



**Western Region Behavioral Health - Advisory Board**  
**Minutes**  
**March 5, 2025**  
**Hybrid Meeting – In person & MS Teams**

Board Members			
Member		Member	
Greg Damewood, Chairperson	P	Richard Yarbrough, PSS/JWC	P
Western Region Administration			
Alea Jackson, WR Adult Services	P	Sean Rayner, WR BHSIV	P
Bill Brenneman, WR DD	A	Novanh Xayarath, WR BHSA	P
Tony Ortego, WR BHSA	P	Lorissa Villarreal, HHOPE Service Admin	A
Girlyanne Lacson, WR BHSS	A		
Staff			
Francisco J Huerta, Sr. Family Advocate	P	Misty Martin, Sr. Family Advocate	A
Nicole Brown, Cultural Competency Liaison	A	Maria T Gonzalez, Sr. Parent Partner	P
Dakota Brown, Cultural Competency Liaison/Disabilities	P	Glennis Ulloa, Sr. Parent Partner	A
Stacy Anderson, Executive Assistant	P	Jennel Rand, Sr. PSS	P
Guests			
Karen Franks	P	Jocelyn Aleman	P
Danielle Damewood	P	Randall Bower	P
Joshua Smith	P	Jennifer Hayford	P
Stephen Haskell	P	David Schuela	P
Delbert Harvey	P	Amber Israel	P
Curtis Swafford	P	Rudy Diaz	P

*P: Present      A: Absent*

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting called to order at 3:00 P.M. Meeting facilitated by Greg Damewood.
2. INTRODUCTIONS – Introductions proceeded.
3. REVIEWED MINUTES
  - The minutes of February were reviewed and accepted as written.
4. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS
  - None reported.
5. SITE VISIT REPORT(S)
  - There was a specific concern about lighting at Blaine St Clinic.
6. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER; Gabriela Vazquez & Carolina Ayala (Founder)- The Happier Life Project
  - Power Point Presented.
  - Recovery Community Organization- Independent, NoProfit led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery.

- Focusing on Substance Use Disorder, Mental Health Challenges, Justice Impacted, Family and Individual Recovery.
- Peer Based Recovery Support Services.
- Services offered: Peer led recovery support, Education and Advocacy, Family and Community Support, Re-entry Support Services.
- In contract with IEHP.
- Peer Ran Respite-up to 13 days.

7. CHAIR'S REMARKS

- March's Commission minutes will be approved at the April Commission meeting.

8. REGIONAL REPORTS

A. *Adult Manager's Report* – Alea Jackson, BHSA

- The Western region is planning for May Is Mental Health Month. The Theme is Art of Wellness. The Western Region event will be held on Thursday May 15, 2025, at Fairmont Park. All Western adult outpatient clinics will have a table with resources and SWAG.
- Blaine St. Clinic continues to provide individual therapy, groups, peer services, medication support family advocacy and case management services. Blaine currently has 128 enrolled members in the FSP program, and 1835 in the Non FSP program. There are 3 vacant positions currently in recruitment. 2 new Psychiatrist with one splitting psych time w JWC. 2 vacant positions
- Jefferson Wellness Center currently has 293 enrolled members. JWC continues to provide individual therapy, groups, peer services, medication support family advocacy and case management services There are 5 vacant positions.
- Pathways to Success is a rehabilitation program located in Temecula and Riverside they are a vocational program. The program partners with the Department of Rehabilitation. Currently there 103 members enrolled between the Riv/Tem site locations. The program has no vacancies at this time.
- Stacy will provide Group Calendars at the April Meeting.

B. *Children's Manager Report* – Novanh Xayarath, Children's Administrator:

- Intensive Outpatient Eating Disorder, Mindful Body and Recovery Program for adolescents 12-18 years of age- Hired a Nurse and 2 CT's, offer was made to a third candidate. (Happier Life Project will connect to supply service information)
- Working on getting Primary Care Physicians to be a part of the team.
- Scott McClung is retiring from his post as TAY Steppingstone's Supervisor. His last day is March 31<sup>st</sup> is his last day. 26 years with the county. Waiting to get approval to backfill this position.
- Riverside Family Wellness- slower, may give up a Clinician position.
- MVCHIP is down two clinicians returning from maternity leave. They're expected to return late March and early April. Program their best to hold and provide services until the two staff return. Currently 367 active cases with 8 on the waitlist.
- Wrap Around- lost the Parent Partner

- Children's Treatment Services. Losing their long-time psychiatrist to retirement. Dr. Vedhire Reddy. Was with dept for over 30 years, a good chunk of time at CTS. There is a plan to fill the vacancy with a Psychiatry Fellow who is finishing up their rotation with our Dept this year. Currently, program has 296 open cases. Starting different group for different ages.
- C. *Corona Wellness Updates* – Girlyanne Lacson, Program Manager:
- We do continue to grow our FSP here. We have a total of 962 in the Adult POD, 156 in FSP and Children's 191, with 37 FSP
  - Continuing groups at Majesty Village
  - Continuing Integration- rolling out integrated services to other clinics.
  - Men's group for SAPT is held twice weekly, and it's based off the living in balance and matrix curriculum, relapse prevention, sobriety planning, and safe space. So if they feel like there's a better connection and have had more success when they're able to talk.
  - Vacancies- OA, Family Advocate, Peer in SAPT.
  - CSA's going into the Community to access resources.
- D. *Older Adults Manager Report* - Tony Ortego, Mature Adults Administrator:
- Mature Adults current Census is 670+ with 165-170 FSP Consumers, 80% connected to a Primary Care Physician for Medical Conditions.
  - There are many in person attendance, that seems to be continuing to increase. Contributes walk-ins to possibly the Holiday parties.
  - Vacancies- BHSIII, Substance Abuse Counselor.
  - Programs provides a wide range of services for psychiatric medication consultations with our psychiatrists' case management, we do a lot of individual therapy.
  - Group Highlight- Food for Heart.
  - Food Banks available for Mature Adults as well as JWC- connect with Peers.
  - **Interoffice Mail Brochures to Jennifer at Blaine.**
- E. *Western Region SAPT Program* – Sean Rayner, BHSIV
- New BHIII- Elena Martinez (Will be presenting for SAPT for Sean)
  - One Life, One Heart Poisoning and Overdose 5K walk. Riverside, the Western region is on April 12th from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Ferry Mill Park. The other dates are April 26th for the desert, June 7th for Mid counties. **Send volunteer forms to Josh at Blaine**
  - Vacancies-Two BHSIII given offers, one BHSIII still open, RN- for MAT Services.
  - There are currently 400 members, and that's across their IOT- 45 members, ODF- 191, and recovery services with 23 prevention students.
  - The contingency management program is in the readiness stage. Just waiting for management to approve.
- F. *Western Region HHOPE Manager* – Cheath Rough, HHOPE BHSS
- Justice Involved ECM BHS Supervisor starts on 3/6/25.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior PSS starts on 3/6/25 for the Desert Region.

- Absorbed a SAPT Recovery Team, also absorbed 11 contracted vendors
  - Ribbon Cutting for the 84 bed Franklin Adult Residential Facility ran by MFI, doors will open as soon as Licensure is received.
  - Murrieta Creek trail activity started this week- HOPE is a sub recipient of an encampment resolution fund in the amount of 1.4 Million.
  - Hope will serve up to 60 individuals through the period of performance ending between now and June 2027.
  - Five hope supervisors are participating in the shared housing certification program.
  - Phone number regarding Housing (Home Connect 800-498-8847)
- G. *Western Peer Support Regional Updates* – Jennel Rand, Sr. PSS
- No Report
- H. *WR Children's Parent Partner Regional Updates* – Maria T. Gonzalez, Children's Sr. Parent Partner:
- No Report
- I. *Western Adult Family Advocate Updates* – Francisco J. Huerta, Sr. FA Specialist
- No Report- Flyers emailed- will be attached to minutes.
9. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORTS
- *Children (Vacant)*
    - No report.
  - *Criminal Justice* – (Greg Damewood)
    - Criminal Justice meets next week on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> street at noon. Anyone can attend.
  - *Membership* - (Greg Damewood)
    - Vacancy for Western Region Advisory Board- Reach out to Stacy Anderson- EA for the Western Region to get information.
  - *Older Adults (Vacant)*
    - No report.
  - *Housing Committee (Vacant)*
    - No report.
  - *Adult (Vacant)*
    - No report.
  - *Legislative (Richard Divine)*
    - No report
  - *Veterans Committee (Vacant)*

- Met today.
1. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:
    - Any contacts through NAMI or ARC let them know Medi-Cal/Medicaid is very important. Medi-Cal at risk.
    - 5K Walks, May is Mental Health, New Blaine group- Grief and Loss.
  2. CONTINUED BUSINESS:
    - Please keep inviting people. All that are interested in becoming a member of are appreciated. Ideas are appreciated. If anybody wants to become a voting member, please apply via our form to be considered for membership.
  3. NEW BUSINESS:
    - No report
  4. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting ended at 4:30 PM.

**NEXT MEETING: March 5, 2025**