



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
2/25/2025

Tori St. Johns, BHC, Janine Moore, RUHS-BH, Emilee Tran, CSD/DPSS, Olivia Novoa, Pre-School, Angie Talley, RC/SELPA, Diana Gutierrez, PEI, Lauren Valles, & Dinah Support K-9, DA’s Office CPU, Luciana Hsu, SSG/RCC, John DeVries, VCCS, Jana Garrett, SSG-RCC, Shelby Colbert, Youth Connect, Louise Polzel, Cal Mentor, Lauren Adamson, Peer Svs,

Hybrid (OWL): Javier Garcia, Carolyn E. Wylie Center, Beverly McKeddie, RUHS-BH, Rachel Douglas, PS&T, Maggie Cooper, VCSS, Maria Arnold, PS&T, George Gaeta, Marketing/RUHS, Laisa Jamison, JVUSD

Recorder: Saida Spencer, RUHS-BH

Presentation: Diana Gutierrez, PEI Admin Services Manager, and part of the MHSA Admin Unit:

MHSA Annual Update & BHSA Transformation FY 25-26

Insights into the MHSA (Mental Health Services Act), highlighting its voter-approved status and the recent updates through the BHSA (Behavioral Health Services Act). Discussed the significance of stakeholder involvement in the funding process and outlined the structure of the MHSA Plan, which details expenditures and outcomes for various programs. This will be the same funding process for the new BHSA.

Typically, the program ideas come first and then explore which funding streams can cover costs. Getting community feedback on MHSA funded programs is part of the law. We accept feedback all year round, but this time of year, we formalize that process with these presentations. Though BHSA became active this year, the first BHSA Integrated Plan is not due until July 2026. This allows the Department some time to prepare for the change. In the interim, all should still follow MHSA. There are two formal opportunities for the community to express their opinions on the plan.

- The first is the 30-day public posting of the draft plan. This will occur during the month of April. The plan is posted on the Department’s MHSA webpage and feedback can be provided electronically.
- The next opportunity is providing written or verbal feedback at a public hearing conducted by the Behavioral Health Commission. This year, MHSA will hold public hearings during the popular May is Mental Health Month outreach events. Regional committees are planning the events right now, but the dates listed on the PowerPoint are confirmed. In addition, to coincide with the in-person public hearings will be a virtual public hearing. Public Hearing videos in English, ASL, and Spanish are posted 24/7 for 3 weeks over the same period. Feedback can be provided electronically or by calling a dedicated voice mail hotline.

BHSA became law in January 2025, but also contains specific timelines to allow for the transition from MHSA to BHSA. The State is performing due diligence with BHSA, working with county representatives to fine tune the rules of the Act. This takes time and sometimes can change as each county considers how the new rules will affect them. Guiding principles of the legislation shape the goals of the law.

MHSA focused on people with Serious Mental Illness. BHSA expands that to also include people with Serious Substance Use Disorders.

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Directing Change is next item. Video submissions are due March 1st for any of the young people that might want to be a part of that. The Fox Theater is reserved for May the 15th 4:00 PM for the local screening and recognition ceremony. Mark your calendars and join us. Even those that do not have anyone that submitted a video, it's worth coming and checking out. Further information as it becomes available.

Meeting Called to Order & Introductions: 12:00 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves and their agencies. Welcome Emilee Tran, Corona Regional Manager, CSD/DPSS.

Review of Minutes: The January 28, 2025, minutes reviewed. Tori St. Johns, motions to approve the minutes as written, Lauren Adamson seconded the motion and members were all in favor.

Chairperson Remarks: Tori on a personal note shared the following:

So many great things are happening in Riverside County. All the programs and the collaborations to bring such needed services to all those that need it.

Department of Behavioral Health Updates:

Desert Children’s Region: Janine on behalf of Kelly Grotsky shared the following updates:

Finalized the contract with Desert Unified School District, and they are now another school district that is contracted for specialty mental health services out in the Desert. Super excited about that.

May is Mental Health planning is well on its way. It will be held at the Civic Center Park; dates will be available soon.

Thanked Tori for sharing all the amazing resources. Kelly thanked Rob for creating an amazing flyer.

Here in the Desert some consumers are afraid to go into county buildings. The department and programs are trying to do whatever they can do to meet people where they feel safe. The department is offering telehealth services, offering services in the field. Whatever feels right to those in the community. Kelly will keep everyone posted as more information becomes available.

Rosie was able to hire a clinical therapist for the Desert. The Desert has been without and had to put a pause on those services for a short time. The department will be able to get those services started quickly.

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

Scott McClung, Supervisor TAY Stepping Stone is retiring on March 31st, just received the approval to backfill Scott McClung BHSS position at TAY Stepping Stones.

ED IOP Mindful Body and Recovery, A Clinical Therapist accepted the job offer, and is waiting to onboard and train. The program can look forward to accepting referrals in late March/early April. Also waiting to hear if the second Clinical Therapist candidate accepted the offer. If all goes well the program will have two Clinical Therapists.

Adriana Lilly, with the ED Champion program and GeBren Blakely, IOP Staff Development Officer, did a podcast with the Public Health Marketing team. The podcast will be available next week to coincide with National Eating Disorder Awareness week Feb 24-March 2.

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The MIMH month planning committee appears open to schedule TAY members to perform at the Riverside MIMH event. More information as it becomes available.

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

Had the pleasure of going out to the Mead Valley Wellness Village and participated in what they call the topping off ceremony, which is an honor of all the trades individuals who have been working hard for almost a year. The ceremony is where they raise the final steel beam and all the trades people, county representatives, the architects, etc... sign the beam, and those names will forever be part of the village. It was exciting. Everyone there went on a tour as well. Went to the ribbon cutting for the new Franklin MHRC. It was great to see Tori there. The Franklin MHRC includes an outpatient clinic on site. It is a beautiful space with about 84 beds.

The newest Board of Supervisors, Jose Medina, took the time to come, toured the facility and spoke about the need. RUHS-BH has been involved in what’s called the ISD (Integrated Services Delivery), which is a county initiative. It is about looking at the way the system works and improving the process. Using customers to define the value and employee empowerment. Last week, five of the staff were able to train in the lean process, which is also called the bronze training. It is an exciting opportunity as RUSH-BH moves towards using the principles to improve the processes.

Ideas come up and roll out on workflows that the department want to improve and engage folks from the Children’s Committee to participate in the process. More information to share as it becomes available.

Mid-County Children’s Region: Beverly McKeddie, shared the following updates:

The TAY Center has a pending offer for a Senior Peer Support Specialist. Also, closing out interviews for the Supervisor for the TAY Center. Hoping to have that wrapped up for next month’s update. The department is lucky to have Adelaide Moreno from the TOPSS Program and Cherylyn Klemens, the Senior Parent Partner supporting the Parent Partners from the TAY Center for the last few weeks, They’ve done a tremendous job and the staff have done great things to keep things rolling.

Currently, there is only one Clinician out of five, so the TAY Center is borrowing Clinical Therapists from anywhere they can, to keep the services running for kids.

Heading into IEP season and the spring peak for service referrals. And the department has a team back online.

With two therapists on board and two more pending. Looking forward to having those services back up and running.

Behavioral Health Commission/Regional Board Updates:

The Desert Regional Board: Tori St. Johns shared the following:

Thanked Diana Gutierrez for providing the 25/26 MHSA and BHSA information.

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

The Parent Classes are still ongoing. The classes are free to “everyone” PS&T does not ask for insurance or any kind of documentation. Staff is ready, willing, and able to assist anyone who walks through the doors.

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Rachel has started the Nurturing Fathers Classes at the TAY Arena on Tuesday evenings. Open Doors (both Spanish & English) meets every fourth Thursday of the month. The Autism Support Group which is called “Parents Embracing Autism Together” meets the third Thursday of the month and there are evening classes available. For the April meeting PS&T are hosting a special guest speaker from the Inland Regional Center to discuss the services provided.

Please reach out to Parent Support - 951-358-5862 – for further information about the trainings and classes.

PS&T are looking for volunteers for the three events:

- May 1st will be the Desert Event
- May 8th will be the Mid-County event and
- May 15th will be the Riverside Event

All of the events are scheduled from 11:30-4:30 p.m. Registration information will be coming soon.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment: Lupe Madrigal shared the following updates:

SAPT continues to provide Substance Use and Prevention Services. All 11 Clinics are up and running and providing Youth Services. SAPT is also providing prevention and treatment in 40+ schools countywide.

Friday Night Live: Lupe Madrigal shared the following:

Currently at 109 chapters in the county. The active youth conference is at Camp Pali in March for 2 weekends. The first weekend is elementary and middle school. With only three hundred students attending, second weekend is high School, 250 youths. Workshops on Wellness, Substance Use Prevention, keeping in mind age-appropriate information, and the attendees will be able to take part in Camp amenities, archery, zip-lining and more.

Planning for the “Poisoning & Overdose Awareness 5K Walk There are three dates:

- Fairmont Park April 12, 2025, from 8-2 p.m.
- Palm Desert – Palm Desert Civic Center April 26, 2025, from 7-1 p.m. and
- Murrieta – Murrieta Town Square Park June 7, 2025, 8-2 p.m.

Invitation to everyone including provider agencies to participate. Contact Lupe Madrigal.

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

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 laadamson@ruhealth.org 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

Agency Reports:

Cal-Mentor: Louise Polzel, shared the following updates:

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The department is doing well. Have hired a couple of new Clinicians. The most recently hired is Spanish speaking for the Mid-County area. Except for the Desert, all the other locations are open for referrals. Currently, moving in a positive direction.

CSD/DPSS/YCR: Emilee Tran, Corona Regional Manager, CSD/DPSS – shared the following updates:

Every year in the month of June, the program celebrates the kids with a graduation ceremony. The community comes together to celebrate with the kids. Many of the donations come from Faith in Motion, an organization connected with faith-based communities. To assist in their transition to start living on their own.

Foster youth do not always have a stable place, they move around alot, especially teenagers in the detained population and they blow out of placements.

The department is mindful of the challenges and continue to support them, so that their education does not suffer.

The Project Graduate Program in collaboration with the Riverside County Bar Association and the Riverside County Juvenile Court, celebrates the kids with a graduation ceremony. There are certain criteria for the youth to participate in the program: The youth must have a credit deficient, and not on track to graduate. An Educational Representative (usually an attorney) is assigned to the youth, will accompany the youth to their court hearing every and they will only discuss education not the CPS case.

The department is involved in so many wonderful programs for the youth and working on sustaining the youth and just trying to give them that last push to succeed.

APCTC Program: Luicana Hui shared the following the following updates:

Speaking of graduation our program is graduating The Korean Parenting Group, the first-class graduating group since the move to the new office. Started out with seven, and it's down to a good consistent 3. Planning a huge celebration. Hoping to post another round at the office in June.

Two weeks ago, the program participated in the second biggest AAPI event, The Eastvale Lantern Festival. This wraps up the whole Lunar New Year season and happy to say the program really did a good job this year.

Funding from Cultural Competency provided the program with some goodies, and to also assist with volunteers. A total of over 700 families came. It certainly helped that 15 of the staff, took multiple shifts, in order to cover the 8 hours 14-day event. Hired a new bilingual Chinese Clinical Therapist and a Manager. Hoping for referrals.

SSG/RCC: Jana Garrett shared the following updates:

The programs had a good month with hiring: Hired 2 new bilingual Spanish speaking Clinical therapists. One started last week and the other started yesterday, also hired a Peer Support Specialist, with a start date of about 2 weeks.

Training next week for the CBITs program, just in time for the start of a new cycle. The team's finishing up the screening and all but one school, will be stable.

VCCS: John DeVries, shared the following updates:

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Victor has some great news - we have our new Wrap Around Program in Riverside. It is up to 53 clients, which is rapidly growing with a capacity for 100 by the end of June.

Received a grant for Wellness Coaches and have agreements with and have hired three in different districts.

Implemented a new health record this this year. Victor has implemented a system to assess the need for services using the CANS and CAIR Scores and calling it “Models of Care”.

John shared that Maggie Cooper is the new CQI Supervisor for Riverside working on Quality Assurance. Maggie was a Clinical Supervisor for 8-9 years, with the Lake Elsinore Clinic.

Pre-School 0-5 Program:

PEI Mobile PCIT-Desert: Olivia Novoa, shared the following update:

The Mobile Crisis Response service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, includes Therapists, Case Managers, Substance Abuse Counselors, and Peer Support Specialists who are equipped to handle behavioral health crises. Avoiding unnecessary emergency department care, psychiatric hospitalization, and law enforcement involvement.

Mobile response is part of RUHS-BH's expansion of services, which includes five new vans staged throughout the county to give community members privacy and respect on scene. Services are available to families at no cost, regardless of insurance status.

- Services are available at various clinics, and school locations throughout Riverside County.
- For further information by contact Olivia at 951-358-5862 and/or visit RUHealth.org.

Other BH urgent care resources: Take My Hand to chat live with a Peer Support Specialist, Peer Support Resource Centers, TAY Centers in all 3 regions, and other numerous resources. Any parent, teacher, doctor, or other concerned individuals may make a referral to the program.

RC SELPA: Angie Tally, shares the following:

Angie’s role is to oversee the Wrap Around Programs and the referrals referred by the school districts for Special Ed Services. The Desert program is going great for the school. SELPA covers 23 districts in Riverside County. John DeVries and Angie exchange contact information for further discussion.

The 5th Annual Riverside County SELPA Mental Health Symposium is scheduled for May 13-14, 2025, 8:30 am-4 pm at the Riverside Convention Center 3637 5th Street, Riverside, CA 92501. 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. To register go to <https://rcselpa.k12oms.org/1386-259547>.

Youth Connect: Shelby Colbert, shares the following updates:

Dominic Moore, Desert TAY Peer has promoted to Senior Certified Peer Support Specialist with the HHOPE Program.

The program is doing good work and taking referrals.

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

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Every 3rd Thursday of the month, the Unit hosts a free “Parent Power” virtual class. A free 2-hour class 6-8 p.m. for parents looking for strategies to address children displaying troubling behavior. The Unit is now offering that same class in Spanish every three months, to register scan bar code on the flyer provided. For further information email CPU@rivcoda.org or by calling 951-955-5400 and ask for the Crime Prevention Unit.

The Violence Prevention Council is a multi-disciplinary team meeting, for providers working with youth in Riverside County. The meeting highlights different agencies that participate and share information about their services and the programs they offer and/or provide. The next Violence Prevention Council meeting occurs the 2nd Monday of every 2 months 1:30-3:30 pm. Next meeting is for on March 10th, and the unit will be hosting Big Brothers, and Big Sisters of The Inland Empire. Flyers will be provided on the March 25 meeting.

Lauren introduces Dinah, The Support K-9 who is trained to provide support to the kids, and Dinah plays a vital role in the unit. Dinah helps create a calm and approachable environment and making it easier to engage. The Unit does monthly visits to Harmony Haven to check out the kids and get them to interact with her. The unit is trained in Peer Support and Crisis Response as well. For further information 951-955-5400 www.rivcoda.org CRU@rivcoda.org @dvs_k9crew_rivcoda

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

Currently hiring two more Peer Support Specialists, with one who specializes in working with individuals that have physical disabilities. Looking to launch one of the trauma programs with regards to specific mental health needs. Continuing to expand.

The therapeutic Tabletop Role Playing Group is a huge hit. Identifying other clinics, outpatient programs, who are referring clients for the group. Other groups that have been successful is the Yoga Group and the Wiggles Group for the 6- to 9-year-olds.

The Wiley Center has officially launched the Affirming and Inclusive Program. The Clinicians underwent the 36-hour training on gender assessments. The Therapists at Wylie Center are able to do the gender assessments and provide the mental health needs specific to that population.

Jurupa Vally USD: Laisa Jamison shared the following updates:

A new Peer started this week, and another clinician was just offered the position and hopefully they will be joining the team. In addition, Jose is getting ready to interview for another supervisor because the team can really use the additional support.

Busy with referrals, close to capacity with the current Clinician’s case. Currently 416 cases open with about 52 intakes.

Jose is starting a contortion with the Riverside County school districts, providing support, and collaborating.

Next Meeting: **March 25, 2025**
Time: 12-2 p.m.
Location: **2085 Rustin Ave., Conf Room 1051**
Riverside, CA 92507

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Note: Lunch will be provided

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>