

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR November 5, 2025 • 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 12:02 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. 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 as written from September 3, 2025 and Rick Gentillalli seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Madam Chair Brenda Scott said she missed seeing everyone in our BHC meeting last month as it had to be unexpectedly cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances and encouraged all to get involved with the BHSA planning process and announced upcoming NAMI walks.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –

Launa Wilson requested that the letter sent to the commission from Board of Supervisor Karen Spiegel's office be placed into the minutes for public record.

Beatriz Gonzalez echoed the sentiments of Launa Wilson.

Rick Gentillalli shared that the letter received from Supervisor Spiegel's office he understood it to be from her office and not the entire BOS and felt it was sent to the commission as a courtesy letter in efforts to help the commission run smoother.

Elysse Rico shared that the letter was meant as a reminder to the commission of their roles and responsibilities.

April Smith announced that Supervisor Gutierrez district will be handing out free produce to the community on 11/8/25 and 11/24/25 in Moreno Valley.

PUBLIC REMARKS –

Ms. Johnson announced she would reach out to county counsel regarding the letter being requested to be shared in the minutes for public record.

Melissa Vasquez shared the Western Eagle Foundation in Temecula is having their free food Friday that feeds a family of four from 10am to 1pm every other Friday through the month of December and would share the information with the BHC liaison to be sent out via email.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dr. Matthew Chang

Dr. Chang provided a brief update and announced all projects are on target to open as scheduled if not sooner and shared there would be 58 beds for continuum of care. Dr. Chang also thanked the commission for their continued support and dedication to the hard work, time and effort they put into Behavioral Health and SAPT to provide the best care possible to the community we serve.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Family Advocate (Will Wynn)

Willard Wynn, Family Advocate Program Manager, introduced Maria Rodrigues (Angie). Ms. Rodrigues shared that her brother received services from the department, but it did not go without challenges. Prior to receiving services, he had been arrested so she sought out services through Main Street Clinic and met with Maria Algarin who provided her with support and got her engaged with family to family and other support groups where she was able to build connections with other family members. Ms. Rodrigues was able to later support her brother by getting him on conservatorship, linking him to outpatient services where he was able to start medications. This encouraged her to work with families in similar situations, and she became a family advocate with RUHS BH. She continued to advocate on her brother's behalf many times as the medication needed to be adjusted and other services were needed. Ms. Rodrigues shared that her brother was placed at Sylmar and went missing from there for about a year and a half after leaving the facility and was last hospitalized in 2016. She shared that he has now been living in San Jacinto for 13 years, however, he did leave the facility last year and was missing for 10 weeks but was located in Corona and started on his medications again and has been doing well since. She concluded that she is retiring with the department but has been grateful for the experience to help her brother and other families.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. BHSA Update (David Schoelen)

David Schoelen provided a BHSA Update, please see power point link below.

https://www.ruhealth.org/sites/default/files/Behavioral_Health/BH%20Commission/bhsa-condensed-stakeholder-ds.pdf

2. BHC Annual Report FY 24/25 (Action Item)

Brenda Scott made motion to approve motion as written and moving forward an ad hoc committee would be established to review and evaluate the annual report form for revision. Elysee Rico seconded the motion. The motion carried with majority of the commission voting in favor and one abstention from commissioner Quintilia Ávila (those in absence: Carole Schaudt and Harshitaa Arunkumar).

3. December 3, 2025 Meeting Discussion

Due to the BHC meeting being cancelled unexpectedly in October the commission agreed to meet on December 3, 2025 to meet the meeting requirements of 10 meetings per fiscal year.

COMMITTEE UPDATE –

April Smith shared she Chaired the Legislative meeting this morning and had a discussion on BHSA and will provide information via email from the CAL BHB/C.

Victoria St. Johns announced the Children's committee has moved back to the Myers building and Diana Gutierrez provided a BHSA update.

Greg Damewood announced the Criminal Justice committee will be meeting on 14th Street and all are welcome to attend in person and Western Regional Advisory Board will be meeting today at 3pm virtually and encouraged all to attend.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Greg Damewood requested overview of RUHS Foundation.

Brenda Scott requested Ad-Hoc committees established for forms and bylaws.

Quintilia Ávila requested site review visits and restructure of standing committees.

Rick Gentillalli requested update from department of plans to move forward with AI.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:44 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 2025/26 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

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

Present = P • Absent = A

PRESENT			
Deborah Johnson	Kristen Miller	Rachel Gileno	Leah Newell
Dr. Chang	Dorothy Cockrell	Maria Cruz	George Gaeta
Sylvia Bishop	Denise Morgan	Kami Winston	Shannon McCleerey-Hooper
Lucy Lopez	Willard Wynn	Orli Zaprir	Tony Ortego
Israel Torres	Melissa Vasquez	Dani Damewood	Miriam Resendiz
Rhyan Miller	Martha Burns	Carolina Ayala	Mary Carpio
Amy McCann	Lauren Adamson	Beverly McKeddie	Lisa Erazo
Nosheen Samuel	Tyrone Peterson	Alvaro Segura	Jacqueline Markussen
Aaron Perez	Ye Jee Yoshimura	Kristen Duffy	Melissa Noone
David Schoelen	Laurence Gonzaga	Sonia Gomez	Jennel Rand
Francisco Huerta	Marisela Gil	Dolores DeMartino	Elizabeth Del Rio
Sandy Awad	Jane Beamer	Dr. Benitez	Melissa Dalke
Janine Moore	Rubit Romero	Silvia Silva	