

## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES FOR November 2, 2022 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Madam Chairperson, Tori St. Johns called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

Commissioner attendance was taken by roll-call.

**ADOPTION OF AB 361 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-001** – Ms. St. Johns commenced the vote for “AB 361 to authorize teleconference meetings for the Behavioral Health Commission for additional 30-days. BHC Liaison conducted votes by roll call. Commissioners unanimously approved the adoption of the Resolution.

**CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS** – Madame Chair, Tori St. Johns, greeted everyone in attendance and shared, a very exciting week in the Desert. Happy pride to anybody who is coming to the parade or any of the people that are in the parade or helping the youth.

**COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS** – Richard Gentillalli wished everyone a very happy Thanksgiving. A merry Christmas, and blessed and safe New Year.

Greg Damewood shared Recovery happens was very nice. Everybody had a great day. Veterans Day is coming up. Congratulated everyone on a great event and gave his best to everyone on Veterans Day

Ms. Scott wanted to remind everybody that the NAMI walk is coming up this weekend. There is one in Coachella Valley and the Inland Empire. Inland Empire event it is the 17th annual, Malcolm Lilienthal, mayor of Hemet is going to be there, he was honorary chair last year. Last year was a virtual event. He is going to be honorary chair again this year. Ms. Scott also shared that the department is going to have a few tables there. It will be held at Diamond Valley Lake. In Hemet, parking is \$5. No dogs allowed.

Palm Desert event will be held at the Palm Desert Civic Park.

Ms. Scott also shared that next weekend on November 12. She will be at the desert at AFP's Suicide Awareness Walk.

Lastly, Ms. Scott shared Riverside University Health System and Public Health held their first annual Suicide Prevention Coalition conference. There was a lot of participation in the postvention committee group, lots of new participants received some ideas about how to adopt new ways to get people to sign up to be support group facilitators or if they are survivors of suicide loss.. Advertised on Facebook, on public health's Facebook and the RUHS department's Facebook page. Supervisor Perez gave some opening remarks. Ms. Scott shared that it was an amazing event.

Diana Gutierrez shared the Suicide Prevention Coalition's website is RIVCOSPC. ORG

**PUBLIC REMARKS** – None

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Dr. Chang followed up to the Commission's inquiry regarding CARE Court. RUHS-BH continues to work internally through Riverside County in partnership with the other departments and CBHDA, especially as part of Cohort one. Dr. Chang shared that we received notification that Riverside County will receive 5.5 million and 700 thousand in two separate but related buckets for the implementation of CARE Court. As Dr. Chang has said repeatedly, Riverside County could use a lot more money. Dr. Chang mentioned they are presenting at CSAC in a couple of weeks on CARE Court and how Riverside County is going to implement it. Dr. Chang explained other developments; they continue to work out the recovery villages for Coachella and Hemet. Met with representatives from the state who seemed to like the concept, it is in alignment with what they have identified as needs. Dr. Chang also shared as part of a recent tour of the state, they poked their heads in the new RTC and it is beautiful. Another great program and service coming to the community and adding to the total number of beds built in Riverside County since the start of the pandemic.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY:** April Frey Program Administrator for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs, highlighted Recovery Happens event. It was a wonderful event and they believe that it was probably the most attended. April gave a shout out to the planning committee. April congratulated the planning committee for all the hard work they put into it. A video of Recovery Happens event was played for the audience.

April introduced celebrate recovery speaker Don Kendrick, Speaker expressed Recovery happens was an awesome event. The speaker thanked the audience for the opportunity to allow him to share his story and what Riverside County Services has done for him. He shared he was in a dark place stemming from childhood trauma. He can relate to our consumers, from family dynamics, dysfunction, drug use and a lot of trauma. He shared that unfortunately, those traits followed him into adulthood where he suffered from addiction. Many of the bad things that he encountered throughout his childhood followed him and led to him being in jail and being incarcerated. He started his journey through the cares line. The speaker shared he was placed into treatment, and completed treatment. Speaker credited Sean Reiner case manager for giving him a purpose in life and recognizing that he needed help. Speaker also shared that he went through recovery residence. He utilized the treatment recovery residence, got into a sober living, and then was fortunate enough to become a peer support at the treatment center that he had received services. During his recovery, he learned a lot from the individuals that were there. Speaker noted that he did not make a fearless leap due to the fear he had to apply for a job at the County of Riverside. He credited his wife Christine for being his cheerleader, inspiration, all the people around him saying, you can do it, you will be great at it. He went ahead and filled out that application and today he is working for Riverside County. He now works as a Peer Support Specialist trainee for the San Jacinto new life clinic. Speaker shared he works with SFP, forensics and mental health consumers. He loves his job and the people. He enjoys getting up every day and going to work. Lastly, speaker shared that he would not have been able to do that without the services of Riverside County.

April introduced second celebrate recovery speaker Christine, speaker thanked everyone for the opportunity to talk about the services that Riverside County offers that helped her through her recovery journey. She is currently a BHSIII for Hope Housing with the Santa Ana River bottom. Speaker shared her journey; dysfunctional family, she went into treatment when CPS took her kids. She attended Recovery Happens as a client in an inpatient treatment for the first time. She remembers thinking how could I ever have fun without the use of drugs and alcohol, because she had never experienced that before. Recovery Happens taught her that it is possible, to have a dance contest to get out there and have fun. She was assigned a caseworker and she utilized every resource that was available to her. She started as a Peer Support Specialist at the treatment center that she attended and went back to school. Currently she is an addiction counselor BHSIII for the county of Riverside. Speaker shared that her and her husband have a total of eight children. They are a family in recovery and get through it every day with the help of everyone around them. Speaker expressed how amazing things can happen when we all come together as a community.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. **Snowman Banner and Holiday Projects:** Maria Arnold Program Manager for the Parent Support and Training Program highlighted some of the holiday projects and how they work. They collect toys and food for families we serve in Riverside County. Maria introduced Rachel Douglas who does all the coordinating for pickups and drop offs and making sure every clinic gets all the food and all the toys that are needed. They will be collecting holiday meals as well as gift cards. This year they will be going back in person. Rachel shared they will be collecting food baskets and gift cards for grocery stores or restaurants for those families who may not have a kitchen or have access to a stove, at least they can buy a warm meal for their family. Snowmen banners will be back in person. They will still be offering the virtual banner via email and in person. Rachel will attach the fliers onto the chat. Holiday meals will run from November 7 through November 17. Donations can be dropped off at Parent Support and Snowman banner will be collecting toys up until December 15. The Program wants to make sure kids and youth get their toys before Christmas.
2. **Arlington Recovery Community and Sobering Center:** Rhyan Miller Deputy Director of Integrated Programs presented on the Arlington Recovery and Sobering Center. ARC opened up in November and has been in full swing, for just about a year now. Rhyan first wanted to address some questions recently on position and staff changes within the department. RUHS Executive team created a new Deputy Director position and Marcus Cannon is now in that position. Their respective programs are now split. Rhyan explained that Heena Hemani is over integrated behavioral health services for both mental health and substance use for all ages. Inside the community health centers for RUHS across the entire county, the team consists of licensed therapists except for a few staff because that is what can happen inside of the CHC and that bill through that system of care. Besides the therapist Heena also has a team that does the access center, kind of a mini cares, and they have a lot of communication with the cares line staff. Rhyan then introduced April's team; consists of substance abuse programs, all of the substance abuse contractors in Riverside, L.A., and San Bernardino. Impaired driver program,

DUI services, all the navigation teams that are embedded at the RUHS Medical Center at the emergency departments inside of ETS/ITF the PHF and START. Care coordination teams that case manage those consumers that go through residential treatment embedded in different places across the county. Rhyan provided an update on START and the different access points. Dr. Chang and Ms. Johnson asked to expand coverage with START teams from 5 to 7 days. START is a case management program that has always been attached to ETS/ITF. A substance abuse counselor runs the floors and screens while they are inside the hospital to link them to co-occurring substance use disorder treatment and get them out of the hospital into services. They met with ETS/ITF management and the START team now offers seven days a week coverage on the floor at ETS/ITF. Rhyan highlighted Friday Night Live, Club Live and FNL kids, they go out to different group homes and 60, 70, 80 schools. FNL has a new service level as of July, early intervention. They provide that service at schools. They have a new team, in partnership with DPSS that gets all the DPSS referrals and gives them full assessments. Next, Ryan highlighted Kristen Miller's Crisis Team; the team had a huge expansion going from 40 employees to 150 employees. Other teams under Kristen are mobile crisis management team, CBAT and a new one AMR. AMR is a partnership with Public Health and EMS where a clinician rides along with an AMR partner out into the field responding to everything from crisis event caused by overdose to a psychiatric crisis. Rhyan explained they now have board teams that are like CBAT, they work with law enforcement, security forces on the campuses at four college campuses. The MPS team, Dr. Weigold is now the supervisor for that team. Next Ryan moved on to the crisis call in center and dispatch at Rustin under Kristen Miller's team and crisis contractor CRT Mental Health Urgent cares. Moving on to Andrew's programs, Andrew has all of embedded CalWORKs programs that are in DPSS offices across the county, and they provide a full array of behavioral health services, substance use, family stabilization, domestic violence. New Life FSP. FFSP model at the all-day reporting centers. Andrew also has some justice outreach teams that are a mixture of April's care coordination teams and the crisis teams, but are specific to working with probation law enforcement on those consumers that are at risk of being criminally justice involved or moving through. He also has patient rights and 5150 training. They moved the CIT training program from Kristen's team to Andrew's team, and they are collaborating on this together to make sure they still deploying trainings everywhere. Next Ryan highlighted the court systems drug court, mental health court, veterans' court, jails, out the jails, probation offices, CHC's, hospitals, responding group homes. Ryan provided an update on the Sobering center and the Arlington Recovery Community Center a.k.a the ARC, Ryan explained they have a contractor running the actual program, which is MFI. April has embedded staff inside the ARC as their worksite. April and Julie have coverage with county staff at the ARC six days currently moving to seven days. Inside the campus is the mental health urgent care, the crisis residential treatment, Lagos, the ARC, the sobering center and ETS/ITF. The challenges is community partners do not always know where to drop someone. The sobering center is not a treatment program, it is a community support under CALAIMS. It is for inebriated individuals that are not in active withdrawal that have used or drunk in the last 10 hours. Ryan explained the key indicator is still educating city partners law enforcement and families that this is not detox, there is a clear separation. Anyone can come here. We do not turn away if they meet criteria. Inside that center, their job is to really wrap around the patient, make them safe, comfortable, give them a snack, let them shower and sober up. Ryan explained during that sobering up period of 6 to 12

hours, their main focus is to motivate the consumer into treatment. They paired the Sobering center with the Arlington Recovery Community, which is a full treatment residential program with detox. Consumers are there to stabilize in that residential setting. From their SUD or mental health. They have to be able to prescribe medications as a treatment. They have to be able to prescribe or be seen by psychiatry. RUHS staff is also embedded there. He explained there is a super low connection rate, they are having staff talk them into it and engage them, motivate them to go into treatment and connecting into treatment. Ryan shared a presentation on data for the ARC/Sobering Center. Male/female differentiation at the sobering center, point of entry people being dropped off for psychiatric emergencies, they were not there for suicidal ideations that did not meet the level of ETS. Mental health, urgent care, the ARC and sobering center are trading consumers back and forth when they show up at their doorsteps due to wrong level of care, staff are making sure they drive them down and get them into the right level of care. One of the main concerns Ryan spoke about, is the cities concern of not wanting everyone else's humans coming here. Ryan mentioned he has to report this to the city in a monthly meeting and since the opening, 60% are coming from Riverside and 60% connecting to treatment and another 20 some returning home after they sober up. Part of the contract with MFI has mandated we offer transportation 24/7. The program is for stabilization, they have a maximum length of stay of 30 days. They are stabilizing these consumers and moving them off to further treatment during their stay. Ryan gave a shout out to all of our teams, our providers, our partners, the mental health programs, sending people over here

## OLD BUSINESS

1. **MHSA UPDATE** – None.
2. **SAPT UPDATE** – Rhyan Miller announced Will Harris is retiring. He gave the floor to Ms. Johnson to say her farewell to Will. Ms. Johnson expressed on behalf of the executive team and herself she wanted to thank Will for his support. She thanked Will for his support and for all the work with the kids. Ms. Johnson thanked him again and wished him well.

Will Harris thanked the Behavioral Health Commission and the Executive team. He stated he thoroughly enjoyed working with the staff over the years.

Commissioners thanked Will for all his years of service and wished him well.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES:

**DESERT REGIONAL BOARD:** Richard Divine reported the committee met on October 11, they had a presentation by ABC Recovery Center's substance abuse program. They are developing a new grant and developing a new campus on site of the old campus. They had a presentation by the 2022 holiday Snowflakes. They adopted 2 families this year for the Desert Region. They had a selection of the executive officers for 2023. There was talk about the NAMI walk in Coachella Valley. Update was shared on May is mental health

month for next year. Discussion on different sites, some potential sites are town center with mall in Palm Desert and a few other different sites.

**MIDCOUNTY REGIONAL BOARD:** Brenda Scott reported they had a meeting on October 6. They had a presentation from grandparents raising grandchildren and a 988 update from Diana Gutierrez and Myeisha Bobo. Lastly a celebrate recovery moment from the TAY program was shared.

**WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD:** Greg Damewood reported they had a special guest speaker Theresa Campbell from Social Security office talk about Social Security and provided a presentation. Regional manager reports were shared from the Adult programs, Children's programs, Wellness recovery and Substance Abuse. Greg expressed the need for visitors right now and people that would eventually be interested in being a member of the Western Regional Board.

**ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE:** Ms. Scott reported that the meeting was postponed due to some other meeting conflicts.

**CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE:** Chairperson, Ms. St. Johns reported that they also had a snowflake and a Thanksgiving basket presentation. Lupe Madrigal from substance abuse spoke about Friday Night Live and how well it is going.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE:** Mr. Damewood reported that the committee went over the usual items that the committee handles for people that are in the criminal justice system with mental health issues.

**HOUSING COMMITTEE:** Ms. Scott reported the committee discussed criminal justice and if the criminal Justice committee provides an update on Laura's Law.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** April Jones reported on old business and that Care court was approved. The committee had an update on SB 970, a bill regarding creating an oversight committee for the MHSA dollars. However, it looks like no action on that bill has happened since August.

**OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE:** Ms. Scott reported that they continue to implement CALAIM initiatives, provide behavioral health and integrated services, which includes linkage to PCP and other essential services, individual therapy and group therapies. Western region currently serves 500 clients, FSP program serves 130 clients, and they average 10 to 15 new referrals a week. Desert Region 112 FSP clients 180 Wellness and Recovery Clients. Indio Clinic serves over 100 mature adults Banning clinic provide services to 120 clients. Mid county services 1120 older adult members, divided by four clinics and six programs, two FSP and four wellness programs. There is clinics in Lake Elsinore, Temecula, San Jacinto and Perris. The clinics continue to work collaboratively with HOPE, with IEHP on complex care management. BHSIII continue to link clients to SAPT services, and they collaborate with APS embedded staff on new and existing cases and provide crisis services as needed, along with intensive case management linkage to resources.

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:** Tabled

**VETERANS COMMITTEE:** Rick Gentillalli invite any and everyone to join the Veterans Committee, you do not have to be a veteran. They had a presentation from Sean from the Riverside University Health System who is Native American. He offered to take veterans out to an area, conservative area that the tribe owns for either a one-day trip or multiple day trips and to get back to nature. Rick shared the thought is many people, whether it's a substance abuse problem or mental illness have tried different arenas to get better medication, counseling, and a lot of it helps. They are planning an outing in February.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS** – Brenda requested to have an update on Laura's Law numbers and data. The committee is open to ideas on membership and how to get more people on these committees, especially on Western Advisory Board and Mid County.

**ADJOURN** – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.

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Dr. Walter Haessler, BHC Secretary  
Maria Roman, Recording Secretary

FY 2022/23 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

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

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