

**Western Region Behavioral Health - Advisory Board
Minutes
September 2, 2026
Hybrid TEAMS and in Person
2085 Rustin Ave Conference Room 1048, Riverside, CA 92507**

Board Members					
Chair		Member		Member	
Greg Damewood, Chairperson	P	Karen Franks, PSS/Blaine	P	Jeanette Patterson	A
		Joseph Page, Hemet Beat	P		
Western Region Administration					
Alea Jackson, WR Adult Services	P	Elena Martinez BHSIII			A
Kelly Grotsky, WR DD	P	Novanh Xayarath, WR BHSA			P
Tony Ortego, WR BHSA	A	Lorissa Villarreal, HHOPE Service Admin			A
Girlyanne Lacson, WR BHSS	A				
Staff					
Francisco J Huerta, Sr. Family Advocate	A	Misty Martin, Sr. Family Advocate			A
Dakota Brown, Cultural Competency Liaison/Disabilities	A	Vacant, Sr. Parent Partner			A
Stacy Anderson, Executive Assistant	P	Jennel Rand, Sr. PSS			A
Guests					
Danielle Damewood	P	Danielle Gonzalez			P
Lilian Zepeda	P				
Delores Delaney	P				
D Stricklin	P				
Richard Yarbough	P				
Esmerelda Lopez	P				
C Miller	P				
Mary Guajardo	P				

P: Present A: Absent

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting called to order at 3:00 P.M. Meeting facilitated by Greg Damewood.
2. INTRODUCTIONS – Introductions proceeded.
3. REVIEWED MINUTES
 - The minutes of July 2026 were reviewed and accepted as is
4. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS
5. SITE VISIT REPORT(S)
 - New site visits will be Jan-March 2027
6. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Danielle Gonzalez Sr. Peer Mobile Crisis
 - Power Point Shared during meeting and in email
 - Mobile Crisis Program began in 2014- Offering Support, Stabilization, and Residential Assistance

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- Consists of Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT), Mobile Crisis Management Team (MCMT), Community Based Acute Treatment (CBAT) reached through 911 calls
- Phone (951)686-HELP, can also be reached through 211 or 988

7. CHAIR'S REMARKS

- Wellness Village- Mead Valley (Greg received a brochure on it, invitations to visit site are being emailed)
- Recovery Happens scheduled at Fairmont Park on September 24th at 11 AM
- To find RIVCO One and BHSA Updates look at the minutes next month on the RIVCO Website

8. REGIONAL REPORTS

A. Adult Manager's Report – Alea Jackson, BHSA

- July 1st western region adult services will be Implementing Assertive Community treatment and Forensic Assertive Community Treatment at Jefferson Wellness Center. ACT and FACT are evidence-based practices that include multidisciplinary teams and are designed to support adults with complex, severe behavioral health needs. These programs deliver intensive, community-based care to individuals who frequently cycle through psychiatric hospitalizations, emergency departments, or the criminal justice system. Both programs are pillars of the state's Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and are expanded for Medi-Cal members under the BH-CONNECT
- Blaine St. Clinic offers individual therapy, groups, peer services, medication support family advocacy and case management services. 20 groups offered, Blaine currently has 164 members enrolled in its FSP program, 1473 in the non-FSP program.
IPS: Collocated @ Blaine 5 Case Managers 3 Peers 1 Supervisor We have onboarded 1 BHS and 1 peer position vacant in Windy Springs
- Jefferson Wellness Center provides full-service partnership outpatient services .16 active groups 237, 4 vacant positions- 2 OA, 2 BHS. JWC has a new Psych Dr Ellison as well as DR Gupta through Telehealth on Fridays
- ACT/FACT Team 10 FTE fully staffed
Caseload- 237 ACT 30 FACT 5
- Pathways to Success is in Riverside and Temecula is vocational rehabilitation program in which we partner with the Department of Rehabilitation focuses on supporting members w members in finding work such as attending trade school or getting certified in certain specializations. There are 197 members enrolled between the Riverside and Temecula site's location.1 vacant Employment Services Counselor position

B. Children's Manager Report – Novanh Xayarath, Children's Administrator presented by Greg:

- Second family therapy cohort training ends Sept 30th. This a 6-month long training to increase therapist's skills to do family therapy. Next training cohort will be in January.
- Eating disorder IOP is working to plan first ever eating disorder conference for dept. Looking at doing it at Riverside Convention Center. Hoping to do this event in March 2027.
- MVCHIP – 351active cases. Program is fully staff. Program continues to provide medication services, case management, individual and family therapy, trauma focus therapy, and outpatient eating disorder services.

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- Children's Treatment Services – has 255 active cases. There is clinical therapist vacancy. Position is not considered critical at this time, so it is put on paused to backfill position. Program continues to provide medication services, case management, individual and family therapy, trauma focus therapy, and outpatient eating disorder services.
- Riverside Family Wellness Center – There are 124 active cases, one clinical therapist vacancy. Program continues to provide medication services, case management, individual and family therapy, trauma focus therapy, and outpatient eating disorder services.
- YHIP – has 34 active cases. Fully staff. Program is helping outpatient with increasing STRTP referrals coming from the community.
- First Episode Psychosis – Program has 38 active cases. Vacant CT position and have permission by dept to backfill position. Working with IPS program to coordinate services to members needing employment or educational services.
- ED IOP – Has 4 active cases. Members are seen at a minimum of 3 hours a day for 3 days of the week. Program will be moving to the Village and is open to referrals.
- TAY Stepping Stones - serves individual 16-25. There are 217 active cases and one vacancy in CT position. Position is not considered critical for approval to backfill position. Program is shifting to allow CT to do more activities aside from back-to-back individual therapy and crisis management with members.

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C. Corona Wellness & Recovery- Girlyanne Lacson BHSS

- No Report

D. Older Adults Manager Report - Tony Ortego, Mature Adults Administrator

- No Report

E. Western Region SAPT Program – Elena Martinez BHSIII

- No Report

F. Western Region HHOPE Service Administrator- Dr. Lorissa Villareal presented by Cheath Rougn

- No Report

G. Western Peer Support Regional Updates – Jennel Rand, Sr. PSS

- No Report

H. WR Children's Parent Partner Regional Updates – Maria T. Gonzalez, Children's Sr. Parent Partner:

- No Report

I. Western Adult Family Advocate Updates – Francisco J. Huerta, Sr. FA Specialist

- No Report

9. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Children- (Victoria (Tori) StJohn) 3125 Myers St- Bi-monthly 2nd Wednesday 12PM**

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- Meets Next Wednesday
 - *Criminal Justice* – (Greg Damewood) 3625 14th St- 14th Tuesday 12PM
 - Meets next week
 - *Membership* - (Greg Damewood, Brenda Scott)
 - Two routing slips are being signed for 2 new members
 - *Older Adults*- (Brenda Scott) 2085 Rustin Ave-2nd Tuesday 12PM
 - It was suggested to be held bimonthly
 - *Housing Committee*- (Brenda Scott) Location TBD- 2nd Tuesday 11AM
 - No report.
 - *Adult System of Care Committee*- (Brenda Scott) Location rotated between Riverside and Perris- Last Thursday 1PM
 - No report.
 - *Legislative*- (April Smith) Location TBD, Bi-monthly 1st Wednesday 10:30AM
 - Met today, Greg encouraged members and staff to look up Legislative due to Federal Cuts.
 - *Veterans Committee*- (Rick Gentillalli) Location TBD- Bi-monthly 1st Wednesday 10:00AM
 - Rick stepped down, Veterans will be transferred to another grouping per the State
1. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:
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 2. CONTINUED BUSINESS:
 - Please keep inviting people. All that are interested in becoming a member of are appreciated. Ideas are appreciated. If anybody wants to become a voting member, please apply via our form to be considered for membership.
 3. NEW BUSINESS:
 - Please have peers continue to attend with members of the public
 - Advocating for Homeless and Substance Population
 4. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting ended 4:06 pm

NEXT MEETING: October 7, 2026