

RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Mid-County Region Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Thursday, March 5, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT		GUEST PRESENT
Dolores DeMartino Brenda Scott Walter T. Haessler, M.D Dr. Vernita Black Don Kendrick	Ramon Amado Martiza Camacho	Jessica King Hilda Gallegos Steven Willis Sheree Glidden	Allen Jimenez Kimberlee Samberson Elizabeth Lagunas	Sherri Randall Brenda Hamamoto Kelli Sierras Carolina Ayala D.A. Member

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
Call To Order and Introductions	Brenda called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. All in attendance introduced themselves.	
Minutes	Meeting minutes of February 5, 2026, were reviewed and accepted with Dr. Hassler's correction. The group praised Sheree for her work on the minutes.	
Announcements	<p>Brenda announced that there will be only one MiMH month event this year. It will take place on Thursday, May 14th, at Fairmount Park in Riverside from 11:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Brenda reminded everyone about the BHSA Public Hearings taking place. If anyone has any comments about the plan, this is an opportunity to share and be on record. The last event will be held on Thursday, March 12th at Elks Lodge in Hemet. Flyers with more information were disseminated.</p> <p>Don announced that both MiMH month and the Recovery Happens event will take place at Fairmount Park. They are still looking into the Poision and Overdose awareness event, not sure if they will be having one this year due to funding.</p> <p>Dolores announced that NAMI Temecula Valley is hosting the Thrive Today Youth Symposium for youth ages 14-18. Event will take place on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Temecula Valley Hospital. Focus of this event is to build confidence, manage stress, and discover strengths through interactive workshops. Lunch will be provided. She will send out flyer with information on how to sign up. Also, an in-person family-to-family class will begin on April 4th, at the Temecula Valley Hospital. If interested, please contact her, there is still space available. A Peer-to-Peer graduation is scheduled for Saturday for about 15 peers. NAMI speaker meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18th, at Temecula Valley Hospital presenting the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Drop- In Center. Dolores announced that Temecula Valley Hospital offers a Spanish spiritually based 12-step recovery program called "Tengo Sed" Monday-Friday.</p> <p>Dr. Black announced that NAMI Western Riverside will have a Family-to-Family English class on March 19th and a Spanish Family-to-Family class on March 18th. In addition, they also have Peer-to-Peer classes available.</p> <p>Brenda announced that NAMI Mt. San Jacinto just graduated 28 people and they are looking at having another class at St. James Church in Perris. She will send out flyer once it is available. In addition, she is working on hosting a Town Hall meeting with topics that would include an update on SB 43 and Care Court. Looking at having this possibility on a Saturday to get more people to attend.</p>	
Correspondence	No Correspondence received.	

<p>New Business-</p>	<p>Jessica King, Behavioral Health Services Supervisor for the Lake Elsinore Adult clinic gave a presentation on the services offered at her site. They serve Medi-Cal adults ages 18-59½. They serve both traditional outpatient services as well as FSP services. The populations served are the persistently mentally ill. FSP is an intense level case management service, so they see members every 7 days minimum. Sometimes it requires a little bit more if they cannot come into the clinic for their appointments, they are bringing services to them. Traditional outpatient services include individuals that are medicated only. They are working towards changing that in the future, but they do have a couple of people that are medication only so they might be on a 3-month regimen only meeting with their psychiatrist and not receiving any other services. Other services include group therapy, individual therapy, and medication education.</p> <p>Staff include two full time psychiatrists, two full time nurses, five BHS, four clinical therapists, two family advocates and three peer support staff. They have about 25 groups. Groups include art therapy, family support, peer support and have got very creative and now have a socialization group where they are taking members into the community to expose them to different activities. For example, last week was frisbee golf. They connect members to resources that are available for free and at the same time help them teach coping skills out in the community. Jessica added that the socialization group started a "Seeds, Soil and Sunlight" group. It is a garden group that was led by one of the peer support staff and a clinical therapist. They built their above-ground beds and are factoring in all the different assets of their different parts. Always tying it back to their mental health journey. Another group is line dancing to get them physically moving. A DBT group and recently a you are not your diagnosis group. So that is a group in which members explore who they are outside of that title, outside of that label. In addition, they also offer a kitchen master 's group, where they teach them easy meals that they can put together on their own. They also want to make sure that they can sustain themselves and want to encourage them to make friends in the groups so that when the clinic is closed or if it's a holiday they can have someone that can join them and get easy meals together. This year they took on two clinical therapist's interns and one of them is doing a Dungeons and Dragons group. They try being creative to be able to reach the different pockets and all the different interests of the members. Jessica reported that they serve around 530 members in total. They serve the Mid-County region that includes Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Sun City, Menifee and parts of Murrieta.</p> <p>Member D.A. shared his recovery story. He noted that he was diagnosed as being bipolar and he suffers from PTSD. He shared that he was working a couple jobs at the same time, lost his car and it got really tough living out on the streets for five years. It came to a point that he wanted to end his life. He went to Jackson 's house and when he got out, he started services at Lake Elsinore BH adults and is now happy to report that he has his own place, has a car and has been employed at his job for over a year now. He takes his medication and feels lucky he started services. Commented that it's still a struggle but a lot easier now with all the support he receives at the clinic. Everyone acknowledged and thanked D.A. for sharing his story. Don added that no matter how small your story is it's very powerful and encouraged him to share it because there could be someone out there struggling thinking that there's no light at the end of the tunnel and he can give them the hope they need.</p>	
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<p>Perris Mental Health Urgent Care</p>	<p>Brenda Hamamoto, LCSW Program Administrator for Telecare Mental Health Urgent Care in Perris. She shared a power-point presentation on the services offered at her site. She is an LCSW and considers herself having lived experience as she has a son who was just recently diagnosed with bipolar and previously with anxiety. Joining her is Sherry Randall, a certified peer specialist.</p> <p>Brenda noted that Perris Mental Health Urgent Care is a center that is open 24/7 and provides a safe and supportive environment using a person centered and whole person approach. They treat everyone as they would want someone that they care about and love to be treated. Staff are there because they care about what they do and the people that they serve and that makes all the difference. She shared Telecare’s Recovery Centered Clinical Systems. Their version of the psychosocial recovery model, meaning they really want to promote hope. They want to hold hope for people until they start to have hope for themselves. They use a lot of motivational interviewing and other hope fielding and empowering techniques to be able to get them to engage in their own recovery. They want to make sure they meet people where they are in their journey. Services include Psychiatric Evaluation, Clearance, Medication. Clinical Assessment, Brief Psychotherapy, Crisis Stabilization, linkage to ongoing meant health and other resources. Peer Recovery Counseling/skill building, hope and advocacy. Individual and group education and support. Staff include a team of LVN’s, Clinicians, Peers, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners, and MDs. They serve ages 13 and older.</p> <p>They work closely with the mobile crisis teams and well as other community partners. Referrals come from all over, CBAT, Sheriff, community clinics. high schools, and middle schools. They also have walk-ins available. They take people with any type of insurance, medi-cal, private or no insurance. They are point of access to minimize any barriers to access services. They provide individual, group education and support. On Wednesdays they offer a movement group “Soul Train” which is all about dancing. They offer one group in the morning and another in the afternoon. They average about 400 people per month, so about 15-30 people per day. Since they only have 12 beds, they do a lot of transition planning and discharging at the same time so they can ensure that they are servicing all members. This can lead to longer waiting times because they only have one prescriber, a psychiatrist or nurse practitioner at a time. It’s still a lot quicker than a visit to the emergency room. They have face to face five days a week and two days are telemedicine. Hours to see the doctor are Monday through Thursday 9:00 am – 7:30 pm and 9:00 am – 9:00 pm Friday through Sunday. For those who stay overnight they offer on- call psychiatry and other emergency needs. Brenda commented that her nurse practitioner just went on maternity leave so they will have fill in doctors for the next four months or so.</p> <p>Brenda asked if you do bring members to their program if they can do a warm handoff, so they have an idea where the member is at. Having a bit of information such as how they are doing or what their goal is or any risk factors they should know about right away to keep them safe is always helpful. Also, if you want to coordinate services afterwards you can always leave your information, so they coordinate their discharge plan to ensure that there’s continuity of care. They have three locations, one in Perris, Palm Springs and Riverside. The Perris and Palm Springs serve ages 13 years and older. Riverside serves ages 18 years or older. They accept walk-ins and no appointments are required. When a member comes in, they triage them in accordance with risk. If adolescents come in, they serve them first because of their age or if someone says they want to harm themselves. Otherwise, they go in order of arrival. They are not an LPS designated sites, however they can initiate a hold if needed. Goal is to reduce hospitalizations and incarcerations related to mental health and try to support members.</p> <p>Brenda noted that they have outgrown current location and are hopeful with the new Mead Valley Wellness Village that they get the bid. She provided booklets as Telecare Corporation recently celebrated their 60th year.</p>	
<p>Old Business</p>	<p>No old business items to discussed.</p>	

<p>Administrator/Managers Report</p>	<p>Brenda Scott read Lacy Fourong's update that reports the following: Lake Elsinore SAPT Census is 210; Vacancies: BHS III. Lake Elsinore SAPT is being recognized within school district for the work done with students. They are in 11 schools (middle/high), have over 200 students referred. San Jacinto SAPT: Census 285; Vacancies: 1 OAI and 1 PSS. ROC Graduation scheduled this week with 5 graduates. Temecula SAPT, census is 139; no vacancies. Perris SAPT Census 202; Vacancies: TAP OA III and PSS.</p>	
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p><u>Behavioral Health Commission (BHC)</u> – Brenda reported that at the last BH Commission, Dr. Chang shared a presentation on the Mead Valley Wellness Village. They also talked about Care Court and the need for increasing the petitions numbers for all Counties. Brenda shared a wonderful celebrate recovery story. They also talked about the ROCK Softball Tournament in Beaumont that is open to the public.</p> <p><u>Membership Committee</u> – No report available.</p> <p><u>Children's Committee</u>- Don reported that at the last Children's Committee Ericka Edney, Peer Support Specialist, did an awesome presentation on the Housing Navigation Program for youth. They provided regional updates and shared once again the Art created by our members being displayed at empty storefronts out in the desert region. One piece of art was sold for 3,000 dollars.</p> <p><u>Older Adults Committee</u> – No report as the next Older Adult Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th.</p> <p><u>Adult System of Care Committee</u>- Brenda reported that they had presentation from the Corona Wellness & Recovery Center given by Girlyanne Lascon. Brenda recommended that her presentation be given at the BH Commission meeting.</p> <p><u>Criminal Justice Committee</u> – Dolores reported that at the last Criminal Justice Committee they discussed Proposition 36, which allows for felony charges and increased sentences for repeat offenders of theft and drug related crimes. Brenda added that they have applied for funding.</p> <p>Carolina Ayala commented that she is with the Happier Life Project they are a recovery community organization. They have recovery coaches, peer support specialists, community health workers, case managers, etc. A lot of them are formally incarcerated and are in recovery themselves. They currently have some MOUs in place with probation and have some state funds to work with re-entry folks. She wants to extend that and wants to know if there is a way where their organization could be of support with people going through this, as well as helping members navigate with housing. She is looking at what they can do so people know that they are available to support them. Brenda Scott suggested that she attend the next criminal justice committee as the administrators who can answer her questions attend this meeting. Carolina noted that she will attend the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Housing Committee</u> – No report as the next Housing Committee is on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. for those interested in attending.</p>	

Mid-County Region Behavioral Health Advisory Board
January 8, 2026

Committee Reports Continued	<p>Legislative Committee – Dr. Haessler reported that Tim Kirkconnell from RUHS attend the meeting. There were a couple of measures that were interesting to them, one being that in order for Peer Support Specialists to be licensed they would need a high school diploma or a GED. They discussed the advantages and disadvantages. Don commented that right now to complete the state exam to be a certified medical peer support specialist you must have a high school diploma or GED. Brenda noted that she believes that Cory Jackson introduced a bill where you wouldn't have to have a high school diploma or GED. Carolina commented about the AB 96 and the removal of the high school diploma. It was her understanding that reason why was to make it so the CHW workforce was coinciding with the peer support workforce and being able to support it. Dr. Haessler commented that any mental health professional is required to have a background check to be licensed. This makes sense due to their position.</p> <p>Veterans Committee – Dr. Black reported that this meeting was cancelled. Next meeting will be held on May 6th as they meet every other month.</p>	
Public Comments	No public comments were made.	
Board Member Comments	None	
Agenda Item Request	<p>Don requested to have the Happier Life Project do a presentation for this board.</p> <p>Presentations for next month will be Parent Support & Training and Friday Night Live.</p>	
Next Meeting	Next Mid-County Regional Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2026, at Temecula Adult BH Clinic, 40925 County Center Dr., Suite 200, CA 92591.	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.	

Mid-County Region Behavioral Health Advisory Meeting Attendance												
Calendar Year 2026												
Members	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1. Walter Haessler, M.D.	x	x	x									
2. Brenda Scott	x	x	x									
3. Dr. Vernita Black	A	x	x									
4. Don Kendrick	A	x	x									
5. Dolores DeMartino	x	x	x									
6. Maritza Camacho	A	A	A									
7. Ramon Amado	A	A	A									