

MEETING MINUTES
2/10/2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tori St Johns; Chairperson, Dr. Janice Quinn; Vice-Chairperson, Mark Miller, Jim Jones, Eva Guenther-James, Joe Butts, Bea Gonzalez, Maura Fisher, Bruce Sherr.

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Divine, Carole Schaudt, Huynh Cuc Nguyen.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Gileno; Adult Services Administrator, Mary Carpio; Secretary to Rachel Gileno, Denise Morgan; Secretary to Kelly Grotzky, Shawn Harris; Senior Parent Partner; Parent Support & Training Program – Desert Region, Rubit Romero; Family Advocate, RUHS – BH, Nate Ramirez; RUHS – BH, Older Adults, Gabe Kason; Indio SAPT Clinic Supervisor, RUHS – BH, Angel Munoz; BHS IV, RUHS – SAPT, Elizabeth Aguilar; Family Advocate, RUHS – BH, Charles Richardson; RUHS – BH, Jay Rembold; Senior Peer Support Specialist, RUHS – BH, Refujio Vivanco; Senior Peer Support Specialist, TAY Drop-in Center (Owl) .

OTHERS PRESENT: Byron Bonsall; Director of Business Development, Coachella Valley Behavioral Health Center. Honor Moore; 417 Recovery Center.

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS:

Tori St Johns called the meeting of the Riverside County Desert Behavioral Health Board to order at 12:08 PM. Self-introductions of all who were in attendance in person or by teleconference followed.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Janice Quinn passed around a sympathy card for all to sign for the family of Sandy Neja, who was a member of our board up until the time of her passing.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Limit 3 minutes per speaker):

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Tori St Johns asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions to the board minutes of the January 13, 2026 meeting. There were no additions, corrections, or deletions that needed to be made. Maura Fisher made a motion to accept the minutes, Bruce Sherr seconded the motion, and it passed by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Coachella Valley Behavioral Health Hospital Update:

Byron Bonsall gave an update on the status of the hospital which is up and running at this point. They are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and are accepting patients from all over Riverside County. He said all the units are open except for the adolescent unit which they hope to open soon.

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Other New Business:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Regional Board Bylaws Revision Commission Bylaws Progress Update:

Tori St Johns and Dr. Janice Quinn said the bylaws revision is ongoing and hopefully will be completed soon and a copy of the proposed revisions will be sent to all the board members for their input.

May is Mental health Month / John J. Benoit Behavioral Arts Festival Update:

Dr. Quinn said the next Arts Festival is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 between the hours of 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Taj Mahal building at the Riverside County Fairgrounds. Additional updates will be provided at future board meetings.

Other Old Business:

None.

MONTHLY UPDATE AND REPORT:

Substance Abuse Program Update:

Gabe Kason said they have completed their move from their old location on Ave 45 in Indio to the Monroe building in Indio. He also provided updates on other aspects of the SAPT program.

Peer Support and Resource Center:

Tabled until the March 10, 2026 meeting.

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program Update:

See attached TAY calendar of events.

CHILDRENS SERVICES MANAGER COMMENTS:

Tabled until the March 10, 2026 meeting.

ADULT SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno reported the following:

- Kelly Grotsky was named the new Deputy Director for Adult Services.
- The Department is currently recruiting a new Children and TAY Services Administrator.
- Blythe is currently serving 398 members.
 - The next Blythe collaborative meeting is being planned.
 - Adult Services Peer Denise received a Customer Service Award and was recognized by the local newspaper.
 - Blythe recruiting: BHS III and CT recruitment are ongoing. There are current Blythe staff who are continuing their education and hope to step into those roles.
- Indio: currently serving 1369 non-FSP members, 187 FSP members.:
 - Indio is currently recruiting for 1 LVN, 1 BHS II, and 2 PSS positions and they hope to make job offers on the Peer Support Positions this week.

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- Windy Springs serves 170 members.
 - Recruiting: 1 PSS, 1 CSA, all other positions are filled.
- Banning: Serving 808 non-FSP members, 85 FSP members.
 - Banning is fully staffed.

Older Adults Administrator's Comments:

Nate Ramirez provided an update on this program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Children's Committee Report:

Tabled until the March 10, 2026 meeting.

Adults Committee Report:

Jim Jones said he had no new report to give.

Mature Adults Committee Report:

Maura Fisher gave updates from October 2025, November 2025, January 2026, and February 2026 meetings. For more information, refer to the attached minutes of each meeting.

Housing Committee Report:

Eva Guenther-James gave an update about the last meeting. For more information, refer to the attached minutes.

Legislative Report:

Mark Miller said the next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2026 and he will hopefully provide an update at the March 10, 2026 meeting.

Membership Report:

Dr. Janice Quinn gave an update on this.

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Report:

Tori St Johns said the Commission had a presentation on Harmony Haven and they will be meeting in-person next month.

Criminal Justice Committee Report:

Tabled until the March 10, 2026 meeting.

Veteran's Committee Report:

Joe Butts said he has been unable to attend the meetings in-person and has contacted the person responsible for the meeting minutes and will provide updates on future meetings.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Maura Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Janice Quinn seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 PM.

The next formal meeting of the Riverside County Desert Board of Behavioral Health will be **Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at the Oasis Adult Conference Room at 12:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark Miller, Desert Board Secretary