



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DESERT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD
47-825 Oasis St.
Indio, CA 92201

MINUTES
02/11/25

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Janice Quinn, Vice Chairperson; Tori St Johns, Jim Jones, Joseph Butts, Eva Guenther-James, Beatriz Gonzalez, Christine Thomstad, Maura Fisher

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Divine, Mark Miller, Carole Schaudt, Bruce Sherr, Huynh-Cuc Nguyen, Sandra Neja

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT: David Schoelen, MHS Administrator; Rachel Gileno, Adult Services Administrator; Mary Carpio, Secretary to Rachel Gileno; Kathy Myers, Senior Peer Support Specialist – RUHS – BH; Ashley Jean, Senior Peer Support Specialist at the Peer Support and Resource Center in Indio; Lorenzo Lopez, BH-IT; Elizabeth Aguilar, Family Advocate – RUHS-BH; Angela Muñoz, BHSIV – Indio SAPT RUHS-BH.

OTHERS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS:

Dr. Janice Quinn called the meeting of the Riverside County Desert Behavioral Health Board to order at 12:06 PM. Self-introductions of all who were in attendance in person or virtually followed.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Limit 3 minutes per speaker):

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Dr. Janice Quinn asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions to the board minutes of the January 14, 2025 meeting. Tori St Johns made a motion to accept the minutes as noted, Beatriz Gonzalez seconded the motion, and Dr. Quinn noted the motion passed by hand count 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mental Health Services Act 2025 Plan Review

David Schoelen, MHSA Administrator presented a slideshow of the Mental Health Services Act Annual Update and Behavioral Health Services Act Transformation. A copy of the slideshow presentation was provided as a handout for all to follow along as well as additional handouts that he referenced during the presentation.

Mr. Schoelen went over the two types of MHSA Plans - the three-year plan and the annual update. He reviewed the five components of the MHSA Frame and explained how each of those components addresses a different area of behavioral health services and included highlights of their various programs.

He reviewed the differences between MHSA and BHSA and the upcoming changes. The current MHSA services will continue until July of 2026 with the beginning of the transition. At that point all the services will be fully in transition until they are formally repealed and the new BHSA services plan takes effect January 2027 with many of the old services no longer provided. A colored graph of the Behavioral Health System of Care showing the numerous services provided at different levels of care was briefly reviewed.

For community stakeholders, the plan draft will be posted on county websites in April 2025 for 30 days to allow time to read and provide written or electronic feedback. This will be followed by public hearings promoted by the Behavioral Health Commission in May at the May is Mental Health Month public events to allow for in-person feedback from community members. Event locations are yet to be determined. Beatriz Gonzales objected to the daytime public forums which prevent people who cannot get off work from participating. Mr. Schoelen responded that after reviewing past attendance data they found that moving the public forum to the evening did not increase attendance. A virtual version of the public forums in English and Spanish with ASL embedded will be accessible 24/7 for three weeks allowing virtual attendees to provide feedback; for those that prefer to give verbal feedback, a voicemail hotline has been created. A Participation Directory was included in the Stakeholder's packet with information on how to access community advisory groups. All presentation information is available online at ruhealth.org.

Other New Business:

Desert Board must choose an alternate date for the Nov. 11th meeting, as that is Veteran's Day – The board voted on moving the meeting to Nov. 18th; Tori St Johns made a motion to accept, Maura Fisher seconded the motion and it passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

20th Annual May is Mental Health Month Art Show/2025 John Benoit Behavioral Health Art Festival Update – Art Show registration form is being updated and will be sent out to everyone in PDF format, the form can be made available by request in Word format, but it must be kept on single page and no changes to the text. For event marketing, Christine Thomstad is in talks with local newsman Patrick Evans from 'Eye on the Desert' and has a connection with the Desert Sun. Dr. Quinn in talks with friend that works for local radio station KGAY.

Other Old Business:

None.

MONTHLY UPDATE AND REPORT:

Substance Abuse Program Update:

Angela Muñoz for Gabe Kason – The Substance Abuse Clinic is growing, especially Mental Health Court & Diversion Program, so much that they've started taking clients to their Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs clinics. They've started recovery groups for clients that are in the maintenance phase of their recovery. If the groups are full, and a client is in need of group, they will set them up with individual services until they can get the client in a group.

Angela brought 1Life1Heart – RUHS Poisoning & Overdose Awareness 5K Walk flyers with details of dates and locations. She also handed out a second flyer with volunteer registration information for anyone interested in volunteering. Gabe sent out the QR code to everyone on the board's emailing list as another option to sign-up as a volunteer. This event brings a lot of awareness, Riverside County overdose rates are dropping. Narcan is provided at their clinics for anyone in need, no questions asked.

Peer Support and Resource Center:

Ashley Jean – had to leave early no report.

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program Update:

Rob Bohon-Lara not available – Rachel Gileno provided brief comment TAY continues to provide groups, they recently had a Valentine's Day cooking group which was a huge success and well attended.

CHILDRENS SERVICES MANAGER COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno on behalf of Kelly Grotsky – (see below)

ADULT SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS COMMENTS:

Rachel Gileno – combined Adults & Children comments on what's happening with Banning and Blythe Integrated Clinics. The last Blythe Collaborative meeting held on January 30th was well attended with about 25 people from different types of agencies, community-based organizations and county organizations. These meetings will be held quarterly, the next meeting will be held in April. RUHS-BH Blythe Integrated Clinic will be having a 'Meet & Greet' event on February 27th for members or potential members to come and meet the Staff. The new Blythe CT has resigned due to moving out of the area, active recruitment for CT will continue. Rachel and Kelly have arranged for clinicians to rotate traveling to Blythe clinic for coverage. One of the goals this year is to increase FSP services, for the Indio clinic that has almost quadrupled. In the next 30 days, Rachel and Kelly will be traveling to both Blythe and Banning Clinics to provide the staff with FSP Training.

Older Adults Administrator's Comments:

Tabled until the March 11, 2025 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Behavioral Health Commission Report:

Tabled until the March 11, 2025 meeting.

Children’s Committee Report:

Tori St Johns first shared about her visit to the recently opened St. John’s Community Health Center in Indio and passed around their flyer with details of services provided. St. Johns is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides a range of medical services from mental health to pediatrics for low-income, and uninsured individuals. They are currently not yet set up for pediatric care and hope to have that service possibly by April. Their recent open house was well attended, volunteers are welcomed.

For Children’s Committee – they had a District Attorney come and present on their programs available, mostly in Riverside; Probation was also there for the main board.

Adults Committee Report:

Jim Jones said they had a presentation on the Inland Caregivers Resource Center, interesting to see what they’re doing for caregivers and the seniors they care for.

Older Adults Committee Report:

Maura Fisher said no report but announced that Eisenhower is opening more space for outpatient services; they have an open house scheduled for March 20th.

Housing Committee Report:

Tabled until the March 11, 2025 meeting.

Legislative Report:

Tabled until the March 11, 2025 meeting.

Membership Report:

Tabled until the March 11, 2025 meeting.

Criminal Justice Committee Report:

Tabled until the March 11, 2025 meeting.

Veteran’s Committee Report:

Tabled until the March 11, 2025 meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Jim Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tori St. Johns second the motion; Dr. Janice Quinn adjourned the meeting at 1:33PM.

The next formal meeting of the Riverside County Desert Board of Behavioral Health will be **Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at the Indio Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic Adult Services, Room AS54 located at 47825 Oasis Street, Indio at 12:00PM.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Carpio, Executive Assistant to
Rachel Gileno, Desert Region Behavioral Health Administrator