

**RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
**Mid-County Region Behavioral Health Advisory Board**  
**Thursday, March 6, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT			GUEST PRESENT
Walter T. Haessler, M.D Dolores DeMartino Dr. Vernita Black Martiza Camacho	Brenda Scott Don Kendrick Jennifer Woodworth Ramon Amado	Jacqueline Markussen Elizabeth Lagunas Hilda Gallegos Annette Arias Sean Rayner	Lauren Adamson Bill Brenneman Alicia Arredondo Sheree Glidden Sandy Idle	Donna Sliva Tony Ortego Alvin Aldana Madison Dirkes Diana Castillo	Yvonne G. Owen G. Martino A. Omar Q.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
<b>Call To Order and Introductions</b>	Dolores DeMartino called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. All in attendance introduced themselves.	
<b>Minutes</b>	Meeting minutes for February 6,2025, were accepted as presented.	
<b>Announcements</b>	Jacqueline introduced and welcomed her new Executive Assistant, Sheree Glidden. In addition, she announced that planning for the MiMH month events are taking place. The Mid-County event will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at Valley Wide Park in San Jacinto from 11:30-4:30 p.m. Volunteer opportunities for those who want to help will be available, more information will be provided at a later date.	
<b>Correspondence</b>	No Correspondence received.	
<b>New Business- Temecula Adult Behavioral Health Clinic</b>	<p>Jacqueleine reported that Jennifer Vasquez, Supervisor for the Temecula Adult BH Clinic had to leave for the day but wanted to share the following information about this clinic. Current Census is 518 members. 481 Outpatient and 37 FSP. FSP numbers will likely decrease due to the resignation of our Behavioral Health Specialist II case manager. Staff includes 3.25 FTE Psychiatrist. This is the most they've had since 2019. Total time is for six doctors assigned. Clinical Therapist, Irma Ficere retired from the county in December 2024. Current recruitment is for a bilingual therapist as she was the only bilingual CT. Currently there are only two Clinical Therapists. A Peer Support Specialist resigned in February 2025 and was the only clinic consumer peer; position being submitted for approval to recruit. BHS II- FSP will be resigning due to family issues, last day is March 12, 2025. Position being submitted for approval to recruit. Groups offered include Kick Back Art this is open and ongoing held every Friday. One current DBT group with a new group starting March 13<sup>th</sup>. Peer led group is on hold for now until a Peer Support Specialist is hired. Jacqueline read poems written by member J.M. as part of the celebrate recovery moment. These were titled Naked and Unashamed, The Mask You Left Behind, and some others that were untiled.</p> <p>Dolores commented that she is happy to hear that there is more doctor time at this clinic.</p>	

<p><b>New Business- Family Advocate Forensics</b></p>	<p>Maritza Camacho, Senior Family Advocate for Forensics in Mid-County and Desert Region gave a power-point presentation on the services they provide to members. She added that Willard Wynn is the Peer Services Program Manager. Maria “Angie” Rodrigues is the Senior Family Advocate for Western Region and Ingrid Butler is the Family Advocate for Western Region. The three pillars for this program are Educate, Support and Linkage. They educate families on what to do when a loved one with mental struggles has been arrested. At the same time, providing education on mental health services for persons in the criminal justice/mental health systems, including jails, prison, state hospitals, and community diversion programs. They educate families on their understanding of Mental Health Court while collaborating with RUHS clinics, criminal justice professionals, governmental, and private agencies.</p> <p>They also provide support by assisting families in navigating the court and behavioral health system. Provide individual support (in person, over the phone, or virtually). She added that western region currently has a justice involved family support group that meets once a month. Empower families in advocating for themselves as well as for their loved one. Support families at legal hearings at Inpatient Treatment Facility (ITF), MH Court, Substance Use Court (SU). Family advocates provide linkage to resources within RUHS as well as in the community.</p> <p>Martiza described the process that happens when entering the legal system. When arrested for a crime and are diagnosed with having a mental health disorder the court grants request for either Mental Health Diversion or Mental Health Court depending on the crime. A support plan is tailored to the member to help address not only their mental health but personal goals so that this does not happen again. If member is compliant with program case can be dismissed, sealed or felony can be dropped to a misdemeanor. If member is not compliant, case will be returned to Criminal Court and resume as normal. Program is voluntary.</p> <p>Pretrial diversion programs are intended to help qualifying California defendants avoid a criminal conviction, by treating their underlying mental conditions, drug addictions, and /or conditions related to their military service trauma. There are three types of courts that someone could go into. Substance Court, Mental Health Court, and Veterans Courts. The Mental Health Court diversion program is for people who suffer a severe mental health disorder and qualify for mental diversion under Penal Code 1001.36 PC. Qualifying mental health disorders include schizophrenia and bipolar disorders so not all disorders/diagnosis qualify. The primary goal is to connect criminal defendants who suffer from serious mental health illness to treatment services in the community. Find appropriate dispositions to criminal charges. This means taking into consideration the facts of each case and prior criminal history. Ensure public safety, reduce recidivism and violence on re-arrest through appropriate mental health treatment and intense supervision. Increase collaboration between the court, county counsel, city agencies and community mental health treatment services. Defendants who agree to participate receive a treatment plan and other community supervision conditions. For those who adhere to their treatment plan for the agreed upon time (typically between 1 to 2 years) have their cases either dismissed or receive a greatly reduce sentence. She highlighted that this is an outpatient program.</p>	
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<p><b>Family Advocate Forensics (Continued)</b></p>	<p>Requirements for Mental Health Court are you must be over the age of 18, must have a severe mental illness (Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, Post-traumatic stress disorder), must be probation eligible, must have the ability and willingness to adhere to their probation terms, which includes the mental treatment plan. Additional relevant criteria set by the court is: the charges exceed statute, excessive volatility and or public safety concerns and difficulty with public placement. The following are not eligible under PC1001.36 for mental health diversion include borderline personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or pedophilia. Once accepted probation can be imposed by the judge based upon the severity of the crime and other circumstances. It is important to adhere to certain conditions recommended by the court. The member is released form confinement but is still under court supervision. Psych evaluation and medication is provided if needed. Member must report weekly at least once to BHS/case manager. Substance screening for out-patient if residential is not necessary. If substance is a concern, member will be referred to a substance use program which can include groups, individual substance sessions etc. Individual therapy, residential if member meets criteria for substance use, then transitional to sober living (up to six months) county funded can be provided. After the six-month period member can transition to either own residence or program. Consumer must live in Riverside County. The court will determine the requirements of the treatment program and order the member to comply with Mental Health Diversion Program. Accountability is important so member must appear at court periodically to discuss their progress in the program. The case manager and attorney will report any struggles and success of the member to the court.</p> <p>The Family Advocate Program can do the following: provide individual support, provide family support, provide family education, navigate the mental health system, provided community support, connect families/members to RUHS clinics. What they can't do is speak on behalf of the family, provide legal advice, give medical advice or direction, give a diagnosis, or recommend medication, provide individual counseling. Flyers with more information on the Family Advocate Program were provide.</p>	
<p><b>Old Business</b></p>	<p>No old business.</p>	
<p><b>Administrator/Managers Report</b></p>	<p>Jacqueline gave an update on the BH Adult Programs. She reported that Hemet has 1473 and 204 FSP. They currently have one Family Advocate, one Peer and one Behavioral Health Specialist III vacancy. Lake Elsinore has 508 and 45 FSP. Current vacancies include one Clinical Therapist, two Office Assistant, one Behavioral Health Specialist, and one Family Advocate position. Have hired Clinical Therapist who completed their internship at this site. Temecula BH Adults has 481 members, 37 FSP. Vacancies include one Clinical Therapist and one Peer. Perris BH Adults has 920 with 115 FSP. Vacant positions include one Family Advocate Peer and one Office Assistant II. They have begun rolling out the integrated service delivery. Staff have been trained on administering the Whole Person Health Score (WPHS) and will be going live soon. The WPHS is a short survey for adults that looks at the needs across multiple life domains (Social Determinants of Health). These domains include physical health, mental health, socio economics, nutrition, and lifestyle. This process connects members with the needed resources identified by the WPHS. She added that this will be rolling out to all clinics.</p>	

<b>Administrator/Managers Report</b>	<p>Tony reported on the Mature Adults. He reported that there are eight locations throughout the county. Mid-County Region has four Wellness and Recovery Clinics. One in Lake Elsinore, Temecula, San Jacinto, and a satellite clinic in Perris. All clinics have a two-track system, a wellness and recovery track and a full service partnership track. The difference is that those individuals that are coming out of incarceration or have recently been hospitalized at a psychiatric hospital or who are at risk or experiencing homelessness are encouraged to be in the FSP track. Reason is that in this track they provide more intensive case management in order to help overcome the crisis they are experiencing and get them stable enough to get them on the wellness and recovery track.</p> <p>San Jacinto/Perris serve 670 members. 528 on the wellness and recovery track and 142 in FSP. The offer medication services, support groups, nursing and wraparound case management, integrated care. Specialty services treatment including peer and family advocate support. Senior Clinical Therapist is training in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy. They are hosting one intern student for 24/25 school year. They also participate as a residency site for second and third residents from RUHS Medical Program. The Lake Elsinore/Temecula Wellness and Recovery program has 580 members with 458 on the wellness recovery track and 122 plus on the FSP. Services include full scope integrated behavioral health services including psychiatric medication management, nursing, individual and group therapy along with peer support and family advocate services. Groups include therapeutic art group English and Spanish, DBT, and offer a lot of solution focus wellness groups. They have three staff who are SSI Outreach Access and Recovery (SOAR) trained, which a specialization in fast tracking members for SSI/SSDI benefits. They empower members to form and develop a social support. They connect in the community by identifying including at look at in service groups that help break isolation. Recently welcomed the new peer and family advocate. In addition, has made offer for the Senior Clinical Therapist position at Lake Elsinore.</p> <p>Diana Castillo reported that Sean Rayner would be taking over for her for this meeting. He will be attending and providing updates for SAPT. Sean reported that SAPT programs are serving about 800 members across the four clinics . Lake Elsinore has 200, Temecula 164, San Jacinto 265 and Perris has 164. Vacancies for Lake Elsinore include one Clinical Therapist and one Office Assistant III. Temecula vacancies are Behavioral Health Specialists III, Office Assistant III. San Jacinto vacancies include two Clinical Therapists, one Social Service Assistant, and one Office Assistant II. For Perris, they have may offer to a Peer Support Specialist and have one BHS III opening. Sean provided flyers on the One Life, One Heart Poisoning &amp; Overdose Awareness 5K Walk events. Memorial walk and resource fair, guest speakers, and lunch will be provided.</p>	
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<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p>	<p><b><u>Behavioral Health Commission (BHC)</u></b> – No report available.</p> <p><b><u>Membership Committee</u></b> – No report.</p> <p><b><u>Children’s Committee</u></b>- No report.</p> <p><b><u>Older Adults Committee</u></b> – Tony reported that this committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Next meeting is schedule for Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at Rustin from 12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. Encourage all to attend.</p> <p><b><u>Adult System of Care Committee</u></b>- No report available.</p> <p><b><u>Criminal Justice Committee</u></b> – No report available.</p> <p><b><u>Housing Committee</u></b> – No report.</p> <p><b><u>Legislative Committee</u></b> – Dr. Haessler reported that the Legislative Committee now meets bi-monthly on the first Wednesday. Next meeting will be April 2, 2025, at 10:30 at Rustin. Date and time for this meeting are handy as you can attend the Commission meeting after with lunch provided. They are always interested in getting new members to join.</p> <p><b><u>Veterans Committee</u></b> – Dr. Black reported that the DAV Chapter 28 holds drive-thru food pantry for veterans on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Hours are 9:00 a.m. - 11:30a.m. at 4351 University Ave., Riverside. You must show your military or veterans card to receive goods.</p>	
<p><b>Public Comments</b></p>	<p>No public comments</p>	
<p><b>Board Member Comments</b></p>	<p>No board member comments</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item Request</b></p>	<p>Submit agenda items to Hilda Gallegos and or Sheree Glidden.</p>	
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Next Mid-County Regional Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2025, at Perris BH Adult Clinic, 450 E. San Jacinto Ave., Perris, CA92571</p>	<p>Next meeting scheduled for April 3, 2025.</p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.</p>	

<b>Mid-County Region Behavioral Health Advisory Meeting Attendance</b>												
Calendar Year 2025												
<b>Members</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
1. Walter Haessler, M.D.	x	x	x									
2. Brenda Scott	x	x	A									
3. Dr. Vernita Black	A	A	x									
4. Don Kendrick	x	x	A									
5. Dolores DeMartino	x	x	x									
6. Jennifer Woodworth	x	x	A									
7. Ramon Amado	A	x	A									
8. Maritza Camacho	A	x	x									