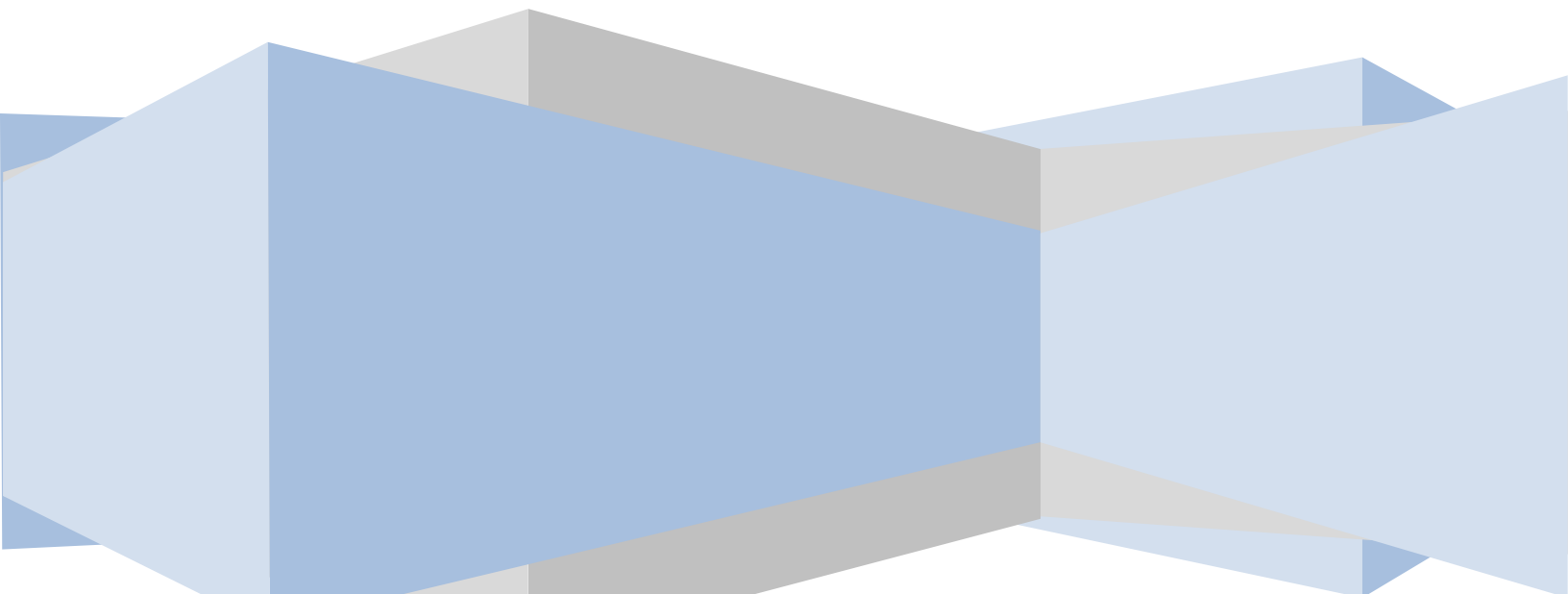


RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2016
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm



BHC MEETING ATTENDANCE

MARCH 2, 2016

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

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT	
Eric Keen, District 1	

OTHERS PRESENT	
Steve Thronson, Guest	Nichol Sheffield, Pacific Grove Hospital
Rhyan Miller, Substance Use Administrator	Kevin Festa, RI International
Kathryn Mauro, WRB, Consumer	James Lucero, ASOC, WRB
Barbara J. Mitchell, Guest	Shelly Vrolijk, VARP
Lynn Kienzle, VARP	Leonel Contreras, Provider
Cynthia "Oma" Gray, Soroptomist House of Hope	May Farr, NAMI
Rick Moss, Guest	Dr. Matthew Chang, Medical Director
Tony Ortego, MHS Administrator	Brian Tisdale, BOS Representative, District 3
Ryan Quist, MHS Program Manager	Stephen Cromwell, Guest
Maria G. Becerra, BOS Representative, District 4	Angela Igrisan, MHS Administrator
Arlene Ferrer, IEHP	Kim McElroy, MCRB
Gloria Gaitan, High Road Program	Sharon Lee, MHSA Administration
Bill Brenneman, MHSA Administrator	Linda Fitzgerald, NAMI
Araceli Ruiz, BOS Representative, District 1	Rick Algarin, Family Advocate Program
Luc Ringuette, Celebrate Recovery Speaker	Maria Algarin, Family Advocate Program
Deborah Pagliuso, DUI Program	Laurence Gonzaga, IEHP
Brenda Scott, NAMI	Tiffany Keeler, RI International
George Middle, MCRB	Deborah Johnson, Housing/Forensics Deputy Director
Gloria Hernandez, MCRB	Maureen Dopson, QI
Joe Zamora, Finance & Administration Deputy Director	Steve Steinberg, Director

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS – Chairperson, Richard Divine called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:00 pm. Commission members and the public made self-introductions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Mr. Divine reported that he represented the Commission on the interview panel for the new Behavioral Health Director. After an intense interview process, Steve Steinberg was selected as the new Behavioral Health Director. Commissioners and the public congratulated Mr. Steinberg.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS – Daryl Terrell suggested that the Commission begin holding meetings at the different regions of the County, so that members can familiarize themselves with the different facilities, clients, and staff in other regions.

Julie Crouch referred members and the public to a handout included in the meeting packet; the first newsletter from California Association of Local Mental Health Boards/Commissions (CALMHB/C). Ms. Crouch stated that there is a great deal of information in the newsletter and their website and Facebook page have also been established.

James Stuart reported that he and Daryl Terrell recently attended the Palm Springs City Council and Agua Caliente Tribal Council joint meeting. The growing issue of homelessness was discussed at length and Mr. Stuart requested monthly updates to give the Commission more information on the matter. Mr. Steinberg informed Mr. Stuart that the issue is being looked into by Supervisor Benoit's office and they are holding bi-monthly meetings regarding the matter.

Rick Gentillalli reported that at the Veteran's Committee meeting, he learned a facility in Hemet is closing and is moving to San Jacinto. Mr. Gentillalli stated that Hemet is not allowing several programs and facilities into the community and is inquiring if there is anything that can be done to stop this from happening.

Ric Riccardi stated that with the possible approval of the upcoming ballot legalizing marijuana for recreational use, the Commission and the Department should consider resurrecting the educational ad, "This is your brain on drugs..." as an educational and preventative measure.

Mr. Stuart requested monthly updates on the growing industry of marijuana clinics in the County as well as Prop 47.

PUBLIC REMARKS – Brenda Scott announced that the NAMI Walk will be held October 29 at Diamond Valley Lake and NAMI Affiliates may also hold satellite walks.

Ms. Scott also reported that at the Hemet City Council meeting, there were two bills that were discussed – HR2646 (Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015) and SB2002 (Mental Health and Safe Communities Act of 2015). Another topic discussed during the Council Meeting was an initiative they plan to include in the ballot for Hemet; a 1% sales tax that will be directed to law enforcement for 10 years. This concerns Ms. Scott because of negative interaction between law enforcement and the homeless. Combining this with the lack of mental health and homeless services in Hemet, this may cause even greater problems.

Brian Tisdale, Board Representative from Supervisor Washington's Office and Mayor of Lake Elsinore, responded to Mr. Gentillalli, Ms. Scott, and Mr. Stuart regarding the homeless issue and the lack of mental health services in Hemet. The homeless issue is not just a concern for the Desert Region, but all of Riverside County. Several people are addressing the issue; however there is currently no leadership role. One of the biggest struggles working with the homeless is the mental health component, which they do not have the ability to address as they lack the facilities and staff. Regarding the lack of mental health services in Hemet; in his previous position with the Public Health Department, Mr. Tisdale worked with the City of Hemet for 9 years in their Emergency Response Unit. What he gleaned from this experience is that Hemet feels as though they are being "dumped on" when mental health services are introduced in their community. They feel that each time a mental health service is introduced to the city it brings a lot of people in and concerns the elected officials, business owners, and community members that want to make Hemet a better place to live. Supervisor Washington is aware of the issues, but

allows the cities to make their own decisions and determine how they would like to resolve them.

Kathy Mauro raised a personal concern and requested the Commission and public to be mindful by using the term "Substance Use" instead of "Substance Abuse" as it is not supportive or sensitive to those struggling with the issue.

James Lucero shared his experience of struggling with substance use and being homeless. Janice, a homeless person he knew, died a few days earlier; she was run over behind a Stater Bros. grocery store. This occurred due to lack of services and the homeless being pushed into the community because encampments are being shut down by law enforcement. Mr. Lucero stated that without proper services and outreach, situations such as this will continue to occur. A program called "Housing First" has been successful in other communities; Mr. Lucero noted that it would be worth considering implementing this program throughout the County.

Deborah Pagliuso from the High Road Program responded to the suggestion made regarding the use of the old ad "This is your brain on drugs..." Ms. Pagliuso stated that due to the push for legalization, the impact of marijuana has been watered down. It is important to remind the public that marijuana is still a drug.

Ms. Pagliuso announced that on May 25-26, the California Association of DUI Treatment Programs (CADTP) is holding their Spring Forum in La Quinta. Pharmacologist, Dr. Darryl Inaba is scheduled to speak at the Forum on DUI: Marijuana and other Abused Substances. Flyers for the event will be provided at the next meeting.

Nicole Sheffield from Pacific Grove Hospital thanked the County as they recently received their Indigent Contract, which will allow them to further help the homeless population suffering a psychiatric crisis. They are currently recruiting for Director of Business Development and they hope to find someone from the community who will be familiar with the community and its needs, particularly LGBTQ issues, HIV/AIDS, homeless, and veterans issues. The job posting can also be found online at www.indeed.com.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – James Stuart motioned to approve the minutes as written, Rick Gentillalli seconded the motion, none opposed, and the minutes were approved as written.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY – This month's Celebrate Recovery Speaker was Luc Ringuette from the Family Advocate Program. Mr. Ringuette's son Brandon struggled with several mental health diagnoses – Schizophrenia, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and Asperger's Syndrome. Doctors prescribed a great deal of medication, which only made him worse and eventually lead him to develop a substance use problem. For seven years Brandon struggled with these issues, which resulted in jail stints and even homelessness. Things began to turn around when Brandon ended up in the system. Initially, he was assigned to go to Detention services, but was later transferred to Riverside University Health System (RUHS) – Behavioral Health for services and treatment. Mr. Ringuette stated that everyone was so supportive and compassionate, which is exactly what he needed. Brandon is now 15 months sober and is doing very well. Mr. Ringuette credits the Family Advocate Program and the RUHS – Behavioral Health for his progress. Mr. Ringuette stated that this is an extremely complex problem, which takes constant care and compassion and applauds the Department and its staff for all that they do. Parents have difficulty handling these situations because it is emotionally charged and most of the time they don't know what to do or where to go. Mr. Ringuette emphasized the importance of having programs such as Family Advocate Program; it gives families the support and help they need when caring for a loved one that's struggling with a mental health and/or substance use problem.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Ringuette for sharing his story. They commended him for not giving up and congratulated him and his son for their progress and success in the program.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING (CIT) UPDATE:** Tiffany Ross from Workforce Education and Training (WET)

provided an update on the progress of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) in the County. CIT originated in 1988 in Memphis Tennessee and is a training provided worldwide. Riverside County has been conducting this training for over five years and Ms. Ross has been providing CIT training to law enforcement for two years. Law enforcement officers receive 2-3 days of CIT training. CIT includes a review of common mental health disorders – schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), stigma, stigma perception, officer well-being and health, 5150, legal issues, medication issues, and other mental health related issues. Officers are taught de-escalation skills and are provided with community resources, linkages, and contact information for crisis situations. CIT Trainings also include consumer and family guest speakers that share their personal stories of what it is like dealing with a mental illness or those who have families that struggle with mental illness. This gives officers a different perspective and allows them to ask questions and get feedback. Ms. Ross trains with partners from law enforcement who speak on their expertise, such as a lieutenant from Crisis Negotiation and SWAT. WET provides 25 CIT trainings a year, to both sworn and unsworn officers including parole officers, dispatchers and correctional deputies. Ms. Ross noted that they specifically train for Riverside County, but CIT training is open to anyone interested. Recently, California Highway Patrol (CHP) requested to have a training developed for them. WET developed and provided CIT training specific for CHP, and later trained all CHP within Riverside County.

Ms. Ross reported that in the two years she has been providing CIT training she observed a significant increase in positive responses. This is evidenced by the number of positive feedback and requests they receive for more training. WET is currently working on additional CIT trainings, refresher courses, and updates. The Riverside Sheriff's Office recently contacted WET requesting development of a curriculum to help prevent suicide among law enforcement because they are now seeing the need for mental health services within their own culture. It is their goal to break through the stigma and offer their officers the support and help they need.

2. **SOROPTOMIST HOUSE OF HOPE:** Rhyann Miller, Substance Use Administrator, introduced Cynthia "Oma" Gray from Soroptomist House of Hope (SHOH), a Substance Use service provider since 1981. Ms. Gray is the Executive Director of Soroptomist House of Hope, but began as a client back in 1998. She checked herself in to Soroptomist House of Hope on December 10, 1998 and never looked back. Soroptomist House of Hope is a residential treatment facility, which began as a peer support service; no one was certified and everyone was in recovery. Everyone worked together and supported each other during their recovery. They received their contract with the County in 1984 and have been working closely with the County ever since. They have been licensed and certified by the state for several years and are strictly non-profit. They receive funding through donations and grants. They provide services to the indigent and the majority of their clients are adult women. SHOH is the smallest substance use treatment agency in Riverside County, and possibly the state. They have six treatment beds in Desert Hot Springs and five transitional house beds in Banning. They work diligently to receive their grant funding and have worked closely with Rhyann Miller in the last year to get certified for the Drug Medi-Cal Waiver. Despite their size, they have electronic health records thanks to the Regional Access Project and Lionel Contreras. They collaborate with the Latino Commission and the Ranch Recovery Services to provide services. Recently, they started a Co-Occurring Disorder education class and hope to be a smoke-free facility by July 1 of this year by providing smoking cessation classes and tools for their clients. SHOH has a 75% success rate and is the first residential treatment facility in Riverside County, if not the state, to successfully complete and submit a Drug Medi-Cal Waiver application. On February 9, they had a successful site visit from the state and look forward to getting their feedback and hope to be the first residential program to be Drug Medi-Cal certified.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **MHSA UPDATE:** Bill Brenneman reported that on February 23-24, Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) and Research staff went to Sacramento for the first round of PEI Regulation meetings with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). They focused largely on access, linkage and duration of untreated mental illness. Unfortunately, they were unable to come up with solutions to as the issues that arose from the new regulations are so overwhelming. It was agreed that they will document all the feedback and provide an update to the counties at a later date. At the next meeting, they will review the updates and discuss the demographic portion of the new regulations.

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update is currently being drafted and they hope to complete it by April.

Copies of the draft will be distributed at the April BHC meeting to give the Commission and the public 30 days to review prior to the Public Hearing. Public Hearings will be held at the Rustin location and in the Desert Region. The first Public Hearing will be held after the BHC meeting in May and the second will be held in the Desert Region in conjunction with Desert Regional Board's meeting if possible. Times for the public hearing will be determined at a later date and will be announced when available. After the Public Hearings, the Commission will be tasked to establish an adhoc committee to help review the public comments and make changes/additions to the MHSA Annual Update, if necessary. Once the review is completed, the finalized plan will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors in June for approval and then submitted to MHSOAC to receive and file.

2. SUBSTANCE USE UPDATE: Rhyen Miller announced that the Substance Use Program (SUP) Administrator's Annual Report will be submitted to the Director in the next week for approval. Once approved, the BHC Liaison will forward a copy to the Commission for review and Mr. Miller will provide a summary report at the April BHC meeting.

Mr. Miller addressed Mr. Gentillalli's concern regarding a facility closing in Hemet. To clarify, the facility did not "close," the AB109 and Substance Use staff that operated within the clinic is moving three blocks away, which happens to be in the city of San Jacinto. This move will allow services to be expanded at the current mental health clinic in Hemet for more mental health staff and services. AB109 and the Substance Use staff are moving to a facility in San Jacinto that was previously owned by the County. Upgrades were made to building to accommodate the growing Substance Use Program staff and services.

Mr. Miller reported that in the coming weeks, five AB109 specific clinics will be certified for substance use services. Three of the clinics are at Probation sites and two are self-standing clinics.

Mr. Miller provided a quick update on the Drug Medi-Cal Waiver. Providers were sent approximately 25 documents regarding new developments that occurred in the last two weeks. SUP staff will be meeting with the state and other counties regarding these developments and a report will be provided at the next Provider meeting on March 10. There is some anxiety regarding the barriers to access from the new "Managed Care" model. SUP staff is addressing those concerns and they will discuss them openly with all Providers and will work diligently to make sure everyone is comfortable with the process and continue to meet the community's needs.

SUP's "Recovery Happens" event will be taking place in October and they were recently approved to hold the event at Rustin. This will allow easier access for consumers who receive both mental health and substance use services. The event will be held on a Friday; the actual date and time is to be determined. Details regarding the event will be provided in the coming months.

Regarding advertising for anti-marijuana ads, the Department has also considered participating in this effort. San Bernardino has some good examples of billboards and Ventura County also has some good ideas for ads directed to the youth. Friday Night Live Coordinator, Will Harris is reviewing these ads and all are welcome to submit their ideas for consideration. SUP is also looking into working with the Community Resource Educator, Robert Youssef, to get these ads on the Department's social media platforms.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Steve Steinberg thanked everyone for the encouragement and support he received over the last several months. Mr. Steinberg is proud and humbled to be the new Director for RUHS – Behavioral Health and looks forward to leading the Department into the future. Mr. Steinberg's appointment is a message to the Department that the leadership of the Health System and the County has faith in what we are doing. There has been some concern in the last year regarding the intentions of the new Health System, but Mr. Steinberg's appointment shows that the County and Health System leadership trusts and believes that the Department is doing a good job. Mr. Steinberg's biggest role is to ensure that the Department transitions into the Health System and that we have a voice in making Behavioral Health an integral part of the Health System, so that we can better serve all the health needs of Riverside County residents.

One of his first order of business as Director is to hire a few leadership positions that are currently open. There are two Deputy Director and one Assistant Director (his previous position) positions that are open. It is Mr. Steinberg's goal to rebuild the leadership team to help the Department continue moving forward.

In SUP, Deborah Johnson and Rhyann Miller have done an incredible job getting Riverside positioned to be one of the first counties that will be ready to implement the new Drug Medi-Cal Waiver. This means a great deal to our providers, especially those that are not receiving funding for any of the services they were providing. This will allow all providers to get funding from Drug Medi-Cal and expand the type of services they have available. This is a big priority for Mr. Steinberg and he is providing all the support that SUP needs to keep moving forward.

In Mental Health, they are currently exploring and identifying the best practices in mental health clinics. The Department has done a great job with evidence-based practices and there are ongoing discussions regarding productivity and what can be done to keep the clinics running efficiently and effectively. There are various models that they are considering and plan to embark on a project to determine the best practices for the clinics; see what practices are successful and possibly implement them in other clinics and programs. Mr. Steinberg believes that this will lead to a service delivery system that will not only be more efficient, but also more effective. Clinics and staff will function with greater ease, which will greatly benefit the people we serve.

Mr. Steinberg introduced the new Medical Director, Dr. Matthew Chang. Dr. Chang has worked with the County for a couple of years primarily in Banning and the Desert Region. Dr. Chang recently served as a Social Medical Director in the Desert and his background includes child psychiatry and forensic psychiatry. Dr. Chang stated that he is humbled and honored to serve the County in this role and look forward to working with everyone.

Mr. Steinberg addressed some of the concerns surrounding the homeless issue. There is a committee called "Continuum of Care Committee" that consists of community and County leadership that address the issue of homelessness. Supervisor Washington and Mr. Steinberg are both members of this committee. As James Lucero suggested, the County is in fact considering "Housing First" as an option. Housing First places the homeless in housing first and later determine what their needs are and how to meet them; as opposed to the current system where the homeless must first meet certain requirements prior to receiving housing. The Department has a full-range of housing opportunities, which includes homeless outreach programs and the HHOPE program, managed by Lynne Brockmeier. These services provide housing alternatives for those living in encampments. Despite the available services and efforts made by the Department, it is worth mentioning that there are some homeless individuals that prefer not to accept offers to help and choose to go elsewhere.

Lastly, Mr. Steinberg addressed the "No Place Like Home" initiative introduced by bipartisan coalition of members from the California State Senate. This initiative is supported by the co-author of Prop. 63, former State Assembly Darrell Steinberg. Mr. Steinberg assured the Commission that it is not a bill, it is a proposal that includes allocating 7.5% of MHSA funding to "No Place Like Home." The California Behavioral Health Directors Association has advised counties to be patient and see if the initiative becomes a bill before taking action. However, if it does become a bill, the Department will be very active in identifying and defining its terms. Mr. Steinberg stated that he will keep the Commission updated on any new developments that may come from this initiative.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

1. DESERT REGION: Due to time constraints, Mr. Divine stated that he will provide his report next month.
2. MID-COUNTY REGION: Kim McElroy reported that they are continuing to plan Mid-County's May is Mental Health Month event. They are working on securing exhibitors and entertainers for the event.
3. WESTERN REGION: Greg Damewood stated that Western Regional Board's minutes are included in the packet for review. Mr. Damewood also announced that they are considering changing their meetings from monthly to bi-monthly and moving the meeting time up from 4:30 to 3:00.
4. ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE: Kathy Mauro reported that they discussed the issue of transportation and supplying clinics with maps and booklets for the consumers.
5. CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE: Julie Crouch reported that Youth Advocates United to Succeed (YAUTS) program recently received a \$15,000 grant and is doing really well. Ms. Crouch provided a quick report on the different donation drives

from 2015. The "Back Pack Project" received 821 backpack donations; the "Thanksgiving Basket" drive received 105 baskets; and the "Snowflake" gift donation received 1,200 presents that were given out to the children receiving mental health services in Riverside County.

6. CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Mr. Damewood announced that they will be meeting on March 9 at noon and all are invited to attend. Meetings are held bi-monthly, therefore there is no report for February.
7. OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE: Ric Riccardi stated that minutes are included in the meeting packet for review. Mr. Riccardi reported that last month's meeting was held at the Behavioral Health and Nutrition Service Center in Desert Hot Springs. The facility was beautiful and spacious, and the staff was friendly and welcoming.
8. VETERANS COMMITTEE: Walter Haessler reported that the committee is growing and active. Main topic discussed was CIT training and the possible inclusion of veterans issues in the curriculum. A Peer Specialist from San Bernardino shared their CIT curriculum and the committee learned that they have a segment dedicated to veterans issues. Lastly, the Veterans Liaison position is still vacant and David Schoelen is working on getting the position filled.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

James Stuart requested further discussion on the issue of homelessness at the next meeting.

Rick Gentillalli requested a presentation regarding the upcoming ballot for marijuana legalization.

Greg Damewood requested clarification regarding the Peer Navigation Line, whether it will replace the complaints line. Mr. Damewood also asked to get information regarding the May is Mental Health Month event.

ADJOURN – James Stuart moved to adjourn the meeting, Julie Crouch seconded the motion, all were in favor, none opposed, and the meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Julie Crouch, BHC Secretary
Maria Roman, Recording Secretary

2016 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

MEMBERS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	SEPT	OCT	NOV
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	✓	✓	✓							
Carole Schaudt, District 4	✓	A	✓							
Daryl Terrell, District 5	✓	✓	✓							
Eric Keen, District 1	✓	✓	A							
Greg Damewood, District 5	✓	✓	✓							
James Stuart, District 4	A	✓	✓							
Jason Farin, District 2	✓	✓	✓							
Julie Crouch, District 1	✓	A	✓							
Ric Riccardi, District 5	✓	✓	✓							
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. To request copies, please contact the BHC Liaison at (951) 955-7141 or email at MYRoman@rcmhd.org.