



**Western Region Behavioral Health - Advisory Board
Minutes
January 9, 2025
Hybrid Meeting – In person & MS Teams**

Board Members				
Member		Member		Member
Greg Damewood, Chairperson	P	Richard Yarbrough, PSS/JWC	P	
Western Region Administration				
Alea Jackson, WR Adult Services	P	Sean Rayner, WR BHSIV		P
Bill Brenneman, WR DD	A	Novanh Xayarath, WR BHSA		P
Tony Ortego, WR BHSA	A	Lorissa Villarreal, HHOPE Service Admin		P
Girlyanne Lacson, WR BHSS	P			
Staff				
Francisco J Huerta, Sr. Family Advocate	P	Misty Martin, Sr. Family Advocate		P
Nicole Brown, Cultural Competency Liaison	A	Maria T Gonzalez, Sr. Parent Partner		A
Dakota Brown, Cultural Competency Liaison/Disabilities	P	Glennis Ulloa, Sr. Parent Partner		A
Jocelyn Aleman, Office Assistant II	P	Jennel Rand, Sr. PSS		P
Guests				
Karen Franks	P	Timothy Carpenter		P
Danielle Damewood	P	Melissa Vasquez		P
Joshua Smith	P	Jennifer Hayford		P
Joseph Page	P	Kerryn Beard		P
Juan Koon	P	Michael Ruiz via Teams		P
Nancy Stevens via Teams	P			

P: Present

A: Absent

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting called to order at 3:00 P.M. Meeting facilitated by Greg Damewood.
2. INTRODUCTIONS – Introductions proceeded.
3. REVIEWED MINUTES
 - A. The minutes of November were reviewed and accepted as written.
4. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS
 - a. Reminder if you are not going to attend the meeting, please forward your report so your information may be included for review when completing the annual BOS report for the Western Region.
 - b. May's Mental Health Month in the Western Region will be happening May 15th, May 8th in Mid-County and May 1st in the Desert.
 - c. Recovery Happens will happen Saturday September 27th, 2025.
 - d. The Poisoning and Overdose Awareness walk is coming back to Fairmount Park on the 12th of April, the 26th of April in the Desert, and then to Murrieta June 7th.
5. SITE VISIT REPORT(S)

- a. The Commission will start assigning sites and people to complete reports in February.

6. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER; Dakota Brown; Disability Pride

- The disability pride flag has many colors, and each color represents a different type of disability. One of the best things for stigma removal is when we identify ourselves to everybody else.
- We have a committee; we meet once a month. The Wellness and Disability alliance.
- Disability is a natural part of the diversity of human experience. There have always been disabled people and will always be disabled people. We must talk about barriers. The new social model of disability is more about the barrier, or the disability is the barriers that society throws up. Some disabled people can't live their dreams. There are three kinds of barriers that structural barriers which is kind of given and you got proctorial barriers. There are also emotional and the social barriers.
- Implicit bias is things we are not even aware of. There is a Harvard website test. You could go on there and take these tests and they ask you to do a task. Black or white can indicate that you're struggling to overcome that bias.
- Ableism is discrimination against disabled people. The tendency to regard people with a disability as incomplete, diminished, or damaged and to measure the quality of life with a disability against a nondisabled standard.
- Audism is bias and discrimination against people who cannot hear or have difficulty hearing or prejudice or hostility toward them.
- Healthism is a lifestyle that prioritizes health and fitness over anything else.

7. CHAIR'S REMARKS

- January's Commission minutes will be approved at February's Commission meeting.

8. REGIONAL REPORTS

A. *Adult Manager's Report* – Alea Jackson, BHSA

- The Western Region is planning for May for Mental Health Month and the theme is Art of Wellness.
- The Western Region event will be held on Thursday, May 15th at Fairmount Park. All the Western Region adult outpatient clinics will have a table with resources and also mental health swag to give out.
- Blaine St Clinic is expanding group treatment to include post-traumatic stress disorder groups beginning in February. Blaine currently has 121 members enrolled in its FSP program and 1,876 in the non-FSP program.
- There are 5 vacant positions that are currently in recruitment, so we hope to fill those sooner than later.
- Jefferson Wellness Center has 255 enrolled members. There are 5 vacant positions with 4 in the pre-boarding process with HR.
- Pathways to Success is in Riverside and Temecula and it's a vocational rehabilitation program in which we partner with the Department of Rehabilitation to assist our members in finding work such as attending trade school or getting certified in certain specializations, so if you're interested, please let us know.
- There are 140 members enrolled between the Riverside and Temecula site's location. The program has no vacancy at this time, so we're fully staffed. Please take advantage of all the new services in our outpatient clinics in the Western Region.

B. *Children's Manager Report* – Novanh Xayarath, Children's Administrator:

- Stepping Stones has 186 active caseloads. There is one CT opening. Sound studio equipment came in and members has started to use the studio and making music.
- First Episode Psychosis – has 13 active cases. Program has a vacancy for CT, BHSII, and TAY Peer. These positions are currently being recruited for. Also, program expanding to mid county. In the process of hiring for CT, Parent Partner, and BHSIII.
- ISF Wraparound: 25 active cases. The program is fully staff with no vacancies. Continue to get referrals from other county programs and probation department. One therapist also recently trained in family base therapy.
- Children's Treatment Services – 309 active cases. There is vacancy with a parent partner and BHSII position. The program recently sent staff to do Family Therapy training and Eating Disorder Training.
- Moreno Valley Interagency Program – 361 open cases. There are 2 therapists on maternity/paternity leave that has impacted program to handle the referrals. Program continues to get a lot of referrals.
- Youth Intervention Program – 42 open caseloads. Program is fully staff with one CT on maternity leave. Program continues to get referrals from hospital and other outpatient programs.
- MDFT – 13 active caseloads with 2 on the wait list. Program has vacant BHSII position which they are recruiting for. Referrals continue to come from probation dept.
- Mindful Body and Recovery Program – we continue to build the program. Hired 5 staff so far. Developing programing. Expect to see first member in March or April. Staff is attending training, and all are new to the department.

C. *Corona Wellness Updates* – Girlyanne Lacson, Program Manager:

- We do continue to grow our FSP here. We have a total of 193 in FSP and children's combined and a total census for my adult children's and safety program of 1,424.
- We are just continuing to provide groups at Majesty Village and as well as a lot more individual services, whether support specialist also going there more often.
- We continue to roll out integrated service delivery to the county myself and my supervising office assistant are hitting our Paris sites next, and we'll be implementing or supporting an implementation of the ISD in Paris.
- the reason I am here and not in person with you all is because we onboarded a new clinician today, so we are fully staffed clinicians in Corona now, which is very exciting.
- It's that we haven't had that in a while, so can't wait to continue growing and programming because of that. We will be interviewing BHS threes to fill all my BHS three slots soon. And then after that, all we'll have is a family advocate to fill and another OA 2.
- So it's exciting and we plan on providing more community based type events, not so much community, but more maybe after hours supportive activities for our Members this year in 2025, we ended last year doing a trunk n treat as well as a movie night, a holiday movie.

D. *Older Adults Manager Report* - Tony Ortego, Mature Adults Administrator:

- Absent; no report

E. Western Region SAPT Program – Sean Rayner, BHSIV

- For the Western Region and Desert Region, the one live one heart block was brought back, and it will be in April, and for Mid County it will be in June.
- There are 2 BHS III on the boarding process that they just recently hired and offered positions to. They are still looking for 1 more and 1 clinical therapist.
- There are currently 330 members, and that's across their IOT, ODF, and recovery services.
- In December, we were able to obtain grant money to provide family or women with children or even the moms program. Any essential items they may need such as car seats and strollers, bassinets or baby swings.
- The contingency management program has not yet rolled out for Riverside. It's still only in Lake Elsinore, Desert Hot Springs, Indio and Palm Springs. If nobody knows, it's a recovery incentives program. If you test negative for stimulants, you do receive an incentive which comes in the form of a gift card and they can save that up and bank it up to \$599 and then cash out whenever they want.

F. Western Region HHOPE Manager – Lorissa Villarreal, HHOPE Services Manager

- HHOPE is a homeless housing opportunities partnership and education, and we provide a full continuum of housing and homeless services and to name a few of those services. We do have 16 mobile outreach teams. We have case managers. We have special teams that focus on in reach veterans, mainstream and other activities such as enhanced care management and community supports.
- We have emergency housing, transitional bridge and permanent supportive housing. And we are also the county of Riverside's coordinated entry system.
- And we have staff who field calls 24/7 and just to give you an idea of how many calls we've received in the fiscal year, I have some data to share with you. So, we've fielded over 21,000 calls. And so, we've referred over 644 households to housing assistance or vouchers or, you know, support from our teams ongoing. And we also train other agencies, so community-based organizations and non-profits in utilizing and administrating the VIP data and that really helps in the VIP (Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization) decision assistance tool and that helps us identify what services and housing is appropriate for the individuals that we are engaging. And so, we have collected more than 5000 assessments of homeless individuals and households.
- I wanted to share out some of the different apartments in the Western region and the utilization rates there. St Michael's has 22 units and that holds or houses 26 individuals and we are at 91% utilization there. Cedar Glen one and two are we have 39 units with 39 clients at 100% utilization. Vista de la Sierra has 52 units with 92 consumers at 100% utilization. Oasis Senior Villas has 46. With 51 consumers at 100% utilization, Rancho Dorado Apartments has 15 units with 15 consumers at 100% utilization. Vintage at snowberry has 14 units with 14 consumers at 93% utilization. And that concludes our mental Health Services Act, and no place like home apartment utilization.
- We have the Santa Ana River bottom grant, which is an ERF or emergency resolution funding that we've received and in coordination with other entities we provide services within the Santa Ana River bottom. And in that space, we have put 44 individuals into transitional housing. And so just last month that was 1320 bed nights.

- additionally, some of the individuals qualified for rapid rehousing. So, there is 20 households with 23 consumers that have moved into a rapid rehousing situation where we are implementing a critical time intervention, which is an evidence-based practice tool into that housing situation or space with the consumer to ensure that individuals are moving into a space where they can self-sustain. This is something new that hope is implementing, and our team is doing a wonderful job and supporting our consumers.

G. Western Peer Support Regional Updates – Jennel Rand, Sr. PSS

- The Peer Support Center is a drop-in center. It provides peer support wellness tools and resources linked to other community programs.
- Blaine St Clinic is fully staffed with 3 peers and 1 family advocate. They continue to offer support in group settings as well as individually.
- Pathways to Success in the Western Region has 1 peer supporting the program. They offer vocation training and employment opportunities as well as living skills for those that are preparing for employment.
- Jefferson Wellness Center is a FSP program that offers a higher level of care for their members. We have 2 new peers in the program, Maria and Jennifer.
- PEI has prevention and early intervention and is an outreach program that provides stigma and presentations.
- Seeking safety groups or seeking strength groups also do outreach in the community. They have two stands against stigmas coming in January 1st in person, January 13th at the Marriot Library and a virtual stand against stigma, January 30th at 12pm. There is also PEI event coming up and it focuses on high school students and how to take care of their mental health, that's coming January 28th at the riverside Convention Center.
- Corona Wellness and Recovery Center are adding planning for success to their existing groups.
- Lastly, Mature Adults has 2 programs the Wellness program and the Smart team program. The smart team program offers a higher level of care which is FSP, and they have a new peer that has begun in their program.

H. WR Children's Parent Partner Regional Updates – Maria T. Gonzalez, Children's Sr. Parent Partner:

- During our Snowflakes project, we distributed about 1,700 snowflakes to children receiving services from our behavioral health clinics and contract providers. This does not include the Desert area (waiting for the numbers). This would not have been possible without the support of agencies across the County who kindly got a snowflake banner and made a child smile this past Holiday by donating a toy or gift card, depending on the child's wish.
- PS&TP hosted the Open Doors Holiday event for parents who attend the Open Doors support group; we brought a choo-choo train that the child enjoyed and provided pictures with Santa. In total we had a total of 30 people
- Our community support groups are back on schedule; please see the flyers for more information.
- Our next Nurturing Fathers program will be offered in Spanish in Jurupa Valley. Please see the flyer for more information.

I. Western Adult Family Advocate Updates – Francisco J. Huerta, Sr. FA Specialist

- The Family Advocate Program offers support and educational resources to family members and caregivers of loved ones who have mental health struggle and or substance addiction.
- We're part of the outpatient community health clinics, part of SAP team. We also have a family advocate in cultural competency. One of our seniors that's Miss Martin is here today with us. We do have a family advocate in Priceline for our crisis teams. And we are working on getting a family at ETS/ ITF I had mentioned before.
- When it comes to our price's referrals, we have about 600 prices a year that we've done in the past year and a half. We're very proud about that because these are families that did not know that we had, you know, our program, supporting families and caregivers, of course, giving education resources, crisis of info a lot of times, families don't understand what our levels are going through our members.
- we continue to do the support groups in our outpatient behavioral health clinics. One of the ones that we do have, which is the second one today of the month, is our justice involved family support group. The person that runs, that's to the left of me. That's Ingrid. She's one of our family advocates for forensics, for the court system. it's great she is able to grab or to get present presenters that come from public guardian or even from the actual jail system. And so, it's just a lot of great information for our county caregivers because a lot of times when our Members are in the detention center. One thing that's always asked is there any support or my level while they're in there? You know, a lot of times our loved ones, you know, are on medication or whatever it is. And for us to know that that there is also Mental health support while they're in detention.
- So, for cultural competency, we do have a committee that meets once a month, cultural competency. Reducing disparities has opened a staff and community members. We all come together into one place, and we meet and talk about ways that we can improve our service delivery, right? A lot of the times we'll have, presentations come from some of EM are within our system. Some of them are with from outside our service system. A lot of community-based organizations that specifically serve are under resourced populations throughout the county of Riverside.

9. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Children* (Vacant)
 - No report.
- *Criminal Justice* – (Greg Damewood)
 - Criminal Justice meets next week on Wednesday 14th street at noon. Anyone can attend.
- *Membership* - (Greg Damewood)
 - We did meet today. We discussed interfacing with the Board of Supervisors in order to more smoothly transition new members over to the not only the Commission, but the boards too.
 - We still need members. We appreciate all who attend. If you want to eventually apply to be on the board, that's fine. There's no pressure to be a member as we do not want to discourage anybody from attending meetings to comment on or add ideas to our discussions. We appreciate your input.
- *Older Adults* (Vacant)

- No report.
- *Housing Committee* (Vacant)
 - No report.
- *Adult* (Vacant)
 - No report.
- *Legislative* (Richard Divine)
 - No report.
 - This focuses on new laws and regulations that might affect the delivery of services or funding.
- *Veterans Committee* (Vacant)
 - Veterans did meet today, and they did focus on suicide, PTSD and other issues such as that for announcements and concerns.

1. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNs:
 - The board meeting will go back to its normal schedule, first Wednesday of every month from 3-5pm except August and December.
2. CONTINUED BUSINESS:
 - Please keep inviting people. All that are interested in becoming a member of are appreciated. Ideas are appreciated. If anybody wants to become a voting member, please apply via our form to be considered for membership.
3. NEW BUSINESS:
 - No report
4. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting ended at 4:30 PM.

NEXT MEETING: February 5, 2025