

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR July 1, 2026 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS –

Madam Chair Brenda Scott called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:01 pm. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll call and followed by introductions.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –

Victoria St. Johns made a motion to approve minutes from June 3, 2026, and Sheila Mallett-Smith seconded the motion.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Madam Chair Brenda Scott, presented former Commissioner Daryl Terrell with a plaque on behalf of the department and fellow commissioners for his 12 years of service to the Behavioral Health Commission. Daryl Terrell was grateful for the recognition and thanked the department and commission and shared that he is now a member of the Riverside Planning Commission and looked forward to the work ahead within that commission and making positive contributions. His fellow commissioners gave him well wishes and thanked him for his long commitment.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS – Greg Damewood shared he attended an event hosted by the Altura credit union and was happy to learn they provide donations to the suicide coalition.

Victoria St. Johns shared she attended the Forensic meeting in Moreno Valley as well as the Grand Opening of the ABC club expansion and thanked the department as many families will now be able to be helped through these services provided.

PUBLIC REMARKS –

Lily asked what is being done to educate children on drug use in efforts to prevent the cycle of drug use and homelessness.

April Frey informed Lily that Friday Night Live is in over 100 schools across Riverside County offering prevention education and how they can be productive members of society.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dr. Matthew Chang

Dr. Chang announced July first is the beginning of the new fiscal year and start of the medical RUHS residency programs that will result in 2 or 3 graduation classes. There are currently 12 new residents starting today and the start of the Forensics Fellowship. He shared this is a need for the community for a continuum of care.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Consumer Peer Services (Kristen Duffy)

Kristen Duffy, Consumer Peer Services Program Manager, introduced Don Kendrick, Certified Peer Support Specialist for Crisis Support, to introduce the guest recovery speaker. Mr. Kendrick introduced Luan Sans, who shared her recovery began in December. She shared she would drink and quit and continue that cycle until December when she became severely dehydrated from alcohol poisoning and met Mr. Kendrick. He offered her rehab, but she felt she didn't need it, but he was persistent and

she agreed. She went to Cedar House a residential treatment program, and it was life changing. She shared she learned what causes alcohol use, she was introduced to MAT services, received services for her substance use and learned her triggers. After 30 days at Cedar House and meeting consistently with a counselor at the Lake Elsinore center she has been able to stay sober, 194 days today. She expressed her gratitude to Mr. Kendrick, the department, and gave thanks because today she is sober and she is happy and so is her family.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. **Employee Recognition Winners** (Tunisia Nelson)

Tunisia Nelson, Clinical Therapist with Workforce Education and Training announced Gabriela Cabrera, certified peer support specialist, Beverly Mireles, certified peer support specialist and Patricia Winkler, BHS, with Stepping Stones as the Fall quarter's employee recognition winners and proceeded to share their video. After the video was shared, they received praise and gratitude from their supervisor Bridget Vigneault and were presented with plaques of appreciation for their dedication and outstanding teamwork.

Please find the links of the video below:

Fall Winners <https://youtu.be/E8vWpkB-E1o>

2. **Elections** (Action Item)

The commission was asked to redo the elections for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for the new fiscal year executive committee as it was not done correctly previously and must be a transparent vote. After providing the slate of candidates to the commission and going by roll call to obtain votes from each commissioner, Launa Wilson was announced as the Chair, Quintilia Ávila was announced as the Vice Chair and Greg Damewood was announced as the Secretary.

OLD BUSINESS-

1. **Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Update** - (Diana Gutierrez)

Diana Gutierrez, MH Services Administrator, shared a brief update on the BHSA plan providing the PEI programs that ended on 6/30/26. (please find link below of ppt).

<https://www.ruhealth.org/media/10891>

2. **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (SAPT) Update** – (Heidi Gomez)

Heidi Gomez, SAPT Administrator, announced the Annual Softball Tournament took place for which they had 83 members who participated and Southwest were the winners for this year's tournament. She also shared the Recovery Happens event will take place on 9/24/26 and all are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

3. **Care Court Update** – (Marcus Cannon)

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on CARE Court. Please see power Point presentation below.

<https://www.ruhealth.org/media/10886>

COMMITTEE UPDATE –

Brenda Scott announced the Mid County RAB will meet tomorrow, OASOC will meet on the second Tuesday of the month.

April Smith announced the Legislative Committee will meet in September.

Greg Damewood announced the Western RAB meets today following the BHC meeting at Rustin and Criminal Justice will meet next Wednesday and as always all are encouraged to attend.

Victoria St. Johns announced the Children's Committee will meet in September at the Rustin Conference Center.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Dept AI use suggested by Quintilia Ávila.

Annual report and revised bylaws suggested by Greg Damewood.

Mindful body and recovery suggested by Walter Haessler.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

Minutes and agendas of meetings are available online at:
<http://www.ruhealth.org/behavioral-health/advisory-committees>

To request copies, please contact the BHC Liaison at 951-955-7141
or email SBishop@ruhealth.org

FY 2026/27 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

MEMBERS	JUL	SEP	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
April Smith, District 5	P									
Bobby Sheffield, District 5	-									
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P									
Brenda Scott, District 3	P									
Elysse Rico, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	P									
Greg Damewood, District 5	P									
Launa Wilson, District 1	P									
Quintilia Ávila, District 2	P									
Rick Gentillalli, District 5	A									
Sheila Mallet-Smith, Dist. 3	P									
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P									
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 3	P									

Present = P • Absent = A

PRESENT			Virtual Attendance
Dr. Chang	Laurence Gonzaga	Jennel Rand	Rita Massie
Sylvia Bishop	Lilian Zepeda	Jan	Kami Winston
Lucy Lopez	Antonio Vival	Bridget Vigneault	Lupe Madrigal
Israel Torres	Joseph Page	Michelle Davis	Candice Hildebrand
Deborah Johnson	Janette Patterson	Terry M.	Erica Tadeo
April Frey	Elena Martinez	Gabriela Cabrera	Melissa Dalke
Maria Arnold	Tyrone Peterson	Beverly Mireles	Orli Zapirir
Marcus Cannon	Dani Damewood		Miranda DeShields
Diana Gutierrez	Adriana Ardila		Dakota Brown
Kelly Grotsky	Dolore Delaney		Dolores DeMartino
Heidi Gomez	Elena Martinez		Nancy Stevens
Tony Ortego	Don Kendrick		Leah Newell
Carina Gustafsson	Luanne Sands		Steve McNally
Francisco Huerta	Victoria Smith		Rachel Gileno
Kristen Duffy	Claudia Vizcaino		Karen Franks
George Gaeta	Claudia Davis		Rachel Robbins
Ashley Housley	Nazareth Vera		Esmeralda
Tunisia Nelson	Patricia Winkler		