**RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
**Mid-County Region Behavioral Health Advisory Board**
**Thursday, October 1, 2026**

| MEMBERS PRESENT | MEMBERS ABSENT | STAFF PRESENT | | | GUEST PRESENT |
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| Brenda Scott | Ramon Amado | Melissa Vasquez | Steven Willis | Thaddeus Wicki | C. Steen |
| Dr. Vernita Black | | Hilda Gallegos | Jacqueline Markussen | Donna Slivia | N. Woods |
| Walter T. Haessler, M.D | | Sheree Glidden | Tony Ortego | Giancarlo Mata | Amy Konopka |
| Don Kendrick | | | | | |
| Dolores DeMartino | | | | | |
| Martiza Camacho | | | | | |

| ITEM | DISCUSSION | ACTION/FOLLOW UP |
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| **Call To Order and Introductions** | Brenda Scott called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. All in attendance introduced themselves. | |
| **Minutes** | The September 3, 2026, meeting minutes were accepted. | |
| **Public Comments** | There were no public comments shared at this time. | |
| **Announcements** | The TAY Arena group calendar was distributed. The BH Myers Children's Programs will have its annual Fall Festival event on Thursday, October 29th at Myers from 4-7p.m. Activities include spooky tours, trunk or treat, costume parade, community resources and free food. Also, on same day Parent Support & Training will have a Visions of HOPE Expression Through Art event. Flyers with additional information were disseminated for both events. Everyone was encouraged to attend these events.<br><br>Brenda announced the annual NAMI Walk is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th at Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet. She shared posters with additional information and reminded people that parking is five dollars.<br><br>Don shared that Recovery Happens was a huge success. Brenda mentioned that there were lots of resources and thinks this was a great event.<br><br>Dolores announced that the 3rd Annual Community Wellness Fair will take place on Saturday, November 7th, from 11-3:00 p.m. at Temecula Valley Hospital. This is a free community event focused on wellness for your mind, body and soul. She encouraged everyone to attend. She added that on Wednesday, October 21st, Clear Path Wellness and Recovery, a community based behavioral health and recovery organization will present at this month meeting. | |
| **Correspondence** | No correspondence was received or reported. | |

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| **New Business- Perris BH Adults** | Thaddeus Wicki, BHSS, shared a power-point presentation of the services offered at this site. He shares about the past, present, and future of this clinic. He gave a brief description of how this clinic became the Family Room Clinic. It started as a new project back in 2011 with a perspective that members gain back what was taken or lost because of their mental health challenges. They focused on family engagement, improving family communication and involvement. He is always proud to say that this clinic was the first to have family advocates. They address the disability that mental health frequently creates, not just the mental health with the diagnosis itself, but the learned, behavior because once the labels the loss of dreams, and so the whole perspective is to gain back what was lost through services and actions that are provide here at this site. They provide proactive care with current needs of their members, pression care with pharmacogenomics, the study of how your genes affect your body's response to medications to help doctors choose the right drug and dose for their members. Integrative care that includes substance use and primary care along with digital care. They have introduced apps that are helpful like the A4i mobile app. It helps with relapse prevention, hallucination detectors, peer community and care coordination. Members need to be connected to a provider in order have this app. He adds that this has been successful with the members. Another app they started using is Rejoin. This is the first FDA cleared prescription smartphone app. The doctors send the prescription and then the pharmacy contacts the member to help them download the app. This is basically a cognitive behavioral therapy and emotional expression training. It's a very structured six-week personalized material with daily tasks and reminders and it can be extended. This service cannot be just a standalone therapy or practice; it must be connected to a provider.<br><br>He shared the different types of groups offered that include CORE 1, Modern Living, Fun & Wellness, Inside Out, planning for success, Art & Creativity, Family Support, Ecotherapy, Recovery Management, Peer Support, Wise Mind-DBT, Recovery Management, and Peer Support.<br><br>N. Woods member of this program shared that her mental health journey began when she was 26 years of age and was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia in St. Paul Minnesota where she grew up. Then she came to California when she was 27 and began receiving services at Perris Behavioral Health. That's where her journey began. She started seeing the doctor and taking medications. She began to participate in groups like Kick Back Art, Wise Minds, Recovery Management. Current groups that she is taking today are Modern Living, Fun & Wellness, Art & Creativity, this is a group that is meant to encourage creative self-expression. Peer Support, this is an additional educational group in which members need to share, learn and motivate. She is an ambassador for A4i mobile app, in this app you rate your mental health today, your quality of sleep, there is also feedback where you can post affirmations or pictures as a tool kit and reminds you to take medications and offers resources in case you have a crisis.<br><br>C. Woods also shared his mental health journey. He shared that at a young age of 7 years old he was already hustling the streets of San Pedro and Long Beach. He thought making easy money was better because you can make gig money quick. He later ended up in prison for 27 years. He was released in 2007. He adds that mental health means a lot to him this clinic and Thaddeus are a loving family. He is focusing on people that are forgotten in the system and is thankful for mental health because without it he doesn't know where he would be right now. He thanked everyone for listening to his story. | |

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| **New Business- (Continued)**<br>**Friday Night Live** | Giancarlo Mata shared a presentation on the Friday Night Live (FNL) Program. Shared Mission Statement that FNL builds partnerships for positive and health development which engage youth as active leaders and resources in their community. Their purpose is to keep young people out of trouble and alive. Give young people a platform to use their voice. Areas of focus are Alcohol, Tabacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) prevention, youth development, social change, alternative activities, youth and adult partnerships, community involvement, creating youth leaders, and skill building. Some historical facts; established in 1984 statewide program in 55 counties. Riverside County was the original pilot county. Serves 4th-12th grade and is one of the largest FNL counties. This year they have a public support team so for the first time ever, FNL will serve youth 16-24 years of age. They focus on ATOD free lifestyle with alternative activities and community involvement.<br><br>They offer lots of healthy alternative activities. They want to create a mindset of having fun without doing negative things or engaging in negative substances. They focus a lot on social change and community involvement. Their five standards of practice include Safe Environment- both physical and emotional safety. Community Engagement- knowledge of community. Leadership Advocacy- giving students those tools to become leaders and advocates in their communities. Meaningful Relationships- looking at that peer and adult relationship with the advice and guidance of their school sites, and Skill Building- offering the opportunity to build their skills<br><br>FNL is spread out through Riverside County. West Region includes Banning, Beaumont, Riverside, Jurupa, Moreno Valley, Corona-Norco. Mid-West includes San Jacinto and Perris, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Temecula, Murrieta, Romoland and Nuview Union. East End includes Palm Springs, Coachella Valley, Desert Sands, Desert Center and Palo Verde.<br><br>Every year the municipal and high school active chapters are required to take a Youth Development Survey on how FNL has impacted them to their character, to their campus or community and gives them the tools to stay out of ATOD. Also showing statistics of how to build their leadership skills and overall, how the program has impacted them as youth and how it's really changed them. This is a way of how they receive funding not just for Riverside County but for all of California. At a glance was shared of what they do year-round that all the chapters are able to attend which include ATI, RRW, LEAP, Blanket Drive, Active Youth Conference, Advisors Meeting, FNL Month, Survey, and Awards Banquet. | |
| **Old Business** | No information to report. | |
| **Administrator/Managers Report** | Jacqueline Markussen, Behavioral Health Services Administrator for Adult Programs provided the following update: All four clinics that include Temecula, Lake Elsinore, Hemet, and Perris continue to offer two service tracks. General outpatient and FSP ICM Intensive Case Management except for Hemet now offering ACT/FACT as well for the mid-county region.<br><br>Temecula Adults has 629 members with 14 FSP. Vacancies include one CT. OA II has been hired and starts on October 15th. Lake Elsinore Adults has 510 members with 40 FSP. No vacancies to report. OA II hired is also starting on October 15th. Transportation is limited as the CSA has been out for some time. Hemet Adults has 1554 members with 221 FSP and 6 ACT/4 FACT. The ACT/FACT team began providing services to all mid-county on July 1st. Supervisor is finalizing hiring the team. Working on reviewing members and submitting referrals. Perris BH Adults has 818 members and 80 FSP. Vacancies include one BHS II and at the end of the year they will be moving to the Wellness Village. | |

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| **Administrator/Managers Report (Continue)** | Tony Ortego provided a brief overview for mature adults. The San Jacinto and Perris locations they serve approximately 651 individuals. Out of that, 116 are FSP those who receive higher level, higher needs services. Both clinics continue to offer full scope of services, including psychiatric medication support and psychotherapeutic support. They offer nursing services in San Jacinto wraparound case management groups, etc. They provide whole person health score screenings, and that has gone quite well. This service connects individuals to other county agencies when there are certain social determinants. Highlights of this clinic is that they have done extremely well with limiting staffing. Jamie Stallings is the new supervisor for the San Jacinto and Perris clinics. She replaced Rebeckah Birkinsha who retired back in June. He added that Jamie Stallings has worked with mature adults in San Jacinto for several years. They are very pleased to have her on board.<br><br>For Temecula and Lake Elsinore clinics, they serve approximately 630 individuals. Out of that, 122 are full-service partnership members. Members seem to be quite active in those clinics. They have lots of groups out of both clinics, including enhanced care management. Groups to support depression and issues of depression regarding social isolation, etc. Some other groups that are offered include anger management, grief and loss and cognitive behavioral therapy for anxiety. Our clinicians are well trained. They have a strong case management staff, so kudos to Debbie Woodworth, Supervisor and her team. He added that the Older Adult System of Care monthly meeting in November will take place at Lake Elsinore.<br><br>Lacy Fourong-Galvez, Behavioral Health Services Supervisor for the SAPT Program provided a department update that was shared with the group as follows: San Jacinto SAPT caseload is 294 with a BHS III vacancy. Lake Elsinore SAPT caseload is 155, with a BHS III vacancy. Perris SAPT caseload is 193 also with a BHS III vacancy. Temecula SAPT caseload is 169, and they are onboarding a CSA. | |
| **Committee Reports** | **Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) –** Brenda reported that the BHC meeting is scheduled for next week Wednesday. She noted that at the last BHC they had quite few presenters. There was a young man who was a graduate of CARE Court and talked about how CARE Court helped him. Shared his recovery story and he talked about how he was related to Senator George McGovern who ran for president years ago.<br><br>**Membership Committee** – Brenda reported that there were a few new members, one for Western and one for Desert Region. None for Mid-County.<br><br>**Children's Committee**- No report available as it was the same day as Recovery Happens. Brenda noted that this meeting will now take place at Rustin. | |

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| **Committee Reports- Continued** | **Criminal Justice Committee –** Dolores reported that meeting was held September 9th and provided updates on the state hospital, collaborative courts. There are about 10 Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) court referrals. Care court updates are 39 petitions with a total of 369 since July 2. Provided staffing updates and discussed Senate Bill SB43. New Life gave a presentation. Having a meeting in November will be decided.<br><br>**Older Adults Committee** – Brenda reported that Tony gave a presentation on Mature Adults. Next meeting will be on November 13th.<br><br>**Adult System of Care Committee** – No report available. Same day as Recovery Happens.<br><br>**Housing Committee** – No report available. Dark in August.<br><br>**Legislative Committee** – Dr. Haessler reported that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 7th at Rustin before the BHC. Brenda noted that the governor passed the legislature which would remove the educational requirement for peer support specialists.<br>Dr. Haessler noted that he will be bring up Assembly Bill 1572 at the next legislative meeting. This bill is about using recycled water to water non-functional turf, mowed grass that's not used for a purpose like a sports field or a cemetery. You cannot use potable city water as of January 1st and will begin with institutional buildings which would be us, that would be Rustin.<br><br>**Veteran's Committee** – No report available. Brenda noted that this committee might be coming off the BHC committees as there has been discussion on changing some of the committees at the next BHC meeting. | |
| **Agenda Item Requests** | Presenters for meeting in November will include PSRC and Happier Life Project. Jacqueline noted that a presentation on ACT/FACT will be scheduled later. | |
| **Next Meeting** | The next Mid-County Regional Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2026, at the Temecula Adult BH Clinic, 40925 County Center Dr., Suite 200, Temecula, CA 92591. | |
| **Adjournment** | The meeting adjourned at 4:43 pm. | |

## Mid-County Region Behavioral Health Advisory Meeting Attendance

### Calendar Year 2026

| Members | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Walter Haessler, M.D. | x | x | x | x | x | X | X | | X | X | | |
| 2 Brenda Scott | x | x | x | x | x | A | X | | X | X | | |
| 3. Dr. Vernita Black | A | x | x | x | x | A | X | | X | X | | |
| 4. Don Kendrick | A | x | x | A | x | X | X | | X | X | | |
| 5. Dolores DeMartino | x | x | x | x | x | A | X | | X | X | | |
| 6. Maritza Camacho | A | A | A | x | A | A | A | | A | X | | |
| 7. Ramon Amado | A | A | A | A | x | A | A | | X | A | | |