

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR February 5, 2025 • 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

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

Chair, Richard Divine called the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting to order at 12:00 pm and Commissioner Daryl Terrell led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner attendance was taken by roll call and followed by introductions.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –

Rick Gentillalli made a motion to approve minutes as written from January 9, 2025 and Brenda Scott seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – None.

COMMISSION MEMBER REMARKS –

Greg Damewood wanted to wish everyone a Happy Valentines Day.

Beatriz Gonzalez expressed her appreciation to the department and the work being done and the roles everyone plays in the community, especially with the current immigration status and encouraged everyone not to stand idle and remember everyone is human.

Brenda Scott also expressed her thoughts are with everyone in regards to how everyone, individuals, family and friends are being affected by the current immigration situations occurring.

PUBLIC REMARKS –

Lauren Adamson encouraged everyone to be a safe person especially for the transgender diverse youth during this difficult time due to the executive order against trans healthcare.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT –

Dr. Chang provided a brief report and announced the upcoming Franklin Ribbon cutting to take place in the next coming weeks. He also shared prop 1 funding requests were submitted and the continuum of projects are still under which includes Mead Valley Wellness Village.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY- Parent Support (Maria Arnold)

Maria Arnold, Parent Partner Program Manager, introduced Noemi Alvarez. Ms. Alvarez shared she completed parenting classes that were recommended to her by parent partner Darlene who provided her with resources and support. Ms. Alvarez shared that although she is a mother to more than one child there is always room for growth as a parent and she has learned new ways to communicate, discipline, praise and encourage each of them. She shared the classes taught her how to connect with her children and interact with them as well as help teach her husband the tools she learned to be effective with their children. Ms. Alvares expressed her husband gave her praise and recognition for what she had learned and taught him through the parenting classes she completed, and it has brought the two of them closer. She concluded by announcing her husband was currently enrolled in the parenting classes also and encouraged all parents including fathers to join the classes and encourage any parents they know to do the same.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Housing Presentation (Marcus Cannon)

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, began by introducing Joseph Paige, a consumer of HHOPE (Homeless Housing Opportunities Partnerships & Education). Mr. Paige thanked the BH department, HHOPE and Ms. Viviana who worked closely with him and embraced him. He shared in 2019 his home was destroyed by a fire, and he became homeless and still completed his education at Mt. San Jacinto college but unfortunately ended up in LA county during covid on skid row and ended up relapsing. He returned to Hemet and continued struggling and ended up being arrested and sent to ETS in 2023 and sought help from Lagos and Whitside Manor and met Viviana who linked him with HHOPE and provided resources and support and within 7 months was able to get housed. Mr. Paige continued by sharing he is sober, stable and doing what he loves and is a testament of second chances and forever grateful to HHOPE and the department for the opportunity they have given him.

Mr. Cannon shared that housing is a foundation to support all department programs because without stable housing one cannot achieve their goals, and the housing motto is "Wellness begins with a Home" and RUHS has provided services to people on the streets of Riverside County for over 30 years. Housing services include coordinated entry system (CES) "Home Connect" which assists people in a housing crisis, any Riverside County resident who is homeless or at risk of losing housing can call 800-498-8847. Housing crisis response teams (Street Outreach) are located county wide and provide housing crisis response and support through street outreach engagement, housing crisis plan development and support, linkage to services and resources, housing navigation and can call 800-498-8847. Emergency housing, transitional housing and rental assistance teams assist individuals and families in a housing crisis to obtain short term emergency shelter or maintain their current tenancy through rental assistance meeting criteria. HHOPE permanent supportive and affordable housing programs serve clients with chronic homelessness and behavioral health conditions. Mr. Cannon also shared there are adult residential facilities available and provided data/stats on each of the programs and grant awards.

He continued by sharing Cal Aim Enhanced care management (ECM) and community support (CS) teams consisting of a nurse care manager, BH care manager, case manager, community health worker/peer support specialist and community services assistant. The services provided through ECM are outreach and engagement, coordination of medical, dental and behavioral healthcare, connection to public benefits, referrals to specialists, transportation to appointments, case management, advocacy with providers and family support. Community supports available are housing transition/navigation, housing deposits, housing tenancy/sustaining services, short-term post-hospitalization housing, recuperative care (medical respite) and sobering center. Mr. Cannon concluded by sharing some housing opportunities with the BHSA, BHT and BH Connect will allow community supports to be expanded, re-open of "The Place", create integrated housing dashboard, replace the vulnerability index- service prioritization decision assistance tool (VI-SPDAT) and housing communities opening in Palm Springs, Riverside, Beaumont, Wildomar, Cathedral City and Coachella.

OLD BUSINESS-

1. **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update - (David Schoelen)**
 - a) **MHSA Plan Update FY 25/26**

David Schoelen, Mental Health Service Act Administrator, presented the Mental Health Services Act Annual Update for Fiscal Year 25/26. Mr. Schoelen explained what the MHSA Act is and that in 2004 CA voters approved ballot proposition 63 which dedicates a 1% taxation on millionaires to the public mental health service system. The MHSA report goes to the Board of Supervisors and State Department of Health Care Services that authorizes MHSA expenditures, the report also demonstrates compliance with MHSA regulations, progress, and outcomes on existing funded programs. He explained there are two types of plans, a 3-year plan and an annual update which this fiscal year is an Annual Update. The MHSA update includes community participation and planning and accepts feedback year around. Mr. Schoelen explained that MHSA remains in effect until July of 2026 and fully repealed in January of 2027. He continued by sharing that MHSA will wind down while preparing for BHSa which will include preparing the department for the infrastructure change and preparing programs to avoid service disruption.

Mr. Schoelen continued to explain there are 5 components that make up the MHSA frame which are Community Services and Supports, Prevention and Early Intervention, Innovation, Workforce Education and Training and Capital Facilities and Technology and provided updates and highlights of each of those programs. Mr. Schoelen shared there would be a community stakeholders and public posting and hearing process. In April there will be a 30-day website posting period of the plan and in May during the May is Mental Health Month Fairs there will be three in person public hearings on site to allow the public to review, provide feedback and comment on the draft. The public hearings will also be provided with a virtual option, so the public can view videos 24/7 online and provide feedback. The feedback is then reviewed and responded to by the Board of Supervisors, appointed BHC that becomes a chapter in the final plan and submitted to the state and posted on the RUHS website (ruhealth.org).

Mr. Schoelen then gave an overview of the Behavioral Health Service Act (BHSa), which became law in January of 2025 with proposition 1 being passed. Prop 1 also included \$6.4 billion bond for BH residential care and supportive housing. And embedded timelines, with the first new integrated plan being July of 2026 that will include new components, regulations reporting and oversight. Mr. Schoelen also explained the BHT Process would include state guidance, direction and legislative refinement that is actively being developed. This is a slow process that includes dialogue between state and counties to negotiate how the laws will be applied. Some of what is presented today may change with future state updates. He shared some of the guiding principles changes as well as the planning and reporting changes, component changes and funding sources that would change.

He shared that the department leadership attends workgroups with the California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) and the state has released two BH transformation policy manual modules in late 2024 with more to come. The department created a BHT workgroup creating an internal timeline, unbraiding MHSA funds to help understand which programs are at most risk based on BHSa. Also to understand the regulations and community priorities to develop and plan for the new expanded stakeholder process, to transform MHSA Admin into BHS Admin and prepare for the new reporting procedure and document.

Mr. Schoelen concluded by sharing the BHSA Timeline; the BOS will approve the FY 26/29 Integrated plan by June 30, 2026 and submit Integrated Plan to DHCS and BHSOAC. BY July 1, 2026 the FY 26/29 integrated plan become effective, by June 30, 2027 the FY 27/28 Annual Update is due, by January 20, 2029 the FY 26/27 BH outcomes, accountability and transparency report is due.

2. Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (SAPT) Update – (April Frey & Heidi Gomez)

April Frey, Administrator of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program announced Prop 36 was voter approved and shared the 2024 SAPT caseload data.

Heidi Gomez, Substance Use and Prevention Treatment Program Administrator announced there would be three events for 1 Life 1 Heart 5K Walks and each would be taking place on a Saturday.

3. Care Court Update – (Marcus Cannon)

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics, provided a brief update on Care Court sharing that there were 128 petitions and 125 clients. And of 227 integrated referrals, 218 individuals were referred, 69 of those became CARE Court Petitions and 56 of those petitions were filed directly in Civil Court. Mr. Cannon concluded by announcing there will be two graduations in December.

Resources Available:

www.Care-Act.org

COMMITTEE UPDATES – TABLED

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-

Site reviews suggested by Victoria St. Johns.

Facility Presentation suggested by Greg Damewood.

Todec speaker suggested by Beatriz Gonzalez.

WET Employee Appreciation Winner suggested by Cheryl Coson.

Prop 36 presentation and SAPT System Update suggested by Bea Gonzalez.

TAY and Children's Program Overview

3 Project Overview suggested by Brenda Scott.

Housing Workforce Solutions Overview suggested by Quintilia Ávila.

ADJOURN – The Behavioral Health Commission meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.

Sylvia Bishop

Sylvia Bishop, Recording Secretary

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				
Beatriz Gonzalez, District 4	P	P	P	A	A	P				
Brenda Scott, District 3	P	P	A	A	P	P				
Carole Schaudt, District 4	P	P	ML	A	ML	ML				
Daryl Terrell, District 5	P	P	P	P	A	P				
Debbie Rose, BOS Rep. Dist. 2	A	A	A	A	P	P				
Greg Damewood, District 5	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Harshita Arunkumar, Dist. 1	P	ML	P	P	P	A				
Launa Wilson, District 1	A	P	P	P	P	A				
Quintilla Ávila, District 2	-	-	P	P	P	P				
Richard Divine, District 2	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Rick Gentillalli, District 5	P	P	ML	P	P	P				
Sheila Mallet-Smith, District 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P				
Victoria St. Johns, District 4	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Dr. Walter Haessler, Dist. 3	ML	P	P	P	P	P				

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

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

PRESENT		
Bill Brenneman	Tony Ortego	Maria Amall
Lucy Lopez	Nisha Elliott	Joseph Page
Sylvia Bishop	Maria Arnold	Prakash Kaur
Deborah Johnson	Viviana Rubi	Elysse Rico
Dr. Chang	Kelly Grotsky	Dani Damewood
Shannon McCleerey-Hooper	Jessica Jackson	Jennel Rand
Willard Wynn	Misty Martin	Melissa Vasquez
Francisco Huerta	Tauna Butler	Dylan Colt
Jacqueline Markussen	Maricela Gil	Lawrence Blake
April Frey	Sandy Murillo	Sandy Awad
Heidi Gomez	Pedro Arciniega	Andrea Lopez
Rhyan Miller	Ashley Housley	Miriam Resendiz
Diana Gutierrez	Laurence Gonzaga	Stephanie Zavaleta
Marcus Cannon	Noemi Alvarez	Chris Bowhen
Maria Martha Moreno	Rachel Gileno	Lauren Adamson
David Schoelen	Lillie Daniels	Kami Winston
Novanh Xayarath	Leizel Correa	
Brandon Jacobs	Martha Burns	

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY	
Andrea Putnam	Manuel Medina
Elizabeth Del Rio	Beverly McKeddie
Sasha Trejos	Melissa Dalke
Amelia Diaz	Jane Beamer
Orli Zaprir	Leah Newell
Melissa Noone	Janine Moore
Corinne Awad	Sundae Sayles
Victoria Medrano	Michelle Salado
Dakota Brown	Robert Youssef
Dakota -Audience	Anniemarie Morales
Dolores De Martino	Patty Rodriguez - Notetaker
Carolina Ayala - Notetaker	Jasmin - Notetaker