



Matthew Chang MD, DIRECTOR

RIVERSIDE COUNTY DESERT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

**47-825 Oasis St.
Indio, CA 92201**

**MINUTES
06/10/2025**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Janice Quinn; Vice-Chairperson, Mark Miller, Tori St Johns, Jim Jones, Huynh Cuc Nguyen, Eva Guenther-James, Joe Butts, Sandy Neja, Carole Schaudt, Bruce Sherr, Christine Thomstad.

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Divine, Beatriz Gonzalez, Maura Fisher.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Gileno; Adult Services Administrator, Mary Carpio; Secretary to Rachel Gileno, Shawn Harris; Senior Parent Partner; Parent Support & Training Program – Desert Region, Gabe Kason; Indio SAPT Clinic Supervisor, Rufujio Vivanco; Senior Peer Support Specialist, TAY Desert Flow, Brenda Moorehouse; RUHS – BH, PSS – Windy Springs, Julie Carlson; Peer Support Specialist, RUHS – BH, Nate Ramirez; Supervisor Mature Adult Full Service Partnership – Desert Hot Springs Clinic RUHS - BH.

OTHERS PRESENT: Marsha Drew, visitor.

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS:

Dr Janice Quinn called the meeting of the Riverside County Desert Behavioral Health Advisory Board to order at 12:07 PM. Self-introductions of all who were in attendance in person or by teleconference followed.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Limit 3 minutes per speaker):

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Dr. Quinn asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions to the board minutes of the April 8, 2025 and May 13, 2025 meetings. There were no additions, corrections or deletions that needed to be made to the May meeting. Huynh Cuc Nguyen said her name was spelled wrong on the April 8, 2025 minutes and the correction was noted. Huynh Cuc Nguyen made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Bruce Sherr seconded the motion, and it passed by a unanimous vote.

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NEW BUSINESS:

May 13, 2025 Annual Behavioral Health Arts Festival Board Review:

Dr. Janice Quinn said there were 669 pieces of art submitted and displayed at the Arts Festival on May 13, 2025. She also presented a visual presentation of the art that was displayed. She added over five hundred people attended the show. There was an in-depth discussion on various aspects of the arts festival and its components. The consensus was that this was the best arts festival that the board had put on.

Other New Business:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

May is Mental Health Month Wellness Fair Report:

Rachel Gileno said this year's Wellness Fair at the Palm Desert Civic Park was highly successful and was attended by various dignitaries including County Supervisor Perez. She added they had around sixty vendors and the fair featured a TAY Flow talent show which in her words was awesome.

Other Old Business:

None.

MONTHLY UPDATE AND REPORT:

Substance Abuse Program Update:

Gabe Kason reported Substance Abuse has added a few more administrative positions and as a result he has a new supervisor named Lisa Araizo. He also added that overdose deaths in 2024 were a little over 400 compared to 800 in 2023.

Peer Support and Resource Center:

Tabled until July 8, 2025 meeting.

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program Update:

Rachel Galeno reported on this matter on behalf of Kelly Grotsky. She introduced Refugio Vivanco as the new Senior Peer at the TAY Flow since Javier Sanchez is no longer with the Department. She said Refugio will be giving updates on TAY at future meetings. She added TAY will be doing a "Pride Brunch" for June Pride month and will be also setting up a booth at the Pride Prom this year. Rachel said the group sessions at the TAY Flow are really going well and they have lots of participation in favorite groups like the music group "Feel the Rhythm" and the culinary group "Taste of TAY."

CHILDRENS SERVICES MANAGER COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno gave a report on this matter on behalf of Kelly Grotsky. She said Kelly is still looking for a Youth ECM Supervisor and she will be doing interviews for the position on Wednesday with two candidates. She said they will be doing interviews this Friday for Clinical Therapist (CT) and Senior Clinical Therapist positions for Harmony Haven. She said they have ten CT candidates and three Senior CT candidates to interview. Rachel said BH Connect will require them to implement new Children's Evidence Based Practices (EBT) which will include Multisystemic Family Therapy and Functional Family Therapy. She said they do not currently implement these in Riverside County,

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so the Children's team is working on a plan to have these EBPs available by July 2026 per State guidelines with additional reports on this to come in future Board meetings.

ADULT SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno reported the RivCoOne kickoff meeting was yesterday in Banning and the Banning supervisors along with the Corona WC leadership will be providing WPHS training to Indio clinics with the goal of going live next month.

She said a lot of work is being done in the department around the upcoming changes due to BHSA, including the implementation of ACT teams. Rachel said they are currently looking at developing a large team in the desert to provide this service. She said ACT is a highly individualized, team-based approach to delivering mental health services within the community. It is designed for individuals with severe mental illnesses who require intensive support and assistance with daily living. She added ACT teams, consisting of professionals like psychiatrists, social workers, and case managers, work collaboratively to provide a range of services, including medication management, counseling, housing assistance, and support for employment and daily living skills. The key features of ACT include proactive outreach, 24/7 availability, and a "whatever it takes" approach to care, aiming to help individuals maintain community living and prevent hospitalizations. She added this level of care is considered higher than the FSP and they are continuing to identify and expand their FSP tracks in the clinics.

Clinic reports:

Blythe:

- Staff will be participating in Summer Safety extravaganza this Saturday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- Blythe FSP currently serving 22 clients, Non-FSP 275.
- CT recruitment is ongoing.
- Recently filled the BHS II position, all other positions filled.

Indio:

- Indio FSP is currently serving 163 clients, NON-FSP 1612.
- Currently recruiting for two CT positions, one Peer Support Specialist position.
- Continuing to expand group service offerings and staff is working to create more Friday groups.

Windy Springs:

- Census is 185.
- Recruiting for two CT positions and an OA II.

Banning:

- Will be participating in roll-out of WPHS in Indio Clinics.
- Banning FSP currently serving 92 clients, Non-FSP 776.
- Adult clinic is fully staffed.
- New BHS III has been receiving support and training from the BHS III from Windy Springs and actively working on increasing SUD services.

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Older Adults Administrator's Comments:

Nate Ramirez reported they participated in the Elder Abuse Symposium that was held in Riverside at the Riverside Convention Center. He added they are expanding their services in Indio, including expanding their physical footprint in the Indio clinic.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Children's Committee Report:

Tabled until July 8, 2025 meeting.

Adults Committee Report:

Tabled until July 8, 2025 meeting.

Mature Adults Committee Report:

Tabled until July 8, 2025 meeting.

Housing Committee Report:

Tabled until July 8, 2025 meeting.

Legislative Report:

Tabled until July 8, 2025 meeting.

Membership Report:

Tabled until July 8, 2025 meeting.

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Report:

Tabled until July 8, 2025 meeting.

Criminal Justice Committee Report:

Tabled until July 8, 2025 meeting.

Veteran's Committee Report:

Tabled until July 8, 2025 meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Jim Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Millerr seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 PM.

The next formal meeting of the Riverside County Desert Board of Behavioral Health will be **Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at the Oasis Adult Conference Room at 12:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark Miller, Desert Board Secretary