

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

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

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

Madame 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 June 4, 2025 and Greg Damewood seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Madam Chair Brenda Scott reminded the commissioners to consider a site visit for the future and also announced the senate passed a current legislation that will include a lot of cuts in Mental Health and encouraged others to send letters to their congressman.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –

Greg Damewood agreed with Madam Chairs remarks and announced he has written numerous letters and recently received a memo from the department of developmental services that mentioned they will instruct all regional centers to help support individuals and attempt to address mental health.

PUBLIC REMARKS – Joe Banios with Treatment Atlas returned to give thanks and shared his appreciation to the department of Behavioral Health and announced that this year they had half a million visitors and on target to exceed that this year. In closing, he gave thanks to Heidi and her team for their partnership and stated he looks forward to their continued work together.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dr. Matthew Chang

TABLED

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Parent Support (Maria Arnold)

LaGwenda Hill, Senior Certified Peer Support Specialist, introduced Deidre Devor on behalf of Maria Arnold, Parent Partner Program Manager. Ms. Devor shared her recovery journey and began by sharing she was an addict for fifteen years, homeless for five years and a domestic violence survivor. She had lost her rights over her children and went to MFI and completed inpatient treatment as well as graduated from family preservation court earlier this year. She also attended the Moms program and received services and through them they were able to assist her with accessing WIC services so that she no longer had to pay full cost for formula and would not have to continue donating blood to afford the formula. During family preservation court she agreed to a urine test two to three times a week, as well as attending three NA classes, Domestic Violence and parenting classes as well as Triple P parenting classes. Through the classes she completed she learned how to stop parenting out of guilt and rebuild her relationships with her children. She announced that today she is 448 days sober and sponsoring another parent and being an example that Moms do recover. She has regained rights over some of her children and continues to work on taking care of all four of her children and looking forward to her future with her children.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. **MPS (Mobile Psychiatric Services) and RECC (Resident Education and Continuity Clinic) Overview – Amy Maddigan**

An overview for both MPS and RECC was provided by Amy Maddigan, Behavioral Health Services Supervisor. Please see power point links of presentations included below.

MPS power point presentation:

https://www.ruhealth.org/sites/default/files/Behavioral_Health/BH%20Commission/2025%20Files/mps-presentation.pdf

RECC power point presentation:

https://www.ruhealth.org/sites/default/files/Behavioral_Health/BH%20Commission/2025%20Files/recc-presentation.pdf

OLD BUSINESS-

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

- a. **Approve MHSA Annual Update (Action Item)**

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator, provided an update on the 2025/2026 MHSA Plan (please see link to power point presentation below). Mr. Schoelen then asked for the commission's approval to the MHSA plan which he provided to them for review in advance. Commissioner Greg Damewood made motion for approval, Commissioner Victoria St. Johns seconded the approval, all were in favor with one abstention from Commissioner Beatriz Gonzalez.

MHSA Plan Update power point presentation:

https://www.ruhealth.org/sites/default/files/Behavioral_Health/BH%20Commission/2025%20Files/mhsa-plan-update-7.2.25.pdf

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

Heidi Gomez, SAPT Administrator, announced there will be no 1 Life 1 Heart 5k Walk in 2026 but this year there were three held in Murrieta, Riverside and the Desert. Combined there were over 200 exhibitors, 150 volunteers, and it was an overall well received event. She also shared that this year there were 139 less deaths reported from overdose poisoning. Ms. Gomez also shared the Recovery Happens event will take place on September 25, 2025 at Fairmount Park in Riverside and encouraged everyone to attend and invite others.

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

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on CARE Court. Please see power Point presentation below.

Care Act Update power point presentation:

https://www.ruhealth.org/sites/default/files/Behavioral_Health/BH%20Commission/2025%20Files/bhc-care-act-update-7.2.25.pdf

COMMITTEE UPDATE –

Victoria St. Johns provided a brief update on Children's Committee, and all are welcomed to attend, they meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at Rustin.

Greg Damewood gave a brief update on the Criminal Justice Committee, sharing they meet every other month and again in September on 14th Street, and all are encouraged to attend and invite others.

Rick Gentillalli provided brief update on the Veterans Committee sharing that they met earlier this morning at 10am and meeting is offered in person or virtually and meet every other month and will meet again in September and all are welcomed. Concluded by wishing everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Brenda Scott gave a brief update on ASOC, Housing, OASOC and Mid-County RAB.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Annual BHC Report suggested by Greg Damewood.

Suicide Prevention suggested by Diana Gutierrez.

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.

County Medicaid solutions suggested by Greg Damewood.

Alternatives to conservatorship suggested by Greg Damewood.

RUHS Foundation Overview suggested by Greg Damewood.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:49 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

Minutes and agendas of meetings are available online at:
<http://www.ruhealth.org/behavioral-health/advisory-committees>

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or email SBishop@ruhealth.org

FY 2025/26 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

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

Present = P • Absent = A

PRESENT		
Bill Brenneman	Kristen Miller	Danielle Gonzalez
Lucy Lopez	Israel Torres	Dani Damewood
Sylvia Bishop	Nisha Elliott	Laurence Blake
Deborah Johnson	Carina Gustafsson	Maria Cruz
Jaqueline Markussen	LaGwenda Hill	Sandy Awad
Rhyan Miller	Deidre Devore	Sandy Murillo
David Schoelen	Amy Maddigan	Dakota Brown
Shannon McCleerey-Hooper	Maria Martha Moreno	Miriam Resendiz
Andrew William	B. Reyes	Carlos Escobar
Willard Wynn	Iran	Luz Rodriguez
Kristen Duffy	Martha Burns	Will Rogers
Heidi Gomez	Hunar Moon	Sergio Rodriguez
Tony Ortego	Joe Banez	Anniemarie Morales
Diana Gutierrez	Dylan Colt	Jennel Rand

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY		
Richard Divine	Melissa Dalke	Mary Carpio
Jane Beamer	Laurence Gonzaga	Dolores
Steven Willis	Silvia Silva	Melissa Noone
Scott Weigold	Mary Appril	Aaron Perez
Sandy Murillo	Steve McNally	Carmina Hernandez
April Frey	Elizabeth Del Rio	Ashley Housley