

Western Region Behavioral Health - Advisory Board
Minutes
May 7, 2025
Hybrid Meeting – In person & MS Teams

Board Members					
Member		Member		Member	
Greg Damewood, Chairperson	P	Richard Yarbrough, PSS/JWC	P	Karen Franks, PSS/Blaine	P
Western Region Administration					
Alea Jackson, WR Adult Services	P	Sean Rayner, WR BHSIV			A
Bill Brenneman, WR DD	A	Novanh Xayarath, WR BHSA			P
Tony Ortego, WR BHSA	A	Lorissa Villarreal, HHOPE Service Admin			P
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			A
Dakota Brown, Cultural Competency Liaison/Disabilities	A	Glennis Ulloa, Sr. Parent Partner			A
Stacy Anderson, Executive Assistant	P	Jennel Rand, Sr. PSS			P
Guests					
Joseph Page	P	Gebren Blakely			P
Danielle Damewood	P	Jennifer Hayford			A
Joshua Smith	P	Amber Isreal			P
Jeaneth Alvarez	P	Elena Martinez			P
Efren Guzman	P				
Omara Marenei	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 April were reviewed and accepted as written.
4. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS
 - May is Mental Health
 - Mental Service Act **Western County May is Mental Health Month event**
Thursday, May 15th
 Event hours: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
 Fairmont Park, Riverside
 Hearing hours: 1:30 – 4:00 pm
 - Directing Change- May 16, 2024, 5:00pm-7:00pm Fox Theater 3801 Mission Inn Ave, Riverside, CA 92501
 - One heart poisoning and overdose 5K walk. April 12th, from 8:00 to 2:00 at Fairmont Park.

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- Graduation ceremony for criminal programs Superior Court of Riverside, April 24th at 1:30PM
5. SITE VISIT REPORT(S)
- Jefferson Wellness Center
6. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER; Jeaneth Alvarez and Gebren Blakely- Mindful Body & Recovery Program- Power Point Presented and handouts provided
- Intensive Outpatient Program for Eating Disorders
 - Population 12-18 years old
 - Located in Perris
 - Minimum 12 weeks of treatment
 - 3 days per week
 - Referral basis through CARES, calling, walk ins
7. CHAIR'S REMARKS
- May's Commission minutes will be approved at the June Commission meeting.
 - Dr. Cheng presented today on Services provided in the County and how they overlap
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 - RIVERSIDE** - Fairmount Park, 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
 - 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 St Clinic currently has 20 groups offered including post-traumatic stress disorder groups. Blaine currently has 107 members enrolled in its FSP program and 1,720 in the non-FSP program. There is 1 CT verbally accepted.
 - Jefferson Wellness Clinic Jefferson Wellness Center currently has 19 groups. JWC has 295 enrolled members. There are 3 vacant positions a CT, and 2 BHS.
 - Pathways to Success is in Riverside and Temecula and it's a vocational rehabilitation program in which we partner with the Department of Rehabilitation to assist our members in finding work such as attending trade school or getting certified in certain specializations. There are 122 members enrolled between the Riverside and Temecula site's location. The program has no vacancy at this time.
- B. *Children's Manager Report* – Novanh Xayarath, Children's Administrator:
- Eating Disorder Family Base Training happening June 3rd and 4th. Training is open to clinical therapist.
 - Eating Disorder Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Training happening June 10th and 11th. Training is open to clinical therapist.

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- Latest Trauma Focus – Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training cohort coming in to end. Training will be graduating 43 people out of 50 who sign up for training.
- MDFT – 9 cases. One CT on maternity leave. Program doing additional outreach at probation, school, other agencies.
- ISF wraparound – 26 open cases. Vacant Parent Partner position. Not asking to backfill until the program direct service number comes. Program also doing outreach to get more referrals.
- First Episode Psychosis – 18 open cases. Mid County team now have their workstations in Mid County region all set up at the Perris Adult Clinic in Perris. New clinical therapist was hired and this will help the program be able to provide more services.
- Riverside Family Wellness Center – 157 open cases. Program made offer for LVN position. Program have been trying to hire LVN for the last 6 months. Program is working to develop summer programs for kids.
- Youth Hospital Intervention Program – 61 open cases. Program is fully staff and continues to be extremely busy.
- Moreno Valley Children's Interagency program – 347 open cases. 2 of their CTs are eligible to test for the National Trauma Focus Cognitive Behavior Therapy. This is a distinguishing accreditation.
- Children's Treatment Services – 283 open cases. Program had 1 CT resign and another went on maternity leave. Not sure if the CT on maternity will be returning after leave ends. The program is planning summer programs for kids.
- Stepping Stones – 160 open cases. Program has an OAI vacancy. An offer of employment for BHSS position was accepted. Hoping to get person through preboarding process in the next 3 weeks.
- Mindful Body and Recovery Program - Officially open to accept members on May 5th. One family already came in for assessment. 2 more referrals on the way. Team continues to grow and excited to finally open for service.

C. *Corona Wellness Updates* – Amber Isreal

- Updates for Corona include continued focus on increasing community outreach and programming.
- Extravaganza event went great, planning a Summer BBQ and Back to School event. Will be attending the Art of Wellness event at Fairmont Park next week.
- Scheduling 2 SAPT HIV prevention screenings. Spanish scheduled for this week.
- DBT coping skills groups for members waiting for therapy appointment
- Our current census at Corona is 1,338 Members with 210 Members enrolled in FSP.
- PEER and Family Advocate vacancy

D. *Older Adults Manager Report* - Tony Ortego, Mature Adults Administrator:

- No Report

E. *Western Region SAPT Program* – Elena Martinez BHSIII

- One Life, One Heart Poisoning and Overdose 5K walk. Riverside, June 7th in Murrieta for Mid counties.
Send volunteer forms to Josh at Blaine
- Preparing for Recovery Happens
- Rock Softball Tournament 5/13/25 in Beaumont
- Vacancies-Mo Val Ct Interviewing

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- There are currently 401 members, and that's across their IOT- 43 members, ODF- 198, and recovery services with 139 prevention students
- Moreno Valley 194 members, 24 in prevention, 56 in IOT
- Riv/Mo Val 582 members

F. Western Region HHOPE Service Administrator- Dr. Lorissa Villareal

- No Report

G. Western Peer Support Regional Updates – Jennel Rand, Sr. PSS

- Western region, we have 19 peers for the six programs.
- Peers are rocking and rolling, providing various types of support to members.
- The peers at Blaine and Pathways to success collaboratively forming a group of members who like to develop vocational skills. This group will cover topics such as transportation, socialization, and computer skills.
- Jefferson Wellness Center, looks forward to participating in Riverside May is Mental Health Month by assisting members to the park and by sharing information with the community as exhibitors.
- JWC is 6 peers strong including a family advocate.
- Peers support to members admitted to ITF to help adjust. JWC services and provide new transition of care after their stay is over if possible.
- Prevention and early intervention, also known as PEI, is having directing change, a film test for young people ages 12 to 25 that want to contribute creative expression with making a difference in their communities. That will be May 15th
- There's a new facility opening known as Franklin Residential care facility and Behavioral Health Clinic. It's newly renovated 1442 thousand square foot facilities that will provide residential care, outpatient behavioral health services and short term recuperative care. There will be a peer as a part of the treatment team and interviews to come soon.
- Vacancy- family advocate position and a SAPT peer support position in Corona and also.
- Mature adults is continuing to support members in groups, individually, and within treatment.

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

- 7 Family Advocates in 7 clinics
- Vacancy Corona
- Working on getting a family advocate at ETS and ITF
- Family support groups and Justice Involve group offered in person and online in English and Spanish
- New Crisis group to support families
- Omara at Older Adults is working on face to face with members transitioning over from Blaine then JWC, to get higher retention rate

9. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Children* (Vacant)
 - No report.
- *Criminal Justice* – (Greg Damewood)
 - Criminal Justice next meeting May 14th at 14th St location. 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* (Vacant)
 - No report
- *Veterans Committee* (Vacant)
 - Meets in May

1. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

- May is Mental Health
- Older Adults System of Care Meets- Tuesday, March 11 at 12PM
- Annual Reports end of Fiscal Year (June-July)

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:

- Greg will be serving on Committee for one more year, if interested in joining please reach out

4. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting ended at 4:30 PM.

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NEXT MEETING: June 4, 2025