

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR May 7, 2025 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

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

Vice Chair Brenda Scott called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:01 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 April 2, 2025 and Launa Wilson seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Vice Chair Brenda Scott chaired the BHC meeting on behalf of Chair Richard Divine, wishing him well and looking forward to his return. She also shared her excitement about the upcoming May is Mental Health Month events taking place.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –

Daryl Terrell introduced Moreno Valley City Manager, Brian Mohan who attended the BHC meeting.

Greg Damewood expressed his concern that the comments made about people with autism from Kennedy were inappropriate.

Victoria St. Johns shared the Desert's MIMHM event included lunch and a TAY talent show and overall was an amazing event.

Sheila Mallett Smith announced she had accompanied Brenda Scott for a site visit at the Wellness and Recovery clinic in Lake Elsinore and learned all the work being done and appreciated the focus on the mature adults to live a valuable life.

Rick Gentillalli shared he concluded a case in Los Angeles that was a part of a federal investigation which brought a lot of attention to the issues and concerns surrounding fentanyl. And how the substance user can receive a twenty-year sentence but feels that it should be the dealers receiving these sentences.

PUBLIC REMARKS –

April Frey announced May is National Treatment Care Month and celebrating across the county including the annual Roc Baseball Tournament would be taking place.

Joseph Paige announced he hosts the Hemet Beat Daily show and will be at the MIMHM events.

Elysse Rico announced there would be a Veterans event taking place and for more information can reach out.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Behavioral Health Department Operations) – Dr. Matthew Chang

Dr. Chang provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Department and Operations. He began by sharing BH is one of four departments under RUHS, the others include the Medical Center, Community Health Centers and Public Health. The health system has proven to function well with each other to support the community. He continued by sharing there are 13 CHC's across the county that offer care integration. The focus being continuum of care from access level of care to higher level of care ensuring that those needing services ranging from outpatient to inpatient services are receiving that and any services in between such as housing, mental health court, substance use and so much more. Dr. Chang mentioned that RUHS was the first County to opt into DMCODS and were able to expand into levels of care within five jails and three juvenile halls. Even with underfunding the County has managed to find ways to increase levels of care. The current concern being that Riverside is the fastest growing county with rising needs in the community, with a population of 110,000 more, with more people and minimal funding, it is not the ideal situation. To resolve this the county has built on its continuum of care by expanding more residential beds, expanding on crisis teams, seeking competitive grants, following up with hospital ER's, BH integration, FSP's, CARE Court and continuing with the Wellness Village. Dr. Chang continued by explaining the county has sought out funding when available. He continued by sharing the function of the Mobile Crisis Response Teams, its partnerships with the police department and announced the decrease of criminal behavior, ED visits, inpatient psych hospitals and an increase for access to PCPs. He also shared Take my Hand received the California State Association of Counties 2021 Challenge Award for their live certified peer support specialist chat app which allows a trained and skilled coach to support a person's wellness by responding to questions and assisting them by connecting them to resources all while remaining anonymous. He lightly reviewed the CARE Court referral and petitions process. Dr. Chang continued by sharing the most recent continuum buildout includes Roy's Desert Springs, MH rehabilitation center, restorative transformation center, COVID in patient bed, No Place Like Home, Home Key, ARC/sobering center and the institution for mental disease. Dr. Chang concluded by announcing the future continuum buildout includes the Hulen Place which is expected to open in December of 2025, the Franklin Residential Care and BH Clinic which opened in March of 2025, plan to replace the current 30+ year old 77 bed acute psychiatric hospital with a 100 bed expansion and new location for children, adolescents and adults, as well as a new MHRC and Wellness Villages.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Consumer Peer Services (Kristen Duffy)

Kristen Duffy, Consumer Peer Services Program Manager, shared Felipe Diaz Senior Certified Peer Support Specialist with the Justic Outreach Team and Mobile Psychiatric Services and Resident Education and Continuity Clinic had been recently promoted and assisting Shervin Biteng, a consumer of these services. Mr. Biteng began by sharing 2024 was the hardest period in his life, he was homeless, living in his van parked in a Wal Mart parking lot. He had no job, no savings, support from family or friends and barely scraping by with the EBT funds he received. He continued by sharing he would utilize coffee shops and libraries for their internet and had lost hope and felt helpless until he met Mr. Diaz a Veteran peer support specialist who was able to assist him with his challenges and helped him with housing services and other resources. Mr. Biteng shared he also served four years in the air force as a drone pilot. Receiving support from Mr. Diaz was a turning point for Mr. Biteng and during this time he reevaluated his priorities and felt a sense of strength and resilience. He removed unrealistic expectations and found a new sense of growth and a better version of himself as he pushed his limits to transform and progress. In January of 2025 Mr. Biteng moved into a place of his own, he continued his education and will be graduating this month with his degree in NDT with the aerospace technical institute. Of twenty approved students only two were selected to enter the testing procedures program that would allow them to examine rides at Disneyland, and he was one of those two chosen. Mr. Biteng expressed he feels real life skills need to be explored and taught to the youth for people to be prepared and succeed not just for the focus to be on education. He concluded by sharing he is excited for his

new future and will share his knowledge and experiences with others to help them through their challenges.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. **SB43 County Rollout (Dr. Andrew Williams)**

Dr. Andrew Williams, Mental Health Services Administrator, provided an overview of the Senate Bill 43 (SB43) and the implementation plan for January 1, 2026. This bill will involve legal changes to involuntary hold criteria and conservatorship. The implementation involves Riverside County identifying key people to help and support implementation rollout.

Dr. Williams began by providing an overview of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS), explaining it was first enacted in 1967 prior to that there were concerns about excessive long-term psychiatric institutions with consumers due to process and widespread cases of abuse and patient's rights. The LPS Act established due process to prevent the widespread inappropriate and excessive use of involuntary psychiatric hospitalizations. The LPS Act includes the Welfare and Institution Code (WIC 5150 et al.) a California law that stipulates involuntary detainment for psychiatric care; allows counties authority to train, monitor appropriate professionals who can place people on a 5150 involuntary hold and gives specifications about LPS designated facilities that include safeguards and staffing requirements. These are approved by the department of Health Care Services (DCHS) to provide locked inpatient psychiatric care for people placed on 5150 involuntary holds. Prior to September of 2024 Riverside County's 5150 involuntary hold consisted of up to 72 hours for evaluation and treatment, based on probable cause that someone was a danger to their self or others or gravely disabled. The 5250 involuntary hold is a continuation of the initial 5150 hold which allows up to a 14 day hold if the person continues to be a danger to their self or others or gravely disabled and are unwilling or unable to accept voluntary treatment. Also allowing a temporary conservatorship to be implemented up to 30 days if the person remains both gravely disabled and unwilling or incapable of accepting treatment voluntarily. Permanent LPS conservatorship would be consider for up to 1 year and renewable if beyond a reasonable doubt the person remains both gravely disabled and unwilling or incapable of accepting treatment voluntarily. As of September 17, 2024, the Riverside BOS approved Riverside County to enact the WIC 5270.15 (30-day hold) as an involuntary detention treatment option. Patient Autonomy Under Civil Commitment allows a person who is not on conservatorship to retain the ability to make medication decisions except in emergency situations or if their medication capacity is overruled through a Riese hearing. LPS Conservatorship is per court order and placement decisions may but not always imply a locked facility, medication decisions and other rights that can be removed such as money management, medical treatment, voting rights, contract decision and the right to a driver's license and firearm. There are several LPS facilities which include general acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, jail inpatient units, MH urgent cares, outpatient psychiatric urgent cares and health facilities and soon the MH rehabilitation centers.

Dr. Williams continued by then providing an overview of SB43 which was signed into law by Governor Newsom in October of 2023, which is the most significant reform to the LPS Act since 1967. SB43 expands California's LPS 5150 criteria for involuntary detention and conservatorship by creating a new set of eligibility criteria that are based solely on a person's mental health disorder of severe substance use disorder (SUD) resulting in someone being unable to provide their basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, personal safety and/or necessary medical care. SB43 also allows people to be placed on a 5150 and other involuntary holds based on the severity of their SUD and meeting at least 6 of the 11 criteria symptoms. This bill would benefit more people to receive the services they need but could also potentially deter

people from disclosing their substance use or cause constraints in capacity with the LPS facilities. This bill did not change the definition of grave disability when referring to children and youth under the age of 18, a separate statute (WIC 5585.25) governs the definition of grave disability for children and youth. Given SB43's broad implications on the specialty mental health and SUD system, Riverside County and most counties have a multi-year planning and rollout process. SB43 went into effect on January 1, 2024, however, the law allowed counties to delay implementation until January 1, 2026 allowing time to coordinate rollout on implementation. Dr. Williams concluded by sharing the primary focuses of SB43 are client flow, system mapping and guidelines, LPS designation and training, treatment and care planning, court processes/adherence to court orders, community education and collaboration, staffing, budgets and managed care plan coordination.

2. Elections (Action Item)

The commission took a vote, and Brenda Scott was announced as the Chair, Victoria St. Johns as the Vice Chair and Greg Damewood as the Secretary for the next fiscal year 2025/2026 Executive Team. There were no floor for nominations.

3. Site Review Updates - TABLED

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Site Visit review/updates suggested by Sylvia Bishop

Annual BHC Report suggested by Greg Damewood.

WET Employee Appreciation Winner suggested by Cheryl Coson.

3 Project Overview suggested by Brenda Scott.

Department AI plans suggested by Walter Haessler.

QIC update suggested by Launa Wilson.

MPS overview suggested by Brenda Scott.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

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	N/A	N/A	A	P	
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	A	A	P	P	A	P	P	
Carole Schaudt, District 4	P	P	ML	A	ML	ML	A	P	A	
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	
Elysse Rico, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	A	P	
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Harshita Arunkumar, Dist. 1	P	ML	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	
Launa Wilson, District 1	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	
Quintilia Ávila, District 2	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Richard Divine, District 2	P	P	P	P	P	P	M/L	M/L	A	
Rick Gentillalli, District 5	P	P	ML	P	P	P	P	A	P	
Sheila Mallet-Smith, Dist. 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 3	ML	P	P	P	P	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

PRESENT		
Bill Brenneman	Heidi Gomez	Kami Winston
Lucy Lopez	Shannon McCleeryHooper	Carmela Sote
Sylvia Bishop	Maria Martha Moreno	Bernadette Belton
Deborah Johnson	April Frey	Sandy Murillo
Dr. Chang	Jaqueline Markussen	Conni Rider
Kristen Duffy	David Schoelen	Marisela Gil
Diana Gutierrez	Willard Wyn	Kimberly Leiva
Tony Ortego	Lisa Erazo	Dani Damewood
Kristen Miller	Lawrence Blake	Joseph Paige
Alea Jackson	Israel Torres	Joe Banez
Chris Benetiz	Dylan Colt	Miranda Deshields
Novanh Xayarath	Miriam Resendiz	Shervin Biteng
Nisha Elliott	Lauren Adamson	Brian Mohan
Maureen Dopson	Carina Gustafsson	
Andrew Williams	Francisco Huerta	
Kelly Grotsky	Felipe Diaz	

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY	
Melissa Noone	Rachel Gileno
Beverly McKeddie	Beth Sellers
Ashleig Martinez	Elizabeth Del Rio
Richard Divine	Amelia Diaz
Leah Newell	
Jennel Rand	
Omara Moreno	
Orli Zaprir	
Melissa Dalke	
Girlyanne Lacson	