

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 3, 2018 | 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INTRODUCTIONS – Chairperson, Rick Gentillalli called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and commenced introductions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Mr. Gentillalli stated that in an effort to keep transparency within the Commission, he opened up a dialogue regarding the appointment of Dr. Matthew Chang as the new Behavioral Health Director.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS – Various members of the Commission expressed their concern regarding the appointment of Dr. Matthew Chang. Commissioners made clear that they did not have an issue with Dr. Chang and are looking forward to hearing his vision for the Department, however, it was the way he was appointed that they took issue with.

PUBLIC REMARKS – Kim Tron announced that there will be a town hall meeting on Thursday, October 4 regarding child and adolescent mental health in Corona. Flyers were available for more information.

Sylvia Aguirre-Aguilar announced that they will be hosting the 25th Year Inaugural Celebration of the Cultural Competence Summit. It will be held on October 23 and 24. Flyers were available for more information.

Brenda Scott reminded everyone that the NAMI Walk will be held on October 27 at the Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet. Flyers were available for more information.

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY – April Marier, Supervisor for the San Jacinto Substance Abuse Clinic, introduced this month's Celebrate Recovery Speaker, Angelina Ramos. Ms. Ramos is a recent graduate of SAPT's (Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment) Family Preservation Court Program. For nearly 2 decades, Ms. Ramos' addiction controlled her life. Ms. Ramos was the middle child of four siblings. Her mother married her youngest sibling's father, whom later molested her. When Ms. Ramos confronted the situation, her stepfather moved out of their home, but later moved back in at her mother's demand. This lead Ms. Ramos to move out of her parent's house at 15, which only made things worse. Her biological father was a loving man, but he was also the man who introduced her to drugs and alcohol, which lead to her addiction to meth. Her father not only introduced her to meth, but also taught her how to hide it from her family and friends. It is these two damaging situations that lead Ms. Ramos' addiction to spiral.

After Ms. Ramos moved out of her mom's house, her life took a turn for the worse as she began living in the streets and finding herself in toxic and abusive relationships. After a while, she learned how to manage her addiction and was able to hold down a job while using meth. Ms. Ramos has two children – an 11-year-old daughter and a 7-year-old son. Whenever Ms. Ramos was pregnant, she would quit using and would return to her addiction a year or two after her children were born. A year after her son was born, she relapsed which lead to her first stint at rehab. Her family was able to persuade her by threatening to have her children taken away. After successfully completing rehab the first time, she thought she was strong enough to help persuade her significant other to also consider rehab, but instead she relapsed once again. Shortly after this relapse, Child Protective Services took her children and suggested that if she was interested in getting clean and regaining custody of her children, that she enroll herself in the Family Preservation Court Program. After having her children taken away, this was the aggressive push Ms. Ramos needed to get clean and turn her life around.

Through the Program's parenting classes, counseling, therapy, groups, court, drug testing, and counselors that truly cared, Ms. Ramos was able to get sober and put her life back together. Ms. Ramos works diligently to maintain her sobriety by making sure to work her steps, maintain contact with her sponsor, and attending meetings. She has even taken it a step further by hosting a women's group meeting in her home. She learned how to have boundaries and have gained the will to go back to school to get her high school diploma. Through the program, she gained the support and strength she needed to stand up against the two men that molested her, in court. She knew that by doing so she wasn't only standing up for herself, but for the rest of the children that were also harmed and traumatized by these men. Ms. Ramos expressed her sincere gratitude for the program and the staff that have helped her through the most trying time in her life. Through the program, she was not only able to tackle her addiction, but also regain custody of her children and get her life back on track.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **DRAFT HOUSING PLAN:** Maria Marquez, retired and former Deputy Director of Housing presented on the Draft Housing Plan for No Place Like Home. "On July 1, 2016, Governor Brown signed legislation dedication \$2 billion to develop permanent supportive housing for persons who are in need of mental health services and are experiencing homelessness. Counties will be eligible applicants, either solely or with a housing development sponsor. RUHS-BH will be submitting applications following the model of care established under its existing permanent supportive housing program.

Program guidelines require for housing to specifically be for homeless, chronically homeless, or at risk of chronic homelessness, adults with serious mental illness, or children with severe emotional disorders and their families. Housing must utilize low-barrier tenant selection practices that prioritize vulnerable populations and offer flexible, voluntary, and individualized supportive services. The Plan must also utilize Housing First model and follows evidence-based practices.

Counties must commit to provide mental health services and help coordinate access to other community-based supportive services. Counties must also develop a Housing Plan that specifies goals, strategies and activities to reduce homelessness and make it non-recurring. The Housing Plan may be based on a recently developed county-wide plan and must include input from community stakeholders. The Board of Supervisors adopted county-wide strategic plan to address homelessness in January 2018.

Funding for communities with No Place Like Home housing must be distributed across Riverside County and the three behavioral health service delivery regions – Desert, Mid-County, and Western region. Development partners and operators must demonstrate experience and competency in serving behavioral health consumers. Communities will include a cohort of about 20 behavioral health consumers living in units that are scattered across an affordable housing community who will be supported by on-site behavioral staff. Emphasis will be placed on behavioral health support and treatment services to ensure they are easily accessible for residents at off-site locations. Submitted applications for funding must promote on-site support with a focus on integration of community services and demonstrate effective collaboration and partnerships with community-based providers and agencies. Applications must also show efficient use of funding and effective leverage of other resources, including housing vouchers. RUHS-BH will be working closely with Riverside County Housing Authority and Economic Development Agency to identify projects that will align with No Place Like Home and department goals and guidelines. Submissions will be evaluated for financial viability and long-term sustainability.

To qualify, community input for the Housing Plan is needed from the following groups: representatives from behavioral health, public health, probation/ criminal justice, social services and housing, County Continuum of Care, housing and homeless service providers, county health plans, community clinics, health centers, public housing authorities, consumers of behavioral health services, and representatives of family caregivers of persons living with serious mental illness.

The development of county-wide Housing Plan was drawn from Riverside County data across multiple departments, agencies, and disciplines. Data was collected from the Action Plan developed by the Executive Oversight Committee on Homelessness (EOHC) on January 2018; Riverside County's Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey, which was completed on May 2018; Behavioral Health; Public Health; Department of Public Social Services; Detention System; and Criminal Justice System.

The EOHC's goals are to prevent homelessness among at-risk homeless; end homelessness among those living on the streets, in shelters, and transitional housing programs; and ensure funding for coordinated system to prevent and end homelessness. The EOHC's strategy to achieve and maintain these goals are to improve the system of coordination; increase housing resources; increase outreach and navigation; and increase supportive services.

RUHS-BH will continue to communicate with community stakeholders regarding planned projects. Information will also be circulated on social media and the RUHS-BH website prior to submission for state funding. RUHS-BH will serve as the lead agency for No Place Like Home funding applications and will work with housing development sponsors to develop funding applications. RUHS-BH will also continue ongoing collaborations with California Department of Housing and Community Development to satisfy compliance requirements."

After the presentation, Commissioners and the public were encouraged to provide their comments on the Plan. Feedback forms were made available during the meeting and Tom Peterson stated that the form and Plan was available on the Department's website should they need additional forms or information on the Plan.

2. BHC TRAINING/ RETREAT: Tabled for November meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. MHSA UPDATE: David Schoelen announced that the Technology Suite Innovations Plan was recently approved by the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission and the Department will be moving forward to implement the program. Mr. Schoelen thanked Toni Lucas for coordinating the stakeholder process and collecting all the feedback that helped develop the key areas of the plan. Mr. Schoelen also gave thanks to BHC members, Tori St. Johns and Greg Damewood for reviewing all the public hearing comments and Brenda Scott for organizing a public hearing in Mid-County. Lastly, Mr. Schoelen thanked Sylvia Aguirre-Aguilar and Gloria Moriarty for advocating for the deaf and hard of hearing community, as they were also able to provide input and feedback regarding the Plan.
2. SAPT UPDATE: Rhyan Miller announced that the Moreno Valley Adolescent Program and MOMs Program will be hosting an Open House on Tuesday, October 16.

Kristen Duffy and Nat Tollefson reported that the Recovery Happens Event was a big success with over 1,800 people in attendance, 70 registered vendors, 1,500 hot dogs served, and 1,200 t-shirts given away. They shared a short video showing the events of the day and thanked Maria Arnold for putting it together. They also thanked Deborah Johnson, Rhyan Miller, the Department, and the countless volunteers for their support in making the event possible and successful.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – No report.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

DESERT REGIONAL BOARD: Tabled

MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BOARD: Tabled

WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD: Tabled

ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE: Tabled

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE: Tori St. Johns announced that Palm Springs will be hosting a Pride Parade on Sunday, November 4. This year's Grand Marshall will be the LGBT and Allies Youth of the Desert. Students of all ages are welcome to join in the march and all are invited to attend and celebrate.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Greg Damewood announce that the next meet the following week at noon and the Western Region Board will meet later in the day at 3:00 pm.

HOUSING COMMITTEE: Tabled

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Dr. Haessler reported that they discussed the importance of having a broader membership and the possibility of having representatives from the Board of Supervisor's Office and Department, attend the meeting. Dr. Haessler stated that it would be beneficial for the Committee to be informed and understand the BOS and the Department's position on legislation related to behavioral health.

OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE: Tabled

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE: Tabled

VETERAN'S COMMITTEE: Tabled

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: Greg Damewood stated he would like to receive some form of "protocol from the County and Mr. George Johnson on how the hiring of the next director will occur." Mr. Damewood believes the Commission is "owed that."

ADJOURN: The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Maria Roman

Brenda Scott, BHC Secretary
Maria Roman, Recording Secretary

FY 2018/19 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

MEMBERS	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
April Jones, District 3	✓	✓	A							
Anindita Ganguly, District 2										
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	✓	✓	✓							
Brenda Scott, District 3	✓	✓	✓							
Carole Schaudt, District 4	✓	✓	✓							
Daryl Terrell, District 5	✓	✓	✓							
Dildar Ahmad, District 1	✓	✓	A							
George Middle, District 2 (Redist. 5)	✓	A	✓							
Greg Damewood, District 5	✓	✓	✓							
Greg Rodriguez, BOS Representative		✓	✓							
Ric Riccardi, District 5	✓	✓	A							
Richard Divine, District 2 (Redist. 4)	✓	✓	✓							
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	✓	✓	✓							
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	✓	✓	✓							
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.

OTHERS PRESENT		
Adrienne Gee, Guest	Alicia Hermosillo, RUHS-BH	Amelia Saldana, RUHS-BH
Amy McCann, RUHS-BH	Angelina Ramos, Guest	Anindita Ganguly, Guest
April Marier, RUHS-BH	Bill Breneman, RUHS-BH	Brian Betz, RUHS-BH
Brian Tisdale, BOS Rep District 3	Carolina Jernejcic, RUHS-BH	David Schoelen, RUHS-BH
Deborah Johnson, RUHS-BH	Diana Castillo, RUHS-BH	DJ Griffith, Guest
Dr. Joanne, Guest	Dylan Colt, RUHS-BH	Ellis Fluet, Grand Jury
Greg Burks, Guest	Hollyjo Reynolds, Guest	James Lucero, Guest
Janine Moore, RUHS-BH	Jeaniel Dancer, RUHS-BH	Jim Hill, RUHS-BH
Joshua Corley, RUHS-BH	Karen Reynolds, Guest	Kim Bohlan, Grand Jury
Kim McElroy, Guest	Kristen Duffy, RUHS-BH	Kristen Ellis, Guest
Lisa Morris, RUHS-BH	Maria Algarin, RUHS-BH	Maria Roman, RUHS-BH
Maria Marquez, RUHS-BH	Maureen Dopson, RUHS-BH	May Farr, Guest
Michael Lynn, Guest	Rhyan Miller, RUHS-BH	Paul Baum, RUHS-BH
Richard Bolter, RUHS-BH	Rick Algarin, RUHS-BH	Ron Hoffman, Guest
Sarah Rodriguez, BOS Rep District 3	Sean Fredrickson, RUHS-BH	Sheree Summers, RUHS-BH
Stephanie Adams, Guest	Stephanie Bennett, Grand Jury	Steve Lusk, Guest
Sylvia Aguirre-Aguilar, RUHS-BH	Tom Peterson, RUHS-BH	Toni Lucas, RUHS-BH
Tony Ortego, RUHS-BH	Vicki Redding, RUHS-BH	William Harris, RUHS-BH
Williard Wynn, Guest		