

## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES FOR January 9, 2025 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

### **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS –**

Chair, Richard Divine called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:00 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll call and followed by introductions.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –**

Brenda Scott made a motion to approve minutes as written from November 6, 2024 and Greg Damewood seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS –**

Chair, Richard Divine, expressed he means no disrespect if he mispronounces anyone's name.

### **COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –**

Brenda Scott expressed her concerns over the devastating Los Angeles fires and how everyone is being affected, and her thoughts are with them all. She also gave recognition to President Carter's funeral services being held and asked if minutes and agendas of all meetings (BHC, RAB, Standing Committees) can be shared with commission and public.

Chair, Richard Divine, also expressed politics aside President Carter was a great humanitarian.

Rick Gentillalli asked if the Veterans would be included in the Wellness Center.

### **PUBLIC REMARKS –**

Rhyan Miller replied to Rick Gentillalli sharing that there will be integrated services available for Veterans as well as space availability on floor one of the Wellness Center where staff can meet with consumer Veterans and the department will inform VA departments they work with so they are aware that will be available.

Dakota Brown asked if there are any videos being shared they are captioned for accessibility.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – TABLED**

## **CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Family Advocate (Willard Wynn)**

Willard Wynn, Family Advocate Services Program Manager, introduced Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin. Mr. McLaughlin began by sharing his son, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia, and went unrecognized until his son assaulted him. Mr. McLaughlin found himself unprepared and overwhelmed and although he is an educator was unable to help his son. He later realized the signs were there and traced them back to when he noticed them during covid. His son was showing signs of paranoia and would isolate himself and quit school and would travel alone for extensive periods of time and they were not able to contact him. He noticed his son did not have an appetite, did not sleep, loss interest in hobbies and his self-care was no longer of importance. He and his wife thought by having him home they could keep him safe but that was not the case, he assaulted them, and they were forced to call 911 for mental health services and sought help through the MH Diversion Program. Mr. McLaughlin expressed no family should have to go through such a traumatic situation such as theirs alone. And that he and his wife have learned to become proactive and not reactive.

Mrs. McLaughlin shared that her son is improving with meds and services, and that treatment is the answer not punishment, mental illness does not discriminate but neither does hope. She continued by expressing it has been a journey but by the grace of God's support and the Family Advocate program they have provided a lifeline and given hope reminding all that if one family member suffers all suffer and if one rejoices, they all rejoice. Mrs. McLaughlin continued with saying during her teaching career she and with all that she has learned through this journey she has been able to help a coworker who was having suicide ideations and able to provide them with resources to obtain services. She is now also able to recognize signs of mental illness and able to help a student receive therapy and additional support through an IEP instead of receiving any disciplinary action. She expressed that people are not shamed for having cancer or diabetes so why should someone with a mental illness be shamed and to support changing that stigma during back-to-school nights she floods the school with behavioral health resources in efforts to build awareness because it is necessary to seek services. Mrs. McLaughlin concluded by saying "While we can't control everything that happens to our loved ones, we can learn how to support them through resources".

## **NEW BUSINESS-**

### **1. Fiscal Update/Budget Data Report (Amy McCann)**

Amy McCann, Behavioral Health and Community Health Center Comptroller, provided the Fiscal Year 24/25 Budget and Finance Overview. Ms. McCann began sharing the fiscal year's annual budget is \$925 million. The Budget overview for Behavioral Health includes outpatient and full-service partnership (FSP) services, prevention and innovation projects, crisis and emergency services, inpatient and residential treatment, detention behavioral healthcare, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and public guardian.

She explained the funding source 1991 realignment state budget shortfalls realigned responsibility and limited funding for community-based outpatient services, institutes for mental disease (IMD) and state hospitals to counties limited source of funds that can pay for IMD, MHRC and state hospital. The Realignment 2011 once again due to state budget shortfalls realigned responsibility and limited funding for children's and substance abuse medical services, clients are entitled to services based on eligibility. Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) approved by voters in November of 2004 will transform to BHSA in July 2026 and component specific funding for community services and support (CSS) a plan by age group, FSP requirement and no involuntary services, Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), Innovation, Capital/Technical, Workforce Education and Training (WET).

Ms. McCann continued by sharing the fiscal year 24/25 proposed funding sources for RUHS-BH were as follows: Prop 63 (MHSA) 218.5M, Medi-Cal 351.3M, County General Fund 25.2M, AB109 28.7M, 2011 realignment 103.5M, 1991 realignment 54.4M and Federal/other 29.5M, totaling 925M. Finance Opportunities: Cal Aim included payment reform which changed medical reimbursement model, new benefits to medi-cal members through contract with managed care plans, Enhanced Care Management (ECM). As well as community support that included sobering centers, housing navigation, deposits, tenancy, recuperative care and short-term post hospitalization. BH Connect (community based organized networks of equitable care and treatment) included federal demonstration waiver approved in December 2024 that allows counties to opt in to initiative which allows for medi-cal billing in certain IMD excluded facilities if they commit to the broader service delivery requirements and evidence-based practices. Ms. McCann concluded by sharing Prop 1 passed by voters in 2024 so that the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) will then become the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). This goes into effect on July 1, 2026 and changes funding categories from community support and services (CSS), PEI and innovation to 30% for housing, 35% for FSP, 35% for Behavioral Health Services and supports and State share taken off the top increases from 5% to 10% for prevention services 4%, workforce 3% and oversight/monitoring 3%.

**2. Employee Appreciation Winner (Cheryl Coson)**

Cheryl Coson, Senior Clinical Therapist with Workforce Education and Training announced Cynthia Reinhard, Clinical Therapist II with the Mobile Crisis Response, as the employee who was recognized and nominated as this quarter's Employee Appreciation Winner. A video was shared, and Ms. Reinhard was presented with a plaque. Her supervisor Cynthia Ferreiro spoke and praised her for her hard work and dedication and recognized her for her outstanding work. Ms. Reinhard was also acknowledged and given praise by the police officers in attendance that she works alongside. Ms. Reinhard concluded by giving thanks to her supervisor, coworkers and officers for their support and recognition.

**3. Annual BHC Training Discussion**

Behavioral Health Commission Liaison, Sylvia Bishop announced that the next annual commission training will be held on August 6, 2025 at 10am. The training will be provided by Theresa Comstock with CALBHBC, and the training will be "How to be an effective MH/BH Board/Commission" and she will tailor the training to discuss several other topics the commission has requested.

**OLD BUSINESS-**

**1. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update - (David Schoelen)**

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator, began by sharing he has been asked on many occasions what becomes of the feedback provided during the Public Hearings and Stakeholder process and shared CBAT is one of many programs that was a result from the feedback shared by the public (CBAT falls under the MHSA CSS portion).

Mr. Schoelen continued by sharing MHSA regulation is still in place until BHSA becomes effective in terms of planning in July of 2026. He continued by sharing that the community participation planning process (CPPP), known as the Stakeholder process, allows the public an opportunity to provide their feedback on services and much more within the Behavioral Health Department, will remain in effect when MHSA transitions to BHSA.

He announced the planning process is now taking place to prepare for the report that is due in July and there are two parts to CPPP, one being a 30-day posting of the draft plan that will take place in April and the other part consisting of a public hearing process. The public hearing process includes three in person public hearings and a virtual option. Mr. Schoelen concluded with announcing the public hearing dates and that they will coincide with the MIMHM events that take place on May 1, 2025 in the Desert, May 8, 2025 in Mid-County and May 15, 2025 in the Western Region, locations still to be determined.

## **2. Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (SAPT) Update – (April Frey)**

April Frey, Administrator of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program shared the RODA report was received and proud to announce that Riverside showed a decrease in deaths caused by overdose and a decrease nationwide. She shared her program will continue to raise awareness and provide treatment and brought Narcan to share with everyone. She continued by announcing this year the Overdose Awareness Walk is set for April 12, 2025 at Fairmount Park, April 26, 2025 at the Palm Desert Civic Center and June 7, 2025 in Murrieta at the Town Square Park. The planning committee for these events are accepting members who are interested in helping and meet on January 13, 2025 and January 27, 2025 and is a virtual meeting. Ms. Frey also announced that Recovery Happens will take place on September 7, 2025 at Fairmount Park in Riverside and the planning committee for that event is also accepting members and if interested please ask for a meeting schedule. She concluded by sharing the ASAM fourth edition is continuing to move forward and will meet with the HDA on January 29<sup>th</sup> and provide another update as it will add new levels of care to the system and actively trying to bring more recovery beds to the County.

## **3. Care Court Update – (Marcus Cannon)**

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on Care Court sharing that there were 118 petitions and 116 clients. And of 217 integrated referrals, 208 individuals were referred. 63 of those became CARE Court Petitions and 53 of those petitions were filed directly in Civil Court. Mr. Cannon also announced that two clients graduated in December and concluded by providing the link below where resources can be found.

**Resources Available:**

[www.Care-Act.org](http://www.Care-Act.org)

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES –**

Victoria St. Johns reported Children's committee met in December and encourage all to attend on January 28, 2025.

April Smith announced the Legislative committee meets every other month and will meet on February 5, 2025.

Greg Damewood announced the Western Regional Advisory Board will meet after the BHC meeting each month at 3pm and all are encouraged to attend. He also shared the Criminal Justice committee meeting will meet on January 15, 2025 at 12pm at 3625 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Riverside, CA 92501 and all are welcome to attend.

Brenda Scott reported Mid County RAB met last week in Lake Elsinore and discussed goals for 2025 and next week the Older Adult System of Care committee and the Older Adult Integrated System of Care Committee will meet and encouraged all to attend.

Rick Gentillalli shared the Veteran's Committee met prior to the BHC meeting and had three combat veterans share their lived experiences, and the committee discussed their goals for 2025 were to focus on opioids, homelessness and stigma surrounding mental health and suicide awareness and prevention. He concluded by announcing the committee meets every other month and will meet again on March 5, 2025 at 10am at Rustin.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Housing Presentation suggested by Launa Wilson.

MHSA Annual Update FY 25/26 suggested by David Schoelen.

Site reviews suggested by Victoria St. Johns.

Committee's Presentation suggested by Launa Wilson.

Facility Presentation suggested by Greg Damewood.

**ADJOURN** – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

*Sylvia Bishop*

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April Smith, BHC Secretary

Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

#### FY 2024/25 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

MEMBERS	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
April Smith, District	A	A	A	A	P					
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	P	A	A					
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	A	A	P					
Carole Schaudt, District 4	P	P	ML	A	ML					
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P	P	P	A					
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	A	A	A	A	P					
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P					
Harshita Arunkumar, Dist. 1	P	ML	P	P	P					
Launa Wilson, District 1	A	P	P	P	P					
Quintilia Ávila, District 2	-	-	P	P	P					
Richard Divine, District 2	P	P	P	P	P					
Rick Gentillalli, District 5	P	P	ML	P	P					
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P	P	P					
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 3	ML	P	P	P	P					

Present = P • Absent = A • Medical Leave = ML

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](mailto:SBishop@ruhealth.org)

PRESENT		
Bill Brenneman	Alea Jackson	Lupe Madrigal
Lucy Lopez	Amy McCann	Robin Smith
Sylvia Bishop	Corinthia McLaughlin	Lydia Session
Deborah Johnson	Stephen McLaughlin	Sandy Murillo
Rhyan Miller	Conni Ryder	Dani Damewood
Shannon McCleerey-Hooper	Karen Franks	Jennel Rand
Willard Wynn	Misty Martin	Melissa Vasquez
Francisco Huerta	Jennifer Cappelen	Israel Torres
Kristen Duffy	Kristy Johnson	Lawrence Blake
April Frey	Michael L.	Will Rogers
Kristen Miller	Gloria Moriarty	Dakota Brown
Tony Ortego	Cythia Reinhard	Miriam Resendiz
Diana Gutierrez	B. Merrill	Lisa Erazo
Marcus Cannon	Claudia Vizcaino	Beatriz Morales
Maria Martha Moreno	Cheryl Coson	M. Hinman
David Schoelen	Ingrid Butler	Kami Winston
Novanh Xayarath	Jonathan Figueroa	Martha Buras

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY	
Jane Beamer	Janine Moore
Sheila Mallett-Smith	Miranda De Shields
Jacqueline Markussen	Michael Ruiz
Dolores De Martino	Robin Reid
Leah Newell	Elysse Rico