

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 6, 2021 | 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INTRODUCTIONS – Chairperson, Rick Gentillalli called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

Commissioner attendance was taken by roll-call.

ADOPTION OF AB 361 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-001 – County Counsel, Eric Stopher, explained to the Commission that the Resolution will allow the BHC to meet virtually for 30-days as the state discontinued the exemption for virtual meetings. The state will allow virtual meetings if the County has declared an emergency or if there is a rule in place, such as the rule written by OSHA, which is how this exemption applies. If the Commission votes by a majority to approve the Resolution, then the day's scheduled meeting and all future meetings within the next 30-days may be conducted virtually. At the end of the 30-days, if AB361 is still in place, then the BHC will vote a second time to extend virtual meetings by another 30-days.

Greg Damewood inquired if it is possible for virtual meetings to become a permanent option for members and the public. It has proved to be a reasonable and convenient option for individuals with disabilities and/or someone who may have transportation challenges. Mr. Stopher responded stating that the state will be the agency making this determination, not the County. However, information has been submitted to various state legislators reporting similar concerns stated by Mr. Damewood, as well as the concern over travel time, and finds virtual meetings to be reasonable option and can help to remove a barrier. Mr. Stopher added that while he cannot guarantee that this will come to fruition, County Counsel's Office does hope to make virtual meetings a permanent option, provided that the public has the opportunity to provide comments, questions, and feedback.

Richard Divine inquired if the BHC will have to meet for a few minutes in December, which is traditionally a dark month, to vote and pass another resolution. Mr. Stopher responded stating that since the next BHC meeting will be within the next 30-days, there would be no need to pass another resolution. However, in January, the BHC will be required to vote and pass another resolution for an additional 30-day extension.

Brenda Scott made a motion to adopt "AB 361 Resolution No. 2021-001 – A Resolution of the BHC Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for 30-Days"; Mr. Damewood seconded the motion. The BHC Liaison conducted votes by roll-call; 12 Commission members voted YES approving the adoption of the Resolution. (Please note that there were two absences and one member on Medical Leave that were unable to vote at this time.)

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – None (Mr. Gentillalli experienced some audio difficulties and was unable to continue leading the meeting. Vice Chair, April Jones, assisted in the matter and continued to lead the meeting for Mr. Gentillalli.)

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS – Daryl Terrell expressed his appreciation for the Department’s mobile crisis management team in assisting him with an individual that frequents his store, which he observed as someone possibly struggling with behavioral health and/or substance abuse issues. The mobile crisis team was able to come and assist the individual without incident, which Mr. Terrell found far more helpful and beneficial, as opposed to contacting law enforcement.

Ms. Scott announced that the Annual NAMI Walk will be held on Saturday, October 9 and will be live on Facebook at 9:00 am. They are also having an in-person option at the Diamond Valley Lake, however, they will not have the usual event set-up on that day and participants will have to pay a \$5 parking fee.

PUBLIC REMARKS – Rhyan Miller, Deputy Director of Forensics and Substance Abuse Prevention, reported that they were recently awarded the \$7 million crisis grant they applied for. The grant will be for the expansion of the mobile crisis management team that Mr. Terrell was referring to in his report. Currently, there are four (4) mobile crisis management teams serving Riverside County. The grant will allow them to expand by seven (7) teams in addition to the four (4) currently in place. This helps to dedicate a team in Blythe, Corona, Temecula, and other areas in the County. Mr. Miller explained that the mobile crisis teams consist of four (4) members – clinical therapist, case manager, substance abuse counselor, and a peer support specialist. They are currently working on filling these positions and other obligations under the grant.

Ms. Scott inquired if this will be part of the 988 hotline. Mr. Miller responded stating that it is not part of the 988 hotline, however, they are working on other avenues to implement CARES staff to answer crisis calls 24/7.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as written.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – *(Please note: Dr. Chang provided his report out of order due to a conflict in schedule. Dr. Chang gave a brief update after “Committee Updates” and before “Executive Committee Recommendations.”)* Dr. Chang reported that Laura’s Law will go live in November and that the Arlington Recovery Community will also be opening soon.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PARENT SUPPORT AND TRAINING PROGRAM – HOLIDAY PROJECTS: Lorie Lacey-Payne, Parent Support and Training Supervisor, announced that similar to the previous year, they will be conducting their holiday projects virtually. Ms. Lacey-Payne shared a short video and two (2) flyers providing details for the Snowman Banner (gift donations for youth consumers) and Thanksgiving Food Drive.

For the Thanksgiving Food Drive, the Department is accepting gift cards from grocery

stores and restaurants for families, instead of actual food donations. For the Snowman Banner Project, groups and programs interested in donating gifts may contact Ms. Lacey-Payne's office to request a virtual Snowman Banner indicating the number of snowflakes they would like attached. The snowflakes contain the youth consumer's first name, age, program/clinic, and a short wish list. Both Holiday Projects will begin in November and they will make arrangements for pick-ups and/or drop-offs in early December.

2. RECOVERY HAPPENS VIRTUAL EVENT UPDATE: April Marier, SAPT Administrator, gave highlights from the Recovery Happens Virtual Event. This year they added new pieces to their event that made it more fun and exciting for everyone participating and they awarded two counselors the Counselor of the Year Award. Ms. Marier shared a highlight reel from the event, featuring staff from contract providers, hospital, court, and a soccer team. Ms. Marier thanked Dylan Colt for doing a great job with the highlight reel and all other staff members that helped to coordinate the event.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1.) MHSA UPDATE: David Schoelen, MHSA Administrator, reported that the MHSA Annual Update FY 21/22 was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. MHSA Administration successfully submitted the plan to the state, which is available for download from the Department's website. The plan will be available in Spanish from the website in the next 60-90 days, as it was recently submitted for translation. Mr. Schoelen reminded everyone that the MHSA Plan stakeholder feedback is accepted all year long and they utilize a network of current advisory committees and groups as key to that process. These groups include the BHC, Regional Boards, all standing committees under the BHC, and advisory groups organized by the Cultural Competency Program.

The Commission can request MHSA education or information as part of a standing agenda item during the MHSA Update of the BHC meeting. All inquiries regarding MHSA, the MHSA Plan, and the stakeholder process may be sent to the BHC Liaison, so Mr. Schoelen may address them at the next Commission meeting. Content and information pertaining to MHSA, MHSA Plan, and the stakeholder process can also be found on the Department's MHSA web page.

Mr. Schoelen reported they will begin the next planning process soon for the next Annual Update, which will cover FY 21/23. This formal process begins in January and they will begin visiting committees to go over plan changes, highlights, and to promote the upcoming public hearing. MHSA staff hope to be able to hold in-person public hearings next year, which they would like to combine with the virtual process. They had great success in the last two years using the virtual formats for the public hearing and they would like to combine this with the standard public hearing process. They also plan to add "community forums" to this process, where individuals may have the opportunity to meet regionally with MHSA administration staff to review the plan and have a much more interactive element to the process.

2.) SAPT UPDATE: Ms. Marier, SAPT Administrator, reported they have expanded their FNL chapters from 19 chapters to 36. The Latino Commission and MFI are also helping in this expansion effort providing services in schools. They have also expanded youth services in six different group homes in the County.

SAPT also received a grant from Public Health, where they will be able to roll out teams into Coachella, Blythe, and Riverside. Teams will provide health screenings, linkage to services, COVID testing, and vaccinations.

Mr. Miller reported that the Arlington Recovery Community (ARC) will have a grand opening in November. MFI is the contracted provider for the facility and will be working alongside county teams onsite 24/7. Deborah Johnson, Director of Innovation & Integration, toured the site the night before and was thoroughly impressed by the facility's layout, design, and furnishings. Currently, they are in the process of hiring staff, providing licensures, identifying and finalizing workflows, which is moving rapidly. On October 20 they will perform a final workflow walk through and what drop-offs will be like for the sobering center and ARC itself. Due to COVID-19, there will be a virtual ribbon cutting instead of an in-person ceremony. They have several guest speakers lined up and will provide the BHC an update at the next meeting. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Miller both expressed their appreciation for the team and the phenomenal job they've done in completing this project, as well as Dr. Chang for his tremendous support and leadership.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

DESERT REGIONAL BOARD: Richard Divine reported that they met on Tuesday, September 14 and discussed the Art Walk at The Rivers. Mr. Divine reported they were provided a lease to continue the Art Gallery for as long as they would like. They may have to move to different storefronts from time to time, but this is a wonderful opportunity for consumers producing art work for the program.

They also selected members to a Nominating Committee to identify Executive Officers for 20/22; received a presentation regarding the upcoming NAMI Walk for Coachella Valley; and a presentation on the 23rd Annual Fill-A-Backpack Drive and Holiday Projects.

MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BOARD: Kim McElroy reported they had a presentation on Equine Therapy and Rhyan Miller gave an update on criminal justice behavioral health programs in Mid-County. Staff from Temecula Mature Adults also gave a presentation and they received an update regarding the changes in Children's Services in Mt. San Jacinto.

WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD: Mr. Damewood reported that he had some technical difficulties logging on to Microsoft Teams and was unable to attend the meeting. The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 3:00 pm later in the day and their minutes will be available for review.

ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE: Ms. Scott reported that two supervisors in Mid-County recently resigned – one from Lake Elsinore and one in Hemet. Lagos recently closed and there is a

new CRT called Jackson House. They received presentations on pets assisting in recovery and horse therapy. Toni Robinson provided an update on Cultural Competency. Their goal continues to be increasing membership. For those interested in attending a meeting, please contact Elizabeth Lagunas for details.

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE: Tori St. Johns reported Diana Gutierrez presented on the Suicide Prevention Coalition. Palm Springs Pride Event will be held on Sunday, November 7. Unfortunately, this year the TAY group will be unable to participate in the Youth Zone due to safety/health reasons. A new feature of the event is a graffiti art space in downtown Palm Springs near Marilyn. Ms. St. Johns reported that this will be a dedicated space for the youth zone and will be a permanent feature of the event.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Mr. Damewood reported they received a final presentation regarding Prop 47 as the grant recently ended. They also received updates regarding correctional health services, program updates, staffing updates, collaborative court reports, New Life and crisis services. Minutes will be available for review and the next meeting will be held in November.

HOUSING COMMITTEE: Ms. Scott reported they received updates from supervisors from all three regions and continued their discussion regarding their ongoing goal of forming a room and board coalition. They also received an update regarding ARC, Connect IE, and No Place Like Home.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Dr. Walter Haessler and April Jones (notes from Zoom chat) reported that they had a presentation from Sheree Summers from Workforce Education and Training (WET), she shared regarding the County's efforts in training, recruitment and retention of staffing. They have a very robust onboarding and professional development program. However, she did express that the County is experiencing similar concerns with staffing and hiring as other agencies and employers across the country. Also, Human Resources and RUHS Administration are currently re-evaluating to develop a more comparable compensation package for staff to make the County more competitive for hiring.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: None

OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE: Ms. Scott reported that Tracy Cornelius from Riverside County's Office on Aging provided a presentation regarding the number of services they offer through their Department. Ms. Scott noted that it might be a presentation the BHC would be interested in learning more about. Older Adult Program in the Western Region has 700 members and 130 are enrolled in the Full Service Partnership (FSP) program in Riverside. Mid-county has four locations – San Jacinto, Perris, Temecula, and Lake Elsinore. They serve 1100 members and 210 are enrolled in FSP. Mid-County continues to provide the full spectrum of FSP services. In the Desert Region, they are serving 650 consumers across all three clinics – Banning, Indio, and Desert Hot Springs. There are approximately 110 FSP

consumers and they continue to provide group therapy and small numbers of individual therapy.

PUBLIC ADVOCACY COMMITTEE: Kim McElroy and April Jones (notes from Zoom chat) reported that their last meeting was held earlier in the day. In November, they will be joining the Legislative Committee. Ms. Jones shared in Zoom chat that they accomplished their goals of communication plan between BHC and Regional Boards via Bylaw Committee and revisions. They also discussed how the Commission can be more active with MHSA and plans to participate with the steering committee when that becomes available. They would also like to encourage everyone to attend the training, as they will use the time to action plan and set goals for the following year. Everyone's participation is needed and encouraged.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE: None

VETERANS COMMITTEE: Mr. Gentillalli reported that they had a great meeting earlier that day. Last month, they were unable to hold their meeting due to a mix-up. They had a roundtable discussion regarding the events that took place in Afghanistan. There is a great deal of concern regarding the impacts of the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan on veterans and active service members.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: Ms. Scott inquired about having meetings recorded and available online for viewing, if possible. Mr. Damewood inquired about the extension and if it will affect standing committees and regional board meetings as well. Mr. Damewood and Ms. St. Johns reminded everyone about the upcoming BHC Annual Training, which will be held on Friday, November 5 and Saturday, November 6.

ADJOURN: The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Maria Roman

Tori St. Johns, BHC Secretary

Maria Roman, Recording Secretary

FY 2021/22 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

MEMBERS	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Anindita Ganguly, District 2	✓	✓	✓							
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	✓	✓	✓							
Greg Damewood, District 5	✓	✓	✓							
Jose Campos, District 2	✓	✓	A							
Paul Vallandigham, District 5	ML	ML	ML							
Richard Divine, District 2 (<i>Redist. 4</i>)	✓	✓	✓							
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	✓	✓	✓							
Tim Barton, District 1	✓	✓	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. To request copies, please contact the BHC Liaison at (951) 955-7141 or email at MYRoman@rcmhd.org.