MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tori St Johns; Chairperson**,** Dr. Janice Quinn; Vice-Chairperson, Mark Miller, Eva Guenther-James, Amber Duffle, Bruce Sherr, Huynh Cuc Nguyen, Maura Fisher, Jim Jones, Joe Butts (Owl).

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Gileno; Adult Services Administrator, Mary Carpio; Secretary to Rachel Gileno, Denise Morgan; Secretary to Candice Hildebrand, Jay Rembold; Senior Peer Support Specialist, RUHS – BH, Shawn Harris; Senior Parent Partner; Parent Support & Training Program – Desert Region, Elizabeth Aguilar; Family Advocate, RUHS – BH.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Lim; Chief Administrator Officer, Eisenhower Behavioral Health, Byron Bonsall; Coachella Valley Behavioral Health Center, Public Relations, Dr. Steven Hytry PsyD; Coachella Valley Behavioral Health Center CEO, Honor Moore; 417 Recovery Center, Casper; special guest.

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS:
Tori St Johns called the meeting of the Riverside County Desert Behavioral Health Board to order at 12:04 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 September 8, 2026 meeting. There were no corrections that needed to be made. Huynh Nguyen made a motion to accept the minutes, and Bruce Sherr seconded the motion, it passed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Sate of Behavioral Healthcare in the Desert and What Would Make It Better:

a) Coachella Valley Behavioral Health

Dr. Hytry gave and Brian Bonsall gave an update on their facility in Indio. They said their 80-bed facility has been open for about 18 months and currently all their beds are fully occupied. They added they are looking to expand the number of beds they hopefully have in the future. They are also now offering an outpatient program for clients who do not need hospitalization for needed care.

b) Eisenhower Behavioral Health

Mike Lim gave an update on the services that Eisenhower Behavioral Health is undertaking. He said they continue to collaborate with the other resources available in the Coachella Valley. He said they currently work with patients on Medicare and insurance, but they are looking at options to be able to serve others.

c) Coachella Valley Desert Primary Care

Dr. Michael Kim was unable to attend the meeting.

There was an extensive question and answer period that followed the presentations.

Recovery Happens Celebration on September 24, 2026 at Fairmount Park:

Tori St Johns said the event was well attended and there were 110 vendors who participated.

Holiday Food Baskets, Holiday Family Adoption by Board, Snowflake Kids Gift Wishes:

Shawn Harris said food items and/or gift cards can be dropped off at any of the clinics. Shawn brought in fifteen snowflake cards and all were collected by board members and attendees. The board unilaterally voted to adopt a family consisting of a mother, uncle , an 8-year-old boy and a 5-year-old boy. Mark Miller and Tori St Johns offered to donate $300 each towards the family and Eva Guenther-James offered another $100.00. Mark Miller offered to buy a gift for the 8-year-old boy, Honor Moore offered to buy a gift for the 5-year-old boy, Maura Fisher offered to buy a gift for the mother and Tori St Johns offered to buy a gift for the uncle.

Assignment of Committee to Choose Executive Officers Slate

Jim Jones and Joe Butts voluntold assigned to the committee and will report back to the Board during the November 10, 2026 meeting.

Other New Business:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Window Walk Gallery at the River Update:
Dr Quinn said the gallery received access to several more stores that recently became vacant and she in in need of additional art to help fill the windows in those stores.

Other Old Business:
None

MONTHLY UPDATE AND REPORT:

Substance Abuse Program Update:
Tabled until November 10, 2026 meeting.

Peer Support and Resource Center:
See attached calendar of events for October 2026.

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program Update:
See attached calendar of events for October 2026.

CHILDRENS SERVICES MANAGER COMMENTS:
Rachel Gileno gave this update on behalf of Candace Hildebrand and reported the following:

- TAY was getting ready for their annual haunted house for Halloween.
- TAY Flow and Indio Children's Clinic will be participating in Palm Springs Pride event on November 7 & 8.
- Youth ECM is continuing to grow with the hope that service will soon be expanding to the desert region.
- Desert Wraparound will be transitioning to High Fidelity Wraparound to expand these services to youth.
- There is a new children's contract gearing up to begin delivering Functional Family Therapy to the desert community in November.

ADULT SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:
Rachel Gileno reported the following:
Blythe is serving 243 members and 19 FSP members. Both the CTI and Sr. CT positions have been filled, which brings the total full-time CT's working at the Blythe clinic to 3. They are still recruiting for other CT positions and all the other positions at the Blythe clinic are filled.

Indio is serving 1375 non-FSP members and 162 FSP members. They are currently recruiting for 1 LVN position and 1 CT position. The Indio FSP will be moving to the new Ave 45 location on October 29, with services to begin at that location on November 1.

Windy Springs FSP ICM is serving 133 members. They are recruiting for 2 CT positions, 2 BHS II positions, and 1 CSA position. They have a new CT starting on October 10.

Windy Springs ACT/FAST serves thirty members. They are recruiting for 1 Sr. CT position.

Banning is serving 889 non-FSP members and 50 FSP members. Joseph Brinson, the new BHSS for the clinic will start in his position on October 29. He has worked for RUHS for 11 years and has worked in children's, TAY and adult programs. He will be overseeing both clinics and Harmony Haven.

Older Adults Administrator's Comments:
Tabled until November 10, 2026 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Children's Committee Report:
Tori St Johns said she had no report to give.

Adults Committee Report:
Jim Jones said he had no report to give.

Mature Adults Committee Report:
Maura Fisher said she had no report to give.

Housing Committee Report:
Eva Guenther-James gave an update on this. For more information, refer to the attached minutes.

Legislative Report:
Mark Miller said he will attach the agenda and minutes from the last meeting to the minutes of this meeting.

Membership Report:
Dr. Janice Quinn reported we have two positions open on the board which are supposed to be for peers or family members.

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Report:
Tori St Johns said it was decided that the standing committees will only be meeting every other month starting in January 2027.

Criminal Justice Committee Report:
Tabled until November 10, 2026 meeting.

Veteran's Committee Report:
Tabled until November 10, 2026 meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:
Eva Guenther-James made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Maura Fisher seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:28 PM.

The next formal meeting of the Riverside County Desert Board of Behavioral Health will be **Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at the Oasis Adult Conference Room at 12:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark Miller, Desert Board Secretary