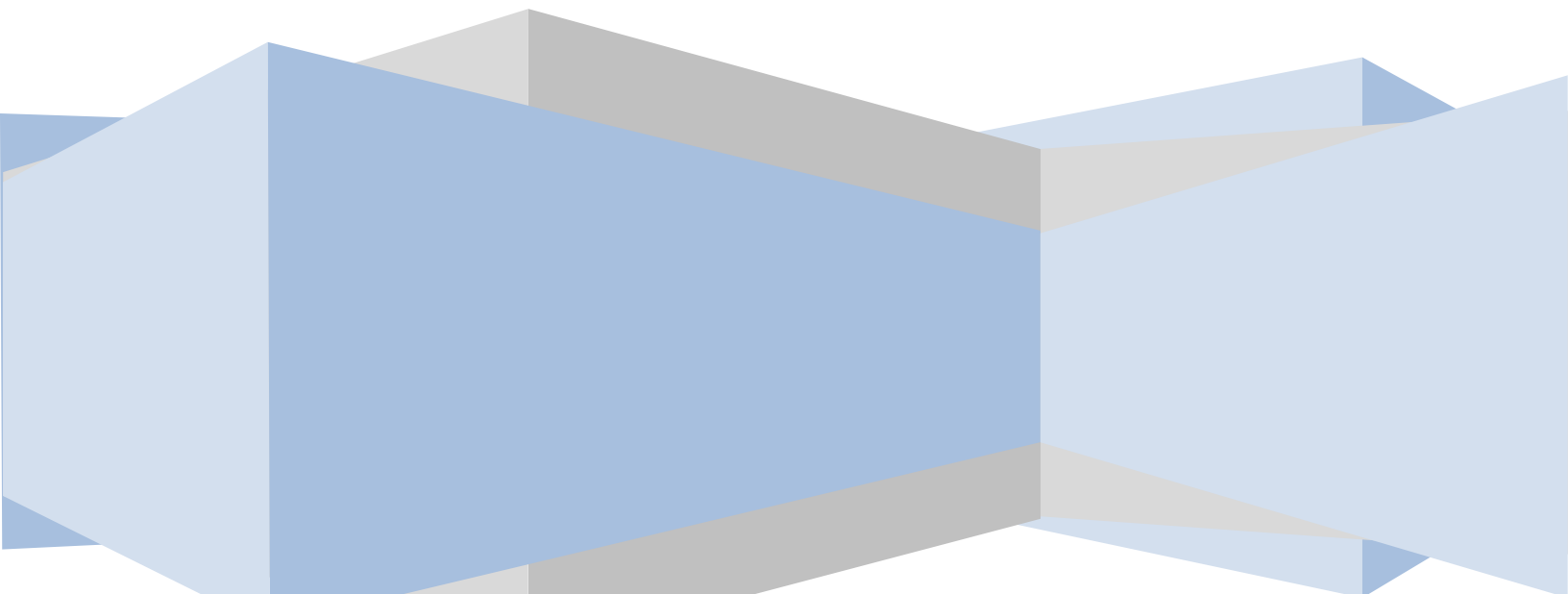


# **RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes  
October 7, 2015  
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm



# BHC MEETING ATTENDANCE

## OCTOBER 7, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT	
Richard Divine, District 4, <i>Chair</i>	Rick Gentillalli, District 3, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Julie Crouch, District 2, <i>Secretary</i>	Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4
Carole Schaudt, District 4	Daryl Terrell, District 5
Eric Keen, District 1	Greg Damewood, District 5
James Stuart, District 4	Jason Farin, District 2
Jerry Wengerd, Director	Victoria St. Johns, District 4
Walter Haessler, District 1	

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT	
Georgia Smith, District 2	

OTHERS PRESENT	
Sharon Lee, MHSA Admin	Maria Mabey, RUHS Assistant Director
Bill Brenneman, MHSA Administrator	Joe Zamora, RUHS Deputy Director
Steve Steinberg, RUHS Assistant Director	Deborah Johnson, RUHS Deputy Director
Sheri Parker, RUHS Administrator	Maria Algarin, Family Advocate
Ricky Algarin, Volunteer	Tiffany Keeler, Provider, ROC/RIC
Vicki Redding, RUHS Administrator	Deborah Pagliuso, Provider, High Road
Ric Riccardi, WRB Member	Venecia Avina, Family Advocate Program
Maria Dyer, Family Advocate Program	Rosalinda Sheppard, Family Advocate Program
Cynthia "Oma" Gray, Provider, Soroptomist House of Hope	Lupe Stoneburner, Provider, Soroptomist House of Hope
Sheila Hunt, Pacific Grove Hospital	Laurence Gonzaga, IEHP
Kathryn Mauro, WRB Member	James Lucero, ASOC Member
Stephen Cromwell, Guest	Leonel Contreras, Provider
Gloria Gaitan, Provider, High Road	Guadalupe Ortiz, Guest
Irma Ortiz, Guest, Celebrate Recovery Speaker	Nathan Allen, RUHS, BHS II
Brenda Scott, NAMI Representative	Tony Ortego, RUHS Administrator
Andrew Elliot, RUHS, Hospital Administrator	Alec Vandehey, Guest, YAUTS
Anthony Salazar, Guest, YAUTS	Angela Igrisan, RUHS Administrator
Rick Algarin, Family Advocate Program	

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Chairperson Richard Divine called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:03 pm. Commission members and the public made self-introductions.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS** – A “Get Well” card for Georgia Smith was routed for signatures and well wishes.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS** – Jason Farin attended the “Recovery Happens” event held at Fairmount Park on September 24 and reported that it was an excellent event. There were several vendors on site and a great community turnout.

**PUBLIC REMARKS** – NAMI will hold their annual NAMIWalk on November 7 at Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet. Brenda Scott stated that those interested in having a table at the Walk may contact her for information.

Kathy Mauro announced that Joann Martin, who holds the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) functions in her home, is hosting a Halloween Party on October 31. There will be a \$100 prize for the individual with the best costume. Flyers were available for more information.

Michelle Jackson, Program Coordinator for Recovery Innovations and NAMI Signature Programs, announced that on Thursday, October 8, Kaiser Permanente on Magnolia will be holding a Peer-to-Peer Class. Registration is unusually low, so those interested are welcome to attend and pass along the information to others who would benefit from the program. Ms. Jackson added that she can also arrange for “In Their Own Voice” presentations to interested groups and organizations. This program is where peers with a mental health diagnosis share their story with others who are interested in learning more about consumers and their recovery.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – Julie Crouch moved to approve the minutes as written, James Stuart seconded the motion, all were in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** – This month’s Celebrate Recovery Speaker was Irma Ortiz from the Family Advocate Program. Ms. Ortiz and her family’s life changed the moment her brother, Victor Ortiz, had his first psychotic episode three years ago. Victor was diagnosed with Schizophrenia, a mental health disorder that Ms. Ortiz and her family knew very little about. Ms. Ortiz stated that the doctor who diagnosed her brother provided no information regarding the diagnosis, which left her and her family in a lurch.

A year ago, Ms. Ortiz and her family moved to Riverside County. The move proved to be a positive one, as they were able to find programs and support groups to help them understand Victor’s condition and how to deal with it. Pedro Arciniega, Sr. Peer Support Specialist for the Family Advocate Program, answered her first call to Riverside University Health System (RUHS) – Behavioral Health. Mr. Arciniega referred her to the Family-to-Family Support Group at the Blaine Clinic, which helped Ms. Ortiz and her family tremendously. The Family-to-Family Support Group helped them understand Victor’s illness as they had difficulty separating his illness from his normal behavior. Through Family-to-Family, they learned the behaviors symptomatic of Schizophrenia, which helped them discern Victor’s normal behavior from his illness. The program also taught them the importance of self-care; that in order to help and care for Victor and have an understanding of his illness, they must take care of themselves first.

Ms. Ortiz praised all the classes and support groups that she has attended through RUHS – Behavioral Health and NAMI. Ms. Ortiz stated that being in an environment where there are other families that share the same struggle, it helps them understand and move forward. They are able to rest in the fact that Victor will eventually be able to succeed in his own personal goals with the proper treatment and support.

Now that Victor is stabilized with his medication and receiving support from friends and family, he is able to go to school as a part-time student at Moreno Valley City College and is taking classes in art and guitar lessons. With the help of RUHS – Behavioral Health programs and NAMI, Ms. Ortiz and her family feel hopeful about Victor’s recovery and his future.

In closing, Ms. Ortiz recommends the Commission continue programs and support groups such as Family-to-Family in English and Spanish, as they are very important in helping families understand mental illness. Ms. Ortiz also suggested having support groups and classes specialized for the siblings of those who have a mental illness. Ms. Ortiz noted that while she has gained much success with the family support groups, sibling relationships differ greatly from the parent/child relationship, thus making the interaction between siblings and dealing with certain issues and situations vary.

The Commission members congratulated Ms. Ortiz and thanked her for sharing her story. She was commended for her efforts with her brother as not all siblings or family members can be so supportive and understanding. The Commission also stated that they will take her

suggestion into consideration for sibling support groups and classes.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. INTRODUCTION OF DR. ANDREW ELLIOTT: Director Jerry Wengerd introduced Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health's new Medical Director, Dr. Andrew Elliott. Dr. Elliott has been with working with the County in the Desert Region since 2005. He attended University of Washington where he earned his PhD in Psychiatry and completed several years of research. Dr. Elliott's background also includes a Masters Degree in Public Health, which goes well with the vision of healthcare integration between public health and primary care. In the last 6-7 years, Dr. Elliott worked at the Full Service Partnership (FSP) in the Desert, which is aggressive case management for people with severe mental illness and/or substance use issues who require a great deal of support. Dr. Elliott also trains therapists hired by the County in Dialectical Behavior Therapy, which is therapy designed for people with borderline personality disorders, chronic suicidal thoughts, and are unable to manage their intense emotions.
2. YOUTH ADVOCATES UNITED TO SUCCEED (YAUTS): Angela Igrisan, Children's Mental Health Administrator, introduced Alec Vandehey and Anthony Salazar from YAUTS. YAUTS is a relatively new program organized and operated by youth advocates including Mr. Salazar and Mr. Vandehey. YAUTS works in partnership with Riverside County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), managed by Tasha Arneson. It is a "drop-in" type center where youth of all ages can come and speak to a peer about their problems. Children, teens, and young adults typically have difficulty listening and speaking to adults regarding their issues because they feel patronized, talked down to, and judged. YAUTS provides a positive environment where youth can have a comfortable and open place to share and discuss their problems and relate with peer advocates who can help guide them and possibly find other resources to help them deal with their issues. Mr. Salazar describes their efforts as "build(ing) the youth up to become leaders and be successful by using the struggles of their past as a strength by learning from it." Mr. Salazar continued that the kids that come in their program may have been sexually abused, in probation, in group homes, on drugs, and/or homeless. Mr. Salazar and Mr. Vandehey both experienced their own struggles growing up, which they found instrumental when relating to the kids coming into their program. Mr. Vandehey is diagnosed as a Type 2 Bipolar and has been hospitalized five times in the last three years. Mr. Salazar's mother struggled with an alcohol dependency, and due to lack of guidance and supervision Mr. Salazar started doing drugs at the age of 13 and joined a gang. Both Mr. Vandehey and Mr. Salazar overcame their struggles and channeled their energy into something positive and beneficial for the youth by establishing the YAUTS program. Mr. Salazar and Mr. Vandehey's ultimate goal for the program is to "help kids before they get worse."

## OLD BUSINESS

1. MHSA UPDATE: Bill Brenneman began by informing the Commissioners that the Behavioral Health Commission Annual Report has been drafted and a copy was included in their packets. Mr. Brenneman asked the Commission to review the Report and to forward any suggested revisions/corrections to the BHC Liaison over the course of the next month. The goal is to prepare the document for the Commission to vote on at the November meeting for approval to submit to the Board of Supervisors.

Also included in the packet was a flyer for the "Send Silence Packing" event scheduled to take place on October 14 at Mt. San Jacinto College in Menifee and October 15 at the University of California – Riverside. The event will feature a dramatic display of 1,100 backpacks symbolizing the 1,100 students who are lost to suicide each year. Each backpack will have a letter and photo, sharing the stories of students that have committed suicide over the years. It is an impactful and meaningful event and all Commission members and the public are invited to attend.

Civilian, the advertising agency in charge of our "Up to Riverside" stigma reduction campaign recently completed a phone survey that allows us to assess the impact of the campaign in Riverside County. A meeting will be held next week to review the results of the campaign. Mr. Brenneman suggested having a representative from Civilian present at the next Commission meeting to present the survey results.

2. AB109 UPDATE: Sherri Parker reported that the AB109 Administration is continuing to grow. Currently, there are 13 positions open for recruitment; 4 are pending for hire; and 54 positions have been filled throughout the County. They are also working diligently to implement integration and Rhyann Miller from Substance Use has done a tremendous job helping them with their certifications. So in addition to having mental health services, substance use services will be co-located in their clinics and day reporting centers.

From July 2015 through September 2015, AB109 has provided services to 3,198 probationers throughout the County, which includes 1,496 mental health treatments and assessments and 928 substance use screenings. Ms. Parker stated that they are working closely with Probation and communicating their recommendations to judges and the courts. Ms. Parker reported that things are going well at AB109 and the program continues to be busy.

3. SUBSTANCE USE UPDATE: Rhyen Miller announced that an invitation will be sent to the Commissioners later in the day for a provider meeting taking place Thursday, October 8. The invitation will include a semi-final draft of the Drug MediCal Waiver's clinical portion. Stakeholders, contract providers, and Commissioners are all invited to attend and review the Drug MediCal Waiver. There will be a Q&A segment during the meeting.

Mr. Miller also announced that the State has given Phase 2 counties, which includes Riverside County, a start date to implement the Drug MediCal Waiver program. As of November 1, all contract providers can submit their Drug MediCal applications or supplemental forms to increase services. ABC Club is the first residential program in the state to get designated and certified.

Recently, Mr. Miller, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Rogers met with Juvenile Judges and District Attorneys throughout the County and presented the idea of having a Juvenile Drug Court, as we currently do not have one in place. Everyone was in support of the idea and will be moving forward with the project and begin visiting neighboring counties that already have the system in place.

Prior to Dr. Dennis' retirement, he suggested having the START team re-focus and branch out services. Traditionally, the START team receives their referrals through ETS/ ITF and Dr. Dennis wanted this effort to be expanded. Mr. Miller stated that they started a beta test about 2 ½ months ago with the PET Team in Moreno Valley, at the RUHS – Medical Center, and the Hemet Mental Health Clinic to take direct referrals to help avoid the unnecessary hospitalizations at ETS/ ITF. Thus far, the beta test is successful and has received great reviews from the staff, especially at RUHS – Medical Center.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Director Jerry Wengerd formally announced his retirement after 10 years of service to the Department and his last day will be December 10, 2015. Commission members were saddened by the news, but wished Mr. Wengerd well.

The 5150 crisis continues to be an issue for the Department. Mr. Wengerd stated that this is not an issue of neglect, but simply an issue of lack of service availability. Also, the crisis is not singularly a Riverside issue, but statewide, as Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego are also experiencing problems. Mental Health is also receiving a great deal of negative press due to mass shootings occurring across the country. The constant narrative of mass shooting is that the shooter suffers from a mental illness. The narrative implies that the mental health system as a whole is ineffective, when in reality the shooter may be struggling with something entirely different or from a disorder that would not have otherwise been served or treated by the mental health system.

A federal audit was recently completed for the County and Mr. Wengerd was able to review a rough draft of the audit results. Mr. Wengerd stated that the report was extremely positive and thanked Rhyen and Maureen for leading the charge.

Lastly, Mr. Wengerd reported that there is a massive infusion of mental health services occurring in our detention system and they are hiring mental health professionals in large numbers. Mr. Wengerd stated that mental health and substance use services have been adequate in the detention system, but not quite enough. Since the implementation of AB109, services have mostly been crisis oriented and were focused solely on AB109 individuals. Mr. Wengerd noted that the best thing about this growth in the detention system is that it does not take away from mental health funding; because the detention system is funded by County General Funds.

#### COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. **DESERT REGIONAL BOARD (DRB):** Mr. Divine reported the DRB discussed the successes of the Art Show and site visits/ reviews. The DRB also established a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of candidates for the 2016 Executive Committee.
2. **MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BOARD (MCRB):** Dr. Haessler reported the MCRB met at Victor Community Support Services in Perris. There were presentations from the Children's and TAY programs. Membership at the MCRB has increased to 7 members with 2 more applicants currently being processed. Brenda Scott also shared during the MCRB meeting that Mayor Krupa and Supervisor Chuck Washington met at the NAMI Walk luncheon and have decided to tour the Hemet Clinic and San Jacinto Children's Clinic. Ms. Scott stated that this is an exciting development as both the Mayor and the Third District Supervisor will have the opportunity to see the clinics and further discuss the common goals regarding mental health facilities.
3. **WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD (WRB):** Mr. Damewood reported that the WRB has been meeting at the Blaine Street Clinic for several years and will be moving to the Rustin location for the next meeting. Paul Thompson shared that new MHSA Innovation project has received funding for TAY programs.
4. **ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE (ASOC):** James Lucero, a new ASOC member and Chair of the "Access" subcommittee reported that they are currently focusing on the development of a record keeping system that streamlines the way records are maintained. They hope to find a system that will centralize the records and update on a monthly basis, as opposed

to yearly in some cases. Mr. Lucero and the "Access" Subcommittee hope to simplify the system in a way that it would only take one email a month to update "master records."

5. CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE: Tori St. Johns reported that Ryan Quist gave a presentation regarding the Performance Improvement Project and Healthcare Integration in the Children's mental health system. Angela Igrisan also shared that they are working diligently to reach their goal of 50% penetration rate and explained the difficulties they are encountering in their efforts for hitting that target. Ms. St. Johns added that the Committee also learned that this upcoming generation will be the first to live a shorter lifespan than their parents due to health reasons.
6. CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (CJC): Mr. Damewood reported that staffing for services is going well. There are some concerns at the Mental Health Court, which may be due to funding, but Ms. Johnson assured the CJC that the issue will be addressed. Individuals requiring services in the penal system are continuing to receive services timely and appropriately. The November meeting has been rescheduled to November 18 due to the holiday on the 11th.
7. OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE (OASOC): Ric Riccardi reported that by 2050, Riverside County is projected to be the second most populous county in the state, with people 60 years of age and older as the fastest growing demographic. Growth is estimated to be between 255-500%; 69% of which will be people over the age of 60. California has the largest population of centenarians in the nation and also has the highest percentage of grandparents as the primary caregiver to their grandchildren. Reportedly, in 40% of multi-generational homes, grandparents are the primary caregiver and head of household, and 22% of this population is living in poverty.

Mr. Riccardi announced that October marks the first anniversary of three Older Adults Wellness and Recovery Clinics in the County – Temecula, Desert Hot Springs, and Lake Elsinore. Community Service Assistants are providing transportation through five of their main clinics and three of their satellite clinics. Lastly, Older Adults Services is working closely with Substance Use to provide treatment geared specifically to the older adult population at the Desert Hot Springs, Temecula, Lake Elsinore, and Riverside (Rustin) location.

8. SUBSTANCE USE COMMITTEE: Tori St. Johns reported that they held their first meeting earlier in the day. Bea Gonzalez will be the Chair for the Committee and Ms. St. Johns will be the Vice Chair. Meetings will be held at the Substance Use section of Rustin on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am.
9. VETERAN'S COMMITTEE: Dr. Haessler reported that interviews for the Veterans Services Liaison were held on September 29. There were 9 applicants; all of whom were veterans, and are either clinicians at the intern level or fully licensed. Three of the nine candidates were called back for a second interview, which will be held October 14.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS** – Ms. Crouch stated that she has updates from the California Association of Mental Health Board/ Commissions that she would like to report on at the November meeting. Mr. Damewood asked the Executive Committee to consider changing the deadlines for site reviews – completion dates of every three years instead of two.

#### ADJOURN

Mr. Damewood moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Gentillalli seconded the motion, all were in favor, none opposed, and the meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission adjourned at 2:05 pm.

*Maria Roman*

Julie Crouch, BHC Secretary  
Maria Roman, Recording Secretary

**2015 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

MEMBERS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	SEPT	OCT	NOV
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Carole Schaudt, District 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Daryl Terrell, District 5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eric Keen, District 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Georgia Smith, District 2	✓	✓	A	A	A	A	A (ML)	A (ML)	A (ML)	
Greg Damewood, District 5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
James Stuart, District 4	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Jason Farin, District 2								✓	✓	
Julie Crouch, District 1	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	
Richard Divine, District 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Walter Haessler, District 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Present = ✓

Absent = A

Medical Leave = (ML)

Minutes and agendas of meetings are available upon request and online at [www.rcdmh.org](http://www.rcdmh.org). To request copies, please contact the BHC Liaison at (951) 955-7141 or email at [MYRoman@rcmhd.org](mailto:MYRoman@rcmhd.org).