April 28, 2026

Tori St. Johns, BHC, Lauren Adamson, Peer Svs., Luciana Hsu, SSG/APCTC, Nhan Pham, SAPT/FNL, Miranda DeShields, BH Central Region, Mike Scebbi, DPSS/CFS, April Smith, FSA & Commissioner for District 5, Brenda Scott, NAMI & BH Commission Chair, Erika Martinez, Wylie Center, Rachel Douglas, PS&T, Shelby Colbert, Youth Connect, Jana Garrett, SSG/RCC, Honor Moore, 417 Recovery, Don Kendrick, Crisis, Javier Garcia, Wylie Center, Melinda Sabetzadeh, McKinley, Yazan Khoury, SELPA, Candice Hildebrand, TAY Desert, Novanh Xayarath, RUHS-BH, Alicia Arredondo, PS&T, Suzette Donaldson, Wylie Center, and Jana Trew, VCSS.

Recorder: Saida Spencer

Announcement: Just as a reminder: It is against RUHS-BH Policy to allow any AI note takers during the meeting. The meeting is being recorded by Saida, who is the Executive Assistant for the purpose of the meeting minutes.

Meeting Called to Order & Introductions: 12:00 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves and their agencies.

Review of Minutes: March 24, 2026, minutes reviewed. Tori St. Johns makes a motion to approve the minutes as written, Shelby Colbert seconded the motion, and all are in favor.

PowerPoint Presentation: Erika Martinez, Carolyn E. Wylie Center, Program Supervisor, Introducing the Capability Project.

Q. Why is disability inclusive mental health care important?

A. Providing services that are specifically tailored for people with disabilities is important because although people from all different walks of life and abilities may have similar mental health struggles, having a disability can be an added layer to the person's mental health. The ADA (Americans with Disability Act)

The Capability Project provides affirming, trauma-informed care that validates the complex psychological and emotional experiences of living with a physical disability.

The Focus:

Depression, Anxiety, Trauma, Affirming, Trauma-Informed Care, Resilience, Autonomy, and Meaningful engagement in life. For further information contact Erika Martinez 951-683-5193 ext. 303. (see PowerPoint).

Those interested in an in-service presentation for staff please communicate with Javier Garcia and Erika Martinez at The Carolyn E. Wylie Center 951-683-5193 ext. 303. Alicia Arrendondo PS&T will collaborate and contact information is provided. (email PP and flyer).

Chairperson Remarks: Tori St. Johns shared the following:

Welcome everyone, it is so very nice to have you here today. So many new faces.

Desert Children’s Region: Candice Hildebrand shares the following

Newly hired to the position of the Desert Children’s Administrator, just starting to get my feet on the ground and highlighting the ECM Program which went well last week.

Western Children’s Region: Novanh Xayarath shared the following updates:

Just as a reminder, the TFCBT booster training is scheduled for April 30, 2026. There are about 10 spots that are occupied by some providers who are participating.

The (DBT) Dialectical Behavioral Therapy ED (Eating Disorder) Training:

- June 10, 2026 & June 11, 2026
- Free to all registered participants

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RUHS-BH Staff - Register via the Google Form link: <https://bit.ly/DBT626> (see the flyer for further information)

The FBT (Family Based Treatment) ED (Eating Disorder) Training:

- June 15, 2026, and June 16, 2026
- Free to all registered participants

RUHS-BH Staff - Register via Google Form Link: <https://tinyurl.com/GBT615> (see the flyer for further information)

Anyone with interest in the ED Models trainings sign up when the flyers become available.

A shout-out to VCSS (Victor Community Support Services) Helmet. The FEP (First Episode Psychosis) has a field-based program that will meet families/consumers where they feel most comfortable - in the field, in their homes, libraries, places that they want to meet. Sometimes, the places are not conducive for treatments, and so the program reached out to the VCSS Helmet Program, and VCSS agreed to coordinate with FEP to use some of the free space if they need a place to provide services.

Central Children’s Region: Miranda DeShields shared the following updates:

The IY (Incredible Years) grants will be sunsetting in June of this year. However, the program has been able to train staff across the department as well as through the Parent Support and Training Program to continue to offer services to “The Littles” - the younger children’s group.

The department will continue to work in support of getting dependents on the court’s dockets linked to Specialty Mental Health Services. Same with wards of the court.

Behavioral Health Commission/Regional Board Updates:

Desert Regional Board Tori St. Johns shared the following information

The main board’s meeting is on the first Wednesday of the month. Apparently, there is talk that the June 3, 2026, meeting will be held at Rustin.

The John Benoit Art Festival Flyer is available for the MIMHM (May is Mental Health Month) Events on May 14, 2026. Every year there is magic in the Desert.

There is so much happening out in the Desert right now. Besides the Desert schools winding down, and The MIMHM (May is Mental Health Month) Events on May 14, 2026, in Fairmount Park, Riverside, there is The Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast, on May 14, 2026, at the Palm Springs Convention Center starting with coffee hour at 8:30 am and then moving into the program at 9:30 am.

On May 15, 2026, the “Pride Prom 26” will be in full swing at 7 pm. There will be live entertainment with DJ Alf Alpha, plenty of food, fun, music and of course dancing. The bar-code for registration is on the flyer provided and the tickets are \$20, but Tori will provide scholarship for anyone. It’s at the Empire Polo Grounds. The kids really like it because not only is it where Coachella and the Stagecoach are, it is in the VIP Rose Garden, where the big deal celebrities wait before they go on stage.

On June 11-14, 2026, The Pride Leadership Camp at the campground located near Angelus Oaks, within hiking distance to Jenks Lake, which is sort of halfway to Big Bear. Four days of free fun for LGBTQ Students going into the 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. – again, flyers are provided. The SSDC will provide transportation via bus with designated pick-up spots in the Coachella Valley.

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Western Regional Board: Novanh shares that although they have not been present at the last 2 meetings, there is talk about the amazing attendance at the meetings.

Mid-County Regional Board: Brenda Scott shared that they attend the Mid-County Regional Board Meetings.

- Telecare presented a presentation.
- Corona Wellness & Recovery also presented.
- The next meeting will be in Hemet.

Parent Support & Training: Alicia Arrendondo, shared the following information

Super excited about The Arr of Wellness Event for MIMHM (May is Mental Health Month). Staff planned the event and this year the theme is Family Land May 14, Riverside Fairmount Park 11:30-3:30 pm.

For more information go to mimhm@ruhealth.org bit.ly/26-ArtofWellness and scan the bar code.

Event Highlights:

- Entertainment, Art, Plant building, Guest Speakers, many resources and free food.

Nurturing Fathers Program: Class starts on Wednesday April 29, and every Wednesday for 13 weeks, here at the Myers Building from 5.30-8 pm (see flyer to register).

- For information about any of the PS&T (Parent Support & Training) trainings, please contact Rachel Douglas and/or Alicia Arrendondo at 951-358-6244.

The Safe Space for Parents & Caregivers Class is virtual on Teams

- Every Wednesday from 10-11 am. See barcode on the flyer to register.

The IY (Incredible Years Autism Group) Program is a virtual 14-week interactive session for parents and is a 2-hour session designed to foster emotional regulation and enhance social competence.

- Classes start on May 12, 2026, 1-3 pm on Microsoft Team. (see the flyer) Register by calling 951-358-5862.

The Open Doors Support Group is a support group for Parents and Caregivers who are raising a child/youth with mental health, emotional, and behavioral challenges.

- Every 4th Thursday of the month 5:30-7:30 pm. Please call 951-358-5862 for addition information.

SAPT / Friday Night Live: Nhan Pham shared some updates:

The month of April was observed as Friday Night Live Month. The program has 108/109 chapters, and all the chapters observed the month of April in their own unique way

Motivational speakers go out to the school sites and/or sites in general with the youth for speaking engagements.

They provide their own lunch rallies and/or activities that are specific to Friday Night Live Month. Some chapters showcase and/or present the environmental projects that they've worked on throughout the year. Last week Nhan attended one in the Corona-Norco Unified School District.

Each Chapter usually takes on one or two environmental projects. However, this year the Youth Advisory Council presented 8 projects. Nhan had the pleasure of meeting all the kids and got to see and hear what they presented, and it was amazing.

Just to name a few:

- Tobacco Marketing, Vaping and Mental Health projects.

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Planning an awards banquet for May 22, 2026, hosted at the Riverside Convention Center. Nhan believes that they are expecting 500 guests. This event is specific to the Chapters to acknowledge all the youth and award them for jobs well done and acknowledge the great work they have accomplished throughout the year.

TAY Mid-County: Lauren Adamson shared the following

Still having the All-Peer Trainings for Consumers, TAY Peers and Family Advocates at the Tay Arena – Mid-County. The third Tuesday of each month from 9:30 – 11:30 AM. The department also has the Behavioral Health Transgender Children, Youth and Families Work Group that meets the first Tuesday of each month from 2 to 3 pm on June 2, 2026, via Teams. For further information please email Lauren Adamson laadamson@ruhealth.org

Youth Connect: Shelby Colbert shared the following:

Youth Connect Specialty Program will be hosting some summer fun social activities for the consumers and their families in two locations: Indio and Riverside.

Agency Reports:

Carolyn E. Wylie Center: Javier Garcia, shared updates and thanked Erika Martinez for the presentation.

Currently able to receive referrals for the Trauma Treatment Program. Right now, using a Modality EMDR and have protocols for using them with the youths, also using the TF-CBT.

The PIP (Permanent Inclusive Program) also takes referrals. The clinicians are trained in doing gender assessments and working with the population and can see a huge impact. There are a lot of door closures in certain agencies.

Last week, The Multicultural Symposium was about making those connections and showing our support, again, for many of the communities that historically are underserved, and underrepresented.

The ED (Eating Disorder) Program accepts referrals. Focusing on working with toddlers and infants struggling with attachment.

- If there is any interest or a need, please reach out for support Javier Garcia "Javier Garcia" jgarcia@wyliecenter.org 951-683-5193 ext.: 333 or 348. Erika Martinez emartinez@wyliecenter.org 951-683-5193 ext.: 303.
- Rachel/Alicia will collaborate with Javier and/or Erika to set up an in-service presentation for the staff.

Suzette Donaldson: the Wylie Center. Shared that the program is looking to hire a Parent Partner Just getting the word out that if the members/guests have anyone that has graduated from your volunteer program, or from the PS&T (Parent Support & Training), kindly reach out to Suzette Donaldson sdonaldson@wyliecenter.org 951-683-5193 or Yajaira Leon, yleon@wyliecenter.org 951-683-5193.

Currently, focused on attending all the exciting MIMHM (May is Mental Health Month) Events. The Wylie Center has a booth/table at the Alvord School District located at 9KPC Parkway, Corona, CA. The district is having their first ever Mental Health Symposium and has invited Carolyn E. Wylie to participate. Really excited about that because they will have an actual student panel discussion from their school district.

DPSS/CFS: Mike Scebbi, Sr. Admin Analyst shared the following:

Two events: May 9th: Foster kids are graduating, & senior portrait day, Crestmore Manor, 4600 Crestmore Rd., Riverside, CA.

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Currently, there are about 35-40 kids that will show up, and the department will make sure they have everything they need. There will be photographers, and they will have transportation. Between the photos, the program will keep them busy and try to get them connected to other services.

One year Emilee got these Corvettes, and Mike commented that the kids were not going to like the cars. Well, the kids loved them and they all looked like tech moguls, who just purchased new cars in their caps and gowns. They were the “cool kids” with the new Corvettes. It was a great event.

On June 18, 2026, at the “March Air Force Base Museum” the department is having the graduation party for the kids. The theme “Cleared for Takeoff” - at the March Air Force Base Museum. Thank you to all the partners, without their assistance this would not be possible.

If any of the programs have any foster care kids that are graduating this year, please get in touch with Mike Scebbi 951-204-6969 at mscebbi@rivco.org and/or Emilee Tran at emtran@rivco.org.

SSG Riverside Counseling Center: Jana Garrett shares the following updates

Very busy with a continued stream of referrals with most of them involved with the foster care system.

It's been great filling up with all the caseloads. The CBITS Program Team is very busy since they started them earlier, eight of our nine groups have already completed. Canyon Springs High School started later, they are halfway through right now, set to finish the group a before the final week happens. Gearing up for the shift next year where it goes full Medi-Cal, SSG already does Medi-Cal, so confident that things will be fine.

For May's Mental Health Month SSG is going to be at a lot of the Moreno Valley USD events. The school counselors and social workers have lunchtime events sporadically throughout May to promote mental health awareness services.

The focus right now is making sure that SSG/RCC has coverage. Preparing for the summer shift, especially when there's new staff.

SSG/APCTC (Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers): Luciana Hsu shared updates:

This Saturday, May 2, 2026, the department is hosting the VELOCity (Voices Educating the Local City) Graduation. The CYBHI (Children & Youth Behavioral Health Initiative) Grant is a two-year grant, where the program will mentor the next generation by showing the importance of mental health awareness and spreading that throughout the community. The event will be held at the Diversity Center Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California, 3933 Mission Inn Avenue Suite 103, Riverside, CA 92501. It is located downtown Riverside by the Mission Inn.

The program is proud of everyone. Ten are from the Riverside Unified School District, three different high schools, and the others are from CNUUSD (Corona-Norco USD) Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

They decided to make a film, and they did everything hands-on. They wrote the script, the music piece, and used their equipment. APCTC hired consultants and brought in The PEI Team to coach them on social media, and mental health awareness workshops etc... Of the first-year students, one of them got into four of the colleges they applied to, and they decided to come back and do mentoring for the next cohort.

This Sunday will be the start of the last round of the parenting group. This time around, it's a collaboration between two students. One is from St. Magdalene and the other is from St. Edward's on Sundays from 12 to 2. The program usually

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does not have an open group until the third session, but because there is much interest, the program closed beforehand without any further registrations. The program is also participating in the Art of Wellness Mental Health Month at Fairmount Park in Riverside. The program will have an RV at the location and the CBAT (Community Behavioral Assessment Team), where the Clinical Therapists ride with PD (Police Dept) and the Riverside County Sheriffs, to go out to emergency calls that involve mental health challenges throughout the communities.

VCSS (Victor Community Support Services): Jana Trew shares the following:

On behalf of VCSS (Victor Community Support Services), May is a critical month for the work that VCSS provides to the families in the communities. It starts in May and thereafter focuses on customizing the services for the kids that are out of school for the summer. The program is also keeping an eye on and notice an uptick with immigrant families concerned about accessing services. Trying to make sure to close off any gaps in that area, the agency submitted the certification to the state. Taking on the challenges to provide care and support to the families in the community

SELPA/RC: Yazan Khoury shares the following

SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) uses VCSS’s interagency support services and brags about all the amazing work in the districts.

The 6th Annual SELPA Mental Health Matters Symposium “Celebrating, Collaboration & Wellness” on May 20-21, 2026, from 8:30-3:30 pm at the Riverside Convention Center, 3637 5th St., Riverside, CA 92501. Keynote speaker Kyle Greene – Empowering others to rise above challenges and pursue their greatest potential. Keynote speaker Molly Grisham – Communication and coaching “Empowering people to grow, connect, and lead with greater clarity and confidence.

Next week Monday May 4, 2026, at the Riverside Convention Center, SEPLA will have a Community Advisory Committee Recognition Event. It is a time when all the districts and their advisory committees have an opportunity to brag about and highlight their regions and school sites. To recognize their work for a night. SELPA wanted to highlight this because, in general, SEPLA usually hosts this event at the Val Verde School sites, however, this year SELPA has made it a bigger event. Hope to see most of you there.

Behavioral Health Commission: April Smith, Commissioner for District 5, & Director, FSA (Family Services Association).

The DBT Parents Support Group’s first meeting is tomorrow (Wednesday) April 29, 2026, from 6-7:30 pm, and the DBT Teen Groups is on Thursday April 30, 2026, from 4-6 pm, both groups are virtual and free of charge.

Parents may register by email info.clinic@fsaca.org or call 951-369-8036.

417 Recovery: Honor Moore,

The new location in Indio is up and running.

Next Meeting: May 26, 2026, 12-2 p.m.

Location: 3125 Myers St., 2nd fl. Executive Boardroom, Riverside, CA 92503

Pursuant to The Behavioral Health Commissioners: Please note that moving forward the Standing Committee agendas and minutes shall be posted on the website for your reference as well as the Public.

<https://www.ruhealth.org/behavioral-health/advisory-committees>