

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION



Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2017
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**** January BHC Meeting was held at 47-825 Oasis Street, Indio, CA 92201 ****

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 invited the Commission and the public to take a moment of silence for Supervisor John Benoit's passing.

Mr. Divine announced that Supervisor John Benoit's funeral will be held on the same day as the Desert Regional Advisory Board's meeting, so the January meeting will be cancelled to give everyone the opportunity to pay their respects and attend the funeral.

Mr. Divine appointed Ric Riccardi as the BHC's interim Secretary for the remainder of the year.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS – None

PUBLIC REMARKS – Brenda Scott reported that NAMI is close to reaching their \$100,000 fundraising goal. There are two remaining sponsors in the process of giving their donation. Once those donations are received, they will officially reach this goal.

John Schwarzlose announced that RUHS-BH will be holding their annual "Point in Time Count," on January 24, 2017. This year, HUD has added a special youth count and is urging counties throughout the state to include the youth in the homeless count. RUHS-BH has been working with DPSS and TAY to implement this addition.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – Rick Gentillalli moved to approve the minutes as written. Ric Riccardi seconded. All were in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY – Elizabeth Aguilar, Senior Mental Health Peer Specialist in the Desert Region introduced Diane Chavez as this month's Celebrate Recovery Speaker. Ms. Chavez shared her experience of raising two sons that struggled with mental illness. One of her sons, who is now 30, started having symptoms of mental illness in 1996 and was later diagnosed with ADHD. He struggled in his first year of high school and began to have suicidal thoughts because he was unable to socialize, communicate clearly or retain information. The treating psychiatrist informed Ms. Chavez that her son's condition would not allow him to work in the future. Her second son, who is now 35, was diagnosed in 2010. He also had difficulty communicating and socializing; he was hyper, he would talk to himself and pace back and forth. Ms. Chavez was perplexed by her sons' conditions and admitted that in the beginning, she ignored their symptoms in the hopes that they would go away on their own. Ms. Chavez was later advised to seek help and guidance from Behavioral Health, where she met Elizabeth Aguilar. Ms. Aguilar referred Ms. Chavez to the Family-to-Family Program where she took classes and learned more about her sons' conditions and how to care and advocate for them. After attending the program's classes, Ms. Chavez felt empowered; she was able to help her sons apply for social security for their healthcare needs and enroll them in behavioral health services. Ms. Chavez reported that both of her sons are now doing much better; they are consistently receiving treatment and taking the proper medication. Ms. Chavez expressed the importance of programs, such as Family-to-Family, as it gives families the hope and assistance they need to cope and deal with such circumstances. It allows families to learn that they are not alone and that there is a way to function through mental illness.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS AT INDIO CLINIC:** Jim Grisham, the Desert Region's Mental Health Services Administrator, provided summary of programs and services at the Indio Clinic. Often referred to as a campus, the Indio Clinic is the largest behavioral health clinic in the region, servicing approximately 1,500 consumers. The Indio Clinic provides inpatient and outpatient services to children, adolescents, and adults. The Adult Services inpatient unit includes a Crisis Service Unit (CSU) for involuntary and voluntary clients, Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), Crisis Residential Treatment Unit, Milestones Board and Care, and Benefits Assistance. They also have embedded staff that work in Case Management, planning and coordinating follow-up care for discharged clients. Adult Services outpatient unit includes post discharge care services, triage of incoming

clients (voluntary and involuntary) and individuals diverted from the CREST and REACH teams in the desert. They also offer group activities, such as Urgent Care Group, Co-occurring Recovery Group, and Dialectic Behavioral Group.

Children's Services outpatient unit provides medication services and evidence-based services such as Parent Child Interactive Services (PCIT), Urgent Care for Adolescents and Children, and Cognitive Behavioral Health Therapy (CBT). They also have a Desert Region Wraparound Program, Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT), and Youth Hospitalization Intervention Program (YHIP). Mr. Grisham noted that their goal is to immediately link children and adolescents in CSU to the Clinic's outpatient services, so they can take them out of the hospital setting as it is not the best treatment place for them. This effort also extends to their outreach programs for the school districts and other referring parties to further prevent unnecessary hospitalizations.

2. MENTAL HEALTH COURT & PATTON STATE HOSPITAL UPDATE: Rhyan Miller provided the update on behalf of Deborah Johnson. In early October, the Indio Mental Health Court Program lost their Clinical Therapist to another Desert program. On a part-time basis, they assigned another Clinical Therapist from the Riverside office to provide coverage a few days a week. This invariably led to a number of evaluations conducted and cases presented to the Committee, to fall below the overall average for that program. A Clinical Therapist was assigned to the program on a temporary basis to assist in the matter, which has garnered positive feedback from the court and the number of clients has reached the level of averaging two to three presentations per week to the Indio Mental Health Court Committee. The Clinical Therapist assessed all of the clients waiting and currently have three pending assessments.

The Misdemeanant Alternative Placement (MAP) Program in Patton State Hospital is for individuals who commit crimes that are referred by the court for psychotropic evaluations to determine whether they are competent to stand trial. Based upon the recommendations from the court appointed psychologist/psychiatrist, the court can recommend the individual be placed in the custody of the State Hospital for up to three (3) years pending a report back stating the individual is competent to stand trial.

The issue noted by the Deputy Public Defender's Office is the long wait lists to get the individuals into the State Hospital. Deputies have argued in court that individuals should be admitted to Patton State Hospital within 30 days. Citing the Millie Case, the Deputy Public Defender argues that individuals should be released from custody. However, the presiding Mental Health Court Judge reviews each case individually and, on some occasions, has subpoenaed the State Hospital representative to provide updates on the wait list for State Hospital Placements.

Similar to other counties throughout the state, Riverside County faces the same challenges of having sufficient beds. This is an issue raised in Sacramento, to which the Department of State Hospitals and their counsels argue that unless additional beds are made available by the State, there is little to nothing that can be done to resolve the issue.

RUHS-BH continues to make treatment recommendations for misdemeanants to be treated in the community instead of occupying a State Hospital bed. Although, despite these efforts, the Department has limited placement resources and many of the individuals are not moving quickly enough through the systems. The current wait list is 32 individuals.

3. WHOLE PERSON CARE: Judi Nightingale, Director of Population Health for RUHS, gave a presentation on the "Whole Person Care" (WPC) pilot program. The Whole Person Care program was developed to help reduce recidivism and increase success of re-integration among probationers by assisting them during their transition from incarceration, identifying individual needs, and linking them to appropriate services.

Research has shown that probationers have a high incidence of serious mental illness as well as other behavioral health problems. At least half do not have health insurance and half are back in court within a year due to substance abuse violations. There are also high instances of untreated healthcare issues, such as HIV/AIDS, TB, and Hepatitis. Whole Person Care is a preemptive effort to help probationers identify these conditions and link them to proper care and services.

Nurses will be embedded in each of the probation sites throughout Riverside County, to perform screening services to individuals coming out of incarceration from the state or county level with a minimum of 12-month probation period. Each probationer will be screened for severe mental illness, behavioral health conditions, physical healthcare needs, social service needs, and housing. Individuals requiring any assistance will receive coordinated care services that will link them to integrated services through the appropriate agencies and other existing community support systems and services, such as RUHS-BH, DPSS, and housing assistance.

It is the objective of WPC to not only reduce recidivism among probationers, but also help them reduce their healthcare costs and improve the quality of care they receive. By assisting them with access to appropriate behavioral and physical healthcare services, it can reduce the cost of unnecessary visits to hospitals and emergency rooms. Individuals placed in the proper behavioral health or medical health clinic can receive better levels of care through personalized care and treatment.

OLD BUSINESS

1. AB1424 UPDATE: Steve Steinberg reported on his follow-up with the issue taken by a member of the public (Dana Thomas) regarding the Department's AB1424 protocols. Mr. Steinberg followed-up with the Senator's office regarding a conversation one of their staff members had with Ms. Thomas. This staffer has since retired, so Mr. Steinberg sought the opinion of County Counsel. According to County Counsel, the County's operational AB1424 protocols are correct. Family member's input regarding an individual's behavioral history must be included as part of an assessment, but is not the only determining factor when declaring a 5150.
2. BHC TRAINING DATE AND TOPICS TO COVER: The BHC Liaison confirmed that the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS) provides training to Behavioral Health Commissions/Boards. CIBHS training includes: Roles and Responsibilities, Brown Act, and Robert's Rules of Order.

The Commission decided to have their training on Saturday, March 25, 2017 and requested to have a review of the Department's organizational chart along with the training provided by CIBHS.

3. MHSA UPDATE: Bill Brenneman reported that on December 14, 2016 the Behavioral Health Commission held a Public Hearing for two MHSA project proposals: Innovation – Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and Capital Facilities/ Technology Project – Crisis Stabilization Campus. Approximately 40 people attended the Public Hearing and over 40 verbal and written comments were received. A BHC adhoc committee was formed to review these comments and found no substantive changes to either of the projects. Mr. Brenneman asked the Commission to approve the two projects for submission to the MHSOAC.
 - a. Approval to Submit the Innovation and Capital Facilities/ Technology Proposals to MHSOAC: Mr. Divine moved to approve the proposals as written, Jason Farin seconded the motion, all were in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried.

Mr. Brenneman reported that they will start interviews for his replacement as MHSA Administrator on Thursday, January 5. As the new Deputy Director of Adult Services, MHSA will still fall under his umbrella and the chain of command will still go through him regarding MHSA matters.

Lastly, Mr. Brenneman recently attended a stakeholder planning committee meeting surrounding Prop 47 and was asked to invite a member of the BHC to attend upcoming meetings. Greg Damewood agreed to participate and report back regarding these meetings.

4. SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION and TREATMENT UPDATE: Rhyan Miller announced that they will be holding their Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Program Provider meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm at 2085 Rustin Avenue, Riverside. DUI and PC1000 providers have been added to this meeting and will meet at 2:15 pm.

Mr. Miller announced that Will Harris has been promoted to Assistant Regional Manager. Prevention and the

Friday Night Live Program will continue under his purview. A supervisor will be hired to oversee the unit and will report to Mr. Harris.

On December 13, the Board of Supervisors approved the waiver contract for SAPT, allocating \$126 million to the Department for the next three years. The RFQU process has concluded and they have selected providers who will be awarded contracts, which will be announced at the Provider meeting.

The "Who We Serve" report now includes SAPT and will be provided to the Commission and the public by Research and Technology. Mr. Miller provided a few statistics to the Commission as a preview of what the report outlines. Detention has served 4,167 unduplicated clients; Mental Health AB109 has served 529 clients; SAPT AB109 has served 238 clients; SAPT contract providers have served 5,150 clients; and County SAPT has served 2,435. The grand total of consumers served for 2016 is 10,246, the largest number of people served in several years.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Steve Steinberg began by paying his respects to the recently departed Supervisor John Benoit. "We've lost a great leader in our county," stated Mr. Steinberg and he will be greatly missed. Supervisor Benoit was a strong supporter of the Department and made a commitment to provide the highest quality behavioral healthcare services to the Desert Region. On November 21, the grand opening of the Desert Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) took place and within three weeks of being open, the clinic served 58 clients. The clinic received referrals from law enforcement, emergency departments, local hospitals, and some voluntary walk-ins. Mr. Steinberg stated that this is a significant number because the CSU location in Riverside did not receive nearly as many within its first three months of opening. Mr. Steinberg credits the success of the Desert CSU to Supervisor Benoit's unwavering commitment to provide excellent behavioral health services in the Desert Region. Supervisor Benoit took necessary strides in ensuring that his staff, stakeholders, and the community at large were informed and aware of these new and upcoming services. Mr. Steinberg reported that their next focus is opening a third CSU location in the Mid-County Region and hopes to have a similar success.

Mr. Steinberg reported that the Department has been utilizing telepsychiatry to serve the Blythe Clinic for quite some time and they have recently hired a doctor that will physically work in the Clinic. Face-to-face and personal contact with a psychiatrist is the ideal; however, recruitment for psychiatrists has been a real challenge, even in locations where they traditionally did not have difficulty recruiting. As a way to address the issue, the Department recently developed a telepsychiatry clinic program where psychiatrists see clients online via a webcam. The program has been operational for less than two weeks and initial reports show that things are going well.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

DESERT REGIONAL BOARD: Mr. Divine reported that at the last meeting they adopted a family for the holidays and are discussing preparations for the upcoming May is Mental Health Month. Mr. Divine also announced that the January meeting is cancelled as it occurs on the same day as Supervisor Benoit's funeral.

MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BOARD: Kimberly McElroy reported that they also adopted families for the holidays and collected gift certificates and food donations for food baskets. They are also discussing preparations for May is Mental Health Month and are continuing to review the regional bylaws for possible updates.

WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD: Greg Damewood reported that he and Ric Riccardi volunteered to serve meals at the Elk's Club in December. Mr. Damewood also reported that there are some staff changes in the Western Region. Vicki Redding, Western Region Mental Health Services Administrator, is moving to another position and Paul Thompson has been promoted to a new position. Report of the December meeting will be forwarded to the BHC Liaison for distribution.

ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE: No report.

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE: Tori St. Johns reported that the behavioral health film series is returning to the Desert Region in April. Ms. St. Johns reported that 403 backpacks and 134 food baskets were donated for the holiday projects. At the last meeting they had a presentation on the Department's outreach efforts to different cultures in the County.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Mr. Damewood reported that at the last meeting it was announced that a new judge will be starting in January. Prisons are overpopulated and 49% of the prison population has a mental health diagnosis. They also reviewed the Patton State Hospital Update. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 11 at noon.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: January meeting cancelled due to the BHC holding their meeting in Indio.

OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE: Mr. Riccardi reported that Evette Yanez-Cruz gave a presentation on the CREST/REACH Teams. CREST stands for Community Response Evaluation and Support Team and REACH stands for Regional Emergency Assessment at Community Hospitals. CREST and REACH are field-based response teams consisting of clinical therapists, behavioral health specialists, and peer support specialists, serving adults, adolescents and children experiencing a mental health or psychiatric crisis. When requested by law enforcement and emergency personnel, the call center will dispatch a team to the consumers' home, school, emergency department, etc. The goal is for the team to be on location in less than 30 minutes.

VETERANS COMMITTEE: January meeting cancelled due to the BHC holding their meeting in Indio.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: Mr. Damewood would like a discussion on how to be more effective and strengthen the BHC's relationship with the Board of Supervisors. By 2019 the Board of Supervisors will change significantly as several members will be stepping down. Rick Gentillalli would like the Commission to send a letter to the BOS requesting assistance with membership for the main Commission and the regional boards. Walter Haessler requested to have a discussion regarding the language to amend the bylaws.

ADJOURN:

Maria Roman

Ric Riccardi, BHC Secretary
Maria Roman, Recording Secretary

2017 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

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