

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR June 4, 2025 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

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

Vice Chair Brenda Scott called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:01 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll call and followed by introductions.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –

Victoria St. Johns made a motion to approve minutes as written from May 7, 2025 and Brenda Scott seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Vice Chair Brenda Scott chaired the BHC meeting and announced the resignation of Richard Divine after 29 years of service to the Behavioral Health Commission and thanked him for his dedication and commitment to the board and concluded by wishing him all the best.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –

Greg Damewood announced he attended both the May is Mental Health Month event at Fairmount Park and attended the Public Hearing, which was also held at the event, sharing both were well attended. He then announced he also attended the Directing Change event which was held the same day and suggested that in the future different dates for each of those events be considered. Mr. Damewood then concluded by sharing he has known Richard Divine since 1999 and wished him well and stated he would be missed immensely.

Elysse Rico, the Board of Supervisors appointed representative spoke on behalf of District 2 expressing their gratitude to Mr. Divine for his long-standing commitment and advocacy that helped shaped the work of the Behavioral Health Commission. Ms. Rico read the certificate issued by Supervisor Spiegel that recognized Mr. Divine for his 29 years of dedication, leadership, support, impact and legacy that will be remembered in the years to come.

PUBLIC REMARKS – None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dr. Matthew Chang

Dr. Chang introduced Rhyan Miller and Melissa Noone who provided a brief update on the three application grants. Ms. Noone shared out of the three grants they were awarded two, the first was for \$333M for the new Psych Hospital that will replace ITF in Riverside. This new psych hospital will offer 100 beds, 12 for children, 12 for adolescents and the remaining beds for adults and is expected to be built by June of 2030 or as early as 2029.

Mr. Miller announced the other grant that was awarded was for the Youth Campus, it was awarded \$150M expected to be built by April of 2028 in Beaumont on 120 acres. He stated this campus will support children. He concluded by giving recognition to Janine Moore for her involvement and support.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Family Advocate (Willard Wynn)

Willard Wynn, Family Advocate Program Manager, introduced Ms. Gloria who shared her journey with the family advocate program and what experiences led her to seeking services. Ms. Gloria stated that she found herself needing support for her daughter who was battling with addiction and mental health that led her to be incarcerated. Ms. Gloria shared that her daughter had missed court, but she had attended on her daughter's behalf and asked the judge if her daughter was able to go to court through Mental Health Court after sharing her daughter's struggles, the judge agreed. It was during this time that Ms. Gloria was invited to attend support groups and has been attending since 2023. Ms. Gloria stated she feels safe in these groups, not embarrassed or shamed for sharing her experiences, able to relate to other family members with similar struggles and feels supported. Ms. Gloria did conclude by stating she suggested more reentry programs because her daughter is currently incarcerated and upon her release it is very limited to programs available to her that would allow her to be successful and get a fresh start.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Site Review Updates

Brenda Scott and Sheila Mallett-Smith shared they conducted a site visit at the Lake Elsinore Wellness and Recovery Clinic for Mature Adults and met with Tony Ortego and Deborah Woodworth. They stated it was a well-organized operation, clean but the signage wasn't the best and understaffed.

April Smith shared she conducted a site visit at the MFI Recovery in Hemet with Rita Pacheco and was pleased with the services being offered, trauma informed, great signage, wheelchair ramp but no entry button access for the disabled in a wheelchair.

Victoria St. Johns shared she conducted site visits at Casa Las Palma and Casa Cecilia both with Daniel Lopez. She shared she received a tour of both and learned that the Casa Cecilia's program is for women only in Coachella, they were warm and welcoming. Both sites were in residential communities and neighbors had no issues with it. She did state she attempted to visit the Methadone Clinic in Palm Springs, but it was cancelled by the manager, and they did not return her calls to reschedule.

Greg Damewood and Harshita Arunkumar conducted site visits with the Substance Use Program and the Impaired Driver's Program at Rustin with Heidi Gomez and Veronica Hammond.

Mr. Damewood also conducted a site visit with Cryssol Marquez at the Jefferson Wellness Center at Rustin.

Daryl Terrell conducted two site visits, one at the Wellness Recovery for Mature Adults with Intisar Chamoun and the other at the Older Adults SMART FSP program with Cheryl Simmons, both located at Rustin.

2. Employee Recognition Winner

Cheryl Coson, Workforce Education and Training, Senior Clinical Therapist, announced Ning Xie a Clinical Therapist II with Robert Presley Detention, as the employee who was recognized and nominated as this quarter's Employee Appreciation Winner. A video was shared, and Ms. Xie was presented with a plaque. Rebecca Orta-Ramirez, Ms. Xie's supervisor, then spoke and praised Ms. Xie for her teamwork, flexibility, compassion and for advocating for her consumers. Ms. Xie then concluded by giving thanks to her supervisor, her coworkers and the people who recognized her for this honor.

3. **MIMHM Update**

Maria Arnold, Kristen Duffy, Willard Wynn and Kelly Grotsky provided an update on the May is Mental Health Month events that took place in Mid-County, the Desert and Western Region. Maria Arnold shared that she coordinated the Mid-County MIMHM event and 850 public members attended, and they had 55 exhibitors with performances from TAY Youth and so much more. She gave thanks to Jacqueline Markussen who also helped with the planning and coordination of this event. Kristen Duffy shared that she coordinated the Western MIMHM event and they had 1500 public members attend, 85 exhibitors, the National Anthem was sung by an 11-year-old boy by the name of Santino Castillo and abundance of resources went out. Willard Wynn shared he and Kelly Grotsky coordinated the Desert MIMHM event, and they had 59 exhibitors and 800 public members in attendance. Kelly Grotsky also shared the event went amazing and they had many talented individuals from TAY Desert, a guest appearance from Supervisor Perez and the National Anthem sung by Shannon McCleery-Hooper. They all concluded by giving thanks to all the staff and volunteers for successful events.

4. **BHC Annual Report and Annual Training Announcement**

BHC liaison announced that an email would be going out by the end of June with details regarding the upcoming BHC annual report and the information that will be needed from all boards and committees with the due date to be included.

Liaison also reminded the commission of the upcoming annual training on 8/6/25 at 10am and if they have not already RSVP'd to do so by July 1, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS-

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

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator, announced this year the in person Public Hearings were integrated at the May is Mental Health Month events and each region had 30-35 public members attend. Mr. Schoelen also shared he is still waiting on the feedback data from marketing for the virtual PH process and the formal MHSA process has been extended, last year it was available for fourteen days but this year it was available for twenty-five days to allow more detailed feedback. Mr. Schoelen concluded by sharing the MHSA Ad-Hoc Committee would be held on June 16th and during next months BHC meeting will ask the Commission for acceptance of the plan that is currently posted on the website but will also share an email with the commission for review prior.

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

April Frey, SAPT Administrator, announced this week is the last 1 Life 1 Heart Poisoning and Overdose 5K Walk taking place in Murrieta and announced the Integrated and Forensic Programs Provider meeting is taking place on 6/24 in Moreno Valley at 12pm. Ms. Frey also shared the Friday Night Live awards took place last month in Palm Springs and there were over 405 attendees, May is Treatment Court Month and the ROC softball game was on May 12 and the South West ROC team won. She concluded by sharing since the launch of Prop 36 back on February 10th there have been over 178 referrals received.

3. Care Court Update – (Marcus Cannon)

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on CARE Court sharing that there were 172 petitions and 168 clients. And of 297 integrated referrals, 281 individuals were referred, 172 of those became CARE Court Petitions. Mr. Cannon concluded by sharing there was one graduation in May and three in April.

Resources Available:

www.Care-Act.org

COMMITTEE UPDATE –

Victoria St. Johns provided a brief update on Children's Committee, and all are welcomed to attend, they meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at Rustin.

Greg Damewood gave a brief update on the Criminal Justice Committee sharing they meet again in July on 14th Street, and all are encouraged to attend and invite others.

April Smith provided a brief update on the Legislative Committee reminding all that they will meet again in September, and all are invited to attend.

Brenda Scott gave a brief update on ASOC, Housing, OASOC and Mid-County RAB.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Annual BHC Report suggested by Greg Damewood.

WET Employee Appreciation Winner suggested by Cheryl Coson.

3 Project Overview suggested by Brenda Scott.

Department AI plans suggested by Walter Haessler.

QIC update suggested by Launa Wilson.

MPS overview suggested by Brenda Scott.

RECC overview suggested by Rhyan Miller.

County Medicaid solutions suggested by Greg Damewood.

Alternatives to conservatorship suggested by Greg Damewood.

RUHS Foundation discussion suggested by Greg Damewood.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 1:49 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

Minutes and agendas of meetings are available online at:

<http://www.ruhealth.org/behavioral-health/advisory-committees>

To request copies, please contact the BHC Liaison at 951-955-7141
or email SBishop@ruhealth.org

FY 2024/25 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

MEMBERS	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
April Smith, District	A	A	A	A	P	N/A	N/A	A	P	P
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	A	A	P	P	A	P	P	P
Carole Schaudt, District 4	P	P	ML	A	ML	ML	A	P	A	P
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A
Elysse Rico, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	A	P	P
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Harshita Arunkumar, Dist. 1	P	ML	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
Launa Wilson, District 1	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
Quintilia Ávila, District 2	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
Richard Divine, District 2	P	P	P	P	P	P	M/L	M/L	A	-
Rick Gentillalli, District 5	P	P	ML	P	P	P	P	A	P	A
Sheila Mallet-Smith, Dist. 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	P
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 3	ML	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

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

PRESENT		
Bill Brenneman	Kelly Grotsky	Joseph Page
Lucy Lopez	Marcus Cannon	Dani Damewood
Sylvia Bishop	Maria Martha Moreno	Anniemarie Morales
David Schoelen	April Frey	Miriam Resendiz
Dr. Chang	Willard Wyn	Gloria Nunez
Kristen Duffy	Rebecca Orta-Ramirez	Marisela Gil
Jaqueline Markussen	Mari Moore	Claudia Vizcaino
Tony Ortego	Lawrence Blake	Jose Camacho
Brandon Jacobs	Ning Xie	Kami Winson
Maria Arnold	Cheryl Coson	Sarah Abdelmish
Chris Benetiz	Conni Rider	Dylan Colt
Novanh Xayarath	Francisco Huerta	Pedro Arciniega

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY	
Richard Divine	Deborah Johnson
Amy Maddigan	Miranda DeShields
Mary Apprill	Danielle Gonzalez
Heidi Gomez	Steve McNally
Orli Zaprir	Laurence Gonzaga
Rachel Gileno	Aaron Perez
Mary Carpio	Felix Gbagbo
Jacob Ruiz	