

# **RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION**



Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 2017  
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

## BHC MEETING ATTENDANCE APRIL 5, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT	
Richard Divine, District 4, <i>Chair</i>	Rick Gentillalli, District 3, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Ric Riccardi, District 5, <i>Secretary</i>	Dildar Ahmad, District 1
Greg Damewood, District 5	Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4
Walter Haessler, District 1	April Jones, District 3
George Middle, District 2	Carole Schaudt, District 4
Brenda Scott, District 3	Victoria St. Johns, District 4
Daryl Terrell, District 5	

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT	
Jason Farin, BOS Representative	

OTHERS PRESENT	
Leonel Contreras, Provider	Barbara Mitchell, Office on Aging
Lorie Lacey-Payne, RUHS-BH	Kristen Duffy, RUHS-BH
Dawn Gordon, WRAB	Karen O' Rear, RUHS-BH
Nat Tollefson, RUHS-BH	Jim Hill, RUHS-BH
Brian Tisdale, BOS Representative, 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Kim Trone, RUHS
Paul Thompson, RUHS-BH	Ashley Fuller, BOS Representative, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Jeff Davied, Provider	Steve Steinberg, RUHS-BH Director
Gloria Gaitan, Provider	Dr. Akram Razzouk, RUHS-BH Chief of Psychiatry
Nita Foust, RUHS-BH	Claudia Smith, Public Guardian
Ralph Bachli, Guest	Araceli Ruiz, BOS Representative, 1 <sup>st</sup> District
Selvino Moscare, RUHS-BH	Bernadette Regan, RUHS-BH
Laurence Gonzaga, IEHP	Paul Baum, RUHS-BH
Kim McElroy, MCRAB	Rick Algarin, RUHS-BH
Brian Betz, RUHS-BH	Vicki Redding, RUHS-BH
Sharon Lee, RUHS-BH	Maria Becerra, BOS Representative, 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Sylvia Aguirre-Aguilar, RUHS-BH	Ryan Quist, RUHS-BH
Deborah Pagliuso, Provider	Richard Bolter, RUHS-BH
Kimberly Lennon, Guest	Kevin Booker, RUHS-BH
Tony Ortego, RUHS-BH	Karen Hudson, RI International
Rhyan Miller, RUHS-BH	Bill Brenneman, RUHS-BH
Erica Sierra, RUHS-BH	David Schoelen, RUHS-BH

**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 welcomed two new members to the Commission, April Jones and Brenda Scott. Ms. Jones is a marriage and family therapist for Hemet Unified School District and Ms. Scott works for NAMI Mt. San Jacinto.

Mr. Divine announced that the Behavioral Health Commission Annual Report FY16/17 is due to the Board of Supervisors Office on June 30. An email will be sent later in the afternoon by the BHC Liaison, for more information. The deadline to submit reports is May 26.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS** – Walter Haessler questioned the term “consumer” and “family member” as it relates to the BHC Bylaws and membership. Dr. Haessler expressed that the terms may be somewhat vague and not well-defined. Mr. Divine stated that this may be a question to ask County Counsel.

Daryl Terrell asked what type of County mental health and substance abuse services are available for the residents of Moreno Valley. Mr. Terrell also asked if the Department has any collaboration with the Moreno Valley Unified School District for behavioral health services. Steve Steinberg stated that he will discuss with Mr. Terrell after the meeting as it will be a lengthy discussion.

Ms. Scott reported that she recently attended the Hemet City Council meeting where they approved a full time behavioral health staff to work with the Police Department.

**PUBLIC REMARKS** – Ms. Scott reported that NAMI Mt. San Jacinto is holding a golf tournament. Flyers were available for more information

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The Commission accepted the minutes as written.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** – This month's Celebrate Recovery Speaker, Ralph Bachli was introduced by Nita Foust, Senior Peer Support Specialist with the Desert Region. Mr. Bachli has been a consumer at the Indio Clinic since 2013. Twenty years ago, Mr. Bachli was diagnosed with bipolar and substance abuse issues. He moved to the Coachella Valley from Albuquerque because he had a lot of family there to help support him during this time. When Mr. Bachli first returned to California he did not have any treatment services set-up and was running low on his medication. The Indio Clinic helped him get into the Urgent Care Group to see a psychiatrist for his medication. At first Mr. Bachli was concerned about getting his medication in a timely manner, but he later learned that the Urgent Care Group was just as valuable as receiving his medication. The therapists in the Urgent Care Group helped bring to light several issues that he had been struggling with for many years. Mr. Bachli stated that the services he received through the County were vastly different from the services he received in other states. He reported that he received top quality medication management and therapy, which helped him further in his recovery. After completing his participation with the Urgent Care Group in 2013, he moved to Co-Occurring Recovery Group, Recovery Management, Wellness Group, WRAP, and recently became a member of the Harmony Center and Wellness City in Indio. Mr. Bachli stated that these programs have been an important part of his recovery and he often utilizes the tools he learned. In terms of looking toward the future, much of what he has learned has helped alleviate his anxieties about having a crisis because now he has the tools and resources he needs to address them. Mr. Bachli's only recommendation is for the Department to reach out to all facets of the community – the wealthy and the poor – to help educate the citizens about mental illness and substance abuse.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **EXECUTIVE OFFICE PERCEPTION SURVEYS:** Ryan Quist from Research and Technology presented the Consumer Satisfaction Trends Report, which was recently submitted to the Executive Office for the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Quist reported that they monitor satisfaction among consumers by performing bi-annual surveys administered to adults, older adults, youth, and family members. They also collect satisfaction surveys from alcohol and other drug programs and contract providers to find out how they feel about the Department and the services provided. Highlights from the report include the following:

Youth: Consumers report they are generally satisfied or very satisfied with services. In addition, 98% of families report that service providers are consistently sensitive to their cultural needs. Overall, family members are satisfied with the services their children are receiving.

Adults: Consumers report they are generally satisfied or very satisfied with services. They report high satisfaction with access to services; quality and appropriateness of services; and participation and treatment planning. A majority of adults reported satisfaction with personal functioning and outcomes. Quality of life indicators show that a majority of consumers are mostly satisfied with their living situations, daily activities, functioning family, social relationships, and personal safety. Surveys also indicate that services appear to help reduce the occurrence of arrests after one year.

Older Adults: Consumers report high satisfaction rates among older adults. Over three-quarters of consumers report having a better handle on daily problems in social situations or crises that arise because of services they received. Approximately 72% of consumers report that their symptoms have improved since starting services. Quality of life indicators show that a majority of consumers are satisfied with their living situations and relationships. However, notably there is a high report of property risk and non-violent crimes among older adults.

Family Members: Consumers report that service providers are consistently sensitive to their cultural needs and overall, family members are satisfied with the services that their children or loved ones receive.

2. MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH: Lorie Lacey-Payne announced that this year's Western Region May is Mental Health Month event will be on May 25 at Fairmount Park. The event will feature a TAY and Children's area; the Riverside Community College nursing program will provide health screenings; Pets Assisting In Recovery will be present with animals and information on animal therapy; Health to Hope will be providing HIV testing; and Jose Montenegro will be serving as the host and master of ceremony for the event. The event will begin with a Native American blessing and the Mayor of Riverside will also be in attendance to welcome and provide opening remarks. Advertising for the event include signs on the jumbotrons near the freeway and a few radio spots with KOLA and KFROG. The Desert and Mid-County Regions are also holding their own events, which will be held on Tuesday, May 9 and Saturday, May 13, respectively.
3. ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR: Commissioners were asked to make their nominations for this year's Advocate of the Year for May is Mental Health Month. Forms were included in their packet.
4. PROCLAMATION PICK-UP DATES: Volunteers are as follows:
  - Canyon Lake: George Middle
  - Temecula: Walter Haessler
  - Perris: April Jones
  - Moreno Valley: Greg Damewood
  - Riverside County: Rick Gentillalli
  - Riverside: Dildar Ahmad
5. SITE REVIEWS: A list of members assigned to perform site reviews will be forwarded to the BHC Liaison. Mr. Divine instructed Commissioners and Regional Board members who have completed site reviews in the last two years to inform the BHC Liaison so she can update the tracking spreadsheet.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. APPOINT COMMISSION MEMBERS TO ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE, HOUSING COMMITTEE, AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:
  - Adult System of Care Committee: Brenda Scott
  - Housing Committee: Brenda Scott
  - Quality Improvement Committee: Daryl Terrell and Rick Gentillalli
2. MHSA UPDATE: Bill Brenneman reported that on Monday, March 27, the Draft MHSA 3-Year Program and

Expenditure Plan was posted on the website for 30-day review and comment period. It is currently in draft form and will be available for review until Tuesday, May 16. Mr. Brenneman requested two Commissioners assist in hosting the Public Hearing scheduled at 3:00 pm on May 3 at Rustin. Richard Divine, Rick Gentillalli, and April Jones volunteered to host. The Desert Region will also hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 16, at the Indio Mental Health Clinic.

Highlights of the MHSA 3-Year Program and Expenditure Plan include an expansion of the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) outreach efforts to provide mental health screenings for individuals coming out of incarceration settings. It also includes repurposing of the Recovery Learning Center to a Peer Navigation Center, so individuals coming out of inpatient settings can be linked to services, which will increase accessibility and timeliness to service. An Innovation Project – Commercially Sexually Exploited Children, was recently approved by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), and is also included in the Plan. Roy's Desert Resource Center will be converted to help expand adult residential beds, which may also include augmented board and care beds. MHSA will also be leveraging funds with crisis grants to help support the Crisis Stabilization and Residential services on County Farm Road.

Mr. Brenneman introduced the new MHSA Administrator, David Schoelen. Mr. Schoelen has worked with Mr. Brenneman for almost 8 years developing the Workforce Education and Training (WET) component of MHSA. Overall, Mr. Schoelen has been with the Department since 1991, has an excellent reputation as a clinician, and is experienced and knowledgeable of the Department's system structures and programs.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION and TREATMENT (SAPT) UPDATE: Rhyan Miller reported that the State recently implemented a new rule in terms of who the Department treats with Drug Medi-Cal. It is referred to as the County of Residence Rules. Before the Waiver, the Department had to serve any and all incoming clients with Medi-Cal. After the implementation of the Waiver, the Department is now restricted to only serving Riverside County residents. This rule only applies to Riverside and San Mateo County. There are two exemptions to the County of Residence Rules – the first is for the Narcotic Treatment Program clients, also known as the methadone program. Clients currently under this program can continue services until July 2017. The second exemption is the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) clients between 12-20 years of age. If they have a Medi-Cal A code, they are exempt from this rule, which will allow the Department to continue serving kids and transition aged youth in group homes. Mr. Miller provided a Medi-Cal Beneficiary Workflow sheet to the Commission and the public. The sheet serves as a guide to help ensure clinic staff and contract providers do not turn away nonresidential clients, but instead perform a warm handoff so their services can be continued somewhere else.

Mr. Miller reported that the contract provider for the Family Preservation Substance Abuse Treatment Program in all three regions has terminated their contract and the Department will now provide those services. This is a court collaborative program for parents with children involved in Family Court. They are currently in the transition phase and are in the process of transferring 58 consumers into the Department's program and graduating 100 clients out of the previous contract provider's program. After the transition, the programs will be housed in the Desert Hot Springs Substance Abuse Clinic, the Rustin Campus in Riverside, and the San Jacinto office.

Juvenile Drug Court is now up and running and they received their first youth referral last week.

Another requirement imposed by the State is for the Peer Support Specialists hired for the Waiver. Mr. Miller reported that the State requested the Department submit an implementation plan for the employment of Peer Support Specialists before receiving reimbursement for services. Mr. Miller thanked Kristin and Angela Abbott for expediently drafting the plan and submitting it to the State. They received approval for the plan on Tuesday, April 4. The implementation plan covers all County clinics and contract providers that use peers in their recovery service modality.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Steve Steinberg welcomed Dr. Akram Razzouk, the new Chief of Psychiatry who will be heading the Arlington Campus Emergency Treatment Service (ETS) and Inpatient Treatment Facility (ITF).

Mr. Steinberg reported that there are currently no updates regarding the budget. The Department is currently awaiting the outcome of some legislation to determine how it might impact the Department. Mr. Steinberg assured the Commission and the public that the budget issue is not necessarily catastrophic, but it may result in some hard choices that need to be made in the future.

The Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and Crisis Residential Treatment Program will open its doors on Wednesday, May 3. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and invitations to the event will be distributed by Economic Development Agency (EDA).

Mr. Steinberg added to the announcement made by Ms. Scott regarding the Hemet City Council's approval of behavioral health staff working in collaboration with the Hemet Police Department. Mr. Steinberg reported that it began with a conversation he had with one of the Council Members regarding the Department's outreach efforts in Hemet. The Outreach Team helped a homeless young man find a safe place to stay over a 3-day weekend and was later placed in a shelter where he received the mental and physical health care he needed. This occurrence helped the Council member learn in detail what the Department's Outreach Team does to help the homeless throughout Riverside County. After learning about this, the Council member became interested in implementing more services to assist in the homeless crisis in Hemet. Mr. Steinberg noted that this is a step toward a positive direction with the City of Hemet as there have been some challenges in the past with regard to establishing services and programs within the community.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

DESERT REGIONAL BOARD: Mr. Divine reported that Rhyann Miller and his staff presented on the programs available in the Desert Region. They are continuing to plan for their upcoming May is Mental Health Month Art Show, which will be held on Tuesday, May 9.

MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BOARD: Kimberly McElroy reported that Vickie Redding and Beverly McKeddie have become more involved with the Regional Board by attending their meetings and helping provide more information and input to the Board. They are continuing to plan and organize their upcoming May is Mental Health Month event, which will be held on Saturday, May 13. Ms. McElroy reported that they will have a number of entertainers coming to perform during the event and the Mexican Consulate will be returning to provide services onsite.

WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD: Greg Damewood reported that Bernadette Regan attended the Regional Board meeting and they look forward to working with her. They are currently working on getting volunteers to help with the May is Mental Health Month event at Fairmount Park.

ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE: None

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE: Tori St. Johns reported that Lorie Lacey-Payne presented on the topic of homelessness among families and young children. Ms. Payne stated that they are working with Lynne Brockmeier and Paul Thompson to find innovative ways to wrap more services around families and broaden the definition of how homelessness is counted in the County. There are several families living in cars, tents, or single rooms that are not classified as homeless and are not able to access additional services. It is their intent to help find a way to provide a more stabilized setting for children and help minimize the trauma they may encounter with such situations.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Mr. Damewood reported that Liberty Health gave a presentation at the last meeting. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 10 and all are welcome to attend.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Dr. Haessler reported that they discussed AB2246, which is legislation that Ms. Jones from the Hemet Unified School District is instrumental in working with to address suicide prevention in schools. Dr. Haessler noted that it would be good to have Ms. Jones present on this topic once it has been established. They are also in discussions with Angela Igrisan about the possibility of contacting the state senator and assembly person to help address the Department's budget issues.

**OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE:** Ric Riccardi reported that they had their meeting at the Desert Hot Springs Clinic. Stephan Geist from Office on Aging gave a presentation and provided an overview of their Department's programs and goals.

**VETERANS COMMITTEE:** Rick Gentillalli reported that the Veterans' Resource Guide is in the process of getting updated. All those with information to add or revise the Veterans Resource Guide are welcome to contact the Director of Veterans Services or a committee member.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:** Greg Damewood requested more information on the In-Home Support Services.

**ADJOURN:** The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.

*Maria Roman*

Ric Riccardi, BHC Secretary  
Maria Roman, Recording Secretary

**FY 2016/17 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

MEMBERS	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
April Jones, District 3								✓		
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Brenda Scott, District 3								✓		
Carole Schaudt, District 4	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Daryl Terrell, District 5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓		
Dildar Ahmad, District 1					A	✓	✓	✓		
George Middle, District 2 ( <i>Redist. 5</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Greg Damewood, District 5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Jason Farin, District 2	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	A		
Ric Riccardi, District 5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Richard Divine, District 2 ( <i>Redist. 4</i> )	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
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).