



BH CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting the 4th Tuesday of Every Month

Recorder: Saida Spencer: Executive Assistant II
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RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
March 24, 2026

Tori St. Johns, BHC, Lauren Adamson, Peer Svs., Luciana Hsu, SSG/APCTC, Nhan Pham, FNL, Brittany Maines, The Behavior Lab, Alicia Arrendondo, PS&T, Miranda DeShields, RUHS-BH, Flor Ramos-Montelongo, McKinley, Robert Bohon-Lara, TAY Desert, April Smith, FSA & Commissioner for District 5, Brenda Scott, NAMI, BH Commissioner, Janate Valenzuela, Deputy Public Defender & Resource Attorney for the S.P.A.R.K. Unit, Rachel Douglas, PS&T, Shelby Colbert, Youth Connect, Jana Garrett, SSG/RCC, Laurence Gonzaga, MOLINA, Javier Garcia, Wylie Center, Crystal Garcia Ruacho, Clinical Supervisor, JVUSD, Melinda Sabetzadeh, McKinley, Yazan Khoury, SELPA, Candice Hildebrand, TAY Desert.

Recorder: Saida Spencer

Announcement: Just as a reminder: It is against RUHS-BH Policy to allow any AI note takers during the meetings. 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: February 24, 2026, minutes reviewed. Tori St. Johns makes a motion to approve the minutes as written, Jana Garrett seconded the motion, and all are in favor.

Chairperson Remarks: Tori St. Johns shared the following:

RUHS and the TAY Desert Flow group went to visit The College of the Desert Campus. Refugio Bautista, Sr. Cert Peer Support Specialist also went along with LGBTQ+ kids. Kids from all over Riverside County and San Bernardino County, from Fontana, Yucca Valley, 29 Palms, Coachella, Palm Springs, La Quinta, and everywhere in between shared this experience. The kids visited from their schools with their GSA, (Gay Straight Alliance) Advisors.

RUHS shows up with swag, and the kids all love them.

Desert Sands, students only, for a lot of them, college is not in their heads. They visited The College of the Desert Campus, accompanied by the LGBTQ+ leaders, having fun with all the activities and went through the LGBTQ+ Center. They sat in classrooms and went to the workshops. The kids loved all of it and I think it helped them realize that college isn't so scary. The College of the Desert has a program, called the Edge Program, where kids can do their undergrad free. Any child in the Coachella Valley Unified School District, Desert Sands, and Palm Springs can do their undergrad work in the EDGE Program. The kids must pay for their books and other school items, but Tori gives out a lot of scholarships to cover all the other school items needed.

There were over 200 kids that attended, and they learned they can go to college for free. The College of the Desert is welcoming, and it is a safe place.

- Thank you, TAY Center Desert Flow,
- The TAY Center will come and do the prom.
- Yazan Khoury, SELPA thinks this information is fantastic and they will research further.

Western Children’s Region: Miranda DeShields on behalf of Novanh Xayarath shared the following updates: ED IOP (Mindful Body & Recovery Program) This month TAY Stepping Stone is piloting the program to expand the service from 16 to 25 years of age. In addition, Novanh is working with the EPIC Build Team to see if they can establish a referral pathway for doctors at the CHC to do direct referral to the ED IOP program.

TFCBT booster training is scheduled for April 30, 2026, and one individual has submitted a video of their work and has passed. That individual came from APCTC. A big shout out and a thank you.

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
March 24, 2026

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

The department’s primary focus is to get the MOUs in place with the school districts so that the department can launch the PCIT Mobile Crisis Vans.

Programs that provides case management to complex needs, dependence and probation. Miranda is working to rebuild the YFCS (Youth and Family Community Service) program. Individuals have moved on, and the program will be hiring a new supervisor, a new CTS, to support those with probation and dependent needs.

RUHS-BH Updates: Miranda DeShields, on behalf of Janine Moore shares the following:

Janine is excited to share the announcement and introduce Candice Hildebrand as the new Children’s and Tay Administrator for the Desert Region.

As most are aware, RUHS-BH was awarded funding to build a youth Wellness Village in Beaumont. Janine is planning to do a presentation for the Children’s Committee Meeting, in the next couple of months with more detail and some exciting renderings. In the meantime, the planning has started to remodel the education buildings on the property, which will allow RUHS-BH to hire more staff and provide additional services.

The Mead Valley Wellness Village building is going ahead of schedule and will be set to launch programs in January of 2027, if not a little sooner.

RUHS-BH is in the process of evaluating applications for contractors to provide MSTFFT (Multisystemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy) and PCIT and hope to have the decisions made soon to start the training.

Behavioral Health Commission/Regional Board Updates: Tori St. Johns shared the following information.

The main board met in Downtown Riverside, by Deborah Johnson’s office. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the same location on the first Wednesday of the month. Tori is inviting everyone to come to the meeting.

Regional Board Updates: The Desert is hosting the John J. Benoit Behavioral Health Art Festival: Art Show & Creative Writing Contest on Tuesday May 12, 2026, 11-2 pm. At the Taj Mahal Building, Riverside County Fairgrounds. (see flyers)

- The consumers are busy preparing their art, their written words, and their jewelry designs, and they are super excited to see their items being purchased.
- The TAY Desert Flow consumers are creating, and the Peers are holding special groups to create items for the festival.
- The Rancho Mirage Shopping Center has empty storefronts. However, it’s wonderful for the consumers because their art is up and can be purchased. It is amazing.
- If you’re in the desert and it’s not 110, please go by “The River” it is across the street from “The Behavior Lab.

Parent Support & Training: Rachel Douglas, shared the following information

PS&T continues to provide parenting classes and support groups throughout Riverside County. The program is currently working on revamping the program. The funding will be shifting come July 1st.

In addition, the department is working on visiting all the programs and clinics within RUHS, just to reintroduce ourselves because PS&T is known as a free Community-Based Program.

The programs and clinics within the department are here to serve all their families who are open to the services offered.

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
March 24, 2026

Introducing the new Senior Parent Partner, Alicia Arrondodo, who has worked for the county for 18 years and will continue to support the community.

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

At last month’s meeting the program informed the committee members that it was in the final planning stages of the Active Youth Conference. The event was a huge success. Over the back-to-back weekends the program serviced 500 students, provided workshops and activities for the youth, engaged them with their adult Peers, the staff and workshops that pertain to mental health, self-love of care, prevention awareness.

In attendance was Corona Chapters, provided a presentation on tobacco. The Youth Council presented on cannabis awareness and underage drinking.

- It is usually at these conferences that the program allows these spaces for the schools to present themselves.

The month of April has been designated Friday Night Live Month where the program promotes everything FNL. The chapters participate in creating a campaign on their campuses to promote the program and try to get more kids to join the program.

- Riverside County has contract motivational speakers who present during “Red Ribbon Week”.
- During the month of April, the youth and the youth council, do a whole social media “Takeover”. They start posting their own content and information about the program and some of the information presented at the “Youth Conference”.

Although the students must run the material through the program, the students themselves do all the clever work and the creativity behind it. Spring break is happening and a lot of schools are out. But that does not mean that the program stops its services for the youth. If a youth is in need or seeks services during spring break – SAPT offers transportation and/or have staff pick them up and then they receive services in any of the 11 clinics.

TAY Mid-County: Lauren Adamson

There is going to be an event at the TAY Arena in Perris called Spring into Hope. It’s a collaboration between the TAY Arena and the Hope Collaborative. This is basically a resource fair on April 9th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. All are welcome. (see flyer)

TAY Desert: Robert Bohon-Lara

Just completed the Desert All Peer meeting. The speaker was from the Desert AIDS Project or DAP and spoke about the disparities in the Coachella Valley community for sexual health and testing.

- All Peer meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at the TAY Desert Flow from 9:30-11:30 am

The TAY Desert Flow will be starting a new group called: “Coffee Talk”.

- The Peers and the youth come together to have some coffee, and cake, and talk about whatever is on their mind.

For further information contact Joshua Korhely JKorhely@ruhealth.org for Western & Central Region, Robert Bohon-Lara for the Desert Region rlara@ruhealth.org and Lauren Adamson laadamson@ruhealth.org for Mid-County.

Agency Reports:

Wylie Center: Javier Garcia, shared updates

The department is currently working on a new “Capability Project” Program. The program will be announcing it at the next meeting. The focus is on the specific mental health challenges that the community members with physical disabilities go

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
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March 24, 2026

through. It could be a range of identity formation, struggles with transition, grief and loss of certain mobility. The Capability Project will focus on themes of independence, and the structural barriers that many of the community members with physical disabilities face. Agency wide training March 25, 2026.

Erica Martinez, Therapist and Program Supervisor, has completed the format and the model and will be going out into the community and providing an overview of that program.

The programs are all going well, currently open for referrals. The Eating Disorder Program is in full swing, especially as the season gets warmer. The group therapies are going great and getting many referrals for the group only.

Modalities, which speaks to the impact of our groups, especially the D&D (Dyson Development) Group, that aims to help preteens work through some of those social impairments. The audit was good, as in most years there are areas of growth but no major dings. Looking forward to continuing and developing as a program to support the community members.

Jurupa Valley USD: Crystal Garcia Ruacho shared information

Currently on spring-break. The district is focusing on amping up the Certified Wellness Coach Services, with the interns also getting certified. JVUSD is working to expand services for the students using Wellness Coaches outside of the System of Care contract with the county.

Services are going great. Onboarded a couple of new positions and amped up and streamlined services here at the sites.

The BH Commission Visitors: Brenda Scott, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and

April Smith, Director, FSA (Family Services Association).

April Smith: FSA started a weekly online meeting: Parents DBT Skills Support Group completely free, on Wednesdays 6-7:30 pm. Parents may registrar on the bar code on the flyer, email info.clinic@fsaca.org or call 951-369-8036.

In addition, FSA also started an in-person Chill & Skill Program on Tuesdays from 4:30-6 pm and an online Chill & Skill Program on Thursdays 4:30-6 pm for teens 13-17 years old for a 10-week structured support group.

- Providing free and sliding scale Mental Health Services for adults, children, couples, and families to name a few.

Brenda Scott: NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) has a Spanish class starting on April 6 on Monday nights in-person from 6-9 pm at St. James the Less 22190 Dunlap Dr., Perris, CA 92571.

Town Hall meeting at the Temecula Valley Hospital with topics:

- Care Court
- SB43
- Community updates
- Updates on BHSA

McKinley Mid-County Region: Melinda Sabetzadeh shares some updates:

Currently, onboarding a new Clinical Supervisor for the Mid-County office and region as well as a new Clinical Therapist with start dates in mid-April.

Official move is finally happening in the week of April 3rd in Hemet. Hoping for a Grand Opening. Will keep everyone posted.

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
March 24, 2026

McKinley Western Region: Flor Ramos-Montelongo shares some updates:

Also onboarding a new Clinical Supervisor, that make the Western Region fully staffed. In addition, onboarding a new Clinical Therapist in mid-April as well.

The Behavior Lab: Brittany Maines, Director shared the following:

The new facility in Moreno Valley opened on February 2nd. All are welcome to stop by and check it out. Currently there is no wait list for Social Skills Intervention.

There are parent classes, LMFT, parents’ night out and open play.

They will need an Autism diagnosis with private insurance, but they do not need it with IEHP. If it is hitting, biting, focus, attention, social skills, early intervention, anything you can think of behavioral, they can get services.

With locations in Rancho Mirage, Riverside, Yucaipa and now Moreno Valley, in addition the agency has in-home services in the entire Inland Empire, High Desert and Low Desert.

SSG Riverside Counseling Center: Jana Garrett shared updates

SSG partnered with Moreno Valley Unified School District to provide services to their students. Two weekends ago, SSG was asked by the School Social Workers to be one of the speakers at their Annual Parents’ Symposium. SSG set up tables and provided resources and promoted SSG’s services to the community.

Starting at 8:00 am, there were a handful of families, but by 9:30 am, until 12 pm there was a good flow. Usually, attendees pass by and grab some information swag/flyers/brochures. However, this time there was a lot more conversations about what kind of services SSG provides and how they can connect.

The CBITS Program started the groups cycle for the spring semester a little earlier this season. This was suggested by the SSG’s Fidelity Monitor to try and see if the program could get them started earlier because of the spring break. The team worked very hard to get all the screening and assessing completed. One of the groups completed

11 sessions with some of those coming back just having one or two more sessions post spring break to wrap it up. It's the most schools SSG has ever worked with, and the agency just keeps adding more every single time.

Had a High School asked if it is too late and SSG responded with it is not too late: Typically, this doesn't start until after spring break. So SSG has just added a new High School, and another group is starting right after spring break.

The agency is trying to keep the momentum going and trying to introduce the program to as many schools as possible, especially while it is still under the PEI Model, so that when SSG transitions it over, the schools are a little bit familiar with the flow and figure it out.

Referrals are flowing in quite nicely, the staff will accept referrals right away, get them open and that includes psychiatry. SSG does not do meds only, the agency does not have that mental health component.

Anyone that comes in for a clinical assessment, there's also availability with the psychiatrist if that's needed as well.

SSG/APCTC: Luciana Hsu shared updates:

Last week APCTC collaborated with Florida Elementary School to give a brief presentation on community resources

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
March 24, 2026

that are available in the Eastville and Norco area. What makes this presentation different is that the agency was also able to bring in different libraries - Norco and Eastville library - and local associations, where they were also able to introduce their services as well.

Please scan the QR Code- the link tree will pop up on the PEI Services that are coming up.

The workshops are scheduled for late March. They are both in Korean and will be on stress management. One will be located at a faith-based agency on a Sunday and the other is going to be at the APCTC Office on Tuesday morning.

- For other PEI Service it is the ten-week Parenting Group. ACPTC have met the numbers for this group for this fiscal year. However, ACPTC will be doing stand-alone workshops in collaboration with the Chinese/American Association, who are community based and services are free.

The newest TFCBT is bilingual - English and Vietnamese - and is currently accepting referrals. In addition, there are 3 other clinicians that are bilingual - English and Mandarin/Chinese/Cantonese.

417 Recovery: Honor Moore,

Working with adolescents 12 to 17 years old, anyone struggling with mental health, substance use or behavioral challenges. Offices in Murietta, and Palm Desert, and the telehealth platform that serves all of Riverside and San Bernardino County, and a new location in Indio, in the process of putting furniture in right now. Already passed inspection licensing. Do not have an exact start date, but it's probably going to be within the next four weeks. We'll start being able to receive clients there. A bit different than the current programs, 417 Recovery is going to run a daytime program, partnering with the courts and the justice system to more at-risk youth and then our evening program in Indio will serve as our regular modality does now.

Next Meeting: April 28, 2026

Time: 12-2 p.m.

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

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>