

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 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 thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

COMMISSION MEMBERS REMARKS – Brenda Scott reported that the NAMI Walk fundraised over \$108,000. Ms. Scott thanked all those who supported and participated in the event. Ms. Scott announced that their NAMI affiliate will be holding a celebration to recognize the efforts of those who supported and participated in the fundraiser.

PUBLIC REMARKS – A member of the Civil Grand Jury requested two copies of the BHC Annual Report.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – Minutes were accepted as written, with two abstentions.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY – Anna Ebina, Program Manager for Whiteside Manor, introduced this month's Celebrate Recovery speaker, Shanna Rajabli. Ms. Rajabli was brought to Whiteside Manor by the START Team, where she completed 90-days of residential treatment and is continuing her recovery in Whiteside Manor's sober living.

Ms. Rajabli grew up in a violent and dysfunctional home; both parents struggled with mental illness, drug abuse, and alcoholism. Starting in early childhood, Ms. Rajabli dealt with depression and self-medicated with drugs and alcohol. After multiple arrests and two suicide attempts, she accepted a referral to Mental Health Urgent Care and checked herself in. While she waited for placement at Whiteside Manor, she stayed at Lagos for three weeks. Peer supports and clinicians helped her stay on track and was prescribed medication to manage her symptoms. Once she was placed in Whiteside Manor, she was ready to tackle her 90-day treatment program.

Ms. Rajabli expressed her gratitude for the programs that have helped her overcome her substance abuse and mental health struggles. She continues her recovery with outpatient treatment and is currently attending classes at Pathways for Success. The programs not only gave her the ability and strength to overcome her struggles, they also gave her the guidance and support she needed to continue on her road of recovery.

One notable concern Ms. Rajabli reported was an incident that occurred at Lagos. She was placed on a "Q-15," which is a system that monitors consumers that may present a danger to themselves or others. Ms. Rajabli recalls experiencing severe paranoia and stress during this time as she was unaware of what was occurring. Her paranoia and stress resulted in panic attacks and was prescribed heavy medication to manage her anxiety. Eventually, the staff explained their concerns, which helped alleviate Ms. Rajabli's stress and anxiety. Ms. Rajabli stated that the lack of communication lead to her paranoia and added that if staff communicated their concerns to consumers and properly informed them of any special monitoring, it could help keep consumers from feeling stressed or paranoid and avoid unnecessary medication.

NEW BUSINESS

1. VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM: Dr. Marion Sherman, Chief of Mental Health at Veterans Affairs (VA) of Loma Linda shared information regarding the Clay Hunt Act and the programs they've implemented pursuant to the Act. On average, 18-22 veterans succumb to death by suicide in the United States. In an effort to address this tragic matter, The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act was passed and signed into law by Congress in February 2015. Clay Hunt was from Houston Texas and served in the Marines from 2005 to 2009. In 2007, he was deployed to Iraq, where he was wounded and

received a Purple Heart. After his recovery he continued his service and began training as a sniper. Mr. Hunt served as part of Team Rubicon, travelled to Chile and Haiti to help with the hurricane efforts, and was re-deployed to Afghanistan in 2008. In 2009 he was honorably discharged and returned to civilian life. While he achieved many great things and served our country beautifully, Mr. Hunt struggled with a great deal of PTSD, which impacted his personal life tremendously. In 2011, Clay Hunt died by suicide.

The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act required the Veterans Administration to find the five areas in the United States that have the highest number of vulnerable veterans transitioning from active military into civilian. The Inland Empire ranked third on this list. Within each of the five areas, the Act required to have at least one medical center that would serve as a pilot for the program and Loma Linda stepped up to fulfill that requirement. As part of the program, the VA is required to perform more outreach and utilize peer support specialists to help counsel veterans. Last January, they opened the first Mental Health Access Clinic for veterans, which allows any veteran to walk-in for service without dealing with any paperwork. The Mental Health Access Clinic is located in Redlands and is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

VA Loma Linda's Suicide Prevention Office has four quadrants of service. The first is the Clay Hunt Act, the second is the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL), which can be accessed by veterans' 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. The third area is "high-risk therapy," where they track severely vulnerable veterans and reach out to them and offer service and treatment. The fourth quadrant is called "Reach" and involves a computer software that help identify individual veterans throughout the country that have a high probability of harming themselves or committing suicide. A list is sent to the five areas and they track those individuals to make sure that they are registered, offered services, or placed into treatment.

2. **"WHO WE SERVE" REPORT:** Ryan Quist provided a brief overview and highlights of the "Who We Serve" Report. Fiscal Year 2016-2017, the Department saw an increase in the number of mental health consumer served and a 1.4% increase in the number of substance abuse consumer served. Insurance coverage shows 71% of the Department's mental health consumers and 83% of substance abuse consumers are covered by MediCal. The statistics regarding co-occurring disorder show 28% of mental health consumers report a co-occurring disorder at the beginning of treatment; 34% of consumers report a history of trauma; and substance abuse consumers report 39% have a history of mental illness. Behavioral Health efforts helped serve 57,592 consumers and Prevention and Early Intervention efforts helped serve 26,516 people in the community; overall the Department provided services and treatment to 84,108 individuals in Riverside County.
3. **APPOINT MEMBERS TO ADHOC COMMITTEE FOR MARIJUANA REGULATION RECOMMENDATIONS:** Members appointed to the adhoc committee are as follows: Greg Damewood, Richard Divine, Beatriz Gonzalez, Walter Haessler, Carole Schaudt, and Brenda Scott.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **BHC TRAINING TOPICS:** A majority of Commissioners selected Advocacy and Managing a Meeting as topics for the upcoming BHC Training. The list of topics will also be forwarded to Regional Boards for their input regarding topics they would like to learn more about.
2. **MHSA UPDATE:** David Schoelen introduced Aurelio Sanchez, Veterans Services Liaison, to briefly describe his position and duties. The Veterans Services Liaison position was developed five years ago and its first duties were to educate the public and provide outreach services to veterans with behavioral health needs. The position was later expanded to a clinical role and preferably a veteran. Mr. Sanchez was hired mid-2017 and has been performing beautifully. Mr. Sanchez not only helps educate the public and veterans regarding behavioral health, but also does outreach to veterans; coordinates with various other agencies (i.e. Department of Social Services, VA Loma Linda, etc.); and individual therapy. Mr. Sanchez hopes to expand this area with a group of staff that will help with case management, outreach, and individual therapy.
3. **SAPT UPDATE:** Rhyann Miller reported that they are preparing for the legalization of marijuana and shared

some data from Colorado regarding marijuana related traffic fatalities. The data indicates that after the legalization of marijuana in Colorado, traffic related deaths and accidents experienced a significant increase. Mr. Miller expects that the Department will experience a similar increase in referrals for the DUI program.

The beta projects on the school level are currently doing well as more schools are learning about these services and are requesting to have them on their campus. They have established an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) that covers Perris Valley Unified School District, San Jacinto Unified School District, and they are currently in discussion with Hemet Unified School District.

The two beta projects for the Drunk Driver Program (DDP) are also going really well. Mr. Miller described the first project as an onsite court service provided by county staff. Staff meets with consumers sentenced for DUI related offenses and are given ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine) screenings and are linked to services. The second beta project involves California state mandate. The laws mandate individuals participating in a DUI program that arrive intoxicated will be terminated and sent back to court. Several providers throughout the state fought this mandate and Riverside County was able to receive a waiver to work around this law. Riverside County's waiver gives individuals the choice to stay in the DUI program, but requires them to also take a higher level of care. There are four SAPT providers that participated in this waiver: Anderson & Associates, The Awareness Program, Community Settlement Association, and High Road. Since March 1, 2017, they've had 47 consumers that arrived intoxicated (marijuana or alcohol) and were given the choice to participate in the beta project. Eleven refused the program; 11 completed their court ordered DUI requirements; and 12 were terminated for non-compliance. Two were sent to residential treatments that turned out successfully; one completed the DUI program and another is in the process of completing their requirement. Mr. Miller thanked all the providers participating in the project.

The Drug MediCal Waiver has been in place for one year and Mr. Miller gave a brief update of how services have changed since. Before the Waiver, the maximum capacity for residential beds was 421, now it is 590. Previously, there was a 10-18 week waiting period for residential services, now individuals are placed within 24-hours. The maximum number of availability for detoxification services was 59 prior to the Waiver, now there are 164 and they are all filled. Mr. Miller stated that he will draft a formal report of these findings and provide it to the Commission between March and April.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Steve Steinberg announced two retirements – Claudia Smith from the Public Guardian and Paul Thompson, Deputy Director of Children's Services. Claudia Smith worked for the county for 22 years and has served consumers in the jails, inpatient services, and Public Guardian. Ms. Smith had a great compassion and commitment for the people that she served and the work that she did; she will be greatly missed. Paul Thompson began working for the County around the same time as Mr. Steinberg. Mr. Thompson has worked for the county for over 26 years and was a dedicated clinician who worked his way up the Department with great encouragement from Mr. Steinberg; he will also be greatly missed. The new Deputy Director for Children's Services is Janine Moore, who previously served as the Administrator for Children's Services.

Mr. Steinberg reported that the Inland Empire PsychPartners Innovation Project was not approved by MHSOAC (Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission) and they voted to have the project re-submitted with changes. Mr. Steinberg reported that the team will reconvene and make improvements on the project and re-submit in a few weeks.

The first meeting of the Blue Ribbon Committee for Behavioral Health in the Desert Region was a success. Staff provided a presentation regarding the Department's efforts in treatments, services, and outreach, as well as how they are funded. Individuals were able to express their concerns and had discussions on how to better serve the citizens in the Valley.

Lastly, Jim Grisham, the Desert Region Administrator, developed a proposal with Lynne Brockmeier regarding services for the City of Blythe as they have been scarce or lacking for several years. During the Blue Ribbon

Committee meeting, they announced that the City of Blythe now has 3-4 staff members assigned to work in the area to provide behavioral health services in the hospital, housing assistance, homeless outreach, and case management. Mr. Steinberg reported that they were able to fund the positions without asking the Board of Supervisors for additional funding. This was a significant success for the Department and the City of Blythe as they have struggled for years without proper resources due to its location and funding.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

DESERT REGIONAL BOARD: None

MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BOARD: Kim McElroy reported that the Mid-County Board held their elections and she will remain as the Chair for 2018.

WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD: Greg Damewood reported that he will also be remaining as Chair for 2018, as well as Ric Riccardi as Vice Chair, and Dawn Gordon as Secretary.

ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE: Ms. Scott reported that the meetings occur on the fourth Thursday of the month at noon and they are working on increasing membership.

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE: Tori St. Johns reported that the Committee is thrilled that Janine Moore is the new Deputy Director for Children's Services. At the last meeting, it was reported that the Department provided a total of 144 Thanksgiving Baskets to families in need.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Mr. Damewood reported that they discussed issues surrounding AB109.

HOUSING COMMITTEE: Ms. Scott reported that the meetings occur on the second Tuesday of every month at 11 am. At the last meeting they discussed efforts and projects done by MHSA.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Walter Haessler reported that they discussed the issue surrounding marijuana regulations and the adhoc committee. They also discussed the issue of Realignment funding and its discrepancies. Carole Schaudt and Angela Igrisan will be speaking to the congressman regarding the Realignment funding to get assistance in finding a resolution.

OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE: None

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE: None

VETERANS COMMITTEE: Mr. Gentillalli reported that the meetings occur on the same day as the BHC at 10 am. Attendance for the committee has tripled within six months and Mr. Gentillalli expressed appreciation for all those who attend and provide information on services for the County's veterans.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – None

ADJOURN: The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Maria Roman

Ric Riccardi, BHC Secretary

Maria Roman, Recording Secretary

FY 2017/18 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

MEMBERS	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
April Jones, District 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	A					
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	✓	✓	✓	A	✓					
Brenda Scott, District 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Carole Schaudt, District 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Daryl Terrell, District 5	✓	A	✓	✓	A					
Dildar Ahmad, District 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
George Middle, District 2 (Redist. 5)	✓	✓	✓	✓	A					
Greg Damewood, District 5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Ashley Fuller, BOS Representative	✓	✓	✓	✓	A					
Ric Riccardi, District 5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Richard Divine, District 2 (Redist. 4)	A	✓	✓	✓	✓					
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		
Steve Steinberg, RUHS-BH Director	Angela Igrisan, RUHS-BH	Deborah Johnson, RUHS-BH
Brian Betz, RUHS-BH	Bill Brenneman, RUHS-BH	Rhyan Miller, RUHS-BH
Will Harris, RUHS-BH	Jim Hill, RUHS-BH	Richard Bolter, RUHS-BH
Ryan Quist, RUHS-BH	Araceli Ruiz, BOS Rep District 1	Monique Gordon, RUHS-BH
Nat Tollefson, RUHS-BH	Jolyne Bucker, Grand Jury	Beverly Mays, Grand Jury
Kim McElroy, Guest	Dr. JoAnne Umezurika, Guest	Laurence Gonzaga, Guest
Samantha Franklin, Guest	Karen O'Rear, RUHS-BH	Julie Curran, RUHS-BH
Leonel Contreras, Guest	Andrea Eastman, Guest	Anna Ebina, Guest
Aurelio Sanchez, RUHS-BH	Kristen Duffy, RUHS-BH	Keerthy Sunder, Guest
Anjali Krishna, Guest	Annie Leicht, RUHS-BH	Janine Moore, RUHS-BH
Michelle Martinez, RUHS-BH	Edward Armas, Guest	Tiffany Ross, RUHS-BH
Karen Hudson, Guest	Elin Zerai, Guest	Paul Baum, RUHS-BH
Selvino Moscare, Guest	Sylvia Aguirre-Aguilar, RUHS-BH	Carlos LaMadrid, RUHS-BH
Barbara Mitchell, Guest	Lynne Brockmeier, RUHS-BH	Josh M., Guest
Steve Wildish, Guest	Deborah Pagliuso, Guest	Lucy Lopez, RUHS-BH
Maria Roman, RUHS-BH	David Schoelen, RUHS-BH	Anna Ebina, RUHS-BH
Shanna Rajabli, Guest	Dr. Marion Sherman, Guest	