

MEETING MINUTES
09/09/2025

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

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Divine, Maura Fisher, Sandy Neja.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bea Gonzalez.

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Gileno; Adult Services Administrator, Mary Carpio; Secretary to Rachel Gileno, Denise Morgan; Secretary to Kelly Grotsky, Shawn Harris; Senior Parent Partner; Parent Support & Training Program – Desert Region, Elizabeth Aguilar; Family Advocate, RUHS – BH, Jay Rembold; Senior Peer Support Specialist, RUHS – BH, Michael Bolho-Lara; Wraparound Supervisor, RUHS – BH, Angel Munoz; BHS IV, RUHS – SAPT, Jennifer Martinez; Wraparound Clinical Therapist, RUHS – BH.

OTHERS PRESENT: Honor Moon; 417 Recovery.

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 12:08 PM. Self-introductions of all who were in attendance in person or by teleconference followed.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christine Thomstad mentioned the NAMI Walk will take place on November 15, 2025 at the Palm Desert Civic Park. She also announced that NAMI Coachella Valley will be starting a Spanish Family Support Group which will be held on the second Monday of each month at Oasis Community Services on Dr. Carreon in Indio and she will provide a flyer on it later.

Shawn Harris announced that they will be hold a “Fall Festival for Children” at the Myers location in Riverside on October 23, 2025 which will feature children’s art.

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 July 8, 2025 meeting. There were no additions, corrections or deletions that needed to be made. Huynh Cue Nguyen made a motion to accept the minutes, Joe Butts seconded the motion, and it passed by a unanimous vote. Mark Miller noted that the board minutes from June 10, 2025 need to be added to the October 14, 2025 agenda for acceptance due to a lack of a quorum at the July meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Desert Wraparound Program:

Michael Bohon-Lara gave a presentation utilizing some PowerPoint slides about the program. He said they encompass the entire desert area from Banning/Beaumont to Blythe and are a strengths-based family program which is predominately probation focused in that most of their referrals come from County Probation. He said there are three teams consisting of five behavioral health staff, one public health nurse and one probation officer for each family.

Window Walk Gallery at the River Update:

Dr. Janice Quinn said the Gallery is once again up and running at the River and encouraged everyone to take a trip there and see the art displayed there. She said all the Gallery art is in the units between Dave & Busters and the Cheesecake Factory.

Other New Business:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Report on Department and Supervisors Review of May 2025 Behavioral Art Festival at the Taj Mahal:

Dr. Janice Quinn said this meeting was held just before the September Board meeting and a lot of good input was received. She said the biggest issue that arose was that some artists submitted more than the set limit of five pieces of art. She said starting next year there will be a strict limitation of five pieces of art per artist in each category. Artists are able to submit art in multiple categories, but each category will be subject to the five-piece limit.

Ethics (<http://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/ab1234/>) and HIPAA Training Reminders:

Dr. Quinn said ethics training has to be completed every two years, and the training must be done online.

Other Old Business:

None.

MONTHLY UPDATE AND REPORT:

Substance Abuse Program Update:

Angel Munoz said the next Recovery Happens event will take place on September 25, 2025 at Fairmount Park in Riverside.

Peer Support and Resource Center:

Tabled until October 14, 2025 meeting.

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program Update:

Tabled until October 14, 2025 meeting.

CHILDRENS SERVICES MANAGER COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno covered this for Kelly Grotsky. Rachel said TAY Desert Flow was awarded a \$453,433 2-year grant to provide Housing Navigation Services and Support for youth ages 18-24 who are experiencing homelessness. She said any youth between 18-24, who meets the definition for homelessness, can qualify. She added that priority will be given to youth in the Coachella Valley and the goal is to serve 80 youth per year. Youth do not have to be linked to Behavioral Health services or a Behavioral Health program. Rachel said they are in the process of hiring a housing navigator. She said this will be a Peer Support Specialist position and the ideal candidate will have lived experience of previous challenges with housing/homelessness.

Rachel said as part of the Behavioral Health Services Act and BH Connect, Children's Services will have to add two new Evidence Based Practices to Riverside County. The two new ones will be "Multisystemic Therapy" (MST) and "Functional Family Therapy" (FFT). Rachel said Kelly has been leading an implementation workgroup and will be releasing an application soon for providers to apply to be MST and FFT providers. More information on all this will be forthcoming and per DHCS, all counties must implement these new EBT's by July 1, 2026. Other children's EBTs include High Fidelity Wraparound and PCIT, both of which Riverside County already offers.

Rachel said Kelly hired a Youth ECM supervisor, Brian DeOliveria, who was previously the Senior CT at the Banning Clinic. She added while Youth ECM is still in the planning stages, Brian is supporting the Banning Clinic while Sean finds a replacement Senior CT. She said Brian has been participating in Rapid Improvement Events (RIE) related to Youth ECM. Rachel said Brian and Kelly completed a Youth ECM Roles and Responsibilities 3-day RIE and Brian will be participating in a Youth ECM Access Team RIE at the end of September. She added the hope is that Youth ECM will be available in October 2025 pending a contract execution.

Finally, Rachel said Rosie's Desert YHIP team has relocated from the Monroe Building to the Indio Children's Clinic, resulting in both programs being housed together. YHIP has now been rebuilt and is now fully staffed pending a new CT who is in the onboarding process. Youth Hospital Intervention Program (YHIP) is a Full-Service Partnership (FSP) that supports youth that have been psychiatrically hospitalized and offers intensive services in the home and field.

ADULT SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno reported the following:

Banning Clinic:

- Full-Service Partnership (FSP) census is 84.
- Non FSP census is 774.
- Current Open Positions:
 - 2 Clinical Therapists (CT)
 - 1 Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
 - 1 Senior CT

Windy Springs:

- FSP census is 180.
- Current open positions
 - 2 Clinical Therapists
 - 1 Community Services Assistant

Indio Adults Outpatient Clinic:

- FSP census is 175.
- Non FSP census is 1411.
- Current open positions:
 - 1 Peer Support Specialist (PSS)
 - 1 Behavioral Health Specialist II (BHS II)
 - 1 Clinical Therapist (CT)

Blythe Integrated Clinic:

- FSP census is 17.
- Non FSP census is 277.
- Onboarding a new full-time Clinical Therapist
- Current open positions:
 - 1 Behavioral Health Specialist (BHS)

Adult Evidence-Based Practice program, ACT/FACT:

- There will be three teams in the County, with one large team for the Desert Region. They are currently looking at Windy Springs' location to support both ACT/FACT and the FSP currently located there.

Older Adults Administrator's Comments:

Tabled until October 14, 2025 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Children's Committee Report:

Tori St Johns said she had no report to give because the committee has not met all summer.

Adults Committee Report:

Jim Jones said he had no report to give.

Mature Adults Committee Report:

Tabled until October 14, 2025 meeting.

Housing Committee Report:

Tabled until October 14, 2025 meeting.

Legislative Report:

Mark Miller said he had no report to give.

Membership Report:

Dr. Janice Quinn said there is one position open on the Board, for either a peer or family position.

September 9, 2025

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Report:

Tori St Johns said Brenda Scott is now the Chairperson of the main Commission.

Criminal Justice Committee Report:

Eva Guenther-James said the last meeting was in July.

Veteran's Committee Report:

Carole Schaudt said she had no report to give.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Christine Thonstad made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bruce Sherrr seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 PM.

The next formal meeting of the Riverside County Desert Board of Behavioral Health will be **Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at the Oasis Adult Conference Room at 12:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark Miller, Desert Board Secretary