

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR June 7, 2023 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

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

Madam Chair, Tori St. Johns called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:05 pm and led the committee into the pledge of allegiance and introductions. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll-call.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS –

Madame Chair, Tori St. Johns welcomed everyone for attending and expressed how thankful she was to be present and see everyone in attendance.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –

Daryl Terrell stated he went to the Moreno Valley City Counsel Meeting and received the Proclamation on behalf of Behavioral Health and shared it was uplifting to recognize the work and progress taking place by the department.

April Jones inquired when the site reviews will begin taking place. She also provided a brief update on the Hemet Wellness Village, expressing they are still advocating within the community to get the project approved. City Council is still opposed to it and have rescinded their letter of support. Therefore, they are in need of more advocates in that area. She also stated that the RUHS team went door to door giving out information to the community members within Hemet, she received text messages and phone calls from people sending her pictures of the information they got on their door and wanted to thank the department for taking that initiative. She concluded by asking the department to clarify any misconceptions within the community so they can gain their support.

Greg Damewood reported the he attended the May is Mental Health Month event at Fairmount Park as well as the Directing Change event at the Fox Theatre and they went really well.

Rick Gentillalli wanted to clarify at last month's BHC meeting there was a guest speaker for Celebrate Recovery who gave a heartfelt story that he offered his card to. He explained he is a Private Investigator and a contracted investigator for the Federal Government of which he retired from and wanted to clarify so not to be construed as a solicitation that the card he gave her was to offer pro bono (no fee) services.

Brenda Scott agreed with Greg, she also attend two events in the month of May and thought they were well attended and well organized. She is with NAMI and thanked the Family Advocates for the support groups they offer and expressed that mid county is in need of a Senior Family Advocate and wanted to bring that to everyone's attention. She also shared that she will be attending the California Associations of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions training they were offering and would share a brief report on that at next month's BHC meeting.

Walter Haessler asked if the July 5th BHC meeting could be rescheduled to July 12th at which time the commissioners made a motion for discussion to come to a consensus.

Rick Gentillalli made a motion for discussion and if the majority were in favor of rescheduling the meeting date it could then be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

Madam Chair, Tori St. Johns second the motion.

The consensus was NO in consideration of changing the date of the July 5th BHC meeting because it would conflict with other standing meetings therefore no formal voting for rescheduling the July 5th meeting would take place.

Walter Haessler also announced that the Concert for Heroes would take place on July 3, 2023 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the Amphitheater Riverside National Cemetery.

PUBLIC REMARKS – None

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – Minutes were accepted as written

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tabled

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- (Maria Arnold)

Maria Arnold, Parent Support and Training Program Manager explained that the program supports families and parents who have children that have been diagnosed with either a behavioral health challenge or experiencing behaviors at school and/or at home and then proceeded to introduce Katie Camacho.

Ms. Camacho shared her experience working with the parent partner program and expressed how it has been life changing for her stating she has been able to turn her life around. She stated she lost custody of her kids and struggled with substance abuse and incarceration. Ms. Camacho signed up for parenting classes and she couldn't have made a better decision for herself, she shared she never had support the way that she does now. She continued to share she completed multiple parenting classes, gained many skills in education and learned to be nurturing and caring. Ms. Camacho regained custody of her children with the help of the Parent Support and Training Program but also found a purpose in her life, she explained she now has dreams, goals and a new found ambition.

She said she has a new family who supports her and that's the parent support team. Ms. Camacho thanked Ms. Gwen who is her parent partner, she shared that Ms. Gwen takes pride in what she does and has supported her tremendously. She expressed having a woman to look up to is something she never had because she grew up without a mother figure and it was difficult for her but it feels great to have a woman she can look up to and reach out to for support. Ms. Camacho said the program and Ms. Gwen supported her throughout her pregnancy, they provided transportation to her for her doctor appointments, parenting classes and assisted with health food planning. There were days she wanted to give up but Ms. Gwen would go above and beyond and stay after classes with her and talk to her while going on walks because she wanted the best for her and that installed confidence in her to succeed. She said Ms. Gwen would make sure all the mothers were treated fairly with respect and made them feel important. Ms. Camacho said that her parent partner would teach her one on one at home twice a week and when there's support like that and family like her kids and Ms. Gwen cheering her on then there is no reason to fail because she has others counting on her.

Ms. Camacho shared that the Triple P Parenting classes has helped her with setting boundaries and expectations that she and her kids can achieve. She said she is taking this journey one day at a time and loves waking up to her children and seeing the smile on their faces. Watching them grow and giving them comfort and receiving comfort from them lets her know things are going in the right direction. The program gave her hope and assisted her with achieving her goals. Ms. Camacho also thanked Maria Arnold for ensuring that when her kids returned home from foster care they had everything they needed including clothing and also helping to prepare her to bring her new born home. She concluded by thanking Parent Support and Training program for making the transition as easy and comfortable as possible for her and her family.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Behavioral Health Commission Election and Results of Officers F/Y 23/24-

(Ballots were distributed to all commissioners in attendance by the BHC Liaison for voting selections)

Election Results announced by BHC Liaison as follows:

Chair- Tori St. John's

Vice Chair- Daryl Terrell

Secretary- Rick Gentillalli

2. Public Guardian Annual Report- (Marcus Cannon & Deborah Johnson)

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics and Deborah Johnson, Director of Innovation/Integration presented the Public Guardian's Office Annual Report. Mr. Cannon thanked Citlalik Ibarra with research for her assistance with the report and also recognized Ms. Johnson who was recently honored by the Board of Supervisors for 45 years of dedicated service to the department.

Mr. Cannon then began explaining the Public Guardian's Office (PG Office) is housed within our RUHS of behavioral health and over the 2022 calendar year there were 1242 individuals served, 65 percent consumers were Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) conservatorship, 33 percent being consumers on probate conservatorship and nearly 2 percent being on Murphy conservatorship. The three conservator types are LPS Conservatorships which provides conservatorship for the person and/or estate of an individual determined by the court to be gravely disabled due to mental illness. Probate Conservatorships provides a conservatorship for the person and/or estate of an individual determined by the court to be incapable of providing their personal needs due to physical injury, dementia or other reasons rendering them incapable of caring for themselves or making them subject to undue influence. Murphy Conservatorship provides a conservatorship for the person and/or estate of an individual determined by the court to be mentally incompetent under section 1370 of California Penal Code.

Of the 1242 consumers served 41 percent were female, 55 percent were male and the remainder were unknown/not reported. The breakdown by ethnicity showed that 43 percent were White or Caucasian, 20 percent were Hispanic or Latino, 19 percent chose not to state, 11 percent were African-American, 2.5 percent were Asian and the remainder were less than one percent each representing other groups as shown in the report. There are different facility types based on the needs of the individual conservancy and the report data reflects 25 percent are a board and care living situation, 21 percent are an IMD living situation, 19 percent are in skilled nursing facility and the remainder are made up of a variety of other living situations as shown on the report data. There are a small number of conservatives able to live on their own.

To help, house and support 1200 people there is a wide variety of locations needed factoring what the conservative needs and what facility provides that as well as what services they need and location and where family resides, all this is taken into consideration. The data graph reflects 33 percent of the conservative are living in Riverside, 6 percent in Los Angeles, 4 percent in Palm Springs, 4 percent in San Bernardino, 3 percent in Banning, 3 percent in Indio, 3 percent in Moreno Valley, 2 percent in Moreno Valley, 2 percent in Corona, 1 percent in Redlands, 1 percent in Long Beach, 1 percent in Hemet, 1 percent in San Jacinto, 1 percent in Yucaipa, 1 percent in Beaumont, 1 percent in El Cajon, 1 percent in Sylmar, 1 percent in Norwalk, 1 percent Murrieta and 84 other cities where at least one conservative is living makes up the remaining percentage of conservative living as shown on the data graph. They certainly prefer to stay within the county when possible but there are challenges of continuum of care

and the need of specialized services and bed vacancies. And 21 percent are locked facilities but ultimately the court makes the decisions of placement and the department assists with carrying out those decisions but always want to give the least restrictive level of care if possible.

Mr. Cannon also highlighted the work of the office and he explained there are currently 20 deputy public guardians, a number of conservatorship investigators, a long term care unit that provides case management services, clerical and accounting teams and a host of support staff that operates the program. The PG's office also works closely with the County Counsel's office to navigate through all the necessary proceedings. He continued with highlighting some of the work from 2022 explaining that there was a policy revision project that was already underway and now completed, they had 97 policies that were reviewed and updated in the last two years. And one item they wanted to work on was to have a mobile-friendly platform for staff which has now began construction with the help of the research team. They have been assisting with the work on that and setting it up on SharePoint that displays well on a mobile device, for instance it would be accessible so that if a new staff member was in the field knew there was a policy reviewed during orientation on a specific topic but couldn't recall the details they'd be able to quickly refer to SharePoint.

They have also successfully reduced the deputy PG caseloads this year cases are lower than they have been in the past with current caseloads being 1 to 40. There were 5 new deputy public guardians added this year and along with that and utilizing TAP staff were able to help close out cases that were pending closed which ultimately brought down staff caseloads. They requested additional staff to bring the caseloads down even further. Their fiscal services team is assisting them by working on an automated report to track of cost of individuals and their services pre and post conservatorship, so they can have a greater insight into what is being done. They have implemented a biweekly public guardian improvement plan specifically to implement the Larson report recommendations. They also receive support from the County Executive Office who has assigned some staff to that work to be a liaison to the department as they carry out the recommendations of the Larson report.

They have been working with the fiscal division and quality management division to create a cost of savings report. Often times individuals who prior to conservatorship, may be utilizing crisis services, hospital services and such and they want to show that even though post conservatorship, an individual may need to live in a setting such as a skilled nursing facility or board and care that has a cost to it. This will show that there is improvement in quality of life through stability, but also has financial savings. RUHS external affairs/government relations staff have been made aware of the need for increased advocacy at the State level for increased PG funding for operation purposes to keep up with population growth and increased workload. They have also been working with the RUHS-BH Workforce Education & Training to create a new field safety training to ensure staff hired in the last 1 to 3 years are well oriented in safe field based service practices. This implementation is expected prior to July 1, 2023. Another item was ensuring that staff are equipped with the proper technology, laptops and smart phones and so those items were ordered for any staff that did not have them. The additional staffing request that was submitted was partially approved and will be allowed to add 16 positions this upcoming fiscal year 2023/2024 and will begin recruiting July 1, 2023. Of those positions 4 will be deputy PG positions, 2 senior deputy positions, additional clerical staff and legal support assistance.

Mr. Cannon explained the county as a whole has an integrated service delivery initiative and so they have been participating in the County Service Integration Planning meetings and thinking about how the PG can be a part of that. They also had guest trainers at various staff meetings to review procedures to access public benefits, to ensure that they're doing their due diligence to ensure that people are considered for these benefits to which they are entitled.

Also there was a website redesign launch which is complete and effective a few weeks ago, which he thanked the marketing team for their support on this project. They also met with their quality management team to create a client satisfaction survey which is now completed and piloted on June 1, 2023 to collect direct client experiences and for that they are grateful to Shannon McCleerey-Hooper and Kristen Duffy. They ensured that the client satisfaction survey is client centric and can be effectively utilized by the clients to share their feedback. Another item he shared is staff continue to receive training on placing clients in the least restrictive environment as well as statutory requirements. The initial conservatorship proceedings allow the client and their public defender to speak and are heard and what they have to say is taken into consideration when deciding on placement. Lastly Mr. Cannon shared that County Counsel provides monthly trainings to the PG staff on various professional development topics that staff need to know to perform their services as well as to represent their conservatives interest.

3. **Employee Appreciation Winner-** (Nisha Elliott)

Nisha Elliott, Manager of Workforce Education and Training provided information on the Employee Appreciation component of WET explaining it is something WET invests in because the goal is to let all employees know that they are appreciated for the service they provide. She continued to explain there is an employee recognition link on the main page and anyone who would like to nominate an employee can click on the link and there is a form that will populate that needs to be completed and give them praise for their hard work and dedication. Once it is completed it is sent to the individual and their supervisor expressing gratitude for their commitment and it is also sent to a committee who reviews the submissions and the goal is to select a winner each quarter. The winner is then highlighted in the newsletter and at the BHC meeting with a video created by the marketing team.

Mrs. Elliott then proceeded to introduce this quarters winner Monica Salcedo with a video introduction spotlighting her. After the video concluded supervisor Michael Bohon presented Monica Salcedo with a plaque on behalf of RUHS-BH for Employee Recognition with appreciation for outstanding service. Monica graciously accepted her plaque and gave thanks to Kelly Grotsky, Michael Bohon, James Grisham, Jennifer Hunter, Maria Arnold and all those who gave her recognition.

OLD BUSINESS-

1. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update – (David Schoelen)

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator for the department reminded everyone that he presented on the MHSA and explained it represents a quarter of the departments funding and there are rules and regulations attached to those funds. Including compliance with the public participation process. He announced this year there would be a hybrid approach for the public hearing, first they would publish the draft MHSA plan on the departments website for 30 days, then offer public hearings so the public has an opportunity to express their feedback on the content of the MHSA plan. For the past few years they have completed this virtually with the In Your Pocket videos and the public had two weeks period of time to watch the videos and provide feedback to the department which did very well. Last year 23,000 Riverside residents engaged with the posts and seen the plan or watched the video and since now things are returning in person they wanted to continue the success of the virtual experience in addition to the in person public hearings. Mr. Schoelen explained that with the help of the marketing team they assisted with developing a virtual public hearing video that will be available to the public starting June 19, 2023 and posted through June 30, 2023.

He announced that there would be three in person public hearings taking place this month. It was explained that this year they are not only having a standard public hearing which is regulatory defined but how it operates is usually the public make a comment or statement regarding their feedback the services in the plan and since it is not set up for dialog to give information and then answer questions it was decided to also include an engagement opportunity that would allow that. Therefore, prior to the public hearing there will be forums where the components of the MHSA plan will be set up with trifold stations and the public can view them and ask administrators over those programs questions in regards to their programs projects and services and have the opportunity to learn more prior to giving their feedback. Each of the forums will take place from 3pm to 5pm and the public hearings will begin at 5:30pm to 7pm, there will also be snacks and refreshments.

To comply with regulations each public hearing would need to be conducted by a commissioner which will include leading the meeting and ensuring the public is engaged and the meeting moves along and the department staff will be available for complete support. It was decided that April Jones, Rick Gentillalli and Brenda Scott would assist with the Mid County public hearing at the SRCAR auditorium on June 20, 2023. It was also decided that Greg Damewood and Daryl Terrell would assist at the Western Region public hearing at the Moreno Valley Conference Center on June 27, 2023. Lastly it was decided that Tori St. Johns and Richard Divine would assist the Desert Region public hearing at Agua Caliente on June 29, 2023. Mr. Schoelen concluded by reminding everyone that they are all welcomed to attend, consumers, families, general public and staff which are stakeholders in the community of behavioral health.

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

April Frey, Administrator of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs announced the next providers meeting will take place on June 22, 2023 at 12pm at Rustin and is open to the public and anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

Mrs. Frey also shared that they work with RODA which is the Riverside Overdose to Action Committee which they monitor the opioid use and overdoses within Riverside County and this past week they received notice from RODA informing them of a recent trigger in overdose deaths, hospitalizations or emergency department visits and 911 calls and we met the criteria for potential trigger for overdose, outbreak, surveillance and response systems. Two alerts were noted in suspected overdose deaths on May 9th and May 14th with a spike of five overdose suspected deaths. Mrs. Frey expressed that overdoses have really been hitting Riverside County and last month there was a definite increase in several cities and the data provided showed that Palm Springs had 7 overdoses, Moreno Valley also had 7, Hemet had 5, Riverside had 3 and Corona also had 3. The focus now is raising awareness and offering fentanyl presentations in the schools, they have been working with the community and County Based Organizations (CBO's) to raise awareness. The department recently put out a new updated Narcan policy which they are trying to get Narcan into the hands of community members. Mrs. Frey took the opportunity to thank the Family Advocate groups because they are getting Narcan into the hands of family members and the crisis teams and field based teams are supplying Narcan to the community members in the street, in the river bottom and homeless communities. They continue to increase efforts to make Narcan available to individual. They created a new Narcan policy where all county clinics can order Narcan to pass out to consumers and their families and she thanked the administrative team that put it together. Now that the clinics will be able to order Narcan for their consumers they are working on a way to retrieve data to know when Narcan is used to save a life and the data is recorded and will be used to inform the state and validate how it is helping the community.

Mrs. Frey shared the RFP's for services for contract providers is currently open and closes June 20, 2023. She also shared that last month she reported it was National Drug Court Month and there were several activities that took place. One was the Rock Softball Tournament and this year Indio took home the win. Also the Substance Use Disorder Conference is put on every year by DHCS in Long Beach and the presentation will be on the navigation teams and the title of the work shop will be HEART

(Helping Emergency Admissions Reach Treatment). Another announcement is the peer support integration with substance use treatment and there was an application submitted that was accepted and they will receive monetary funds and so substance use services with peers, the hospital and new innovative things being done in Riverside County will be discussed at the conference. Lastly the Friday Night Live awards ceremony took place and Mrs. Frey shared several photo slides of the students from all chapters of each school across the county that participated and took part and many dressed up in the chosen theme of surfers and bikers and shared how much fun everyone had. Many awards were also distributed for advisor of the year, youth of the year, chapter of the year and several others. Mrs. Frey concluded by giving Heidi Gomez praise for the work she is doing with the FNL chapters and students.

COMMITTEE UPDATES-

Desert Regional Board-

Richard Divine reported Desert Region had two May Is Mental Health Month events, one being similar to the Fairmount Park MIMHM event and the other being the Annual Art Show. He thanked James Grisham and Kelly Grotsky for theirs and their staffs hard work. He continued to report that their 18th annual Art Show Contest displayed over 350 pieces of art, they had over 200 attendees and was grateful to NAMI for providing the food.

Mid-County Regional Board-

Brenda Scott reported that the committee met and had a presentation on Trans Medicine by MITA Beach who incorporated a trans 101 workshop. She also reported that Mid County had their MIMHM event.

Western Regional Board-

Greg Damewood reported their committee met and had a presentation on Man Therapy. He also reported Western Region had their MIMHM event which he attended. He reminded everyone that the committee meets every first Wednesday of the Month at Rustin and they welcome more members to attend.

Adult System of Care Committee-

Brenda Scott had nothing to report as she was unable to attend the meeting for the month of May.

Children's Committee-

Tori St. John's reported that Janine Moore spoke about the Hemet Wellness Village.

Criminal Justice Committee-

Greg Damewood reported that the committee met in May and will meet again in July as the committee meets every other month, minutes are pending approval and they welcome more members to attend.

Housing Committee-

Brenda Scott reported the committee met in May, they will be meeting in person in June and they meet second Tuesday of the month at 11am. They continue to discuss the formation of a room and board coalition. Lance Graham attends committee meetings in San Bernardino when he can and the hope is that the room and board operators can begin their own room and board coalition in Riverside County which would be helpful to clinics, families and anyone wanting to rent a room and board with rules and guidelines.

Legislative Committee-

April Jones reported that the committee has not had a quorum in the last two months to officially hold a meeting and are actively looking for more members to join the legislative committee. She continued to report that she, Beatriz Gonzalez and Walter Haessler who have attended have gone over the vision and mission statement as well as set goals. The goals were to increase membership and collaboration between self, department and stakeholders to ensure community and legislation is kept up to date on topics they are for and against.

Older Adult System of Care Committee-

Brenda Scott reported they met in person and well attended. And nice to see older adults attended considering the committee is geared to receiving their feedback and input. She also reported Diana Gutierrez and Myeshia Bobo presented on Suicide Prevention and reported on the work being done with the coalition.

Quality Improvement Committee-

Daryl Terrell reported that Friday Night Live received a Behavioral Health Grant that funds TAY peers and Nurses for college campuses (MV college, UCR, RCC and college of the Desert). He continued to report that the Mobile Crisis Management team made staffing progress and are 75 percent staffed and the recent focus is with city collaborations and thanked the county for their efforts.

Veterans Committee-

Rick Gentillalli reported the committee met prior to the BHC and meet every first Wednesday of the month and reminded everyone that you do not need to be a veteran to join. He also mentioned that the committee was better attended when it was being offered via zoom so want to encourage those interested to join. He concluded by sharing there will be a Chili Cook Off on June 17, 2023 at the March Air Force Base Commissary.

Membership Committee-

Richard Divine reported there are currently 12 members including the BOS representative with district 3, 4 and 5 being filled but district 1 and 2 needing two members each, so if anyone knows of anyone who is interested to please direct them to the website or the BHC liaison for an application. He concluded by announcing that the Western Regional Board meets at 3pm and all are welcomed to attend.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Victoria St. John's suggested a Narcan presentation

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

Rick Gentillalli, BHC Secretary

Sylvia Bishop, 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	A	P	P	P	P	P
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
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	A
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	A	A
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Paul Vallandigham, District 5	P	P	P	P	ML	ML	ML	P	ML	A
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	A	P
Dr. Walter Haessler, District 1	P	P	P	P	P	P	ML	P	P	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

OTHERS PRESENT		
Bill Brenneman	Maria Martha Moreno	Sean Frederickson
Lucy Lopez	David White	Michael Bohon
Selenne Contreras	Elizabeth Lagunas	Williard Wynn
Sylvia Bishop	Tonica Robinson	Brandon Jacobs
David Schoelen	Michelle Downs	Dani Damewood
Nisha Elliott	Diana Gutierrez	Dylan Colt
Marcus Cannon	Shannon McCleerey-Hooper	Kalee Camacho
Deborah Johnson	Monica Salcedo	LaGwenda Hill
April Frey	James Grisham	Maureen Dopson
Heidi Gomez	Tony Ortego	Sundae Sayles
Maria Arnold	Kristen Duffy	Glenis Ulloa
Melissa Vasquez	Danielle Gonzalez	Citlalik Ibarra
Dakota Brown	Chris Duffy	
Taide Arias	Francisco Huerta	
Russ Hockman	Robin Reid	
Kelly Grotsky	Lizbet Limon	
Robert Youssef	Launa Wilson	
Cheryl Coson	Patricia Oare	
Marybel Buchler	Misty Martin	
June Evans	Melissa Noone	