



# BH CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting the 4th Tuesday of Every Month

Recorder: Saida Spencer: Executive Assistant II  
[sspencer@ruhealth.org](mailto:sspencer@ruhealth.org) 951-358-7348

**RUHS–Behavioral Health**  
**Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee**  
**Meeting MINUTES**  
**12/3/2024**

Tori St. Johns, BHC, Joshua Korhely, RUHS-BH, Yazan Khoury, RC SELPA, Luciana Hsu, SSG/RCC, Lupe Madrigal, SAPT, Kelly Grotsky, RUHS-BH, Diana Gutierrez, PEI, Javier Garcia, Carolyn E. Wylie Center, Crystal Garcia-Ruacho, JVUSD, Laisa Jamison, JVUSD, Jana Garrett, SSG-RCC, John DeVries, VCSS, George Gaeta, RUHS Marketing, Media, Miranda DeShields, RUHS-BH.

**Hybrid (OWL):** Novanh Xayarath, RUHS-BH, Western, Robert Bohon-Lara, TAY Desert, Maria Arnold, PS&T, Janate Valenzuela, Dep Public Defenders SPARK Team Program, Glenn Ferdinand, Cal Mentor, Louise Polzel, Cal Mentor, Rachel Douglas, PS&T.

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**Meeting Called to Order & Introductions:** 12:00 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves and their agencies.

**Announcements:** Miranda DeShields shared the following: Western Children’s Region and Central Children’s Region have received the go ahead to hire an Executive Assistant I. Interviews start this week.

George Gaeta introduced himself as the new Marketing, Media & Communications Coordinator for RUHS-BH.

**Review of Minutes:** The October 22, 2024, minutes reviewed. Tori St. Johns, motions to approve the minutes as written, Joshua Korhely seconded the motion and members were all in favor.

**Chairperson Remarks:** Tori shared the following:

The Pride Parade was great and there was over 8000 in attendance. Tori will share the video at the next meeting - January 28, 2025. Riverside County’s staff was magnificent, manning The Youth Zone Saturday and Sunday.

**Department of Behavioral Health Updates:**

**Desert Children’s Region:** Kelly Grotsky shared the following updates:

Thank you, Rob, for doing an amazing job coordinating the volunteers and making sure that they covered The Youth Zone. Everyone had such a great time. The parade was incredible, so much energy in the air, and Kelly thanked Tori for sharing space in The Youth Zone.

Kelly had the opportunity to participate in the RIE (Rapid Improvement Event) and participated in a 4-day Youth ECM (Enhanced Care Management) Training. The ECM was launched as an Adult Program some time ago, and now RUHS-BH Children is bringing in a new Youth ECM Supervisor - Bonnie Monfils - for the Youth ECM Program. Bonnie is ready to hire and launch the first team in Mid-County.

- Kelly will keep everyone posted as more information becomes available and will participate in a presentation at some point.

The Longest Night Event will be scheduled throughout Riverside County. The Longest Night Event in the Desert will be held at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission on Thursday December 19 from 5-8 p.m. Supporting the event, and passing out jackets, and warm items as a tribute to those that have lost their lives to homelessness/living on the streets.

- For further information about the Desert Longest Night Event please see the flyer (will email)

**Western Children’s Region:** Novanh Xayarath shared the following updates:

**RUHS–Behavioral Health  
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee  
Meeting MINUTES  
12/3/2024**

The Mindful, Body and Recovery Program - ED (Eating Disorder) Outpatient Program, has a new Supervisor – Jeaneth Alvarez. Jeaneth is now hiring, and just hired a Senior Clinical Therapist, a Behavioral Health Specialist II, and a Degreed Nutritionist. In addition, an offer was made to another Clinical Therapist. The program is slowly building the team and moving forward with the interviews. IOP ED will be temporarily located at 450 East San Jacinto Avenue, Perris, CA, for the next two years and then relocate in 2026 to the Wellness Village.

Novanh shared, as a reminder: The Family Based Therapy for ED (Eating Disorder) Training is scheduled for December 9 & 10, 2024. There are 50 spaces for staff and whatever spaces are left will be sent out as an invite. The program is targeting the Senior Clinicians who have not participated in the training. at 450 East San Jacinto Avenue, Perris, CA, for the next two years and then relocate in 2026 to the Wellness Village.

The FEP (First Episode Psychosis) Program, received approval to hire an expansion team in Mid-County. James Gaylor, Supervisor for the FEP Program, will be interviewing and hiring for five positions. The age range for the FEP is TAY Age. This program will also temporarily be located at 450 East San Jacinto Avenue, Perris, CA, for the next two years and then relocate in 2026 to the Wellness Village.

**Central Children’s Region:** Miranda DeShields shared the following updates:

Pre-School Programs are still working to get the PCIT Mobile Vans on the road. Hoping to launch them in different regions.

Dwayne George, YCFS (Youth Children Family Services) Supervisor, has retired and left the department. That is the program that provides intensive case management services to the highest needs youth that are in short-term residential placement around the state. Hoping to back fill that position and other clinician position that are available.

Continuing the to work on getting the contracts in place with the out of county STRTPs due to a legislative change that went into effect in July. RUHS-BH is responsible for either providing the specialty mental health services or contracting with Providers that do.

Novanh and Miranda received approval to hire an Executive Assistant I and will soon be interviewing to fill that position.

**Behavioral Health Commission/Regional Board Updates:**

**The Desert Regional Board:** Tori St. Johns shared the following:

The Desert Board adopted a family (a grandmother and 5 grandchildren) from Blythe. The meeting was fantastic. In January the board will get to see the pictures.

Although, it is still a little early, the Board is already discussing May is Mental Health Month. Dr. Quinn is also scouting locations and spoke to a manager of a commercial property with store fronts that have empty spaces, whereby, may be able to fill the empty spaces with client art.

**Parent Support & Training:** Rachel Douglas and Maria Arnold shared the following:

Cindy Chavez PS&T promoted to Central Regions Senior Parent Partner and will be working closely with Miranda DeShields. Wrapped up the Thanksgiving Basket project with nearly 100 baskets. The Snowflakes Project is in full swing.

**RUHS–Behavioral Health**  
**Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee**  
**Meeting MINUTES**  
**12/3/2024**

PS&T does not have a count yet.

The program is looking for volunteers (over the age of 18) who are looking for an opportunity to take the “Building Peer Leaders” Training. Parent Support & Training received a grant that allows TAY age/Young Adults to take the Building Peer Leaders Training, paid for by the grant. For those that are interested must first go through the Volunteer Peer Coordinator, who prepares a career plan and will guide the volunteers through the process. Maria will send the flyer –

- Donations will be collected through November 20, 2024. Please contact PS&T Maria Arnold, Program Manager, 951-358-5862 for instructions to drop-off and/or pick up.

PS&T is collecting brand new oversized “Hoodies for Holidays” and all sorts of hygiene products; toothbrushes, bath wash, shampoo, lotions etc... for the TAY Youth in the communities - who rarely get chosen in the Snowflakes Project.

PS&T has a new support group specific for parents and caregivers who are raising children with Autism. Parents/caregivers are invited to a support group, where parents/caregivers can meet other parents, share experiences, and learn about the program’s resources, the support, and services available to families.

- Every third Thursday of the month from 10-12 p.m.
- To register for training please call 951-358-5862

January 2025 a new series in “Nurturing Fathers” will start in Jurupa. Fathers that are interested in taking the 12-week course, reach out to Parent Support - 951-358-5862 - to sign up.

**Prevention & Early Intervention:** Diana Gutierrez, PEI Admin Services Manager shared the following:

PEI launched The Clinical Bereavement Counseling for Suicide Loss. A free 6–8-week sessions with a Clinician in the community for individuals whose lost someone to suicide. To do specific grief work around that complicated loss.

PEI trained 17 Therapist throughout the county.

Clinicians to do that specific bereavement <https://www.rivcospc.org/news/spc-seeking-mental-health-practitioners>.

For further about upcoming events and training information, contact Diana Gutierrez 951-955-3448 [pei@ruhealth.org](mailto:pei@ruhealth.org)

**Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment:** Lupe Madrigal shared the following:

Patient Clinics are running and have plenty of space for any youth referrals, including residential. SAPT is providing intervention and recovery services. For those that do not have a therapist, SAPT offers therapy.

Growing in-school services, and currently in 8 out of 10 districts. Still have pending contracts. Some of the schools are allowing services in the schools even though the contacts are not fully executed.

**Friday Night Live:** Lupe Madrigal shared the following:

The program is currently at 108 chapters and 8 centers. Staff are going out to the Chapters offering support.

**TAY Western & Central:** Joshua Korhely shared the following:

All Peer Support meeting/training every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10-12 for Western and Central. Starting in January 2025, the meetings/trainings will be combined with the Western Crisis Peers and the Substance Use Family Advocates.

Currently there is a BPL (Building Peer Leaders) training going on for the Western Region.

**RUHS–Behavioral Health  
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**TAY Desert:** Robert Lara-Bohon shared the following:

The Pride Parade was great. It was the biggest Pride yet. There were over 200,000 people, and over 8000 people around the globe in attendance.

Rob thanks Tori for allowing TAY to be there. Everyone had a wonderful time. Riverside County’s staff was magnificent, manning The Youth Zone Saturday and Sunday.

Robert thanked the Cultural Competency Team for not only providing the space and all the swag. In addition, a big thank you to Dylan Colt and Misty Martin.

Desert TAY also has their meetings on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Reach out to your senior Peers if there are any questions, concerns, or problems, reach out to Lauren at [LAAdamson@ruhealth.org](mailto:LAAdamson@ruhealth.org) Mid-County, Josh at [JKorhely@ruhealth.org](mailto:JKorhely@ruhealth.org) Western & Central and/or Robert at [RLara@ruhealth.org](mailto:RLara@ruhealth.org) Desert.

**Agency Reports:**

**SSG/RCC:** Jana Garrett, shared the following:

Wrapping up the CBITS group. Focusing on the Peers and Parent Partners preparing for more Peer led groups for the Christmas break. Working on the transitions.

Moved into a new site in Corona and preparing for the transition.

**RC SELPA:** Yazan Khoury shared the following:

SELPA provides ongoing training to their LEAs at no cost to them. In addition, SELPA is opened to anyone who is interested. In addition, starting early this year, preparing for the SELPA Conference in May 14 & 15, 2025.

For those that are interested in participating please contact email Yazan at [Yazan@rcselpa.org](mailto:Yazan@rcselpa.org)

**Next Meeting:** January 28, 2025  
**Time:** 12-2 p.m.  
**Location:** 2085 Rustin Ave., Conf Room 1051  
Riverside, CA 92507  
**Note:** Lunch will be provided

**Pursuant to The Behavioral Health Commissioners: Please note that moving forward the Standing Committee agendas and minutes shall be posted on the website for your reference as well as the Public.**

**<https://www.ruhealth.org/behavioral-health/advisory-committees>**