

MEETING MINUTES

1/13/2026

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

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Divine, Carole Schaudt.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Gileno; Adult Services Administrator, Denise Morgan; Secretary to Kelly Grotsky, Shawn Harris; Senior Parent Partner; Parent Support & Training Program – Desert Region, Rubit Romero; Family Advocate, RUHS – BH, Nate Ramirez; RUHS – BH, Older Adults, Angel Munoz; BHS IV, RUHS – SAPT, Elizabeth Aguilar; Family Advocate, RUHS – BH, Kristen Duffy; RUHS – BH Consumer Peer Services (Owl).

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS:

Dr Janice Quinn called the meeting of the Riverside County Desert Behavioral Health Board to order at 12:12 PM and read a brief statement from former chairperson Richard Divine, handing off the position to the new Chairperson Tori St Johns. Dr Quinn then turned the meeting over to the new Chairperson Tori St Johns. Self-introductions of all who were in attendance in person or by teleconference followed.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bruce Sherr said Christine Thomstad had passed away shortly after our last board meeting. Dr Janice Quinn passed around a sympathy card for all to be signed and to be given to her husband George and the rest of her family. Sandy Neja also offered her thoughts on Christine's passing.

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 November 18, 2025 meeting. Huynh Cuc Nguyen said part of her name was misspelled and should be reflected as "Huynh Cuc Nguyen" rather than "Huynh Cue Nguyen". Huynh Cuc Nguyen made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Maura Fisher seconded the motion, and it passed by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Suicide Prevention: Talk Saves Lives:

Dr. Janice Quinn said Yvonne Luna, who was supposed to make the presentation, could not attend today's meeting and her presentation will be re-scheduled to a later date.

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Holiday Food Baskets, Snowflakes/Adopted Holiday Family Follow-up Report:

Shawn Harris said they were able to feed twelve families with full meals due primarily to a donation by the Banning Police Department. She also reported on the shopping trips with the families, and they were excited about the number of items they were able to purchase. She also showed some photos of the shopping trips. Shawn reported they were able to fill over 600 Snowflake gift requests with the help of numerous agencies throughout the county. She expressed her sincere appreciation to all the involved parties involved with the endeavor.

Regional Board Bylaws Revision Commission Bylaws Revision in Progress:

Tori St Johns reported Dr. Janice Quinn went through the existing by-laws and made recommendation for changes, additions or deletion to keep up with the current times. Tori said there have been two meetings of the parties that are doing the review and a third one is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2026 and she hopes that Dr. Quinn's recommendations will be considered at that or upcoming meetings.

Desert Board Roster Data Check for Updating:

Dr. Janice Quinn passed out the most recent roster asking all members to check it for accuracy on their part and notify her of any changes that need to be made.

May is Mental Health Month John J Benoit Health Arts Festival 2026 Intro:

Dr. Janice Quinn said the 2026 Arts Festival is again scheduled to take place during "May is Mental Health" month, specifically on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at the Taj Mahal building at the Riverside County Fairgrounds facility in Indio. Dr. Janice Quinn came up with a suggestion to honor the memory of Christine Thomstad and her support during the art show. The suggestions were from some of the art to poetry submissions. Eva Guenther-James made a motion to name one of the annual awards in Christine's honor and Maura Fisher seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote with the specific award category to be determined later.

Other New Business:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Window Walk Gallery at The River Update:

Dr. Quinn said the Gallery is doing well and she is continuing to sell art that has been displayed at the Gallery.

Other Old Business:

None.

MONTHLY UPDATE AND REPORT:

Substance Abuse Program Update:

Angel Munoz said they have completed their move from their old location on Ave 45 in Indio to the Monroe building in Indio. She also provided updates on other aspects of the SAPT program.

Peer Support and Resource Center:

Tabled until the February 10, 2026 meeting.

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program Update:

No report for this specific program.

CHILDRENS SERVICES MANAGER COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno covered this for Kelly Grotsky. She said Children's Services continues to work on EBT services and they expect them to be completed no later than July 1, 2026.

ADULT SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno reported the following:

- Bill Brennerman has retired and his last day was January 7, 2026. She will share information about the new Director as it becomes available.
- They welcomed Angelina Moxey to the Oasis Case Management teams, saying she is joining them from IQ outpatient.
- Work continues to prepare for the new Adult EBT teams, whose services will include Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Individual Placement and Support (ISP). One ACT team will be located at the Windy Springs site with the potential for a second team at the old SAPT clinic on Ave 45 in Indio.
- New initiatives for 2026:
 - a. Clients who opt into the service will now receive text message reminders and updates about upcoming appointments and other messages.

Older Adults Administrator's Comments:

Nate Ramirez reported they have been talking about art and how they can submit art to participate in the Arts Festival in May. He added they have a vacant Peer Support Specialist position in Banning and they have a replacement in the background process and the hope is that person can also support the efforts to produce art on behalf of their program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Children's Committee Report:

Tabled until the February 10, 2026 meeting.

Adults Committee Report:

Jim Jones said he had no new report to give.

Mature Adults Committee Report:

Tabled until the February 10, 2026 meeting.

Housing Committee Report:

Eva Guenther-James had no new report to give.

Legislative Report:

Mark Miller said he finally received the updated calendar of meeting for the Legislative Committee in 2026, with the first one having occurred on January 7, 2026 and the next one scheduled in March. He will include minutes of the last three meetings as attachments to the January meeting minutes.

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Membership Report:

Tabled until the February 10, 2026 meeting.

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Report:

Tori St Johns said she will send Denise and Mary copies of reports they receive at the Commission meetings. She said Dr. Chang gave a presentation on the "Public Guardian" Program in Riverside County.

Criminal Justice Committee Report:

Tabled until the February 10, 2026 meeting.

Veteran's Committee Report:

Tabled until the February 10, 2026 meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark Miller, Desert Board Secretary