

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 7, 2020 | 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Chairperson, Richard Divine called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Commissioner attendance was taken by roll-call.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS** – Mr. Divine went over the rules for the Zoom conference meeting: 1.) To avoid any confusion, all callers are asked to save all comments and questions until after the presentations/reports are completed; 2) For the purposes of the minutes, callers are requested to state their name before making comments or asking questions; and 3) To reduce background noise, callers are asked to mute their phones unless they are asking a question or making a comment.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS** – Carole Schaudt reported she recently visited Roy's Desert Springs. The facility is wonderful and commended the Department for all their efforts. Ms. Schaudt reported that it is not a locked facility as it was before, consumers are no longer limited to time restraints and transportation is available for those who need it.

Daryl Terrell inquired if the Department has made progress with becoming the lead agency of the STAR Protocol. Deborah Johnson, Assistant Director of Forensics, reported that the Department has a great working relationship with Probation, the current lead agency of the STAR Protocol. Ms. Johnson stated that they may continue discussions and come up with a plan, however, for the time being Probation will continue being the lead agency.

Brenda Scott reported that she is at Diamond Valley Lake making preparations for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual NAMI Walk, which will be on Saturday, October 10. This year, the NAMI Walk will be a virtual event and they will be walking with affiliates from all over the nation. Ms. Scott shared flyers and encouraged everyone to participate and join them on Facebook Live.

**PUBLIC REMARKS** – Lorie Lacey-Payne, Parent Support and Training Program Manager, announced they are starting their Thanksgiving Food Project and Snowman Banner Gift Drive. Due to COVID-19, both donation projects will be done a little differently than in previous years to ensure the health and safety of staff and consumers. For those interested in donating to the Thanksgiving Food Project, Ms. Lacey-Payne stated that they are asking for gift cards to grocery stores or restaurants to avoid additional handling of various food items for distribution. The Snowman Banner Gift Drive will be conducted virtually, which Rachel Douglas shared on screen. Ms. Douglas developed the virtual snowman and snowflake, which contains the gift request from children and youth consumers throughout the County. Ms. Lacey-Payne encouraged everyone to participate and to contact her or Ms. Douglas for more details.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – Minutes were accepted as written

### NEW BUSINESS

1. RIVERSIDE RESILIENCE PROJECT: Dianne Leibrandt from RUHS-Public Health gave a presentation on Riverside Resilience Project and Commissioner, April Jones, gave an overview of how the Program is being implemented in the Hemet and San Jacinto Valley. Riverside Resilience is a cross-

sector collaboration committed to reducing adverse childhood experiences and promoting positive community environments in order to improve health and education outcomes for children living in Riverside County.

The Riverside Resilience Project started in 2017 after Riverside County's Executive Office CEO and Assistant CEO attended a conference where they had the opportunity to view the documentary "Resilience," which address adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Shortly after, a steering committee was formed to determine the impacts of ACEs in the County and what efforts/services can be established. A "heat map" was created containing data gathered from Probation, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Behavioral Health, and Public Health, showing the areas most impacted by ACEs (i.e. most reported cases of child abuse, neglect, etc.). Community events were organized with First 5 in an effort to increase awareness of ACEs and its effects on health and wellbeing. A cross-system analysis was performed to determine several factors which include – what other County Department's understanding is of ACEs and resiliency; what the organization's approaches are and what role they can play building resilience within the County; and what the needs are to reducing ACEs and how to build resilience in our communities. The committee recognized there's a lot of great work already being done to address adverse childhood experiences by separate organizations and agencies, so Riverside Resilience was established as a countywide initiative providing cross sector collaboration among various organizations, agencies, and County Departments.

Ms. Leibrandt noted that the initiative was derived from "Growing Resilient Communities 2.0 – A Framework," which can be found on ACEs Connection. Riverside Resilience's cross sector partners include law enforcement, school districts, community organizations, and the medical sector. One of their goals is to look at creating policy and organizational change, which RUHS-Behavioral Health is leading the way with their work on trauma-informed care. They are also working on a resolution to submit to the Board of Supervisor's Office to gain formal recognition on the importance of trauma-informed practices and care. Another component they are working on is establishing a form of "local data dashboard," which will contain ACE related indicators for each city/community to have a better understanding of the impact in Riverside County. In the past year, they've had some difficulty due to COVID-19 pandemic, but they are focusing their efforts on tailoring their education and trainings on ACEs and trauma-informed care to different organizations and agencies. Currently, they are working with Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) and the medical clinics. Their main goal is to expand the initiative in the community, which is something that Commissioner, April Jones, have been working on in the Hemet and San Jacinto Valley.

Ms. Jones reported that they are also working on expanding this effort to the surrounding cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, which include Romoland, Homeland, and Soboba. Their Vision is "Having a trauma aware and sensitive community equipped to break the cycle of Adverse Child and Community Experiences." Their Mission Statement is "Resiliency in the valley encourages empathy and connection among residents as a gateway for positive change. Transforming the narrative from "What's Wrong with you?" to "What's Happened to you?" Bridging the gap between those that can help and those that need help by creating a more trauma aware and sensitive community through education and equipping individuals with resources necessary to overcome trauma." The Initiative started in 2019 and they serve as an arm of the Riverside Resilience Project. Ms. Jones reported that the Initiative includes a wide array of individuals representing various organizations in the community ranging from the public sector to private. Members of the Initiative include Sara

Rodriguez from the Board of Supervisor's Office, Hemet's Mayor Pro Tem, Linda Krupa, San Jacinto Mayor, Crystal Ruiz, NAMI's Brenda Scott, and many representatives from the District Attorney's Office, Probation, DPSS, and the Southern California Regional Association of Realtors. They are also working with the Hemet and San Jacinto Unified School District, Hemet Valley Chamber of Commerce, My City Youth Center, and many others. They currently have two subcommittees – "Educate," and "Activate." The "Educate" group is developing a series of presentations with business leaders and influencers within the community that are actively working with engaging the constituents who are potentially impacted by trauma. They also want to create a sensitivity and awareness within the community. The "Activate" group is engaging with the San Jacinto and Hemet City Council to develop policy and determine how they may help transform and change the community. The Initiative's four objectives are 1) increase cross-sector engagement and collaboration of Hemet and San Jacinto stakeholders in the Resiliency in the Valley Initiative; 2) complete pilot study with California Family Life Center (CFLC), The Valley Pantry, and Southwest Riverside County Association of Realtors (SRCAR); 3) provide opportunities for training for business and community leaders; and 4) provide resources and information to the community.

Ms. Jones reported that they developed a 4-year stage; in the first year they got organized and decided what their focus was. In year two, they are developing the trainings and reaching out to community leaders. Next year they plan to re-visit the pilot program to determine outcomes, revisions, gaps, and successes, then make changes and improvements as necessary. In four years they hope to celebrate the work they've done with a large town hall in their community with some wellness resource fairs and hopefully further their expansion efforts to surrounding communities.

In addition to these efforts, they are also looking at a "Handle with Care" response plan, or what's called the "Focus Program." Carolos Corona from the District Attorney's Office is working with others within the Riverside County to discuss how this can be implemented. Ms. Jones noted that it is in the very early stages and essentially this Program will provide training to first responders in ACEs to create a direct streamline communication between first responders and school district staff. The reason being, if a student experiences a traumatic event after hours or on a weekend, first responders are able to communicate directly with the school staff so they can monitor behavior and touch bases with the student to provide intervention (if necessary), or provide resources and counseling (if needed).

2. **FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER UPDATE:** Executive Director of First 5, Tammi Graham, provided an overview and update on First 5 and the Family Resource Center (FRC), which is a newly developed partnership with Department of Public Social Services (DPSS).

First 5 Riverside, the Riverside County Children and Families Commission, is a department of the County of Riverside. The Commission is funded by tobacco taxes generated by Proposition 10 (California Children and Families Act), which passed in November 1998. The act created a system of programs that promote, support, and improve the early development of children from the prenatal stage to five years of age. First 5 goals focus around three areas – 1) Quality Early Learning; 2) Resilient Families; and 3) Comprehensive Health and Development. Their strategic plan has an impact model that guides their investments to increase access, quality, coordination, consumer, and community capacity in an overall effort to increase outcomes for children in their three goal areas.

In Quality Early Learning, they have an initiative called Quality Start Riverside County. The Initiative

works with more than 500 licensed childcare providers and family childcare homes to increase their quality and professional development. They have a quality rating and improvement system matrix developed by the state, which is similar to a restaurant's star rating system. They have multiple agencies that have reached a five-star rating and a majority of their sites are at a four-star rating. They are working with more than 300 sites to reach a level of quality that's considered "high quality." Through the Quality Start Riverside County Initiative, they also work with alternative sites like home visiting agencies, libraries, family resource centers, and parent centers throughout the County.

In Comprehensive Health and Development, one of their largest investments is their partnership with RUHS-Behavioral Health and working closely with Janine Moore and Diana Brown to develop pre-school and 0-5 programs. The Commission's strategic plan for funding is to get the maximum services to children and families. This Initiative with RUHS-Behavioral Health allows them to work and plan around Medi-Cal, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), and Prop 10s First 5 funding to provide services to the youngest residents of Riverside County.

On July 1, 2020, First 5 Riverside entered into a partnership with DPSS to maintain and operate the five Family Resource Center (FRC) in Riverside County. Senate Bill 436 provides definition for what qualifies as a Family Resource Center. Ms. Graham noted that while there are only five locations currently qualifying as a Family Resource Center, there are actually numerous facilities that would qualify under this definition. The five facilities are located in Desert Hot Springs, Mecca, Perris, Rubidoux, and Mead Valley. Two of the five sites reopened to the public in September 14, while they maintained operations in their Riverside office. Due to the pandemic, they are only able to provide limited services for a few hours a day to meet the needs of clients that can't be served via telehealth.

First 5's partnership with DPSS was developed in December 2009. The Commission approved the development of a partnership agreement between DPSS and First 5 to identify opportunities to enhance prevention services through community hubs. During the last quarter of 2019, First 5 was invited by DPSS Children's Services Division to participate in a strategic planning process. The Commission formalized a partnership agreement with DPSS in May 2020 and committed \$2 million annually for five years, to expand and enhance services for children and families.

During the planning process, First 5 also engaged with the organization called Population Change Institute and Patricia Bowie completed a review of the County operated FRC in preparation for the Commission's investment and proposed five recommendations. Ms. Graham noted that in the next 18 months, First 5 will work on the following proposed recommendations by Ms. Bowie: 1) Developing a greater understanding of the child and family wellbeing landscape; 2) Engage a countywide stakeholder planning group; 3) Design county operated family resource centers to be essential sites for innovation; 4) Build a countywide Family Resource Center Network; and 5) Design a more robust data and measurement system.

Another notable highlight, Ms. Graham reported that the First 5 Commission recently approved \$1 million for concrete supports to families that was distributed in partnership with Lift to Rise in Coachella Valley through the Economic Protection Plan and Support Fund and through the United Ways of the Inland Valley. One agency distributed \$200 and another distributed \$500 to help support families in response to COVID-19. Prior to the FRC partnership with DPSS, First 5 applied

for grant funds from California Family Resource Association. Riverside received the second highest award in the state and secured \$193,000, which provided concrete supports like masks, cleaning supplies, and additional supports for farm workers in the Coachella Valley. Of the \$193,000, First 5 distributed \$75,000 to three community-based organizations that had increased costs related to COVID-19. The three recipient organizations were Martha's Village, Path of Life, and My City Youth.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Dr. Chang reported that Roy's Desert Springs opened a few weeks ago and consumers are now able to receive services. Supervisor Perez and staff toured the facility and are excited to see behavioral health services available in the Desert.

Dr. Chang commended Shannon McCleerey-Hooper on the recent signing of SB803, which approves the official certification of peer support specialists. Ms. McCleerey-Hooper has been championing this bill for ten years and it's approval from the governor has been long awaited. Dr. Chang congratulated Ms. McCleerey-Hooper and all peer support specialists for all their hard work and effort.

Dr. Chang reported that the Department is currently working with the Public Defender, County Counsel, and community stakeholders on how to implement Laura's Law. They are also working closely with neighboring counties to learn how they implemented Laura's Law in their communities to determine how it will be implemented in Riverside County.

Dr. Chang shared that the Department is using the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) to evaluate how Behavioral Health interacts with the criminal justice system. According to SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), *"SIM details how individuals with mental health or substance use disorders come into contact with and move through the criminal justice system. SIM can help communities identify resources and gaps in services at each intercept and develop local strategic action plans. The SIM mapping process brings together leaders and different agencies and systems to work together to identify strategies to divert people with mental health and substance use disorders away from the justice system and into treatment."* Dr. Chang stated that he will provide an update on the topic as they make progress and noted that Riverside County has the potential to be a state, if not, national leader on the effort as it has all the components necessary to lead on this critical issue.

Hemet Unified School District will soon be rolling out the Whole Person Health Score for Kids. The Whole Person Health Score was initially developed for adults, but with the help of Janine Moore and her team, they were able to develop the program to serve children as well. With the support and cooperation of Supervisor Washington and Hemet Unified School District, the Department will be premiering the new program for children and youths in a few weeks. Dr. Chang added that the program is deemed so substantial and impactful that there is interest in the newly developed program beyond Hemet Unified and Riverside County.

At the most recent Board of Supervisor's Office Meeting, they supported and approved HR5516: Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act. According to the bill, it authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to enter into a contract with a state in order to carry out, coordinate, improve, or otherwise enhance health and wellness programs, comprehensive veteran suicide prevention programs, and outreach by the VA and the state. This includes the hiring of additional county veteran service officers to provide peer support type assistance to the veteran population. RUHS-BH is somewhat ahead of the bill as they already have their own Veterans Services Liaison, Aurelio Sanchez, whom is a veteran himself. Mr. Sanchez provides direct services to veteran consumers and regularly interacts with the VA and their integrated healthcare system. Dr. Chang noted that the approval of

HR5516 is an opportunity for the Department to expand and potentially do something even greater in the field and how we serve our veteran population.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1.) MHSA UPDATE: Cultural Competency Manager, Toni Robinson, provided this month's MHSA Update. Ms. Robinson reported Cultural Competency has been reorganized under MHSA. This program used to be a standalone program, but now falls under the MHSA umbrella. This move allows two things to occur – 1) it helps ensure cultural competency within programs and projects under MHSA and 2) the ability to collaborate and ensure cultural competency within training/education programs for our workforce, hiring efforts, and community outreach. To Ms. Robinson, cultural competency is two-fold – the first is developing a workforce that is culturally aware, informed, and humble where anyone and everyone can feel comfortable coming in for services and staff input are valued and considered. The second is outreach to the community and understanding the populations in which we serve and providing stigma reduction, education, and resources to communities and specific underserved populations.

Cultural Competency is also re-structuring the way they conduct outreach and education. Traditionally, outreach and education coordinators were divided up by region (Western, Mid-County, and Desert), now they will be organizing the programs by cultural groups to allow staff to work with cultural contractors, develop relationships and expertise with specific communities. Ms. Robinson is contacting each regional administrator to see what the cultural demographics are in their region and to determine their communities' specific needs.

They are also developing a new Cultural Competency Plan that meet state regulations. They will be meeting with the community and various different committees to gain feedback and input to establish a Cultural Competency Plan that meet state regulations. They are also working with Quality Improvement to ensure contract providers include cultural competency plans within their contracts and provide assistance to those that have not included them in their contracts and/or proposals.

Other components being added under Cultural Competency are Veterans Services and the development of a program that serves the Latin X population, which is the most underserved population in Riverside County. Veterans Services have recently been reorganized under Cultural Competency as it is considered to have substantial “cultural” aspects with several cross-sectors, i.e. age, gender, and orientation. Ms. Robinson noted that Veterans Services Liaison, Aurelio Sanchez, will continue leading this effort.

- 2.) SAPT UPDATE: SAPT Administrator, April Marier, reported that the Recovery Happens virtual event was a success. Ms. Marier expressed her gratitude and appreciation for Shannon McCleerey-Hooper and her team for making it a successful event. Kristin Duffy and Dylan Colt helped film over 40 videos and upload them to all of the Department's social media platforms. They were able to gather interviews from staff and consumers from PEI, DRC, ROCKY, RBY, and YTEC, to name a few. They were also able to film interviews from staff at the Medical Center, Dr. Garrison, and Judge Emma Smith, who presides over the Department's collaborative courts. The team was also able to film and present the Counselor of the Year Awards, which has been renamed to Darwin Neidlinger Counselor of the Year Award. Mr. Neidlinger worked for Riverside County's Substance Abuse Program for over 20 years and was the architect behind the very first Recovery Happens

Event. Mr. Neidlinger started the Recovery Happens Event without any budget, so he sought the help of volunteers and donations to get the event off the ground, which has grown to become one of the Department's biggest annual events. Ms. Marier thanked the staff and Executive Management for allowing them to move forward with this year's event despite the challenges of COVID-19.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

DESERT REGIONAL BOARD: Tabled

MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BOARD: Tabled

WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD: Greg Damewood reported that they are meeting later in the afternoon at 3:00 pm. Minutes will be approved and available for review after the meeting.

ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE: Brenda Scott reported that Ms. Redding discussed the increase of in-person services in Mid-County and that there is a new Family Support Specialist in Temecula. Ms. Scott reported that Jim Grisham also gave a report stating that Roy's Desert Springs recently opened with 30 beds, ABC FSP opened with 92-beds, Blythe is currently the busiest clinic, Indio is picking up, and Banning is slowly getting busier. Ms. Scott noted that services in these areas are done mostly virtually. Mr. Grisham also reported that although the Desert Regional Board cancelled the Art Show, the art pieces that would have been showcased are now on display at the Art at the Rivers.

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE: Tabled

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Mr. Damewood reported they are meeting on the second Wednesday of November at noon and all are invited to attend. Minutes will be approved and available for review in November after the meeting.

HOUSING COMMITTEE: Brenda Scott reported that they discussed the new Coachella Valley Youth Coalition and youth homelessness. Ms. Scott reported that there is only one main program for these youth experiencing homelessness in Riverside County. It's important for adults to understand the disposition of youths entering these facilities, especially if they've experienced some form of trauma.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: April Jones reported that SB803 was approved on September 25.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Tabled

OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE: Brenda Scott reported that the full spectrum of services are available at all locations. Ms. Scott noted that Tony Ortego and staff are seeking an increase in clinics as more are currently field-based services, most notably the FSPs. They are working closely with Banning FQHC, Indio FSP and Wellness Program. One clinician is partnering to provide services and a new Family Advocate will be starting there, but they are losing a Behavioral Health Specialist II. They are working with PEI and Office on Aging regarding late life depression and CPT Programs. Cheryl from the Western Region reported they are restoring services. They go in the field and shelters daily, however, they still run into challenges due to COVID-19. Many are reporting they are comfortable with teleconference and the facility is able to run approximately ten group sessions. Currently, they do about a third of their groups, but are slowly increasing over time. They welcomed a new Clinical Therapist, Lesley, for the FSP Program in the Western Region. Lesley came from the Crisis Center and the staff are very enthusiastic about having her on board.

PUBLIC ADVOCACY COMMITTEE: Tabled

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE: Tabled

VETERANS COMMITTEE: Rick Gentillalli reported that the meet on the same day as the Commission meeting at 10:00 – 11:30 am. Mr. Gentillalli reported that there are several attendees from San Bernardino’s Veterans Services, Red Cross, and CalVet, and encouraged everyone to attend and participate.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:** Brenda Scott requested more information regarding Laura’s Law and youth homelessness. Anindita Ganguly requested a discussion regarding diversity. Greg Damewood noted site reviews are not being performed due to the pandemic and its restrictions.

**ADJOURN:** The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

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Tori St. Johns, BHC Secretary  
Maria Roman, Recording Secretary

DRAFT

**FY 2020/21 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

MEMBERS	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Anindita Ganguly, District 2	✓	✓	A	✓							
April Jones, District 3	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Brenda Scott, District 3	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Carole Schaudt, District 4	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Daryl Terrell, District 5	✓	✓	A	✓							
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	✓	A	✓	A							
Greg Damewood, District 5	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Jose Campos, District 2	A	✓	✓	✓							
Paul Vallandigham, District 5	A	✓	✓	✓							
Richard Divine, District 2 ( <i>Redist. 4</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	✓	A	✓	✓							
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Dr. 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).

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