

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR September 4, 2024 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS –

Chair, Richard Divine called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:00 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll call and followed by introductions.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –

Greg Damewood made a motion to approve minutes as written from July 3, 2024, Victoria St. Johns seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – none

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –

Beatriz Gonzalez shared she was thankful for the safeTALK training she attended in August.

Richard Divine expressed he enjoyed the safeTALK training and found it very informative and resourceful.

Greg Damewood appreciated the training and the staff that facilitated it and encouraged all to register for the training.

Victoria St. Johns thanked Friday Night Live for taking hundreds of kids to Six Flags which they all enjoyed.

PUBLIC REMARKS –

Rhyan Miller, Deputy Director of Integrated Programs along with April Frey, Administrator of SAPT Programs and Kristin Miller, Behavioral Health Services Administrator presented Dr. Chang with two awards. One award was from the ABC Appreciation Award in regard to the BHCIP Expansion Project for his support and the other award was the Moreno Valley 2024 Healthcare Hero Award from Moreno Valley City for his dedication and support with Mobile Crisis. Dr. Chang was very appreciative and thanked them for this special recognition but also gave praise to the teams and all their efforts and dedication.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT –

Dr. Chang reported there were changes taking place in detention with regards to the services provided in five of the county jails and juvenile halls. He announced there was a recent change in leadership and that Rhyan Miller would be assisting and support detention. He shared the county is a part of the Grey Case that involved a lawsuit regarding staffing and target metrics and reported staffing for the jails and juvenile halls are going well and in compliance with the Grey case staffing plan as well as the metrics that are a part of that plan. Dr. Chang also shared what Dr. Benetiz and Mr. Miller have done is exceptional work with correctional health services and the medical side as well as rolling out RSO's such as MAT (medical assisted treatment therapy). Dr. Chang concluded by announcing there has been a revamp in services to inmates such as groups, transfer processes, attention care unit at DCU and upgrades to treatment spaces with the focus being on confidentiality.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Family Advocate (Willard Wynn)

Willard Wynn, Family Advocate Services Program Manager, introduced Anthony Paz. Mr. Paz began by announcing it was his sobriety anniversary today and it has been two years since his recovery journey began. He shared Ashley Housley, Senior Family Advocate had worked closely with his parents who gained her support through the Family Advocate program because they wanted to better understand his addiction and struggles and how they could support their son. Mr. Paz expressed that he still has struggles but today was a good day and reminds himself that the good days always outweighs the bad days. He continued by sharing addiction began when he was working graveyards and six days a week and a coworker introduced him to a substance that would help him to stay awake and have energy to work. He also shared he continued his addiction on and off but came to the realization that it had become an addiction when he started getting into trouble with the law.

Mr. Paz shared his turning point was when he went to jail and his parents did not bail him out so he had to bail himself out and walk in the cold in shorts for about six miles at 3am and when he got home three hours later his dad told him he couldn't be trusted. That is when he really took the time to reflect and realized how much his parents have been doing to help him and support him and that they were even involved in NAMI. That is when he decided he would begin his recovery journey and make the necessary changes needed to better himself. He entered rehab and into an IOP, went to court and completed his probation, took peer support classes with Chris Duffy and decided to help others. He continued pursuing his career with the fire department as a fire technician and entered MAT and supported the youth. He concluded by sharing he used to think things happened to him but now they happen for him and thanked the department and staff for all their support and encouragement.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Behavioral Health Commission Annual Report FY 23/24 (Action Item)-

Greg Damewood made a motion to approve the BHC Annual Report as written and send to the Board of Supervisors for final approval. Brenda Scott seconded the motion, and all were in favor with one abstention from Beatriz Gonzalez.

2. Employee Appreciation Winner- (Marybel Buchler)

Marybel Buchler, Senior Clinical Therapist with Workforce Education and Training announced Dominic Moore, Peer Support Specialist with Youth Connect, as the employee who was recognized and nominated as this quarter's Employee Appreciation Winner. A video was shared, and Mr. Moore was presented with a plaque. His supervisor Shelby Colbert spoke and praised him for his dedication and recognized him for his outstanding work. Mr. Moore concluded by giving thanks to his supervisor and team of co-workers for the recognition.

OLD BUSINESS-

1. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update - (Diana Gutierrez on behalf of David Schoelen)

Diana Gutierrez, Prevention and Early Intervention Administrative Service Manager announced that September 10, 2024 is World Suicide Prevention Day and shared Chuck Washington with the BOS office presented a Proclamation to PEI for RUHS BH Suicide Prevention Coalition. Mrs. Gutierrez continued her presentation by sharing there were Suicide Prevention Toolkits available, sharing event calendars that would be taking place throughout the county and shared resources for free trainings provided to the public on Suicide Awareness. She continued by sharing the WALK With Us to Prevent Suicide – Out of the Darkness would take place on 9/28/24 in Riverside at 9am at Fairmount Park and in Coachella Valley on 10/19 at 9am at the Palm Desert Civic Center Park. Mrs. Gutierrez concluded by sharing the 3rd Annual Suicide Prevention Conference would take place on 10/3 at the Riverside Convention Center and for more information on the trainings and events you can email PEI@ruhealth.org.

2. Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (SAPT) Update – (April Frey)

April Frey, Administrator of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs announced There would be a provider meeting at Rustin from 12pm to 3pm on September 5, 2024 in conference room 1051 and all were welcomed to attend. She reported there were changes with ASAM to come and fourth edition is being rolled out which would include changes in the level of care and would incorporate a co-occurring component into every level of care with the focus on mental health and substance use. She concluded by sharing Riverside was awarded a 5-year grant for the Family Preservation Court programs and would go towards increasing admissions into these programs and bring recovery residences to the families, as well as medication treatment for addiction and training to all the family preservation teams.

3. Care Court Update – (Marcus Cannon)

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on Care Court sharing that there are currently 73 civil court petitions, with 44 of those being integrated referrals that became Care Court petitions and 29 of those petitions were filed directly in civil Court. Mr. Cannon also shared the CARE Act Data which showed CARES Line, Mobile Crisis/CBAT, BH, Criminal Court, DPSS, Mobile Psych, LPS Investigation and Family were all referral sources. He concluded by sharing on 10/10/24 he was invited to present at the NAMI Regional Meeting and will continue working with research and data on reporting as well as with the marketing team and provided the below link where resources can be found.

Resources Available:

www.Care-Act.org

COMMITTEE UPDATES –

Greg Damewood reported the Western Regional Board meets after the BHC meeting each month at 3pm and encourages all to attend as well as attend the Criminal Justice committee meeting which takes place every other month and meet on September 11, 2024 at 12pm at 3625 14th Street, Riverside, CA 92501.

Victoria St. Johns reported that the Children’s Committee meetings are still being held at the Rustin Conference Center and all are welcome to attend.

Brenda Scott reported the Housing Committee meets on September 10, 2024 at 11am and followed by Older Adult Integrated System of Care Committee at 12pm. Reminding all that they take place the same day on second Tuesday of each month and encourage all to attend both and get involved.

Rick Gentillalli reported that the Veterans Committee meets every other month at 10am prior to the BHC meeting and encourage all to attend. He also announced the new Veteran Liaison is Felix Gbagbo.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Older Adult presentation suggested by Carole Schaudt.

WET Employee Winner suggested by Marybel Buchler.

Site Reviews suggested by Greg Damewood.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

Rick Gentillalli, BHC Secretary
Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

FY 2024/25 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

MEMBERS	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
April Smith, District 3	A	A								
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P								
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P								
Carole Schaudt, District 4	P	P								
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P								
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	A	A								
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P								
Harshita Arunkumar, Dist. 1	P	ML								
Launa Wilson, District 1	A	P								
Richard Divine, District 2	P	P								
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	P	P								
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P								
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 1	ML	P								

Present = P • 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 SBishop@ruhealth.org

PRESENT		
Bill Brenneman	Miriam Resendiz	Anthony Paz
Lucy Lopez	Israel Torres	Veronica Gimach
Sylvia Bishop	Marybel Buchler	Veronica Lizarros
Dr. Chang	Dominic Moore	Ingrid Butler
Willard Wynn	Lawrence Blake	Lori Lira
Nisha Elliott	Sandy Murillo	Jennifer Limon
Francisco Huerta	Dorothy Cockrell	Susie Hernandez
April Frey	Girlyanne Lacson	J. Villalyn
Maureen Dopson	Chris Galindo	Eric Z.
Kelly Grotsky	Agnela Wonzon	Juan Kooat
Marcus Cannon	Maria Rodriguez	Rocio Cortez
Sujei Larkin	Danielle Damewood	Jasmine Vasquez
Rhyan Miller	Misty Martin	Quintilia Avila
Shannon McCleerey-Hooper	Jennel Rand	Danielle Gonzalez
Diana Gutierrez	Sheila Mallett-Smith	Faith Boyd
Kristen Miller	Karen Franks	Itzel Diaz
Lisa Erazo	Carolina Ayala	
Tony Ortego	Dylan Colt	
Alea Jackson	Katina Jones	
Jacqueline Markussen	Sharon Sanford	
Claudia Vizcaino	Dakota Brown	

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY	
Sellenne Contreras	Felix Gbagbo
Lizbet Limon	Melissa Noone
Orli Zaprir	Dolores DeMartino
April Smith	Leah Newell
Amy McCann	Nancy Stevens
Beverly McKeddie	Robin Reid
Akram Razzouk	Luis Lamadrid
Jane Beamer	Maria Arnold
Lydia Session	