



BH CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting the 4th Tuesday of Every Month

Recorder: Saida Spencer: Executive Assistant II
sspencer@ruhealth.org 951-358-7348

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
3/25/2025

Tori St. Johns, BHC, Janine Moore, RUHS-BH, Novanh Xayarath, Western Children’s Region RUHS-BH, Angie Talley, RC/SELPA, Lauren Valles, & Dinah Support K-9, DA’s Office CPU, Luciana Hsu, SSG/RCC, John DeVries, VCCS, Javier Garcia, Carolyn E. Wylie Center, Lupe Madrigal, SAPT/FNL, Miranda DeShields, Central Children’s Region RUHS-BH, Yajaira Leon, Wylie Center, Crystal Garcia-Ruacho, JVUSD, Adriana Villa, AVP of MH, McKinley, Flor Ramos, Director of MH Svs. McKinley, Evelyn Rojo, Riverside Family Physicians, Alyssa Soria, Riverside Family Physicians.

Hybrid (OWL): Maria Arnold, PS&T, Lauren Adamson, TAY Mid-County, Kelly Grotsky, Desert Region RUHS-BH, Janate Valenzula, S.P.A.R.K Program, Maria Haritopoulos, Cal Mentor.

Recorder: Saida Spencer, RUHS-BH

Presentation: Adriana Villa, and Flor Ramos, McKinley Youth, Family, Community Mental Health Services:

A community-based mental health program serving the 0-21 population with full scope Medi-Cal. Services include weekly individual therapy, family therapy and collateral sessions with parents and caregivers, with locations in Riverside, Western, Mid-County and the Low Desert. Services provided in schools, at home, the clinic in Hemet and/or telehealth. Focusing on treatment for anxiety, depression, trauma, disruptive behaviors, and ADHD to name a few. Psychiatric services are also available in the Hemet and Riverside office, to clients who would benefit from medication support.

CIFFTA (Culturally Informed Flexible Family Therapy for Adolescents) is a new treatment program.

This program is being rolled out through a grant that was received and is offered free to clients who are 11-18 years of age. The frequency of services is two hours of family sessions and may also include one hour of individual sessions.

Families must agree to the family sessions prior to starting the program.

- Covering downtown Riverside through to Moreno Valley. Mid-County covers Hemet through to Lake Elsinore and the Desert Clinicians are covering Banning, Calimesa and all the way out to Palm Springs.

Adjunct Services is provided by the clinician, in addition, to MHS (Mental Health Services). MHRS (Mental Health Rehab Specialist) works directly with the parents and caregivers. Increasing the patients’ skills and support the clinicians who also provide ICC and HIS Services in health as well as the foster youth. (PowerPoint and flyers provided) for referral information

please contact Yesenia Ramirez Intake Manager, 909-816-8426. Submitting as referral 909-670-1596. Please note the PowerPoint has other contact numbers.

Meeting Called to Order & Introductions: 12:00 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves and their agencies. Welcome Flor Ramos, Director, for McKinley Family and Adriana Villa, AVP, for McKinley Family. Evelyn Rojo, CBU Student and Social Worker, Riverside Family Physicians, and Alyssa Soria, CBU Student and employed at the Riverside Family Physicians.

Review of Minutes: The February 25, 2025, minutes reviewed. Tori St. Johns, motions to approve the minutes as written, John DeVries, seconded the motion and members were all in favor.

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
3/25/2025

Chairperson Remarks: Tori welcomed Evelyn Rojo and Alyssa Soria who attended the meeting after reading about this meeting on RUHS-BH Instagram. Evelyn Rojo and Alyssa Soria are students at CBU studying Social Work and are employed at Riverside Family Physicians.

Desert Children’s Region: Kelly Grotsky shared the following updates:

Moving forward with the YECM (Youth Enhanced Care Management) Program. The first acceptance of an offer for a Parent Partner position and the first team is opening in Mid-County. In recruitment for an LVN position and sadly, in recruitment for another Supervisor for the YECM. The current supervisor is unfortunately leaving the department effective April 16th. The department will also, be looking for a new supervisor for YECM countywide.

The next update is around Harmony Haven, the Youth Emergency Shelter that’s located in Beaumont and run by RUHS-BH partners at DPSS. It is for youth that are awaiting placement, for example if the youth need to go to foster care or STRTP level of care, this is where the youth can stay while the waiting.

RUHS-BH is setting up Behavioral Health Services at the location and a TAY Peer Specialist starts on April 7th. Marissa Partee, Behavioral Health Specialist III (a Substance Abuse Counselor) is on site (full-time) at Harmony Haven, Monday through Friday. In addition, RUHS-BH has recruitments coming up for a Clinical Therapist and a Senior Clinical Therapist to round out the team.

The Annual Blythe Community Outlook Days Event is taking place Tuesday, April 22, 2025. This event spotlights the entire community and the amazing things that are happening in Blythe.

Planning the MIMHM (May is Mental Health Month) Event. The registration and vendor forms were finalized sometime this week. In addition, as a quick reminder that the first event is on May 1, 2025, at the Palm Desert Civic Center Park.

Also in Indio: The Art Show (send out the registration flyer to members) is scheduled for May 13, 2025, 11-2 p.m. If anyone is interested in having some submissions at that event, please contact Kelly KGrotsky@ruhealth.org and/or Kelly’s EA Denise Morgan dmorgan@ruhealth.org

Western Children’s Region: Novanh Xayarath shared the following updates:

The department has a start date of May 1, 2025, for the opening of the ED IOP Mindful Body and Recovery Outpatient Program. All essential staff hired and trained: Clinical therapist, Nurse, Parent Partners, and TAY Peers will provide individuals with treatment. The ED IOP Program leadership team will be touring UC San Diego’s Eating Disorder Program tomorrow (March 26, 2025). The department is working hard to make this happen. The consultants and trainers from UCSD, will allow the program to review their program and understand how it runs.

The RUHS-BH ED IOP Mindful Body and Recovery Outpatient Program Supervisor, Jeaneth, is doing a good job in programming, developing schedules, figuring the hours and the groups, all in the very limited space that the Perris Adult Program has graciously allow the program to use.

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
3/25/2025

Three days out of the week treatment will be in-house (clinic) with groups, individuals, and multi-families. The other two days of the week will be home-based, community-based, where the staff will go to the actual homes and assist the family members and consumers, work on the skills, they learned at the clinic site.

The department is preparing for another training. Family-Based Therapy and Dialectical Behavior Therapy for ED (Eating Disorder).

The program is increasing the trainings by Dr. Keri Boutelle and Dr. Leslie Anderson to ensure the program meets the goal to train as many professionals as possible treating ED (Eating Disorder) consumers and introduced to the model.

The project is threefold: Develop Treatment for ED, Dialectic Programing, and training for Professionals.

Currently, developing flyers.

- June 1st and 2nd DBT for ED training
- June 12th and 13th is the Family-Based Therapy
- Dr. Keri Boutelle and Dr. Leslie Anderson will be undertaking another round of training in June. Dr. Boutelle will participate in the Family-Base Therapy for ED (Eating Disorder) June 2nd and 3rd while Dr. Anderson will participate in the Dialectical Behavioral Training for ED (Eating Disorder) on June 11th and 12th.

Central Children’s Region: Miranda DeShields shared the following updates:

Congratulations to Stephanie Paxcle, an RCCAT (Riverside County Child Assessment Team) Clinician, who recently achieved national TF-CBT.

The Preschool 0-5 Program in partnership with Parent Support and Training will participate in the ASPIRE Community Cookout at one of the local housing units Thursday April 24 at 2-5 p.m. 3881 Third Street, Riverside, CA. PCIT Mobile Units are operational, and the program is planning to take one to the ASPIRE Community Cookout, to engage and provide valuable resources to TAY residents and parents who might need services for their young children.

- If anyone is interested in participating as an exhibitor, please email Maria Arnold, Peer Support Services Program Manager at marnold@ruhealth.org or call 951-358-5862.

Miranda also suggested that at one of the future meetings-if in agreement- asking one of the supervisors to bring a PCIT Mobile Unit out as a demonstration. Committee members agree, that would be great.

The ACT (Assessment and Consultation Team) will be working closely with Kelly Grotsky, and the new team, being hired at the Harmony Haven Shelter. The goal is to get dependents connected to Mental Health Services immediately and without delay.

RUHS-BH Update: Janine Moore, shared the following updates:

Janine thanked everyone for doing such a good job updating the committee on what's happening.

It is audit season. This week is EQRO and then the triennial review is happening at the DHCS activity room.

Many of you have been involved, and it is very different this year. It is a different external agency with their experience in healthcare and very data driven. RUHS-BH will keep everyone informed on how that goes.

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
3/25/2025

There is a lot of activity and/or conversations around the implementation of BH-CONNECT (Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment Initiative) and the Evidence-Based Practices.

The BH-CONNECT is a statewide initiative and designed to increase access to and strengthen the continuum of community-based behavioral health services for Medi-Cal members living with significant behavioral health needs. More to come as it becomes available.

The State of California had to ask the federal government CMS for authority to implement certain activities and to be able to get paid for certain activities in the State of California, they call it a waiver. Part of that involved the identification of very specific children and evidence-based practices. In addition to that, under the Behavioral Health Services Act, there are mandated Evidence Based Practices. Some overlaps, some do not, and as a department there is a lot of conversations around those Evidence Based Practices. RUHS-BH needs a financial evaluation of the cost of operating that type of evidence-based program, and then decide whether to operate those programs that are new to the county, or contract those out to CBO’s (Community-Based Organizations).

Those include PCIT, which RUHS-BH does to fidelity and having internal trainers for that purpose and involves high Wrap Around. Then there is the FEP (First Episode Psychosis), which is a requirement under the BHSA (Behavioral Health Services Act) and operated under Novanh Xayarath, Western Region Children's Administrator.

RUHS-BH has been working with UC Davis for the entirety of the program and working on fidelity. The two models that RUHS-BH does not currently implement and spending most of the time looking at is FFT (Functional Family Therapy) and MST (Multi-Systemic Therapy). If anyone has any knowledge of either of those programs and what it takes to operate them, please share. Reach out to Janine, who is happy to field the conversations, or Kelly Grotsky who is leading the workgroup.

Behavioral Health Commission/Regional Board Updates: Tori St. Johns shared the following:

Attended the Franklin Residential Behavioral Health Care Facility ribbon cutting. It was amazing, well attended and a long time coming. The 84-bed facility will allow residents to be discharged from higher levels of care into the facility.

Tori volunteered to complete site visits, along with other Board Members.

The meetings are always interesting, especially, when one gets up and speaks about recovery.

One individual (known as “A” for the purposes of this presentation) tells their story: “A” has been homeless for about 15 years and knows that “A” would eventually die under a bridge.

The SAPT Team made 17 contacts with “A”, before “A” learned to trust the Team. The Team says they saw something in “A” that “A” could not see and helped “A” make some decisions about their life.

Finally in a facility, “A” goes back to talk to the people in the community and tells them that they can really trust the Team and that they should really try and come in too.

“A” now has medical care, a place to eat, sleep and feel safe, and finally after many years apart, “A” is now reunited with their family.

Parent Support & Training: Maria Arnold shared the following update:

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
3/25/2025

Maria has the privilege of being the Mid-County Co-Chair for The Art of Wellness MIMHM (May is Mental Health Month) event this year. Looking for exhibitors and volunteers to be a part of the entertainment. If anyone knows of any groups who may be a dance troupe, or any Zumba instructors that would love to come out and showcase their work. Please contact PS&T 951-358-5862. The program is waiting for the volunteer - which will be needed for all three events - flyer to be approved and will be provided as it becomes available. The event highlights: Entertainment, guest speakers, resources, and free food.

- May 1st, 11:30-4:430 pm Palm Desert, Palm Desert Civic Center Park
- May 8th, 11:30-4:30 pm San Jacinto Valley-wide Recreation & Park District
- May 15th, 11:30-4:30 pm Riverside, Fairmount Park

For further information mimhm@ruhealth.org

PS&T booked Santino, an 11-year-old, who is going to sing the national anthem. An active performer in the performing arts, Santino is homeschooled, which is the only reason why Santino will be able to perform at the Riverside event.

PS&T’s ongoing classes and support groups: The Open-Door Support Group (both Spanish & English) meets every fourth Thursday of the month, starts at 5:30 p.m. for all parents who need some support with whatever they are struggling with. Please call the office to register 951-358-5862.

PS&T is excited to share that, Bailey the therapy dog, (yes PS&T has a therapy dog), is going to be interviewed by marketing. No actual date yet, but the program is super excited that Bailey is getting that exposure. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

ASPIRE Community Cookout as Miranda mentioned, it is a place where a lot of youth are currently housed, and PS&T RUHS-BH is trying to bring resources, support, and networking to that community.

- Thursday April 24, 2-5 p.m. 3881 Third St., Riverside, CA
- Be an Exhibitor: Register by email: Maria Arnold at marnold@ruhealth.org or 951-358-5862.

Thank you, Miranda, and Janine, for helping to organize the event. There are at least seven identified TAY Youth who are parents and approximately 10 children living there. PS&T will be utilizing a PCIT Van and hoping to connect the parents as well as the children to some type of services.

Hoping for some donations to help in providing hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, waters, and sodas. For more information, please contact Maria Arnold 951-358-5862.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment: Lupe Madrigal shared the following updates: Lupe reported that FNL is winding down for the school year. The award ceremony is scheduled in the desert for May 23rd.

Friday Night Live: Lupe Madrigal shared the following updates:

Contact Lupe Madrigal LMadrigal@ruhealth.org for further information.

Mid-County TAY: Lauren Adamson shared the following updates:

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
3/25/2025

All peer trainings that will offer your Peer Family Advocate or Parent Partner staff 1.5 continuing education units. They're the third Tuesday of every month from 9:30 to 11:30 at the TAY Center in Perris. In terms of hiring, the program hired one for the TAY Peer at the Arena, and potentially have another one coming on at Lake Elsinore Children's. Other than that, it's business as usual. If you have any needs for support around the initial certification or the renewal process, please reach out to Lauren Adamson for the Mid-County Region. Joshua Korhely JKorhely@ruhealth.org for the Western & Central Region. Rob Bohan-Lara RLara@ruhealth.org for the Desert Region

In addition to sharing that information the “District 1 Hope Collaborative” is “Spring into Hope Event” “Free” Community Resources, Easter Activities, Food, Drinks and many more, while supplies last.

- April 10 3-7 pm at the RUHS-BH TAY Arena 2560 N. Perris Blvd. N-1, Perris, CA 92570.

Agency Reports:

APCTC Program: Luciana Hsu shared the following updates:

The program has 2 upcoming events: “Helping Your Child Succeed” is a “Free” 10-week Evidence-Based Parenting Course for AAPI families with children ages 6-17, Korean every Friday until June 6, 2025, 1-3 p.m. at the Corona office 495 E. Rincon St., Suite 204, Corona, CA 92879.

The KITE Tagalog/English parenting classes are from April 6-June 1, 2025, 11:30-1:30 pm Sundays at Gnwchurch 43136 Rancho Way Suite #A, Temecula, CA 92590. The flyer has a barcode for registration, call Glenda Magtanong, Parent Specialist at 951-233-8918 or email glendamagtanona@apctc.org.

APCTC is hiring a new Peer Support Specialist.

This Evidence-Based Practice out of UC Berkeley and what sets it apart from others is that the first four sessions are conversations about the similarities and differences in Eastern/Western culture. Thereafter, the process goes into practicing different parenting skills and after the 10 sessions, the parents built up a community and are able to rely on one another.

SSG/RCC: Luicana Hsu on behalf of Jana Garrett shared the following update:

Preparing for a therapist led group. Four different groups: three art groups and one ADHD type group that's focused on building social skills and reducing impulse control. SSG is hiring a new Peer Support Specialist.

RC SELPA: Angie Tally, shares the following updates:

Angie put out new flyers for the SELPA 5th Annual Riverside County Mental Health Symposium on May 13-14, 2025, 8:30 to 3:30 pm. at the Riverside Convention Center 3637 5th Street, Riverside, CA 92501. The event will be filled with breakout sessions on how to support students’ mental health. There will be workshops for students impacted by trauma. Keynote speakers Bryan E. Stephens, Motivational Speaker and Superintendent of Schools in Banning, CA. Terrence Davis an established Superintendent of schools in Banning, CA. This 2-day event will bring together educators who support student mental health throughout Riverside County. Contact Kellie Kaukani at kellie@rcselpa.org with any questions and/or to register go to <https://rcselpa.k12oms.org/1386-259547>.

The Carolyn E. Wiley Center: Javier Garcia, shares the following updates:

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
3/25/2025

Continuing to expand and just offered four positions for Associate Clinicians as well as for two Peer Support Paraprofessional Program. Officially concluded our AIP (Affirming and Inclusive Program) training and are receiving referrals for Wiley’s Affirming and Inclusive Program.

Thank you, Lauren for inviting The Carolyn E. Wiley Center Team to the Behavioral Health Transgender Children Youth and Family group.

Finding a wholesome connection with regards to other agencies. Times are uncertain with the LGBTQ+ population. It looks like California and some other states that currently provide services, are going to be sanctuary states for the LGBTQ+ Community. Trying to build up those alignments and community networks. If there are clinics looking for services on how to do gender assessments, navigating writing gender affirming letters please communicate with Javier Garcia jgarcia@wyliecenter.org

Every Clinical Therapist at the Wiley Center has undergone at least 35 hours of W Path approved training. Very excited to provide that service.

The Indigenous Focus Psychotherapy Program is about halfway completed. Training for the clinicians is about to launch within the next few weeks. The Wiley Center is part of the Native American Subcommittee. Dr. Sean Milanovich is RUHS-BH Native American Cultural Competency Liaison, and part of RUHS Cultural Wellness Advisory Committee/Cultural Competency Program.

Dr. Sean Milanovich, shares insights on how healthcare providers and policymakers can engage with Indigenous communities and how to connect those communities to resources.

Jurupa Vally USD: Crystal Garcia-Ruacho shared the following updates:

Clinician and a Peer Support Specialist onboarded a last week, with one more Peer Support Specialist position open. In addition, the program still has several interviews for additional Clinicians.

Moving forward with CYBHI and the department is ready to submit their first invoice sometime after August. The program has put alot of work to get there, including working on launching it out of the primary schools to see how it works there, and be able to provide multidisciplinary approach to all students.

Q. When referring to CYBHI are you talking about the “fee schedule?”

It will be interesting to see how that goes. This is the ability to directly bill for Managed Care Services.

A. Yes. For submitting the first invoice for the year.

Crystal will follow-up on the outcome at the next meeting.

VCCS: John DeVries, shared the following updates:

A few months ago, Victor implemented a system to assess the need for services using the CANS and CAIR Scores and calling it “Models of Care”. Putting actionable items into data which allows the program to make the necessary decisions for kids’ treatment. This implementation is going well. The program generates something called a care score, which is shared with the treatment team and the supervisor. The supervisor reviews the data during supervision every week with the

RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
3/25/2025

treatment providers, and it's been helpful in making sure that the level of treatment that kids are receiving is based on their needs.

The Program has a couple of CYBHI grants going to the IY (Incredible Years) and a portion of that is now fully implemented and all the staff have been trained. Two staff are working to become trainers with the IY Foundation and that is also going well.

The program’s TAY Supervisor trained in the (TIP) Transition to Independence Model and is now fully certified.

Victor has also internally implemented a new electronic health record.

RC DA’s Office – Crime Prevention Unit: Lauren Valles, Victims Services Supervisor and Dinah Support K-9 Unit.

April and May are busy months for the District Attorney’s Office and the Crime Prevention Unit (a division of Victim Services). Every year the District Attorney’s Office and the Crime Prevention Unit hosts the National Crime Victims’ Rights Week on April 7-11, 2025, and every year the unit hosts 2 vigils in Riverside County and welcomes families to come and join.

The vigils will be held at 7 pm on April 8th in Palm Desert and at 7pm on April 10th in Downtown Riverside. The families and those that join them will be going from the Historic Courthouse back to the District Attorney's office, where they will unveil the names of those added to the Memorial Wall at the office. In addition, there is going to be a display of artwork and Survivor workshops through-out the county. Human trafficking and domestic violence survivors put together lanterns and will be going to a campsite. Japanese descendance are putting pottery back together using gold. The display is currently at the County Administration Center at 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, CA 92501 and will be at the District Attorney’s Office following the vigil. Thereafter moving throughout the county to The Hemet Public Library, Murrieta City Hall, The County Wall Building in Indio, and The Desert Hot Springs Library. (flyer) For further information 951-955-5400 www.rivcoda.org CRU@rivcoda.org

Support K9 Dinah and Lauren Valles, Victim Services Supervisor, visit Harmony Haven once a month to visit with the kids on the last Thursday of the month from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

S.P.A.R.K. (Support, Partnerships, Advocacy and Resources for Kids) Janate Valenzuela, Public Defenders Office, shared the following updates: The SPARK Team with the Riverside County Law Offices of the Public Defender consists of Resource Attorneys, Social Workers, Public Defenders, and other support staff dedicated to representing and assisting middle-school, high-school aged youth, and TAY (Transitional Age Youth) ages 1-25, in the community.

SPARK can assist with consultation, information, referrals, and technical assistant for:

- Education, Criminal Cases, Community Referrals
- Locations: Riverside, Southwest and La Quinta at the Desert Flow (flyers contains all information)

Next Meeting: April 22, 2025
Time: 12-2 p.m.
Location: 2085 Rustin Ave., Conf Room 1051
Riverside, CA 92507
Note: Lunch will be provided

**RUHS–Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Commission Children’s Committee
Meeting MINUTES
3/25/2025**

Pursuant to The Behavioral Health Commissioners: Please note that moving forward the Standing Committee agendas and minutes shall be posted on the website for your reference as well as the Public.

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