

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 5, 2021 | 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INTRODUCTIONS – Chairperson, Rick Gentillalli called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

Commissioner attendance was taken by roll-call.

ADOPTION OF AB 361 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-001 – 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”; Richard Divine seconded the motion. The BHC Liaison conducted votes by roll-call; 10 Commission members voted YES, approving the adoption of the Resolution. (Please note that there were two Commissioners unavailable to provide their input at the time of voting.)

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Mr. Gentillalli welcomed everyone back and greeted everyone a Happy New Year. Mr. Gentillalli shared his personal concerns regarding the rising number of fentanyl overdoses and how much the veteran population is impacted by this problem.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS – Dr. Walter Haessler shared an article he read on the Press Enterprise regarding advancement of services now included to the MediCal program. This effort was approved by the federal government and the plan ensures that benefits currently received through MediCal will not be affected. Advancements made to MediCal services now include “enhanced care management services” that include “care coordinators.” Care coordinators can help assist MediCal members find doctors, schedule appointments, set up medical transportation, help consumers understand their medications, secure mental health services located at community based services involving safe housing through the system. Dr. Haessler noted that this has the earmarks of case management services and overlaps with services already provided by the Department. Dr. Haessler commented that the addition of these services are incredibly helpful, useful, and an important change for the community.

Daryl Terrell expressed his appreciation for Rhyan Miller and his team for recently bringing a crisis management team to Moreno Valley to help them address the challenges of homelessness and substance abuse in the community. Mr. Terrell thanked Mr. Miller and his team for bringing this necessary service to their community.

PUBLIC REMARKS – Lorie Lacey-Payne, Parent Support and Training Manager, shared that she and her team are working with CAMPRHO (California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations) in regard to a project looking at barriers to services for LatinX and other underserved populations. They will be conducting a listening session and then a summit to discuss the findings and look at recommendations regarding next steps. Ms. Lacey-Payne informed the Commission that she has requested time on the agenda on the February BHC meeting to provide a full presentation regarding this project and what it entails.

Maria Martha Moreno, Mental Health Services Manager, provided a brief update on the achievements of the Help@Hand Project, over the past year. They completed the installation of 32 small ADA compliant kiosks and seven (7) large kiosks in various clinics throughout the county. Consumers can provide their feedback regarding services they received and inform staff of how they are doing and any problems or issues they may have. Currently, the most reported issue is that users do not know how to utilize the kiosks. In response, Ms. Moreno and her team created a video of how to use the kiosks, which is now available on the landing page of the kiosks. Now, when you visit one of these kiosks, consumers will be able to launch a video that teaches them the purpose of the kiosks, how to check on your wellness, and the different digital resources available within those kiosks. For the pilot, they created an animated video integrated within the newsfeed of our pilot participants and these are participants within the schizophrenia spectrum or psychosis type of diagnosis. They currently have 17 participants. They have deployed mobile devices and peer teams that have been training and collaborating with the care teams in the clinics to provide instructions about how to use this app and help improve the wellness of these participants.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dr. Chang responded to Dr. Haessler's report regarding the changes in the MediCal program. Dr. Chang stated that this program is called CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating MediCal). This is intended as a revolutionary change in MediCal services. RUHS as a whole has been at the forefront of the discussions around CalAIM, specifically as it pertains to behavioral health. Dr. Haessler mentioned what's known as "Enhanced Care Management" or ECM as one of their main areas of focus. They are also focused on "In Lieu of Services" or ILOS, which is services/treatment provided by Behavioral Health in lieu of higher levels of care. ILOS services are intended to be more appropriate, effective, and cost-efficient for consumers. Dr. Chang stated that they have been very involved with the Managed MediCal funds, primarily with IEHP and Molina to bring our services forward for other consumers and the community at large.

Dr. Chang shared that he recently visited the ARC (Arlington Recovery Center) and Sobering Center, which opened in November (Sobering Center) and December (ARC). Dr. Chang was reportedly stunned to see all 54 beds of ARC are at capacity and the Sobering Center has served over 100 consumers since opening day. This shows a pent up need and demand for this type of service in the community. This is a huge benefit in terms of helping keep individuals out of hospitals and jails, and provide them with more appropriate and effective levels of care. Alternately, this also helps alleviate hospitals and jails of overcrowding.

Dr. Chang responded to the fentanyl topic and stated there is a nationwide litigation suit regarding the makers and distributors of opioids. Various states, counties, cities, and other plaintiffs have sued the distributors and manufacturers of opioids and there are portions of some payouts that will be directed to state, county, and local prevention and treatment services. Statistics have shown that at one point there were 60 prescriptions of opioids for

every 100 Americans. As it pertains to the Department, some of the funding is supposed to be allocated for Riverside County's continuum of care. Dr. Chang stated that he will keep the Commission updated regarding its progress.

Greg Damewood inquired about the status of staffing needs as it's been reported that the Department is experiencing a shortage. Dr. Chang responded stating that as we've all seen and heard in the news and other parts of the country and globally; be it healthcare, general workforce, airlines, schools, etc.; everyone is facing the same challenge of having a shortage of workers/personnel and RUHS-BH is no exception. There are 331 open positions in the Department and they are making every effort to fill them. In addition to having positions posted online, they will also be holding an All Day Hiring Event on Wednesday, January 26 from 8:00 – 5:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE AMENDED AND UPDATED BHC BYLAWS: Mr. Damewood made a motion to approve the amended and updated BHC Bylaws; Mr. Gentillalli seconded this motion. Votes were taken by roll-call and the amended and updated BHC Bylaws were approved by a majority (11 Commissioners) with one (1) absence.
2. HOUSING PROGRAM UPDATE – NO PLACE LIKE HOME (NPLH): Marcus Cannon, Behavioral Health Services Supervisor for Housing, provided an update on the Department's progress and recent achievements regarding the No Place Like Home Program.

In 2016, California created the No Place Like Home (NPLH) program. The program was created to increase the supply of permanent supportive housing and build upon existing programs to combat homelessness among Californians in need of mental health services. The NPLH program serves California's most vulnerable homeless population — people with severe mental illness who are experiencing homelessness or who are exiting institutions (such as correctional facilities) and have a history of experiencing homelessness.

The NPLH Program authorized up to \$2 billion in revenue to provide funding, administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), for the development of permanent supportive housing for individuals living with a serious mental illness who are in need of mental health services and are experiencing homelessness, chronic homelessness, or who are at-risk of chronic homelessness. Mr. Cannon explained that the permanent supportive housing are apartment complexes that have a certain number of units allocated for individuals living with a serious mental illness and experiencing homelessness. Therefore, this form of supportive housing will not only help assist consumers, but also those in need of affordable housing.

Among the requirements set forth by NPLH, notable ones include that local counties provide their own staff and supportive services (behavioral health and substance abuse) to serve as counselors and case managers onsite and for those services to be provided for a minimum of 20 years. They also require each property be maintained as an affordable property for 55 years.

Since March of 2019, the program has awarded more than \$1.1 billion of the up to \$2 billion currently authorized under program statute. Projects that have received awards are expected to

create 4,489 units of housing. Riverside County has received a total of \$49 million across the first three rounds, placing the County second in the state, competitively winning 16.3% of the funding available in the bracket.

Mr. Cannon explained that this is a collaborative effort between RUHS-BH and Affordable Housing Development. This is a long term partnership as this is a multi-year process that requires the acquiring of land, gaining site control of the land, and going through the various regulatory approvals and permits so the land is ready to be developed. While the Department may have some influence over where these sites are, they are also required to work within the confines of what land is available, suitable, and developers are interested in bringing to market.

There are four rounds of funding available through NPLH and RUHS-BH has successfully participated in three rounds, with the fourth application currently in progress. On October 30, 2018 the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) released and Amended Round 1 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Competitive Allocation Funds for NPLH, totaling \$400 million. Applications submitted by Riverside County competed with 10 other "Large Counties" (as defined in the NPLH program guidelines - Orange County, San Bernardino, Sacramento, Los Angeles, etc.) for \$93.5 million in Round 1 funding. The application resulted in an award of \$23.7 million dollars in funding to four applications submitted by Riverside County. This funded the construction of four permanent supportive housing: 1) Cedar Glen II, located in Riverside; 2) St. Michael's, located in Riverside; 3) Oasis Senior Villas, located in Riverside; and 4) Cathedral Palms, located in Cathedral City. In total, all four housing complexes will provide 419 affordable units; 162 of which is reserved for consumers only.

On September 27, 2019, HCD released Round 2 NOFA for Competitive Allocation Funds for NPLH, totaling \$622 million. Applications submitted by Riverside County competed for \$90.8 million in Round 2 funding. Unfortunately, the application did not result in an award.

On October 23, 2020, HCD released Round 3 NOFA for Competitive Allocation Funds for NPLH, totaling \$187.4 million. Applications submitted by Riverside County competed for \$106.8 million in Round 3 funding. The applications resulted in four awards of \$5.8 million, \$6.1 million, \$6.4 million, and \$7.4 million, totaling \$25.6 million. This funded the construction of four additional permanent supportive housing: 1) Aloe Palm Canyon, located in Palm Springs; 2) Rancho Family Housing, located in Temecula; 3) Vista de La Sierra, located in Riverside; and 3) Vista Sunrise II, located in Palm Springs. In total, all four housing complexes will provide 267 affordable units; 119 of which is assigned for consumers only.

On August 15, 2018, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Noncompetitive Allocation Funds for NPLH, totaling \$190 million dollars to acquire, design, construct, rehabilitate, or preserve permanent supportive housing for persons who are experiencing homelessness, chronic homelessness or who are at risk of chronic homelessness, and who are in need of mental health services. On January 29, 2019, Board of Supervisors authorized RUHS-BH to participate in NPLH and accept the Noncompetitive Allocation Funds. The County of Riverside was subsequently awarded \$3.3 million in funding from Round 1 Noncompetitive Allocation.

Mr. Cannon noted that the Noncompetitive Allocation Funds was essentially designed for small counties that may not have the infrastructure to put an application forward. This particular funding

would guarantee smaller counties some funding for supportive housing. The Department took the \$3.3 million and created a local competition to help existing projects be more financially viable. The monies were awarded to three projects: 1) Aloe Palm Canyon in Palm Springs; 2) Vista de La Sierra in Riverside; and 3) Vista Sunrise II in Palm Springs.

On October 29, 2021, HCD released Round 4 NOFA for Competitive Allocation Funds for NPLH, totaling \$231.4 million. Applications submitted by Riverside County will compete for \$121.2 million in Round 4 funding. Deadline for applications is January 19, 2022 and notifications for awards will be June 2022. In Round 4, the Department submitted five supporting housing projects: 1) Tres Lagos Apartments Phase I in Wildomar; 2) Tres Lagos Apartments Phase II in Wildomar; 3) Villa Verde I LP in Coachella; 4) Sunrise at Bogart, LP in Riverside; and 5) JFM Villas Family Apartments in Indio. In total, all five housing complexes will provide 300 affordable units; 172 of which will be reserved for consumers only.

Mr. Cannon stated that he can provide the BHC an update on Round 4 once they are notified of the results. For those interested in learning more detail regarding the NPLH Program as well as other projects that Housing is involved in, Mr. Cannon extended an invitation to the next Housing Committee meeting, which are held on the second Tuesdays of the month at 11:00 am.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1.) MHSA UPDATE: Toni Robinson, Cultural Competency Manager, provided an update regarding the changes they are implementing in Cultural Competency. A year ago Ms. Robinson presented to the BHC about the changes they were making in Cultural Competency. Ms. Robinson shared some details from that meeting to remind everyone of their initial goals and what they have accomplished thus far.

At the time, there was a great deal of discussion surrounding culture in terms of how Cultural Competency identified it. Their goal was to look at culture and how it contributes to the way diagnoses are viewed, how it contributes to resiliency factors when discussing populations served, and how culture contributes to recovery. There are many different factors that can define culture, as it is not always based on ethnicity. Ms. Robinson noted that it was their goal to expand the view of what culture is and how it affects the people we serve, how it contributes to their resiliency and their recovery. As a result, they have since determined new cultural groups and MHSA components, and incorporated them under the umbrella of Cultural Competency.

Veteran Services is now under Cultural Competency as they have identified “veterans” as a cultural population or group. They have also added Innovations under Cultural Competency to make sure that all new projects submitted to the state establishes and considers cultural aspects and factors. They also examined the demographics in Riverside County and discovered new growing populations. Cultural Competency now identifies 10 different populations: 1) Disabilities; 2) Middle-Eastern North African; 3) Latino/ Latina; 4) African-American; 5) Native American; 6) Asian-American/ Pacific Islander; 7) LGBTQ; 8) Deaf and Hard of Hearing; 9) Spirituality; and 10) Veterans. Ms. Robinson reported that all

10 groups now have liaisons dedicated to each group that will provide resources, referrals, and linkages to services, as well as gain feedback from the community by attending committee meetings and various community events.

In addition, they are also adding two new Senior Peer positions, which they will be hiring for soon. Ms. Robinson noted that they also want to make sure they have a peer voice in everything they do, in addition to cultural perspectives.

- 2.) SAPT UPDATE: April Marier, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs Administrator, quickly announced that the next SAPT All Providers meeting will be held on January 13. Ms. Marier noted that this meeting is typically two hours long, however, the next meeting is scheduled to run for four hours. They will be doing an in-depth presentation on CalAIM, which was briefly touched on earlier in the meeting. They will also be discussing all the new services and changes that will be occurring in SAPT.

SAPT was recently awarded \$9.7 million in funding, which will be dedicated to the increase in services for prevention, Friday Night Live, perinatal communities, youth services, and recovery residences.

Ms. Marier commended county staff and MFI as they are the contract provider providing services at ARC and the Sobering Center. Several have completed the stabilization portion of the program and are now working towards transitioning to further treatment.

Overall services have stayed fairly steady. Outpatient contractors slightly dipped, residential services increased, and the behavioral health clinic and inpatient has also dipped slightly in numbers. Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTP) clinics continue to rise. Recovery services, also known as aftercare experienced an increase of 79% with our contract providers and 53% with county providers. Recovery residences, also known as sober living, saw an increase of 28% between June and December of 2021. Prevention services experienced a 335% increase, the most significant increase for SAPT between June and December.

Will Harris stated that they are pleased to see the increase in Prevention in the last six months. At the moment, efforts are on hold due to the current surge of the COVID variant, but Mr. Harris is optimistic that things will pick up after the surge.

Mr. Harris added that with CalAIM, they will be able to provide these type of services using Drug MediCal funding as opposed to prevention funding. This will provide SAPT with more opportunity to expand the Friday Night Live Program into additional school districts around the county.

Friday Night Live's Youth Ambassador Program, which is the Countywide Youth Council, participated in several projects over the holidays, such as the blanket drive and food drive. Mr. Harris reported that they recently lost one of their most treasured assets, Centre

Atkins. Mr. Atkins will be greatly missed, but the FNL program will continue strong with the foundation of his previous leadership.

Mr. Harris reported that SAPT Prevention is working with Diana Gutierrez, Administrative Services Manager – Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), in an effort to possibly merge with each other and Public Health, as each one has a dedicated “Prevention” unit committed to address and provide prevention services in Riverside County.

In a feat called “Braided Funding,” they will work together utilizing different funding streams aimed to accomplish a common goal. Currently, PEI and SAPT are discussing the possibility of expanding PEIs “Strengthening Families Program,” as it is an evidence-based program with a great deal of history in improving substance abuse prevention outcomes. Ms. Gutierrez and Mr. Harris are also discussing the possibility of partnering with Public Health, as RUHS-BH has not had the opportunity to do a media campaign for substance abuse prevention in a way that Public Health has. Mr. Harris and Ms. Gutierrez hope to partner with Public Health to have a combined media program.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

DESERT REGIONAL BOARD: Carole Schaudt reported that they discussed the art pieces displayed at The Rivers and the current progress they are making. They also discussed the holiday projects and shared highlights from the effort.

MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BOARD: Kim McElroy reported that they have a new slate of officers for Mid-County – Glen Shepard and Brenda Scott will serve as co-leading Chairs, Shayna Johnson will serve as Vice Chair, and Ms. McElroy will be serving as secretary.

WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD: Mr. Damewood reported that their minutes will be available after their meeting later in the day.

ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE: Ms. Scott reported that they met on November 18 and received updates from supervisors from each region and Tony Ortego gave an update on Older Adults.

CHILDREN’S COMMITTEE: Tori St. Johns reported that they met in December instead of November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The committee met on December 7 and they received an update presentation from Ms. Lacey-Payne regarding the Holiday Projects – Thanksgiving Drive and Snowman Banner. Lupe Madrigal provided an update on FNL chapters conducting blanket and food drives.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Mr. Damewood reported that they will be meeting virtually on January 12. Minutes will be available for review after their next meeting.

HOUSING COMMITTEE: Ms. Scott reported that they met on November 10. Mr. Cannon provided an update regarding the various projects they’re submitting for NPLH. They also received an update regarding CalAIM and discussed the goal of forming a Room and Board Coalition.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Dr. Haessler reported that they received COVID updates during their meeting and discussed their concern over the false narrative of hospitals and ICU beds being at capacity, when in truth, they are not.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: BHC Liaison reported that there are two new vacancies as Tim Barton and Anindita Ganguly submitted their resignations over the holiday break. District 1 has two vacancies, overall, and District 2 has one vacancy.

OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE: Ms. Scott reported that they met on November 9 and Jennifer Zuckerman from the Alzheimer's Association gave an overview presentation on Alzheimer's and her organization.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE: Mr. Terrell reported that they received updates regarding documentation reform and payment reform under CalAIMS. Documentation reform will allow for reimbursement of services prior to assessment and diagnosis of the consumer. This would also allow them to monitor fraud, waste, and abuse. Payment reform will be moving away from the current model and move to payments based on rates. The state's view regarding this reform is to give the county a mechanism to potentially earn more than the current service cost and re-invest those earnings back into the system and expand services and programs.

VETERANS COMMITTEE: Mr. Gentillalli reported that they made a list of priorities they hope to tackle in the next year. One of these projects is creating a resource for vets that include phone numbers and addresses of programs and services available for veterans. Mr. Gentillalli noted that they will put together a small workgroup that can assemble the information and put it on a simple 8 ½ x 11 page.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: None

ADJOURN: The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm.

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
Anindita Ganguly, District 2	✓	✓	✓	✓						
April Jones, District 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	A					
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Brenda Scott, District 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Carole Schaudt, District 4	✓	✓	✓	A	✓					
Daryl Terrell, District 5	✓	A	✓	✓	✓					
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	✓	✓	✓	A	✓					
Greg Damewood, District 5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Jose Campos, District 2	✓	✓	A	✓	✓					
Paul Vallandigham, District 5	ML	ML	ML	✓	✓					
Richard Divine, District 2 (<i>Redist. 4</i>)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Rick Gentillalli, District 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Tim Barton, District 1	✓	✓	A	A						
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Dr. 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.