

## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 1, 2022 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Chairperson, Rick Gentillalli called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Commissioner attendance was taken by roll-call.

**ADOPTION OF AB 361 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-001** – Dr. Haessler inquired when the BHC will begin meeting in-person. Mr. Gentillalli responded stating that Administration and the current Executive Committee has decided to discuss this further after the fiscal year with the newly elected officers. 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”; Carole Schaudt seconded the motion. The BHC Liaison conducted votes by roll-call; Commissioners unanimously approved the adoption of the Resolution.

**CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS** – None

**COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS** – Greg Damewood reported that San Bernardino and Orange County Behavioral Health Board/ Commission are not required to complete a Form 700. Mr. Damewood hopes that this is something we can implement with Riverside County’s BHC, which can make things less complicated for members.

Daryl Terrell requested an update on the START Program and asked how many CBAT teams are assigned in Moreno Valley. Mr. Terrell also asked what the process is when inmates are released; if there are behavioral health staff in the jails that can help them navigate the system for services/treatment.

Deborah Johnson responded stating that they will have to reach out to Probation for someone to provide an update for the START Program. Rhyan Miller will be providing an update regarding CBAT under New Business, and will provide the numbers with regard to teams in each region. Lastly, Ms. Johnson shared that behavioral health staff are located at intake in the jails, which makes it difficult for them to be notified in a timely manner, regarding the booking/release of an inmate. Ms. Johnson noted that this is certainly a bit of a flaw in the system because the booking/release process of inmates is rapid, which only adds to the complication.

Beatriz Gonzalez shared a few words regarding a parent that recently lost their son to suicide. Ms. Gonzalez reported that the parents have started a movement and an organization called Peace from Chaos. Ms. Gonzalez wanted to share and applaud their efforts highlighting mental health. Ms. Gonzalez also shared that she had the distinct honor and pleasure of attending the mental health summit in Blythe. It was a collaborative effort between Fourth District Board of Supervisor Manuel Perez and the Regional Access Project Foundation. Dr. Chang and a number of other deputy directors were in attendance and Ms. Gonzalez wanted to acknowledge everyone’s effort and the presentations provided during the summit. Available services in Blythe has been an ongoing discussion for a number of years as it has a great deal of challenges and unfortunately, there are no easy solutions. However, the county and community based organizations

have made notable strides in finding these solutions. Over the past 15 years, they've observed the addition of new facilities/buildings in the area, offering services/treatment in the region. Ms. Gonzalez noted that it is exciting to see this type of growth and possibilities in Blythe, as it is one of the most underserved region in the county.

**PUBLIC REMARKS** – Eva Gunther James, resident of La Quinta, inquired why the recent shootings are not listed for discussion on the agenda. Ms. James noted that according to the news, the young men that committed the act exhibited red flags that could have served as a warning to those around him. Ms. Gunther expressed concern that the topic is not on the agenda and questioned whether or not RUHS-Behavioral Health Department has reviewed their media campaign on mental health resources and education. The Department offers a number of training programs for the public, but so many are not educated and are unaware of resources available. Ms. Gunther pressed that education is important for the community by way of prevention, so reaching out to cities and communities promoting these trainings/classes should be further evaluated so citizens may engage, become involved, and educated in all things mental health to prevent tragic incidents, such as these shootings. Ms. Gunther mentioned that there are three school districts that she's come in contact with that indicated they are evaluating their security, education services, and mental health services, then pointed out that she personally has not seen any efforts from RUHS-Behavioral Health.

Ms. Johnson responded stating that RUHS-Behavioral Health has a prolific marketing team that address and promote services and resources (trainings, classes, etc.). Commissioner, Paul Vallandigham, added that he personally has seen the RUHS-BH ads on cable channels and billboards, which is great to see as these type of promotional efforts were not previously available. Diana Gutierrez, PEI Administrator, also added that "Up2Us" campaign has been the mental health awareness campaign in Riverside County, which they continually work on, to expand its reach. Ms. Gutierrez noted that there will be more ads around mental health awareness and access to all the free trainings available through RUHS-BH. Andrea Deaton from PEI also added that marketing is very active in terms of promoting services/trainings/resources. They produce a number of testimony videos, trainings, and ads, which are posted across all of the Department's social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, etc.)

Ms. Gonzalez added that shootings are fundamentally, a politically charged topic. Not to take away from the tragedy that occurred, but Ms. Gonzalez noted that it is neither fair nor logical to continue blaming these shootings on the basis of the perpetrator's mental health; mental health is not the cure all for these situations as it is much more than that. After every shooting, everyone starts to point fingers because no one wants to take responsibility or face the "political heat" attached to this topic. Ms. Gonzalez stated that she fully supports all the efforts made by various private and public organizations that address mental health, but it would be unfair to continue blaming these atrocities on mental health. The matter of guns and mental health are two separate topics and should be discussed and dealt with accordingly.

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – First, Dr. Chang commented on the discussions regarding the Behavioral Health Summit in Blythe and the marketing efforts Ms. James mentioned. Dr. Chang thanked Ms. Gonzalez for sharing her experience at the summit and also acknowledged the efforts made to coordinate the event. Dr. Chang noted that the Department is very excited that other providers and community based organizations

are coming to Blythe, as it is a region with a great deal of challenges, and their contribution and efforts certainly help alleviate some of these struggles.

Dr. Chang mentioned on his drive back from Blythe, he noticed a number of the “Take My Hand” billboards, which he initially did not recognize as one of RUHS-BH campaigns. Dr. Chang noted that the billboards were so impressive and eye-catching that for a moment he didn’t realize it was produced by RUHS-BH. Dr. Chang applauded the marketing team and the impressive efforts they’ve made in the proliferation of promoting, advertising, and distribution of information and resources.

Recently, RUHS-BH received an award for the ARC (Arlington Recovery Center) and Sobering Centers from NACO (National Association of Counties). Dr. Chang noted that this is a significantly competitive award and for RUHS-BH to receive this award is reflective of the incredible and impressive work the team has done.

Dr. Chang reported that during the summit in Blythe, they touched on the contentious topic of the county’s funding challenges. There is an ongoing belief that county behavioral health agencies have enough funding to develop and implement newer projects, in addition to all the services currently available. Dr. Chang noted that there are counties that receive \$250 million more in funding than they should, while Riverside County receives \$150 million less than they should. Despite this fact, there are behavioral health departments that claim they do not have enough funding to do the work that all counties within the state are collectively being asked to do. As the Department works on future modeling and expansion of Recovery Villages, psychiatric facilities, inpatient facilities, operational costs, etc., they run into capacity issues in the long term. The Department, overall, has done an excellent job with regard to compensating for the state’s shortfalls with the equitable division of funds. The most recent and significant example of this is the implementation of CalAIM. CalAIM has great potential and promise, giving the Department the opportunity to receive funding for services we currently offer that are actually unfunded, as well as the opportunity to closely integrate with managed care plans as a way to draw down additional funding for services. So in terms of having the fiscal capacity to provide necessary services, especially in Blythe, it is necessary for the long standing historical inequities of 1991 and 2011 Realignment be challenged and resolved.

Dr. Haessler and Richard Divine mentioned that a few years ago Assemblyman, Brian Nestande, gave a presentation regarding these fiscal inequities and asserted that the only way to resolve this is through litigation and legislation. Mr. Divine inquired if Mr. Nestande ever made any progress in this regard. Dr. Chang responded stating that Mr. Nestande has since retired and in terms of progress, Dr. Chang is unaware of any notable or impactful change in terms of the ‘91 and ‘11 Realignment being resolved.

## NEW BUSINESS

- 1) APPROVAL OF MHSA ANNUAL UPDATE – David Schoelen, MHSA Administrator, reported that Ms. Gonzalez, Brenda Scott, and April Jones met with MHSA staff to review the public hearing comments to determine if there are any substantial changes that need to be made to the plan itself. The Behavioral Health Commission as a group, and by regulation, has the strong coordination role to conduct public hearings, review the comments, and approve its submission to the Board of Supervisors Office for adoption.

Mr. Schoelen reported that they received a good response from the public hearing process, overall. They are still gathering some of the preliminary data from the virtual public hearing process. The Social media platforms reached 25,000, the highest number in years, which is nearly double of their highest counts in the past. There are over 25 different contributors to this Plan, which also include a number of individual testimonies of consumers that have received services via MHSa funded programs. Additionally, there is new fiscal data included in the plan that indicate number of consumers served, "who" is served (gender, age, race/ethnicity, etc.), and overall satisfaction of consumers served.

Ms. Scott made a motion to approve the MHSa Plan Update and Mr. Damewood seconded the motion. The BHC Liaison conducted a vote by roll-call and the Plan was unanimously approved by the Commission.

- 2) BHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION FY 22/23 RESULTS – BHC Officers for the upcoming FY 22/23 are: Dr. Walter Haessler – Secretary; Brenda Scott – Vice Chair; and Victoria St. Johns – Chair.
- 3) PEER SERVICES – CALAIM TRANSFORMATION UPDATE –
- 4) CRISIS SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION UPDATES –

#### OLD BUSINESS

- 1) MHSa UPDATE – NONE
- 2) SAPT UPDATE –

COMMITTEE UPDATES - TABLED due to time constraints.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – Mr. Terrell re-iterated that he would like to have an update on the START team.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:01 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
April Jones, District 3	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Carole Schaudt, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Jose Campos, District 2	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA
Paul Vallandigham, District 5	ML	ML	ML	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Richard Divine, District 2	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Dr. Walter Haessler, District 1	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

Present = P • Absent = A • Medical Leave = ML