



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DESERT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
47-825 Oasis St.
Indio, CA 92201

MINUTES
03/11/2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Janice Quinn; Vice-Chairperson, Mark Miller, Tori St Johns, Jim Jones, Huynh Cue Nguyen, Eva Guenther-James, Joe Butts, Sandy Neja, Maura Fisher, Beatriz Gonzalez.

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Carole Schaudt, Richard Divine, Bruce Sherr, Christine Thomstad.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Gileno; Adult Services Administrator, Mary Carpio; Secretary to Rachel Gileno, Denise Morgan; Secretary to Kelly Grotsky, Shawn Harris; Senior Parent Partner; Parent Support & Training Program – Desert Region, Ashley Jean; Senior Peer Support Specialist at the Peer Support and Resource Center in Indio, Elizabeth Aguilar; Family Advocate, RUHS – BH, Carina Hopewell; BHS IV, Cares Line, RUHS-BH, Rubit Romero; Family Advocate, RUHS-BH SAPT, Ally Pope; Peer Support Specialist, RUHS-BH Cares Line.

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS:

Dr Janice Quinn called the meeting of the Riverside County Desert Behavioral Health Advisory Board to order at 12:04 PM. Self-introductions of all who were in attendance in person or by teleconference followed.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sandy Neja announced the next NAMI Walk will occur on November 15, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Limit 3 minutes per speaker):

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Dr. Quinn asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions to the board minutes of the February 11, 2025 meeting. There were no additions, corrections or deletions that needed to be made. Tori St Johns made a motion to accept the minutes, Maura Fisher seconded the motion, and it passed by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Desert Suicide Update Video – American Foundation for Suicide Prevention:

Dr. Janice Quinn gave a PowerPoint slide presentation on behalf of Jamie Rempis who could not attend the meeting. After the presentation, most of the comments had to do with the fact that the data in the presentation was from several years back. Dr. Quinn was hopeful Jamie could attend a future board meeting with a presentation with more current data. For more information on the information that was provided, refer to the attached PowerPoint slides.

Other New Business:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Adopted Family Gift Giveaway Photos Recap:

Shawn Harris showed some photos of the family and the gifts they received.

New Board Goals Continued Planning Review:

Dr. Quinn said one suggestion at the last board meeting was to publish a book containing the writing entries from previous art festivals. Christine Thomstad had said she knew someone who could publish this however, it was learned that the book would have to be compiled ahead of time and that they could assist in the printing process. Dr. Quinn asked that all members continue to put forth ideas for new goals in upcoming meetings.

20th Annual May is Mental Health Month Art Show/2025 John Benoit Behavioral Health Art Festival Update:

Dr. Janice Quinn said this year's show is still scheduled to take place on Tuesday May 13, 2025 at the Taj Mahal building at the fairgrounds. She added there is a lot of art being generated for the show.

Other Old Business:

None.

MONTHLY UPDATE AND REPORT:

Substance Abuse Program Update:

Tabled until the April 8, 2025 meeting.

Peer Support and Resource Center:

Ashley reported they have two art groups going on now and their financial group is going well. She added this week they will be having a guest speaker come out from Altura Credit Union to talk about checking and savings accounts available there. For more information on this and the groups available at this location, refer to the attached calendar and group descriptions.

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program Update:

Rachel Galeno reported Rob Bohon-Lara was unable to attend the meeting, but he did send out a new calendar of events and group descriptions for the month of April. For more information on this, refer to the attached calendar and group descriptions.

March 11, 2025

CHILDRENS SERVICES MANAGER COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno covered this under her Adult Administrator's comments.

ADULT SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno reported the Youth Hospital Intervention Program (YHIP) has been on hold for a while due to staffing issues, but it will be resolved shortly with the hiring of a new person who will start on March 20, 2025. She added they are also working on providing behavioral health services to the youth at Harmony Haven in Beaumont.

Rachel said Kelly and she went to Blythe two weeks ago to talk about and with the goal of increasing the availability of full-service partnerships (FSP) for both children's and adults. She said this year's May is Mental Health event will be held at the Palm Desert Civic Park on May 1, 2025 and they will also be featuring a talent event put on some of their TAY youth.

Rachel thanked Ashley for doing an amazing job at Kathy Myers retirement party and she added that Kathy's position has been posted for an internal promotion. She added there will be another rapid improvement event taking place in Blythe relating to mobile services regarding their strengthening Blythe Community Initiative. She said the Indio Adults clinic is currently recruiting for a new Senior Clinical Therapist (CT), Peer Support Specialist, and Family Advocate. She said they have a new Peer Office that is being developed in the lobby of the Indio Adults Clinic. Rachel concluded by saying that Banning is fully staffed on the adult side now.

Older Adults Administrator's Comments:

Tabled until the April 8, 2025 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Children's Committee Report:

Tori St Johns said the District Attorney's Office gave a presentation which included their therapy dog, a black poodle. She said they also had Friday Night Live updates.

Adults Committee Report:

Jin Jones said he attended online, and they had a presentation on "Man Therapy".

Mature Adults Committee Report:

Maura Fisher said she was unable to attend the meeting because it meets on the same date and at the same time our board does, and she is still awaiting the minutes of the last meeting.

Housing Committee Report:

Sandy Neja reported she did not receive the minutes of the last meeting.

Legislative Report:

No report to give.

Membership Report:

No report given.

Riverside County Desert Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Page 4

March 11, 2025

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Report:

Tori St Johns reported there is a new Wellness Village being built in Mead Valley which will be a full-service community to people with behavioral health issues. She also said they had a 65-year-old man give a talk on how he was homeless, and meth addicted and how he was saved thanks to the efforts of the Homeless Outreach Teams.

Criminal Justice Committee Report:

Eva Guenther-James said she had not received the minutes from the last meeting, and she will follow up with the person responsible for sending them out.

Veteran's Committee Report:

Tabled until April 8, 2025 meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Jim Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Maura Fisher seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.

The next formal meeting of the Riverside County Desert Board of Behavioral Health will be **Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at the Oasis Adult Conference Room at 12:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by: _____

Mark Miller, Desert Board Secretary