

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 2.8
(ID # 23532)**

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, December 12, 2023

FROM : RUHS-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:

SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: Receive and File the Behavioral Health Commission Annual Report for FY 2022/2023, All Districts. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and File the Behavioral Health Commission Annual Report for FY2022/2023.

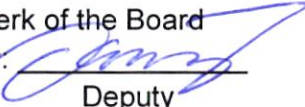
ACTION:Consent


Matthew Chang, Director 12/4/2023

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Spiegel and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is received and filed as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: December 12, 2023
xc: RUHS-Behavioral Health

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 2022/2023	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) is established pursuant to the provisions of California Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Sections 5604 et seq., and Health and Safety Code Sections 11800-11803 et seq. The BHC serves as a liaison between the community, the Riverside University Health System - Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH), and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. It is the function of the BHC, under the W&I Code 5604.2 and BHC Bylaws, Article I, Section 3, to review the services of the local mental health and substance abuse system and assess programs to make sure they meet the needs of our residents and ensure the citizens of Riverside County are provided with prompt, effective, efficient, and culturally competent community-based services. The BHC provides critical examination and review of services and proposes recommendations concerning delivery of services.

As required under the W&I Code, BHC Bylaws, and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, Policy A-21, the Behavioral Health Commission respectively submit its annual report to the Board of Supervisors covering the needs and performance of Riverside County's behavioral health system.

The BHC's commitment to their duties and responsibilities has always been met with cooperation and enthusiasm. Serving those diagnosed with a mental illness and those struggling with substance abuse is the ongoing goal of the Riverside County Behavioral Health Commission.

The BHC would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Supervisors for their continuing support related to the needs of RUHS-BH, which in turn, allows them to provide effective and efficient mental health and substance abuse services to the citizens of Riverside County.

Impact on Citizens and Businesses

The BHC serves as an oversight committee of RUHS-BH to advocate as a united voice for consumers of substance abuse and mental health services and to promote improvement in the quality, quantity, and cultural competency of behavioral health services delivered to the residents of Riverside County.

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Jacqueline Ruiz
Jacqueline Ruiz, Sr. Management Analyst 12/6/2023

Gregg Gu
Gregg Gu, Chief Deputy County Counsel 12/5/2023

✓

Junta de Supervisores del Condado de Riverside

Solicitud de uso de la palabra

Presentar la solicitud al Secretario de la Junta (a la derecha del podio), Los oradores tienen derecho a tres (3) minutos, sujeto a las reglas de la Junta enumeradas en el reverso de este formulario.

NOMBRE DEL ORADOR: Eplanet Thunderstriker

Dirección: _____

Ciudad: _____ **Código Postal:** _____

de Teléfono: _____

Fecha: 12-12-23 **# de Agenda:** 208

POR FAVOR INDIQUE SU POSICIÓN A CONTINUACIÓN:

Posición sobre el tema del orden del día "ordinario" (no apelado):

_____ **Apoyo** _____ **Oposición** X _____ **Neutral**

Nota: Si está aquí para un tema de la agenda que se presentó para "Apelación", indique por separado su posición sobre la apelación a continuación:

_____ **Apoyo** _____ **Oposición** _____ **Neutral**

Le doy mis 3 minutos a: _____

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT FY 22/23

7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DISTRICT I – KEVIN JEFFRIES

DISTRICT II – KAREN SPIEGEL

DISTRICT III – CHUCK WASHINGTON

DISTRICT IV – V. MANUEL PEREZ

DISTRICT V – JEFF HEWITT / YXSTIAN GUTIERREZ



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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION INTRODUCTION

The Riverside County Mental Health Advisory Board was created on August 15, 1966 and transitioned to become the Mental Health Board on April 6, 1993. The purpose of the Mental Health Board was to review and evaluate the County's mental health needs, services, facilities and special matters; advise the Board of Supervisors and Director of Mental Health; review certain behavioral health related agreements; assess the impact of realignment of services from the state to the County; report to the State regarding the County's performance outcome data; and perform other enumerated tasks.

The Riverside County Substance Use Advisory Committee was formed on June 2, 1994 through the consolidation of the Riverside County Alcohol Advisory Committee and the Riverside County Advisory Committee on Drug Abuse. The purpose of the Substance Use Advisory Committee was to advise the Board of Supervisors and Director of Mental Health on the prevention, treatment, and recovery programs within the County; encourage and educate the public on the nature of drug and alcohol programs; and review the County's needs to address the ongoing problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse.

As these two issues are often so intertwined, the state legislature dissolved the State Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and merged them into the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) in 2013. Following suit, on November 24, 2014, Riverside County's Board of Supervisors approved the consolidation of the Mental Health Board and Substance Use Advisory Committee, establishing the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC).

The Behavioral Health Commission is committed to overseeing, evaluating, and reviewing Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health's delivery of services to people struggling with mental illness and/or substance abuse residing within the county. It is the function of the BHC to ensure that citizens of Riverside County are provided with prompt, effective, efficient, and culturally competent community-based services. The BHC provides critical examination and review of services and provides recommendations concerning the delivery of services.

The BHC serves as a liaison between the community, Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health, and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. The Commission consists of consumers, family members of consumers, and public interest representatives from the medical, educational and other professional fields, as well as law enforcement, whose aim is to educate, advocate for ready access to services, and guide consumers through the mental health and substance abuse system.

The BHC is committed to ensuring that culturally competent services are provided to people of all ethnic, cultural, racial, and linguistic backgrounds through program review and appropriate recommendations.

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Riverside County Behavioral Health Commission is to provide public, consumer, and family member input into the planning process of mental health and substance abuse services and to assist the Riverside County Department of Behavioral Health in carrying out its mandated functions, to advocate as a united voice on substance use and mental health consumer issues, and to promote improvement in the quality, quantity, and cultural competency of behavioral health services delivered to the residents of Riverside County.”

THE MISSION OF THE CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH MASTER PLAN

(Passed as part of the Bonzan-McCorquodale Act of 1991)

“The mission of California’s mental health system shall be to enable persons experiencing severe and disabling mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances to access services and programs that assist them in a manner tailored to each individual, to better control their illness, to achieve their personal goals, and to develop skills and supports leading to their living the most constructive and satisfying lives possible in the least restrictive available settings.”

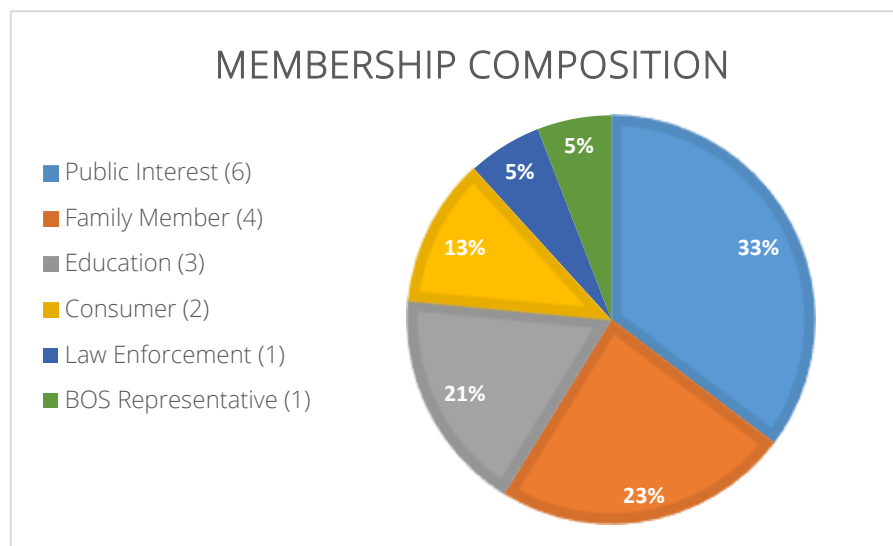
RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

The Behavioral Health Commission continually supports recruitment efforts and encourages new members to join the Commission through a variety of methods that include community outreach and solicitation through diverse venues. These include postings on the Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health and Board of Supervisors websites and distribution of information at community events such as the annual May is Mental Health Month Fair and other community gatherings.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION AND BOARDS

In accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code, Sections 5604, as amended by Chapter 1374: The Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) for the County of Riverside shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. An additional member of the BHC shall be a member of the Board of Supervisors or his/her formal designee. Fifty percent (50%) of the board membership shall be consumers, or the parents, spouses, siblings, or adult children of consumers who are receiving or have received mental health services. At least twenty percent (20%) of the total membership shall be consumers, and at least twenty percent (20%) shall be families of consumers. Each member of the Board of Supervisors shall appoint three persons from their district to the BHC.

The BHC for the County of Riverside also consists of three Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Boards: Western, Mid-County, and Desert. The purpose of the Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Boards is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Regional Administrators and the BHC, and to ensure that all County mental health and substance abuse programs and services of the respective geographical areas are responsive to community needs. The Regional Boards convey the goals and programs of service to the community. They also represent and serve as a two-way communication link between the regional services and the general public, key segments of the community, and geographic areas within the county. Each Regional BHC focuses on specific Supervisorial Districts. The Western Regional Board addresses Supervisorial Districts 1, 2, and parts of 5; the Mid-County Regional Board concentrates on Districts 1, 3, and parts of 5; and the Desert Regional Board focuses on District 4 and parts of 5.



As of June 30, 2023
Total No. of Members: 12
Number of Vacancies: 4

2023 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ROSTER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

VICTORIA ST. JOHNS – CHAIR Family Member/Education District 4 – V. Manuel Perez	BRENDA SCOTT – VICE CHAIR Consumer/ Public Interest District 3 – Chuck Washington	DR. WALTER HAESSLER - SECRETARY Public Interest District 1 - Kevin Jeffries
GREG DAMEWOOD Family Member District 5 – Jeff Hewitt / Yxstian Gutierrez	RICHARD DIVINE Family Member District 2 – Karen Spiegel	RICK GENTILLALLI Public Interest/ Law Enforcement District 3 - Chuck Washington
BEATRIZ GONZALEZ Education District 4 – Manuel Perez	APRIL JONES Public Interest/ Education/Consumer District 3 – Chuck Washington	DEBBIE ROSE Board of Supervisor Representative District 2 – Karen Spiegel
CAROLE SCHAUDT Public Interest District 4 – V. Manuel Perez	DARYL TERRELL Family Member District 5 – Jeff Hewitt / Yxstian Gutierrez	PAUL VALLANDIGHAM Public Interest District 5 – Jeff Hewitt / Yxstian Gutierrez

2023 DESERT REGION ADVISORY BOARD ROSTER

RICHARD DIVINE - Chair Family Member District 4	JANICE L. QUINN, MD - Vice Chair Public Interest District 4	MARK MILLER - Secretary Public Interest District 4
BEATRIZ GONZALEZ Education/Public Interest District 4	CAROLE SCHAUDT Public Interest District 4	FLOYD RHOADES Public Interest District 4
JIM JONES Public Interest District 4	JOSEPH A. BUTTS Public Interest District 4	MAURA FISHER Public Interest District 4
NANCY SPENCER Family Member District 4	SANDRA NEJA Family Member District 4	SHARON HJERPE Public Interest District 4
TORI ST. JOHNS Family Member District 4	BRUCE SHERR Public Interest District 4	EVA GUNTHER-JAMES Public Interest District 4
VACANT- Peer	VACANT- Peer	VACANT- Peer

Total No. of Members: 15
 Number of Vacancies: 3

2023 MID-COUNTY REGION ADVISORY BOARD ROSTER

BRENDA SCOTT – <i>Chair</i> Consumer / Public Interest District 3	RAMON AMADO – <i>Vice Chair</i> Consumer District 3	JENNIFER WOODWORTH – <i>Secretary</i> Family Member/ Public Interest District 3
WALTER T. HAESSLER, MD Public Interest District 1	DOLORES DE MARTINO Family/ Public Interest District 3	GLEN SHEPHERD Consumer District 5
SHANI TODD Family Member / Public District District 3		

Total No. of Members: 7
Number of Vacancies: 8

2021 WESTERN REGION ADVISORY BOARD ROSTER

GREG DAMEWOOD - Chair Family Member District 5	VACANT - Vice Chair Category District	VACANT- Secretary Category District
RICHARD YARBROUGH Consumer/ Family Member/ Public Interest/ Rep. of Alcohol & Drug Com DISTRICT 5	PAMELA NORTON Consumer/ Public Interest/ Rep. of Alcohol & Drug Community DISTRICT 5	

Total No. of Members: 3
 Number of Vacancies: 12

COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL BOARD REPORTS

The Behavioral Health Commission has regional boards and a number of committees tasked with assessing programs, their functions, and effectiveness.

REGIONAL BOARDS:

DESERT REGIONAL BOARD

WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD

MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BOARD

STANDING COMMITTEES:

ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

HOUSING COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

OLDER ADULT INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE

VETERANS COMMITTEE

An annual summary of each regional board and committee's activities are drafted and submitted by the Committee Chairs, Supervisors, and Administrators, which are included on the following pages.

ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE

Brenda Scott – Behavioral Health Commissioner – Adult System of Care Committee Chairperson

Venise Russ – (July-October 2022) - RUHS – Behavioral Health – Behavioral Health Services Administrator

Tonica Robinson (January-May 2023) – RUHS Behavioral Health – Behavioral Health Services Administrator

Bill Brenneman (November 2022 & June 2023) RUHS Behavioral Health – Deputy Director

* * * * *

MISSION STATEMENT

“To promote, support, and advocate for high quality and culturally appropriate services for severely and persistently mentally ill adults and their families residing in Riverside County through formal recommendations.”

GOALS

“To provide Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health and the Behavioral Health Commission with feedback from community stakeholders, consumers, and family members about the mental health and substance abuse needs of adults and their families, to make recommendations about services to best meet the needs of adult consumers and their families, to provide input about policies and advise of necessary changes to existing policies to ensure the delivery of high quality and culturally competent services, to review performance outcomes of mental health programs to determine if they meet the goals of Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health, to improve coordination of services to consumers who receive services from multiple agencies and enhance interagency collaboration.

The committee has been working on and will continue to work on the following goals:

- Increase membership and utilize social media to promote the committee.
- Track transition from RI Wellness Cities to RUHS- Behavioral Health – completed June 2023
- Ambassador workgroups at FSP tracks

* * * * *

The Adult System of Care Committee currently has an average regular attendance of 15-25 people at these meetings. The meetings are attended by RUHS support staff, Behavioral Health Adults Regional Administrators, Deputy Directors, Board Members, Cultural Competency Liaisons, Community Agencies IEHP Liaison, Consumers and Public Members. Administrators for Western, Mid-County and Desert Region Adult Clinics provide monthly updates.

Guest speakers from different agencies provided the following presentations:

Kevin Phalavisay presented on LGBTQ. Kevin is a Riverside University Health Systems Cultural Liaison for the LGBTQ community. As a liaison he is responsible for identifying and advocating for services that adjust the specific needs for

LGBTQ in RUHS Behavioral Health. Kevin shared information on CAGSI- Community Advocating for Gender and Sexuality Issues. Their goals and efforts In the community.

Kimberly Starr and Chris Darbee presented 211/ United Way. Their call center serves Riverside and San Bernardino Counties 24/7. They connect callers to resources including Suicide Helpline if needed. They have 211 programs in their organization available to Riverside County. They hold National Accreditation for Information and Referral Certification held by 11 Community Resource Advisors and 3 Data Base Curators.

Eddie Lopez and Dawn Lastimososa presented Riverside University Health Systems Crisis Teams. The teams provide mobile crisis services and crisis stabilization. They provide linkage to Mental Health Urgent Care, provide short term case management, and connect them to Mental Health Clinics for continued care. The teams respond to calls from law enforcement, hospitals, BH Clinics and the community. Calls from Law Enforcement are usually prioritized for client safety.

Dr. Ernelyn Navarro presented Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Asian Americans Pacific Islander in Riverside. She shared key highlights of some issues that the AAPI community is dealing with and what AATF- Asian American Task Force has done to address the issues. AATF is a community of the Cultural Competency program at RUHS-Behavioral Health.

Josephine Perez presented Man Therapy. Men are highest risk for suicide and least likely to seek help on their own. The Man Therapy website uses dark humor and men speak to draw men in. Their goal is that men can start talking about issues such as substance use, depression, anxiety, anger sleep, relationships and sex, grief, trauma, and suicide. Be able to break down barriers to seek behavioral health services, to act before they ever reach a point of crisis and to smash the notion that men can't talk about their feelings.

Lisa Whitesell presented Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Program is offered through Riverside County Office of Aging. Offered to relatives and caregivers who are at risk for burnout, clients caring for relative who is age 60+ or relative diagnosed with early-onset dementia. They provide Psycho-educational support and support check-in at each session. They also offer Respite Care and Transportation. If additional support is needed, they provide case management, telephone consultations and referrals to other community agencies.

Diana Gutierrez provided an MHSA update. She presented the five MHSA components: Community Services and Supports (CSS), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), Innovation (INN), Workforce Education and Training (WET), Capital Facilities and Technology (CFTN). Shared the 30-day posting and dates for Public Hearings and gave opportunity for feedback.

Melissa Vasquez and Kayla Henry presented TakemyHand which is a Live Peer Chat. It is a Peer-to-Peer live chat interface online. They engage community members in real-time conversations about emotional wellness. Helps visitors build resilience when life is difficult. Explores the recovery process for those who struggle with emotional difficulties and/or substance use challenges. During afterhours, visitors will be linked to Peer videos who share their lived experiences.

Maria Moreno presented La Clave (Learn to Identify the Signs of Serious Mental Illness). This program was designed by Dr. Steven Lopez to educate the Latino Community on Serious Mental Health and knowing the signs by using approaches familiar to their culture such as Music, TeleNovelas, La Comadre, etc. The goal is to normalize mental health illness just like diabetes and other illnesses.

Sherie Park presented Workforce, Education and Training (WET). WET is a part of the MHSA Act and it is one of the five components. Established to address the ongoing workforce development needs for Public Behavioral Health Departments. Specifically focus on recruitment, training, retention of a qualified workforce that is culturally competent and recovery oriented. To incorporate those with lived-experience and language and cultural capacities that help meet needs of the communities they serve.

A number of RUHS-BH Regions and partner agencies continue to participate, attend Adult System of Care (ASOC) Committee meetings, and report on their collaboration with MHSA. These include: Inland Empire Health (IEHP); National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Mt. San Jacinto; NAMI Temecula; NAMI Coachella Valley, Consumer Affairs and Cultural Competency.

Brenda Scott remains the Chairperson for this Committee and continues to focus on recruiting more members.

Ms. Scott regularly attended the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meetings and reported on committee information and suggestions to the BHC. Venise Russ, Behavioral Health Services Administrator for Adult Services was the RUHS-BH Liaison for this Committee. Venise Russ continues to communicate information, findings, and suggestions to RUHS-BH Administration. This ensures that resolutions and recommendations are provided to both the BHC and RUHS-BH, and any necessary follow-up actions are taken, if needed. In turn, feedback is also provided to the ASOC Committee.

Adult System of Care Committee worked on goals to increase Membership. Some of the efforts to increase membership has been to continue to announce the meeting on the department's social media accounts the week of the meeting. A reminder email is sent to supervisors of adult programs within the department asking them to share with staff and consumers. Staff who regularly attend have been task to invite a new guest to each meeting.

The committee created a goal to track the transition from RI Wellness Cities to RUHS Behavioral Health Peer Resources Centers. Peer Resource Centers are now open and providing services. Western Region PRC is located in the Rustin Building, Mid-County Region at the Temecula BH Building and the Desert Region at the Indio BH building. They provide groups, linkage, and peer support. This goal is completed.

Another goal the committee worked on is to create an Ambassador Workgroups at the FSP programs within the clinics. This goal was put on hold while the meeting was virtually due to poor consumer attendance. The committee resumed in person meetings on May 25, 2023. The committee is working on consumer participation to work on goal.

In FY 22/23, the ASOC Committee actively participated in the following events:

- Recovery Happens virtual event September 2022.
- NAMI Walks fundraiser on November 5, 2022 at Diamond Valley Lake. They raised funds to continue provide mental health awareness, support, education and advocacy.
- May is Mental Health Month Fairs in Western, Mid-County and Desert Regions.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Scott, BHC Adult System of Care Committee Chairperson
Bill Brenneman, Deputy Director

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Tori St. Johns – Behavioral Health Commissioner – Children's Committee Chair

Janine Moore – Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health – Deputy Director, Children's and TAY Services

* * * * *

Reporting Period - July 2022 through June 2023

The Children's Committee is a standing committee of the Riverside University Health System - Behavioral Health Commission (BHC). The committee is comprised of consumers, parents/caregivers of consumers, as well as public and private sector representation. The committee advocates for the needs of children who have been identified as, or at risk of, having emotional/behavioral challenges. Advocacy extends to their families and/or caregivers. The Children's Committee presents important issues to the BHC as well as involved agencies, encourages increased family/caregiver input, and networks with local community agencies.

Presentations and RUHS-BH Children's Services Events highlighting FY 22/23.

For the months of July 2022-April 2023, the meetings held virtually due to the pandemic. With the pandemic officially ending in May of 2023, the May 2023 meeting was the first in-person meeting where programs, staff members, committee members, contract providers, the public and guests were able to gather and provide invaluable resources and continue to share information, in order to assist the youth and families in the communities.

July 2022 – Diana Gutierrez, Administration Service Manager, PEI

Video Presentation: Directing Change Local 2022 Winners

The Mental Health Campaign: Directing Change is part of an effort along with other statewide efforts to prevent suicide and reduce stigma related to mental illness, as well as to promote the mental health of students, funded by Counties through the MHSA.

When youth participate in the Directing Change Film contest, they acquire knowledge about mental health and suicide prevention. They are asked to apply this knowledge with their experience and perspective to create 60 seconds public service announcements on various topics surrounding mental health and suicide prevention.

Hope and Justice (New) Category

The Hope & Justice Category initiated because of COVID.

The Hope and Justice videos offers a monthly opportunity for youth not only to submit videos but also other forms of media such as creating art, music, written works and films around different topics related to mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Also making space for students to share their perspectives or personal experience with discrimination and to combat bias and take a stand against injustice.

CalAim documentation reform launched and the Department has focused on supporting staff and contractors in the roll out of several CalAIM initiatives.

The Department received a \$76 million grant for the Recovery Village in the Coachella area. This will include a sobering center, substance abuse residential treatment, supportive housing, outpatient services, and crisis stabilization units for adults as well as kids.

The Village will include a crisis residential program specifically for children, which the County currently does not have. Janine is working with Child Welfare Partners to include an on-site short-term residential therapeutic program.

One point of the village is that they are within a community. There will be a grocery store, training space and/or other activities on the campus that will be available to the community. The goal is to have that Village built in a way that it is welcoming, inclusive, and recovery focused. It is the largest award in the State of California. The Department is also in deep planning to do something very similar in Hemet.

August 2022– Dark

September 2022

International Recovery Happens 2022 Event scheduled for October 13, 2022.

The Recovery Happens Event: Focuses on substance use resources, and promoting recovery. This year PS&T collaborated with the three TAY Centers, Safe House, Youth Opportunity Center, RCOE, DPSS and the Rising Star Business Academy.

With a crowd of over 1,200 community members each year, the event has enjoyed increasing success and visibility over the past years thanks to the creativity and dedication of RUHS staff, volunteers, and participating exhibitors.

The RUHS – BH Pre-School Program hosted a Trauma Response in Infants training that was well received and attended. The Program will meet to discuss ways to expand services to start serving younger children in very early stages and onboarding additional Short Term Residential Treatment Programs to serve dependents placed around the state.

September 10th there was a candlelight vigil in Blythe where the community came together to tell their stories of suicide loss. RUHS-BH was present to provide support and resources.

October 2022 – Shirley Guzman, MHSA Cultural Comp Latinx

Presentation to the District Advisory Council (DAC) Committee on students' social and emotional health, and to the parents that represent the schools on behalf of DAC.

Excited to announce the Sub-Committee (HISLA) Hispanic Latinx is off the ground. In addition, HISLA will be putting together a Resource Fair at the Blythe Palo Verde College Campus towards the end of November 2022.

RUHS – BH has added another contract provider for children's behavioral health services. Sycamores will provide the services for the Palm Springs area.

Desert Region staff and partners participated in the first annual Coachella Valley NAMI Walk and participated in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention "Out of the Darkness Walk".

November & December 2022 Meeting Combined

December 2022:

BHCIP Round 3 funding brought in about \$77 million dollars to RUHS-BH for the Recovery Village Project. The project will include children's crisis continuum programs that have not been available in the County before, including a children's crisis residential program, an urgent care that will be exclusively for youth including little children, a children's outpatient program, and a small STRTP.

RUHS-BH applied for Round 4 funding, and awarded \$4.5 million dollars from the grant that focuses on children and youth crisis services.

Many programs are setting up structures for other models – Eating Disorder, TF-CBT in partnership with PEI and W.E.T. to allow bringing on this additional evidence-based practice to address trauma for youth.

There was a presentation on “Man Therapy” by RUHS-BH Help@Hand: <https://mantoherapy.org>

Growing recognition to reframe mental health care and approach to addressing the mental health needs of men.

January 2023 – PowerPoint Presentation by: Janine Moore, Deputy Director Children’s Services & TAY Programs.

Hemet Recovery Village Plans – Environmentally appropriate

- Access to services, amenities, and full partnerships programs for kids, adults and older adults.
- Thirteen acres and plans for five buildings.
- The program structure planning will be where RUHS-BH will process the feedback, and develop the programming from that input.
- Currently in the physical structure planning. There are no buildings at the location. Construction will begin in 2024 and end in 2025.

Sacramento Behavioral Health Dept. reached out to RUHS-BH to inquire about the Eating Disorder (ED) Program. They are getting many referrals and want to see how Riverside County, Eating Disorder (ED) Teams, are managing things in Riverside.

February 2023 – No formal presentation

RUHS-BH Eating Disorder (ED) Team and VCSS Team hosted the Sacramento Behavioral Health Dept. Eating Disorder Program, who reached out to RUHS-BH to learn about the ED services provided here at RUHS-BH.

They met with the Administration, IEHP, Molina, and with the ED Clinicians/Champions that provide ED treatment. VCSS, participated, by bringing their team to share their experiences, and provided input and feedback.

March 2023 – Presentation – Diana Gutierrez, Program Manager for PEI

PowerPoint MHSA 3-Year Plan and Annual Update FY 23/24 – 25/26.

- May is Mental Health Month events are scheduled throughout the month including but not limited to May 3 from 12-5 p.m., at the Palm Desert Civic Center Park.
- The Desert Region Behavioral Health Commission is putting together the 20th Annual Art Show Event at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission on Tuesday May 9, 11-2 p.m. The event will display art from consumers, families, staff and everyone in the Behavioral Health community.
- In support of some of the Providers that are, putting together events for May is Mental Health Month, the Latino Commission is hosting their first annual walk and the Desert Children’s Region will be a vendor and set up a table in the Coachella area.

RUHS – BH SAPT has eleven clinics countywide providing substance use prevention and treatment services to individuals ages 11 and up. Whole person care approach-what we cannot assist with, we will make sure we refer out.

Onsite School-base Prevention and Treatment Services:

- a. Youth ages 11 and up in over 38 Schools countywide.
- b. Recovery Happens Planning.

FNL –Youth Development Program for 4th – 12th graders, with over 70 Chapters countywide at schools, recreation centers, and school-based organizations.

Club type Chapter, i.e., ASB-where we work with youth and adult ally’s (Chapter Advisors) by helping to develop healthy youth with advocacy, citizenship, activities, etc... to help deter them from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

April 2023 – No formal presentation

The RUHS – BH TOPSS Program in Hemet has started to attend CARES Meetings on campus to support youth and families. This is resulting in coordinating care with the school district.

The Mid-County May is Mental Health Month event scheduled for May 11, 2023 11-4 p.m. in Central Park in Menifee.

May 2023 - PowerPoint Presentation – Janine Moore, Deputy Director of Children’s Services and TAY Programs
The Hemet Recovery Village Project – name changed to – The Hemet Wellness Village Project

The plan is to provide behavioral health services to the Hemet community (whole valley of San Jacinto).

- The community will have access to Health care, Mental Health care, Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Program, Urgent Care, for Children, Adult and Older Adult Services, as well as Veteran Services.

The May is Mental Health Month in the Desert was an amazing event with 70 vendors participating and a large community turn out.

On May 12, TAY came to the Pride Prom in the Desert, Palm Springs Air Museum.

In other locations - Pride Parades are in June; however, the Desert’s Pride Parade is in November.

- TAY provides Children, Middle and High School Youth Zones, lots of activity and free food.
- This year 30 schools will be walking with their banners.

The Leadership Camp scheduled for June 8-11, at Jenks Lake is free for incoming 9th grade High School Students. Parents’ permission is required and Youth from all counties are welcome.

Once a year Supervisor Perez – District 4 – holds a meeting in Blythe. Diana Gutierrez, along with Supervisor Perez and Jim Grisham are on the panel to discuss services in Blythe.

Allison Donahue-Beggs, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Social Services, Children’s Services Division, shared that the department has launched a Mutli-Disciplinary Team meeting to address the youth that are either aging (18 years old) out, or just passing the age of 18 with complex care needs.

- The department pulled an internal team together to talk about the new plans.
- Planning for the next meeting where a youth, a worker and supervisor will present.
- Putting into place long-term services and resources.

Parent Support & Training will provide a Nurturing Father’s Training in collaboration with Juan Carlos who facilitates a group “Modern Macho” on Instagram, where the goal is to support men in all aspects of life, including Mental Health. The first “Nurturing Father Training” scheduled for June 5, 2023

June 2023 – Sona Ardesna, Research & Evaluation

Who We Serve - Consumer Population Profile – Fiscal Year 2021-2022

- Growth of youth served: in F/Y 21-22 under 18 years of age is 13,501 and youth 18-20 years of age is 2,813.
- The proportion of children served 31% is higher than the proportion of children (<18) in the population 23%.
- A history of trauma resulting from mental health CSI Trauma indicator reported on the diagnosis data in the electronic health record.
- A large proportion of children under the age of 18, diagnosed with either a Mood, Anxiety, or Adjustment Disorder (36.1%) or AD/D (22.5%), which includes Oppositional Defiance, Conduct Disorders and Attention Deficit Disorders, or Major Depression (24.2%).

Parent Support and Training Program announced its free Summer Literacy Support Group for Parents: The group will meet weekly (in-person) the Myers Campus. Support group starts on Tuesday June 27 from 6-8 p.m.

The purpose of this program is to support parents in their literacy journey in gaining knowledge on general basics of reading and writing. Supporting them to feel more independent and self-reliable and therefore helping them and their children thrive.

Respectfully submitted,

Tori St. Johns, BHC Children's Committee Chair

Janine Moore, RUHS – BH Deputy Director, Children's Services

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Greg Damewood – Behavioral Health Commissioner – Criminal Justice Committee Chair

Deborah Johnson – Riverside University Health System – BH Director of Innovation and Integration

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VISION

To address housing issues by increasing beds and augmenting Board and Care facilities, to provide Law Enforcement Personnel Training, to promote integration and collaborate with different agencies, to monitor competency programs, and improve safety in jails.

MISSION STATEMENT

To facilitate the recovery of people in the Criminal Justice System, who have behavioral health needs which can include mental health and/or substance use disorders, by enhancing programs in our community through collaboration with County partners, community stake holders, families and other support systems.

* * * * *

GOALS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

1. Housing – Increase Beds and Adult Residential Facilities: Monitor and provide feedback regarding housing; including detox, diversion beds such as short-term transitional residential programs, board and care beds with or without special programs such as dual diagnosis.
2. Training for Law Enforcement Personnel: Monitor training provided to all Riverside County law enforcement and other agencies on crisis intervention. Work towards getting the training to more staff and other Law Enforcement agencies and expanding the training curriculum.
3. Promote Integration and Collaboration with Different Agencies: Work with different agencies in order to promote communication and collaboration.
4. Restoration of Competency Placement and Incompetent to Stand Trial: Monitor the current restoration to competency program and bring forth any concerns for the benefits of inmates with behavioral health needs.
5. Safety in Jails: Discuss safety issues occurring in the jails involving inmates with behavioral health issues with the goal of providing feedback, identifying trends and issues and providing information to the appropriate persons with the goal of a safer incarceration period.
6. Health and Human Services:
 - A. Decrease Positive Drug Tests: Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health has set the goal to reduce positive drug tests of AB109 offenders by 10%. This can be achieved by providing comprehensive screening for substance abuse, linkage to substance abuse services, providing those involved with the Criminal Justice System with appropriate guidance and support to

maintain sobriety such as attending substance abuse groups, 12-step Hazelton's My Ongoing Recovery Experience curriculum, Planning for Success, residential treatment, educational groups such as "Facing Up" that help empower offenders to "face" challenges to sobriety and maintaining good mental health.

B. Increase Attendance at Graduation Ceremonies: The goal for 2023 is to improve attendance of upcoming graduations (e.g. – Recovery Opportunity Court, Family Preservation Court, Mental Health Court, etc.) for both the graduates and those in attendance to celebrate successful re-engagement into the community without formal supervision.

The Criminal Justice Committee (CJC) currently has a total of six (6) members with an average regular attendance of 31 people at these meetings. The Committee contains representation from a number of agencies including Behavioral Health Detention Services, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Probation Department, Public Defender's Office, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialists, Western and Mid-County Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Boards, and Detention Health Services. Consumers and family members also attend CJC meetings. Throughout the past year, the CJC was involved in a variety of activities and had a number of accomplishments.

Director of Innovation and Integration, Deborah Johnson has continuously advocated for the mentally ill in the criminal justice system and has been an integral part in implementing accepted best practices, resulting in the decriminalization of persons with serious mental illness.

HOUSING

The HHOPE Program provides access to multiple opportunities for housing. The Housing Committee has been part of guiding those opportunities and provided valuable input on program priorities.

During FY22/23, a Continuum of Housing was provided through United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), MHSA and other State and community grants. Services included:

- Prevention
- Temporary emergency housing
- Short term rental assistance
- Rapid Re-Housing programs
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Licensed Residential Care
- Street outreach and field-based clinical services needed to connect individuals to housing and healthcare
- Housing Development

HUD – Permanent Supportive Housing – Utilizing a Housing First Approach, RUHS-BH Housing Region supports those chronically homeless individuals with awarded HUD funding for longer and more permanent housing in two primary programs: 1) Low Demand Safe Haven Model Permanent Housing and 2) Scattered Site Permanent Supportive Housing (located in the community of the individual's choice). Permanent supportive housing for individuals with behavioral health challenges is an integral part of the solution to homelessness in Riverside County and is a cornerstone of our consumers' long-term wellness and recovery. These HUD funded projects operate at 100% occupancy.

RUHS-BH HHOPE Program received additional funding to provide 47 scattered site units and beds to chronically homeless consumers with SMI in FY22/23. The HHOPE Program will also be adding 50 Transitional housing and

Recovery residence beds to assist with the Santa Ana River bottom effort. Across the continuum of housing services, RUHS-BH provides serves over 2000 distinct consumers annually and provides over 200,000 total nights of housing.

RUHS-BH and the HHOPE program received an award of \$23.7 million in Round 1 of California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) No Place Like Home Program (NPLH). The funds will create 162 units of permanent supportive housing for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who are homeless, chronically homeless, or are at risk of homelessness. The housing units will be embedded within four affordable apartment communities that will be newly constructed or will undergo rehabilitation. Cathedral Palms Apartments in Cathedral City and Cedar Glen II in Riverside were both opened in 2021. St. Michael's Apartments opened early 2022 and Vista Dorada Apartments opened June 2023 and are both 100% occupied. Oasis Senior Villas in Riverside is expected to open in the Fall of 2023.

RUHS-BH and the HHOPE program received an award of \$25.6 million in Round 3 of California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) No Place Like Home Program (NPLH). The funds will create 119 units of permanent supportive housing for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who are homeless, chronically homeless, or are at risk of homelessness. The housing units will be embedded within four affordable apartment communities that will be newly constructed and will add 267 units total of affordable housing in Riverside County. The projects will be in Palms Springs, Temecula, and Riverside. Units are expected to become available in FY 2023/2024.

RUHS-BH has expended all available MHSA housing development funds held in trust by the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA). RUHS-BH leveraged more than \$19 million in MHSA funds for permanent supportive housing to support the development efforts associated with the creation and planning of more than 850-units of affordable housing throughout Riverside County. Integrated within each of these unique MHSA-funded projects, were 15 units of affordable housing for those at-risk individuals served by the Department Full-Service Partnerships. MHSA-funded RUHS-BH apartment models include 15 integrated supportive housing units within the complexes and supportive services including on-site services in an on-site private dedicated office for our at-risk individuals. The MHSA units within each of these communities operate at near 100% occupancy and experience very little turnover. There continues to be a wait list of over 100 eligible consumers for housing of this kind. Existing units of MHSA permanent supportive housing will remain available to eligible residents for a minimum period of 20 years from the date of initial occupancy.

The RUHS BH Restorative Transformation Center opened April of 2022 which was the renovation of an existing county owned building. It is now a new 30-bed voluntary mental health rehabilitation center with a multidisciplinary team of staff.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COLLABORATIVE

The Law Enforcement Collaborative is a cooperative relationship between RUHS-BH and Riverside County law enforcement agencies and first responders. The collaborative is currently coordinated and maintained under the administration of RUHS-BH Crisis Support System of Care and the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Program.

CIT Program – Crisis Intervention Training Program:

Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) has been a collaborative effort with RUHS BH and Law Enforcement for over 14 years. In the CIT course, RUHS-BH collaborates with Riverside Sheriff's Office (RSO) and Police Departments throughout Riverside County to develop and facilitate Crisis Intervention Trainings.

CIT is a curriculum designed to enhance law enforcement response to people in mental health crisis. The goal of CIT is to provide mental health education and awareness, empower law enforcement personnel, maintain safety for all, and strengthen de-escalation skills in hopes of diverting consumers from involuntary interventions and instead partnering with them to access voluntary care. CIT is created specifically for correctional and patrol officers but has also been successfully adapted to meet the training needs of dispatchers, probation officers, school resource and community service officers and other criminal justice professionals.

Although our initial partnership had been with RSO and Riverside Police Department (RPD) for only the CIT course, enrollment and/or requests for specific mental health education courses from both inside and outside law enforcement and allied agencies continues to increase. As a result of the ongoing collaborative, CIT has developed into the CIT Program as opposed to only a training. The CIT Program, with the support of an additional instructor, includes POST certified instruction with the Advanced Officer Training unit, Core Correctional Academies, and Juvenile and Adult Probation Departments.

The CIT Program continues to support mental health and substance use disorder education and awareness through instruction, modification and development of new curriculum and courses. The CIT Program team consists of law enforcement, two behavioral health lead trainers and multiple guest speakers from various County Behavioral Health programs. In addition, Peer Support Specialists, Parent Partners, and Family Advocates provide lived experience as consumers and family members who have required law enforcement intervention.

From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, fiscal year, the Crisis Intervention Training program trained over 300 number of staff on Crisis Intervention and on average the trainees rated the training at a number 5 which indicates that it was an excellent training and stated that it meet their learning objective expectations.

CBAT – Community Behavioral Assessment Team:

The Community Behavioral Assessment Team (CBAT) is a co-responder crisis team comprised of a clinical therapist and a law enforcement officer (Sheriff or PD). Recognizing the role of law enforcement and the mental health needs of community members, this particular crisis response model was first implemented over seven years ago with the Riverside Police Department, followed by the Hemet Police Department in 2017. CBAT functions as a special unit that responds to 911 behavioral health related crisis calls, mental health emergencies/5150, substance abuse and homeless related crisis. CBAT provides rapid response field-based risk assessment, crisis intervention and de-escalation, linkage and referrals. One of the goals of CBAT is to provide field officers a resource for calls that require more time and specialized attention. In addition, the goal of CBAT is to divert and decrease psychiatric inpatient hospitalizations whenever possible, decrease incarceration, decrease ED admissions, reduce repeated patrol calls, make appropriate linkages to care and resources and strengthen partnerships between the community, law enforcement and behavioral health.

CBAT locations expanded from two teams working with the Riverside Police Department and the Hemet Police Department, to 17 teams:

Riverside Police Department	Temecula Sheriff Station
Hemet Police Department	Cabazon Sheriff Station
Indio Police Department	Hemet Sheriff Station
Murrieta Police Department	Perris Sheriff Station
Beaumont Police Department	Jurupa Sheriff Station
Cathedral City Police Department	Lake Elsinore Sheriff Station
Corona Police Department	Palm Desert Sheriff Station
Menifee Police Department	Thermal Sheriff Station
Moreno Valley Sheriff Station	Temecula Sheriff Station

In addition, this fiscal year we implemented the County's first Community Assessment and Transportation Team (CATT) which is another co-responder crisis model but with a Clinical Therapist and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). This team will be located in the city of Hemet and will respond to mental health crisis with a focus on substance abuse. Additionally, collaboration has begun with RUHS-BH and selected college campuses throughout Riverside County to implement CBAT located on site to work with college health services and security for students and others in crisis.

RUHS-BH NEW LIFE (AB109) PROGRAM

RUHS-BH New Life has provided the following Realignment services during FY 21/22 to AB 109 offenders, including those incarcerated in the county's five detention facilities:

- Mental health and substance use disorder screenings
- Crisis management and triage
- Adult full assessments
- Development of an individualized client care plan
- Individual therapy
- Case management
- Family therapy
- Group therapy
- Substance use treatment groups
- Mental health groups
- Educational groups
- Recreational therapy
- Psychotropic medication management
- Urinalysis testing (UA drug testing)
- Withdrawal management
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Recovery Services
- SUD Residential Services
- Recovery Residences (Sober Living)
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Services
- Comprehensive discharge planning including recovery services
- Coordination of prison releases with the Probation Department for PRCS offenders
- Emergency and Transitional housing
- Transportation

Behavioral Health Screenings for mental health and substance use are conducted at Probation sites, Behavioral Health (BH) outpatient clinics, and detention facilities to identify the AB 109 offenders' needs and determine the course of treatment and linkage to services. Behavioral Health screenings consist of questions related to mental health, substance use, housing, legal history, and treatment history. The BH screening form generates a referral based on the consumer's response to determine if there are any safety risks, if a risk assessment is necessary, and the acuity level which will dictate the level of care and referral. The BH screening form also determines if a substance use referral is necessary which would lead to a Substance Use Disorder screening to determine the level of care needed for substance use treatment.

Behavioral health staff are dispatched to detention facilities to provide collaborative jail in-reach. Jail in-reach involves an AB 109 case manager, Justice Outreach Team (JOT) staff that consist of a drug and alcohol counselor and peer support specialist, detention staff, and inmates with open BH cases who are approaching discharge. BH staff provide inmates with New Life services available and provides collaborative linkage and referral as needed to

Day Reporting Centers (DRCs), New Life AB 109 outpatient behavioral health clinics or Forensic Full-Service Partnerships (FFSPs).

Adult full assessments are completed on all AB 109 offenders entering treatment with RUHS-BH. This assessment includes a thorough assessment of mental health and substance use treatment needs and identifies problem areas, medical necessity, treatment goals, and interventions to improve identified impairments. Re-assessments are completed annually.

Client care plans establish treatment focus by identifying treatment goals and interventions to be utilized. Goals are required to be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time bound. Goals may include improvements in mental health, substance use, educational, occupational, housing, relationships, etc.

Individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, and BH groups (mental health and substance use) are offered at our New Life clinics, DRCs, and FFSP. In addition, educational groups are offered to AB 109 consumers which include:

- Courage to Change (facilitated by DRC Probation)
- Substance Use Education (New Direction)
- Release and Re-integration (New Direction)
- Criminal and Addictive Thinking (New Direction)
- Anger Management (SAMSHA)
- Planning for Success (formerly WRAP)
- Wellness and Empowerment in Life and Living (WELL)
- Facing Up (empowerment to 'face' life circumstances previously avoided)
- Triple P Parenting Classes

Comprehensive discharge planning is essential to continuity of care and the client's treatment success and maintenance. Discharge planning includes, when applicable, substance use recovery services which are used when the client is no longer requiring primary treatment and is ready for discharge. Recovery services occur in a variety of settings such as outpatient aftercare, relapse/recovery groups, 12-step, and self-help groups as well as sober living housing.

Riverside University Health System- Behavioral Health collaborates with Enhanced Care Management (ECM) nurses, (formerly known as Whole Person Care), to provide screenings at probation sites to identify the physical needs and behavioral health needs of consumers. ECM is state funded program designed to identify newly released probationer needs and provide linkages to services.

We have established Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Services in the detention centers for those who need medication to assist with recovery from drug addiction. Also, to assist with referrals from jail and prisons, we established a SUD referral system where referrals for MAT services are provided to RUHS-BH's CARES Line to streamline referrals.

When appropriate, clients are linked to RUHS-BH's psychiatrist for assessment and medication management. AB 109 staff work very closely with the psychiatrist to collaborate management of psychotropic medications and keep psychiatrists informed of outcomes including improvements or side effects.

STATISTICS:

During FY 21/22, RUHS-BH has provided 131,839 mental health services and 139,007 substance use services. RUHS-BH served 1,981 unduplicated clients with mental health diagnoses while also serving 1,001 unduplicated clients with substance use diagnoses. Services provided include mental health and substance use screenings and

assessments, medication services (4,698 for FY 21/22), substance use disorder residential and detox services, intensive outpatient services and comprehensive full-service partnership wraparound services.¹

Emergency housing and transitional housing also remains a core basic need for AB 109 offenders. During FY 21/22, there were beds available to AB 109 offenders through Behavioral Health's HHOPE Program.

During FY 21/22, AB 109 Housing was provided as follows:

- Mental Health Emergency Housing Bed Nights – 22,254
- Mental Health Rental Assistance Bed Nights – 30
- Probation (Non-MH) Emergency Housing Bed Nights – 938
- Probation (Non-MH) Transitional Housing Bed Nights – 2,879
- Total Served in FY 21/22:
 - 1090 - Males
 - 117 - Females
 - 0 - Children
 - Grand Total= 1207 (increase from 328 served FY 20/21).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS – FY 21/22:

The following are a summary of goals for FY 21/22 with progress updates on goal attainment.

- Design Core Outcome Measures for Forensic Outpatient clinics: RUHS-BH will aim to develop core outcome measures for non-FSP forensic programs to demonstrate consumer progress (e.g., risk behaviors, behavioral health symptoms, medical, psychiatric crises, and hospitalizations, legal, housing, education, employment, and coping skills.). There are currently similar outcome measures and data collection for FFSP programs.

Goal attained: New Life developed a new outcome measure tool named the I-CAN (Individualized Care and Needs) Assessment. The I-CAN assessment measure includes (23) outcome measures: Suicide & Self Harm Risk; Depression; Anxiety; Psychosis; Mania; Anger Management; Eating Problems; Trauma; Impulsive Behavior; Substance Use; SUD Stages of Recovery; Access to Primary Care Physician; Emergency Department Visits; Psychiatric Medication Adherence; Acute Psychiatric Hospitalizations; Mental Health Urgent Care Visits; Criminal Behavior; Permanent Housing; Education & Skills Training; Employment; BH Symptom Management; Gambling Behavior; and Interpersonal Relationships.

The I-CAN was piloted for 90 days at New Life clinics in addition to other adult outpatient BH clinics. The pilot study data is in its final draft stages. Next steps include implementing the I-CAN into our electronic health record system, ELMR.

- Expansion of Forensic Full-Service Partnership (FFSPs): RUHS-BH aims to expand FFSP for Mid-County and Desert Regions. In prior years, the only AB 109 FFSP was in Riverside. This year, the goal is to expand to San Jacinto into a new larger clinic space and implement a new Indio clinic to allow additional coverage areas for consumers who need intensive New Life services.

Goal attained: New Life has met this goal by developing San Jacinto FFSP and Indio FFSP. In addition, a new clinic location was secured for San Jacinto New Life expansion, which will house the San Jacinto New Life clinic and FFSP staff. Currently, this new clinic location is in the construction phase to make improvements to facilities.

- Promote Technology Based Programming to address Behavioral Health: RUHS-BH aims to utilize technology to promote wellness and recovery via the TakeMyHand.co live peer chat platform as well as installation of Kiosks in the lobbies of Day Reporting Centers and Forensic Outpatient clinics. The Kiosks offer wellness applications for consumers to address behavioral health symptoms, provide direct access to Take My Hand live peer chat, and provide access to MyHealthPoint, which provides consumer access to their health records, ability to download lab results, view current medications, etc.

Goal attained: This goal was attained as we provided technology-based programming relating to BH needs at the Day Reporting Centers. Kiosks were installed into the lobbies of these areas as planned.

GOALS – FY 22/23:

- Develop New Outcome Reports: RUHS-BH will develop new outcome reports using the newly developed I-CAN, which is the (23) core outcome measures for AB 109 programs to demonstrate consumer progress (e.g., risk behaviors, behavioral health symptoms, medical, psychiatric crises, and hospitalizations, legal, housing, education, employment, and coping skills). Such reports will allow New Life to demonstrate measurable improvement in consumer’s mental health and substance use, as well as overall functioning.
- Expansion of New Life Clinic in Indio: RUHS-BH aims to expand New Life services in the Desert Region, namely Indio New Life. Previous New Life clinics in the desert were in remote areas where volume of services was relatively low. This year, the goal is to expand to New Life Indio clinic to allow additional coverage areas for consumers who need intensive New Life services. Indio tends to be a high-volume area for services.
- Expansion of Justice Outreach Teams in San Jacinto and Indio: RUHS-BH aims to expand the Justice Outreach Teams (JOT), which are field-based screening and referral teams, which help with linkage to New Life programs. Presently, JOT has (2) teams located in Riverside that provide countywide services. The goal for FY 22/23 is to expand (2) additional JOT teams for San Jacinto and Indio.

RUHS-BH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAM, DRUG COURTS, AND FAMILY PRESERVATION COURT

The Collaborative Courts are an evidence-based drug court model, which establishes a court team that builds on a long lasting partnership of community provided services that involve county government departments and Superior Court administration. The Collaborative Courts work with individuals and families in the criminal justice and child welfare systems who have been met with the challenge of substance abuse, mental illness, and other social welfare issues. Clients are supervised by judicial officers who oversee the consumer treatment progress through regular court hearings, which includes the use of incentives and sanctions. It is vital that this community collaborative creates access to substance abuse and mental health treatment along with a myriad of additional agencies that provide academic and vocational programming, social services for offenders and their families, housing resources and other resources needed for a successful reentry into the community. The goal of the Collaborative Courts is to improve consumer outcomes, reduce recidivism and improve public safety.

The Recovery Opportunity Center (ROC) program is a collaborative effort between Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) and our partners in the Riverside Superior Court, Riverside County Public Defender and District Attorneys’ offices, local private attorneys, Probation Department, Family Advocate, RUHS-BH community services, as well as private insurance services. Together with our partners we work to develop a

comprehensive 18 – 24-month program for each participant (must be at least 18 years of age) consisting of a stable place for the person to live, linkage to outpatient/community services to address their substance use/mental health treatment needs as well as frequent oversight by the Probation Department and the Court. Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (SAPT) operates four adult Drug Courts in the County located in Riverside, San Jacinto, Indio, and Blythe. These long-standing adult collaborative courts boast high outcomes and work in close proximity with the judicial courts for the best guidance and treatment possible for consumers. The ROC Program faced a decrease in referrals with the passing of AB1950 on January 1, 2021, which reduces probation supervision to a maximum of two years; however, our Collaborative Teams worked diligently to address these changes and modify the program to continue the same quality services and make the program enticing for those that could benefit from it. More recently, the Collaborative Teams have focused on increasing access to high risk and high need individuals, while maintaining public safety. For fiscal year 2022 – 2023, the ROC program received over 300 referrals. Of those potential participants, 32% agreed to and were accepted into the program.

SAPT continues to work with the Riverside Court to serve the Juvenile Drug Court (JUST). This endeavor has been serving the youth that are referred to Juvenile Drug Court since January 2017. The Collaborative Team began updating the operations manual last fiscal year. Recently, the JUST Protocols were finalized. Though referrals have been low, RUHS-BH SAPT serves qualified candidates from three Clinics located in Riverside, Moreno Valley, and Corona. The program has had five referrals this past year with four who are currently enrolled.

Family Preservation Court (FPC) seeks to do what is in the best interest of the family by providing a safe and secure environment for the child while intensively treating the parent's substance abuse and other related issues. FPCs' goals are to protect children and to reunite families by providing parents support, treatment, and access to services. Family Preservation Court has been operated for the County by a contractor since 2007 and as of April 2017, the Department has taken back all treatment services for this population. These Family Preservation Court services are now located in RUHS-BH SAPT Clinics in Corona, Moreno Valley, Riverside, San Jacinto, Perris, Temecula, Indio, and Desert Hot Springs. The collaboration between SAPT and Children & Family Services (CFS) works to address and serve pre-filing and post-filing cases to reunite and keep families together. In late 2022, RUHS-BH SAPT and the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) partnered to pilot, and later launch, a Centralized Screening program aiming to increase referrals to FPC. Within this program, DPSS refers candidates who are in need of a substance use disorder (SUD) screening. SAPT then completes the SUD screening and recommends a level of treatment. If suitable, candidates are offered FPC and linked to SAPT Clinics for services. For fiscal year 2022 – 2023, the FPC program received more than 100 referrals. Of those potential participants, 67% agreed to and were accepted into the program.

DETENTION STAFFING AND PROGRAM UPDATES

During last fiscal year 2022-2023, Detention staffing levels have increased almost 20%, from 65% to 83% respectively. We also resumed regular structured programming at all Detention facilities since the pandemic which include routine therapeutic contacts, daily group therapy sessions, recreation therapy, and psychotropic medication management services and discharge planning/re-entry services.

In addition, we have made several improves to the program. The Behavioral Acuity Level Rating System was updated to better align with acuity levels in outpatient treatment in the community and CDCR Mental Health treatment. We have implemented the Behavioral Health Program Guide treatment services which standardizes the types and amount of treatment services inmates with varying degrees of mental health needs can expect to receive while in custody. We have established a Continuous Quality Improvement Meeting which includes representatives from Behavioral Health, Riverside Sheriff's Office and Correctional Health Services as well as a Suicide Prevention Subcommittee Meeting which includes representatives from Behavioral Health, Riverside Sheriff's Office, and Correctional Health Services. We also implemented suicide prevention training for all disciplines at detention facilities who have direct contact with inmates. In addition, Behavioral Health has developed a policy and protocol

for involuntary psychotropic medication for non-emergency situations which will require a court-order for the use of involuntary medication (PC 2603). This process will soon be implemented within the jails. Furthermore, we had made improvements to the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program for opioid and alcohol use disorder and are making sure inmates have discharge medication upon release and are linked to community MAT Programs.

Finally, we continue to provide discharge planning and upon release inmates with an open mental health case are referred to a Day Reporting Center (DRC) or a Behavioral Health outpatient mental health or substance use program. We are working to increase the number of successful re-entry experiences for its consumers to community based mental health programs. The new CalAim Justice Involved initiative for re-entry planning will only enhance in reach re-entry services for consumers before being released into the community. Behavioral Health recently received PATH funding to establish a Justice In Reach Team that will only bolster re-entry planning efforts to assist with reducing recidivism.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Mental Health Court Program: Riverside County's first Mental Health Court program came into existence in November 2006, under Proposition 63, MHSA funding and is located in the Downtown Riverside area. The Mental Health Court program expanded its service area to include the Desert Region in 2007 and the Mid-County Region in 2009. The Mental Health Court program is a collaborative effort between Riverside University Health System Behavioral Health (RUHS – BH) and our partners in the Riverside Superior Court, Riverside County Public Defender and District Attorneys' offices, local private attorneys, Probation Department, Family Advocate, RUHS-BH community services, as well as private insurance services. Together with our partners we work to develop a comprehensive 12-month program for each participant (must be at least 18 years of age) consisting of a stable place for the person to live, linkage to outpatient/community services to address their mental health/substance use treatment needs, as well as frequent oversight by the Probation Department and the Court. During FY 22/23 there were a total of 147 referrals received across all three regions of which 31 were accepted into the program and a total of 56 successfully "promoted" from the program. In order for the court to consider a participant ready to "promote" from the Mental Health Court program, certain criteria must be met. The criteria requires that a participant have a stable place to live, actively engaged in their outpatient treatment for at least 90 consecutive days, have not produced a positive urinalysis over the last 90 days and have never been charged with a new crime during their time in the program.

Additional programs, which fall under Mental Health Court, include Mental Health Diversion, Veterans Treatment Court, Military Diversion, HOME Court, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Mental Health Diversion

Mental Health Diversion Program: On July 1, 2018, Penal Code 1001.36, also known as Mental Health Diversion, came into effect as Governor Brown signed the budget into law. With the passage of this new pretrial diversion law, individuals who are accused of committing a crime may now be eligible to postpone any further action from taking place in their case(s), in lieu of receiving mental health treatment. During FY 22/23 Mental Health Court received 415 referrals, across all regions, from the Riverside County Superior Court to assess individuals and assist the court in determining whether the person met the necessary criteria to be considered eligible for Mental Health Diversion. As part of the assessment process, Mental Health Court staff will provide the court with a detailed treatment plan for their consideration, which outlines recommended services for the individual as well as available housing options. Of the 415 referrals received, the court granted Mental Health Diversion in 94 of those cases. Because the Mental Health Diversion program may last anywhere from 12 – 24 months, the treatment plan prepared by Mental Health Court staff must also take this length of time into consideration when being developed. Should the court find the person to be eligible for the program and adopt the recommended treatment plan, Mental Health Court staff then work towards implementing said treatment plan and provide follow up case management services while the person is in the program. While in the program, participants are expected to be actively engaged in their treatment, remain abstinent from all illicit substances and alcohol, as well as report to the court at least every 30 – 90 days for a

progress hearing. During this reporting period, 30 of participants successfully completed the Mental Health Diversion program will allow them to have their charges dismissed and their record of arrest sealed.

Veterans Treatment Court/Military Diversion: Veterans Treatment Court continues to have a positive impact in the lives of the men and women who so valiantly served our country, along with those closest to them and the communities in which they live. From July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, the Veterans Treatment Court program received 66 new referrals. In addition, 115 referrals were received to assess Active Duty, Reserve, and Veterans who were interested in the Military Diversion program, which is also offered through Veterans Treatment Court. Unlike Veterans Treatment Court, Military Diversion offers participants the opportunity to enter the program without having to plead guilty which is a unique benefit as it will allow those on Active Duty and in the Reserves to remain serving while they are also receiving treatment. During FY22/23 there was a total of 78 participants who graduated from Veterans Treatment Court or Military Diversion.

Incompetent To Stand Trial (IST): Riverside County typically has an average of 55 individuals who were found incompetent to stand trial and are awaiting transfer to a State Hospital for competency restoration with Felonies. These individuals spend an average of three months in Riverside County Jail waiting for an available State Hospital bed. The County's mission is to provide intensive community-based psychiatric treatment for these individuals. Rather than allowing them to remain in custody awaiting transfer to a State Hospital for competency restoration, they will be transferred to residential mental health treatment step-down programs where they will receive a wide array of behavioral health services. The ultimate purpose of this program is not restoration for adjudication but rather long-term psychiatric stabilization such that following completion of the Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (FIST) program, one's legal charges can be dismissed, and he or she may reside in the community with on-going supportive behavioral health services.

During the course of this review period, the IST Diversion program received 56 referrals, of which 12 candidates were found to meet the requisite criteria and accepted into the program. A frequent challenge encountered by behavioral health staff during the assessment and review process is finding out that the client has no interest in receiving mental health/medication services. Knowledge of this is a determining factor for the Court and often leads to a swift rejection of the program, so that the Department of State Hospitals is aware that the person will not be diverted and to move forward with placement at one of their facilities.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program (Laura's Law): A community-based referral program for immediate family members, treating agencies, licensed mental health professionals, peace officers and judicial officers, who believe someone they know could potentially benefit from court-ordered mental health/substance use services. As part of this process, a team consisting of a clinical therapist, case manager and peer support specialist, will engage the consumer and offer the person outpatient services to address their needs. If the consumer continues to reject efforts to involve them in outpatient services, then the AOT staff are able to escalate the referral to the AOT Review Committee and AOT Psychologist for further review and determination. If the AOT Committee and Psychologist believe court-ordered services are recommended as a means of stabilizing the consumer in the community, a petition will be filed by County Counsel in the Civil Court. Should the Court agree with the treatment plan submitted as part of the petition, the Court will order the Consumer to follow through and participate in the recommended plan for up to six months.

HOME (Homeless Outreach, Mediation and Education) Court: An alternative sentencing program developed for those who are facing criminal prosecution and are suffering from homelessness. The program promotes community-based treatment to assist those individuals struggling with homelessness, or are in imminent danger of becoming homeless, and who are facing prosecution for quality-of-life infractions, misdemeanors, and low-level felonies. The overall goal of this program is to reduce recidivism and protect public safety by collaboratively working together with our justice partners, to address and treat the underlying needs of the participants, through engagement in FSP level services, intensive case management and ongoing support from all members of the program, to ensure that each participant has the resources and opportunity they need to succeed in the community. This will be accomplished through recognizing each participant's accomplishments and efforts they

have made to resolve their cases and work towards re-integration as a successful and productive member of the community. While in the program, participants will focus on gaining residential stability, employment and/or education, substance, and mental health rehabilitation, learning life skills, counseling, and family reunification.

Overall Program Challenges: Obtaining housing for our consumers participating in the various Mental Health Court programs continues to be a challenge as we are often presented with individuals who are coming directly out of our community jails, who have no income or credit and/or have criminal charges, which causes landlords in an already tight housing market to not rent to them. There is also a constrained supply of beds for individuals for whom we are seeking institutional housing (such as adult residential facilities).

PATTON STATE HOSPITAL WAITING LIST

During the last fiscal year 2022-2023, there were 114 individuals transferred to the State Hospital. The wait time for State Hospital beds has dramatically decreased over the past year, varying between 2 months up to 4 months. The Liberty Healthcare Restoration of Competency (ROC) Program has allowed clients to receive services competency restoration within the jail (RPDC). Those who successfully complete the Liberty Health ROC program are deemed competent to stand trial by the Court and to move forward with the adjudication of their case and avoid a State Hospital sentence.

A total of 42 inmates were referred and admitted to Liberty Health for restoration of competency during the fiscal year. Of those referred and admitted, 8 (19%) were successfully restored to competency by the RPDC-based Liberty Health Program. Some of the those admitted to the Liberty Health program were determined not to be restorable at Robert Presley Detention Center (RPDC) and were transferred to a Department of State Hospital for competency restoration.

In addition, the EASS program through the Department of State Hospital was established at Smith Correctional Facility around February 2022 and later rolled out to Robert Presley Detention Center for the female inmates to assist with competency restoration while awaiting transfer to State Hospital.

Furthermore, in collaboration with Mental Health Court, RUHS-BH established a felony IST Diversion program in 2021. During this last fiscal year there were 12 individuals accepted into the program. We believe this program will continue to help alleviate the extended wait time for State Hospital treatment and provide an alternative to DSH competency restoration.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Damewood, Criminal Justice Committee Chair
Deborah Johnson, LCSW, Director of
Innovation/Integration

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tori St. Johns – Behavioral Health Commission – Chair
Brenda Scott – Behavioral Health Commission – Vice-Chair
Walter Haessler – Behavioral Health Commission – Secretary

During the fiscal year 2022/2023, the Riverside County Behavioral Health Commission continued to face many challenges due to the on-going covid-19 pandemic. The commission continued to meet via zoom and unfortunately, many in-person events were canceled and adapted to meet the COVID-19 restriction requirements. However, the Governor terminated the state's COVID-19 State of Emergency on February 28, 2023 and the Behavioral Health Commission has since then returned to in person meetings.

At the end of every BHC meeting, members are asked to suggest topics of interest or programs that they wish to learn about, the Executive Committee continued to meet via phone to review the suggestions and set the agenda for the next meeting.

The Behavioral Health Department has done an excellent job in keeping the Commission informed of the inner workings of the Department, everything from staff changes to the different programs and budgets. During the committee meetings the agenda has 3 standing reports: Director's Report, MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) Update, and SAPT (Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment) Update. During these three standing reports, the Commission receives valuable data on most of the programs and clinics that the Department offers.

During the last 30 minutes of the meeting, our standing and ad-hoc committees report on their activities since our last meeting. Our committees will include a separate report in our annual report for your review.

The Executive Committee would like to take this time to thank Dr. Chang for always keeping the Commission aware of the Department's activities and for answering our questions. Dr. Chang has made sure that our Commission is well informed and challenges us to be the best we can be.

Hopefully, in reviewing this report, the Board of Supervisors will see that our Behavioral Health Commission, in conjunction with the Department, keeps well informed on the needs of RUHS-BH and the consumers throughout our regions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Gentillalli – Behavioral Health Commission – Chair
April Jones – Behavioral Health Commission – Vice-Chair
Tori St. Johns – Behavioral Health Commission – Secretary

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Brenda Scott – Behavioral Health Commissioner – Housing Committee Chair

Marcus Cannon – Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health – HHOPE Manager

GOALS

The goal of the Housing Committee is to provide input on housing crisis strategies, housing planning, and provide input to staff on emergent issues and concerns that impact consumers of the Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH). The Housing Committee members also serve as key stakeholders in reviewing Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) housing development projects. The Housing Committee continues to meet monthly with community members, RUHS-BH staff, and Commission members.

OVERVIEW

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) provides funding specifically for the development of permanent supportive housing for people who are living on the street in a housing crisis, or those who remain at risk of homelessness and have a chronic, persistent, and disabling mental health challenge. RUHS-BH, with input from our stakeholders and the committee, has implemented a balanced countywide strategy to ensure that continuums of housing and street engagement services are available for those in a housing crisis. These services are provided across the County and ensure that the housing and outreach response opportunities address the housing crisis needs of all ages and populations. RUHS-BH department practices Housing First principles and recognizes that safe and stable living conditions are essential for wellness and recovery.

The Behavioral Health Commission Housing Committee holds monthly meetings to inform, educate, and plan future homeless and housing services. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic meetings began to be held virtually in April of 2020 and continue being held virtually. Highlights of presentations during FY22-23 included presentations on housing development, transitional housing for restorative justice, tenants' rights, and licensed care type housing from: City of Riverside, Starting Over Inc., RUHS-BH Homeless Housing Partnership & Opportunities (HHOPE) program, RUHS-BH Workforce Education and Training (WET), Palm Communities, Jamboree Housing, Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services (NPHS), National Community Renaissance, & West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, Abode Communities, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition to name a few.

CONTINUUM OF HOUSING PROGRAMS

Using the available funding, the HHOPE Program provides access to multiple opportunities for housing. The Housing Committee has been part of guiding those opportunities and provided valuable input on program priorities.

During FY22/23, a Continuum of Housing was provided through United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), MHSA and other State and community grants. Services included:

- Prevention
- Temporary emergency housing
- Short term rental assistance
- Rapid Re-Housing programs
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Licensed Residential Care
- Street outreach and field-based clinical services needed to connect individuals to housing and healthcare
- Housing Development

HUD – Permanent Supportive Housing – Utilizing a Housing First Approach, RUHS-BH Housing Region supports those chronically homeless individuals with awarded HUD funding for longer and more permanent housing in two primary programs: 1) Low Demand Safe Haven Model Permanent Housing and 2) Scattered Site Permanent Supportive Housing (located in the community of the individual's choice). Permanent supportive housing for individuals with behavioral health challenges is an integral part of the solution to homelessness in Riverside County and is a cornerstone of our consumers' long-term wellness and recovery. These HUD funded projects operate at 100% occupancy.

RUHS-BH HHOPE Program received additional funding to provide 47 scattered site units and beds to chronically homeless consumers with SMI in FY22/23. The HHOPE Program will also be adding 50 Transitional housing and Recovery residence beds to assist with the Santa Ana River bottom effort.

Across the continuum of housing services, RUHS-BH provides serves over 2000 distinct consumers annually and provides over 200,000 total nights of housing.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

RUHS-BH and the HHOPE program received an award of \$23.7 million in Round 1 of California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) No Place Like Home Program (NPLH). The funds will create 162 units of permanent supportive housing for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who are homeless, chronically homeless, or are at risk of homelessness. The housing units will be embedded within four affordable apartment communities that will be newly constructed or will undergo rehabilitation. Cathedral Palms Apartments in Cathedral City and Cedar Glen II in Riverside were both opened in 2021. St. Michael's Apartments opened early 2022 and Vista Dorada Apartments opened June 2023 and are both 100% occupied. Oasis Senior Villas in Riverside is expected to open in the Fall of 2023.

RUHS-BH and the HHOPE program received an award of \$25.6 million in Round 3 of California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) No Place Like Home Program (NPLH). The funds will create 119 units of permanent supportive housing for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who are homeless, chronically homeless, or are at risk of homelessness. The housing units will be embedded within four affordable apartment communities that will be newly constructed and will add 267 units total of affordable housing in Riverside County. The projects will be located in Palms Springs, Temecula, and Riverside. Units are expected to become available in FY 2023/2024.

RUHS-BH has expended all available MHPA housing development funds held in trust by the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA). RUHS-BH leveraged more than \$19 million in MHPA funds for permanent supportive housing to support the development efforts associated with the creation and planning of more than 850-units of affordable housing throughout Riverside County. Integrated within each of these unique MHPA-funded projects, were 15 units of affordable housing for those at-risk individuals served by the Department Full Service Partnerships. MHPA-funded RUHS-BH apartment models include 15 integrated supportive housing units within the complexes and supportive services including on-site services in an on-site private dedicated office for our at-risk individuals. The MHPA units within each of these communities operate at near 100% occupancy and experience very little turnover. There continues to be a wait list of over 100 eligible consumers for housing of this kind. Existing units of MHPA permanent supportive housing will remain available to eligible residents for a minimum period of 20 years from the date of initial occupancy.

The RUHS BH Restorative Transformation Center opened April of 2022 which was the renovation of an existing county owned building. It is now a new 30-bed voluntary mental health rehabilitation center with a multidisciplinary team of staff.

AGENTS OF CHANGE

RUHS-BH continues to actively engage community stakeholders and partners in order to facilitate in active dialogue and community conversations, which allow us opportunities to be positive Agents of Change in our community.

- RUHS-BH continues close partnerships with local community agency partners such as the Riverside County HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) to increase the ways in which to meet the housing needs for those living on the streets or at risk and served by our programs and educate on the special needs of an individual with a behavioral health challenge.
- The HHOPE Program continues to serve as the lead agency of Riverside County's Coordinated Entry System. The program named HomeConnect serves as a 24/7 access, assessment, and referral system for those who are homeless. HomeConnect staff connect those who are homeless to services and use a vulnerability assessment to identify those with the longest lengths of homelessness and highest severity of service need to prioritize those for the first available housing resources.
- HHOPE continues to support and facilitate bi-weekly Coordinated Entry System (CES) meetings with a multitude of public, private, and non-profit stakeholders in the homeless system to coordinate homeless and housing services. Average weekly attendance is 100+ (though meetings are now held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic). This has been an exciting opportunity to be Agents of Change to our community partners on the needs and priority for housing for our individuals.
- In November of 2016, this group of our community partners, including the Veterans Administration and Services programs, as well as HHOPE was recognized by the Board of Supervisors, HUD and Veterans program leaders in Washington D.C. for reaching Functional Zero in veterans' homelessness. As the first large community in the nation to do so, we now strive forward to ensure the sustainability of that achievement.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FY 23/24

HHOPE is actively involved in our Department's CalAIM implementation. Our County managed care plans have elected to provide Community Supports (CS) as part of their CalAIM offerings. This will allocate additional funding for HHOPE to increase housing deposits, housing transition and housing tenancy services. HHOPE will also provide Enhanced Care Management Services (ECM) funded through CalAIM. Again, this will bolster our housing program's ability to serve high needs households and ensure needed connections in a holistic manner including healthcare, housing, and social services.

There continues to be a large gap in funding for new permanent supportive housing that severely constrains the capacity of RUHS-BH to expand this innovative and proven program. Affordable housing communities provide a natural setting and partnership for the development and co-location of supportive housing units within those communities. RUHS-BH continues to support affordable housing development and development projects as funding becomes available and advocacy for special needs housing for very low-income residents, particularly those who are in a housing crisis living on the streets or at risk, who have severe and persistent mental health challenges.

Arlington Recovery Community, a 54-bed integrated mental health and substance use residential treatment center, designed to reduce unnecessary incarceration and offer a full suite of services needed to reduce recidivism particularly among the homeless population opened November 1, 2021. It is accompanied by a sobering center that can serve up to fifteen (15) clients concurrently.

RUHS-BH has continued to pursue No Place Like Home (NPLH) funding to create affordable housing. RUHS-BH has been notified of four awards in NPLH Round 4. These awards will help fund 147 units for homeless consumers out of 253 total affordable housing units. The total award amount in Round 4 is \$29.5 million. This brings the total number of units for all rounds of NPLH to 428 units for homeless households out of 1,039 total affordable housing units with a total award of \$78.8 million total.

Continued community education remains a goal of the Housing Committee. This education covers all facets of homelessness and housing topics. In particular, the committee remains interested in augmenting existing room and board coalition efforts and beginning new ones if needed.

"WELLNESS BEGINS WITH A HOME"

RUHS-BH recognizes the integral part that housing plays in the recovery and wellness of those we serve and with the Housing Committee to guide us.

We are committed in continuing our efforts to be a leader and innovator in serving those housing needs, as we strive to hold open the door to healing and recovery.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Scott, Housing Committee Chair
Marcus Cannon, RUHS-BH Deputy Director, Forensics

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

April Jones, LMFT - Behavioral Health Commissioner – Legislative Committee Chair

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MISSION STATEMENT

To bring the Behavioral Health Commission abreast of all pertinent issues or topics currently being discussed in State and Federal Government Legislation.

GOALS

To keep the Behavioral Health Commission informed of legislative activities whether Federal, State, or County. To advocate for legislation that would be beneficial to our community.

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April Jones still leads the Legislative Committee, which meets once a month but takes a break in August. The Committee looks at legislative reports from NAMI California, the California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), and the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Commissions and Boards (CALBHC/B). The committee also discusses recent events that impact current legislation. For several consecutive months, this committee has been unable to reach a quorum, as a result, the frequency of meetings is being discussed. The committee will propose to move the committee to quarterly meetings as they work on recruitment. Below is a summary of the relevant topics discussed this year.

- COVID relief funds and policies surrounding mental health that came as a result of the national pandemic.
- Monterey Park shooter and its connection to Riverside County Mental Health Services and training for local law enforcement. A presentation was provided by the RUHS WET team regarding current training for law enforcement.
- AB-67 - This bill, upon an appropriation by the Legislature, would create the Homeless Courts Pilot Program, which would remain in effect until January 1, 2029, to be administered by the Judicial Council for the purpose of providing comprehensive community-based services to achieve stabilization for and address the specific legal needs of, homeless individuals who are involved with the criminal justice system. The bill would require applicants *cities or counties* seeking grant funds to provide a number of specified services or program components, including, but not limited to, a diversion program enabling participating defendants to have *specified* charges dismissed upon completion of a program, provision of *temporary, time-limited, or permanent housing* during the duration of the program, and a dedicated representative to assist defendants with housing needs. The bill would require an applicant for grant funding under the program to submit a plan for a new homeless court program or expansion of an existing homeless court program and would require any funding awarded to an applicant to be used in accordance with that plan. The bill would also require the Judicial Council, on or before July 1, 2027, to submit a report to the Legislature evaluating the programs funded and the success and challenges of those programs, along with recommendations for improving the programs. The bill would require the

Judicial–Council, in collaboration with subject matter experts, to establish performance-based outcome measures for each participating homeless court, including, among other things, information relating to the demographics of program participants, housing placements for all participants, and successful substance use disorder treatment rates.

- SB 35 - This bill would authorize CARE Act proceedings to be conducted by a superior court judge or by a court-appointed commissioner or other subordinate judicial officer. The bill would require that there is no fee for filing a petition nor any fees charged by any public officer for services in filing or serving papers or for the performance of any duty enjoined by the CARE Act. The bill would authorize that the respondent is entitled to have an interpreter in all proceedings if necessary for the respondent's full participation.
- SB 411 - This bill, until January 1, 2026, would authorize an eligible legislative body to use alternate teleconferencing provisions related to notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed, if the city council has adopted an authorizing resolution and $\frac{2}{3}$ of an eligible legislative body votes to use the alternate teleconferencing provisions. The bill would define "eligible legislative body" for this purpose to mean a neighborhood council that is an advisory body with the purpose of promoting more citizen participation in government and making government more responsive to local needs that is established pursuant to the charter of a city with a population of more than 3,000,000 people that is subject to the act. The bill would require an eligible legislative body authorized under the bill to provide publicly accessible physical locations for public participation, as prescribed. The bill would also require that at least a quorum of the members of the neighborhood council participate from locations within the boundaries of the city in which the neighborhood council is established. The bill would require that, at least once per year, at least a quorum of the members of the eligible legislative body participate in person from a singular physical location that is open to the public and within the boundaries of the eligible legislative body.
- SB 551 - This bill would require one member of a mental health board's membership to be employed by a local educational agency, and at least *one member* to be an individual who is 25 years of age or younger in counties with a *mental health board membership of 5 to 8 members*. *The bill would require 2 members of the board to be employed by a local educational agency and at least 2 members to be 25 years of age or younger in counties with a mental health board membership of 9 to 15 members. The bill would require at least 2 members of the board to be employed by a local educational agency and at least-two members to be 25 years of age or younger in counties with a mental health board membership of 16 or more members. The bill would require counties to give a strong preference to appointing members of the board who have experience providing mental health services to students. The bill would state that the intent of the Legislature is for youth appointments to a mental health board to address or prevent health and mental health disparities or inequities through representation of vulnerable, underserved, and marginalized communities. The bill would also authorize a person to represent more than one membership type on a mental health board. The bill would delete county offices of education from the list of representatives from which counties are encouraged to appoint board members. The bill would prohibit more than 49% of the members of a county's mental health board from owning or operating an organization or business that financially benefits from a proposed or adopted Mental Health Services Act plan. By placing a new requirement on counties, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.*
- SB 363 - This bill would require, by January 1, 2026, the State Department of Health Care Services, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health and the State Department of Social Services, and by conferring with specified stakeholders, to develop a real-time, internet-based database to collect, aggregate, and display information about beds in specified types of facilities, such as chemical dependency recovery hospitals, acute psychiatric hospitals, and mental health rehabilitation centers,

among others, to identify the availability of inpatient and residential mental health or substance use disorder treatment. The bill would require the database to include a minimum of specific information, including the contact information for a facility's designated employee, the types of diagnoses or treatments for which the bed is appropriate, and the target populations served at the facility, and have the capacity to, among other things, enable searches to identify beds that are appropriate for individuals in need of inpatient or residential mental health or substance use disorder treatment. This bill would authorize the department to impose a plan of correction or assess penalties against a facility that fails to submit data accurately, timely, or as otherwise required and would establish a process for facilities to appeal these penalties. The bill would create the Available Care for Inpatient and Residential Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder Treatment Database Maintenance and Oversight Fund for the receipt of any penalties. Because the bill would continuously appropriate amounts of money in the fund for administrative costs of implementing the database, it would create an appropriation.

- SB 43 - This bill expands the definition of Gravely Disabled for those who are diagnosed with an alcohol or substance use disorder that has the risk of substantial harm and are unable to meet basic needs, this will allow mental health professionals to intervene and categorize them as gravely disabled.
- Mid County Recovery Village project and advocacy efforts in the Hemet area.

Respectfully submitted,

April Jones, LMFT, Behavioral Health Commissioner, Legislative Committee Chair

OLDER ADULT INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF CARE COMMITTEE

Brenda Scott – Behavioral Health Commissioner – Older Adult Integrated System of Care Committee Chair

Tony Ortego – Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health – Behavioral Health Administrator,
Older Adult System of Care Co-Chair

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VISION

“To value self-determination and independence of the older adult and culturally diverse consumers.”

MISSION STATEMENT

“To enable older adult consumers, who are impaired by a mental health condition, to access the services that will promote empowerment and recovery.”

GOALS

“To reduce discrimination and disparities, increase utilization of services through education, awareness and family involvement, and to support the mission of RUHS to provide high quality care to residents of Riverside County.”

OBJECTIVES

“Older Adult Services seeks to assist consumers in their recovery by maintaining a physically and emotionally healthy lifestyle so they are able to remain in their home or community-based housing for as long as possible. Services are provided by a multi-disciplinary staff with specialized training in evaluating and addressing both mental health conditions and issues of aging.”

“Empowering lives to promote wellness and recovery”

www.rcdmh.org/Mature-Adult-Services

The Older Adult Integrated System of Care Committee (OASOC) meets on a monthly basis with consumers, community stakeholders, other local agencies, and staff to increase understanding, educate, and inform members of available Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) Older Adult services and resources, to share common concerns, and to advocate and promote quality services to all consumers.

Guest speakers from various agencies provide 30-40 minute presentations on their area of expertise. During the past year, presentations were provided by outside agencies committed to the empowerment of the mature adult population such as Kimberly Starrs and Chris Darbee from Inland SoCal 211+, Kim Tribulski from Ombudsman Program, Chang Li and Zsa Zsa Sanders from the Veteran’s Administration, and Jennifer Lopez from the PEARLS Program (Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives for Seniors). RUHS-BH presenters included: Sonja Peverieri from RUHS-BH HHOPE Housing Program who presented information on consumer

housing linkage and support; Andrea Deaton presented the RUHS-BH MHSA 3-Year Plan Update; Diana Gutierrez and Myeshia Bobo presented the work of the Suicide Prevention Coalition; Maria Martha Moreno and Kayla Henry, MHSA TechSuite INN presented the innovative work of Help@Hand.

Meetings are typically held at Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health’s (RUHS-BH) Conference Center on Rustin Avenue in Riverside and occasionally in Mid-County and Desert Regions. OASOC meetings were held in virtual forums during the COVID-19 Pandemic. RUHS-BH Older Adult Integrated System of Care regional staff members are encouraged to participate in and promote many local events and health fairs to increase awareness of treatment, access to services and reduce stigma. Consumers have actively participated in the OASOC Committee and have contributed valuable perspectives thus promoting an authentic community and consumer led direction.

Community Events this year included RUHS-BH May is Mental Health Awareness Month Fairs which took place at community parks in Riverside, Menifee, and Palm Desert; the John J. Benoit Desert Mental Health Arts Festival that was held on May 9th at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission; the Annual NAMI Walk 2023 which took place at Diamond Valley Lake; the 1st annual Walk for Mental Health that was held in the city of Coachella on May 6th; the 2023 Annual Hope Event, the 2023 Lunar Festival, a celebration of Asian American culture which takes place in downtown Riverside, along with the Asian American Pacific Islander Task Force May 2023 Hope event; and the annual Riverside County Elder Abuse Awareness Symposium in Riverside which was sponsored by RUHS-BH Older Adult program. OASOC presents Mature Adults program information on an on-going basis at the Rotary Club in Desert Hot Springs for outreach and engagement, as well as at the Monthly Senior Collaborative meeting through Jewish Family Services of the Desert.

Notable initiatives include partnering with Riverside County Office on Aging and Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) – Adult Protective Service’s Elder Abuse Forensic Center on several initiatives aimed at identifying older adult consumers who may be in need of assistance, as well as collaboration with Inland/SoCal United Way and 211+ to create partnerships that are familiarized with the needs of the mature adult population and to increase the utilization of services available through the 211 network. Tony Ortego represented OASOC as Co-Chair of the Cultural Competency Program Asian American Task Force (AATF), served on the Planning Committee for the 2023 Annual Hope Event and the 2023 Lunar Festival, a celebration of Asian American culture which takes place in downtown Riverside. He represented OASOC while serving on the Planning Committee for the Annual Riverside County Elder Abuse Symposium held on June 1, 2023, which raises awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. Representatives/participants from the OASOC participated in these events as well. Tony Ortego provided information on the unique needs of the mature adult population at the State Representatives Roundtable Meeting in April 2023. His contribution was noted in the California Department of Aging publication. Tony Ortego provides Mature Adults program information through ongoing participation in the Riverside County Advisory Council on Aging meetings. This Council acts in an advisory capacity to the Riverside County Office on Aging and the Board of Supervisors on issues affecting older persons and adults with disabilities in the County, including, but not limited to, health, education, employment, housing, transportation, and recreation. In addition, Tony Ortego represents RUHS-BH Older Adult program and the OASOC as a member of Riverside County’s Desert Healthcare District & Foundation committee.

OASOC continues to work with the RUHS-BH HHOPE Program to assist older adults moving into the Cathedral Canyon Apartments and other supportive housing apartments in the Desert area such as Verbena and Legacy Apartments in efforts to support individuals who are experiencing homelessness and have need of mental

health services. OASOC continues to present updated program information to County partners, such as the Riverside County Department of Social Services/Adult Protective Services, the C.A.R.E. Program, RUHS-BH Medical Center, Riverside County Public Health Department, multiple local law enforcement agencies, and other community partners.

Other notable collaborative services include: Maintained status as Title V clinics throughout the Mature Adult Wellness and Recovery Clinics, which enabled our clinics to be training grounds for the Senior Community Service Employment Program – a program that is funded by The California Department of Aging and the US Department of Labor. Additionally, with emphasis on local interagency fluidity of services, OASOC established and maintained close relationships with partners at Legacy Apartments (Desert Region), Snowberry (Western Region) and the Vineyards (Mid-County Region) supporting the highly specialized needs of the Full Service Partnership (FSP) consumers who reside there. On site services include monthly partnership meetings and case management services on premise. OASOC also continues to expand intra-county collaborative efforts by embedding RUHS-BH Older Adult program staff at two Office on Aging locations (Western and Desert regions) in Riverside County. In addition, OASOC continues to work collaboratively with DPSS Adult Protective Services, which also includes embedded DPSS staff in our Wellness and Recovery for Mature Adults clinic located in Riverside.

OASOC continues to promote and highlight services provided by the RUHS-BH Older Adult program on-site Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment programs in Lake Elsinore, Temecula, San Jacinto, Desert Hot Springs, and the Riverside Wellness and Recovery for Mature Adults clinics. In response to the national opioid epidemic, the DHCS Naloxone Distribution Project has made it possible for all Mature Adults clinics to be stocked with Naloxone/Narcan in case of emergency need. During the past year, Desert, Mid-County and Western Riverside Mature Adults programs provided Full Service Partnership (FSP) services to members with the most critical need. The FSP programs specialize in reaching disenfranchised mature adults who are at risk of being homeless or hospitalized and those with co-occurring disorders.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Scott, Behavioral Health Commissioner, Committee Chair

Tony Ortego, Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Administrator, Older Adult Integrated System of Care Committee Co-Chair

VETERANS COMMITTEE

Rick Gentillalli, M.Ed., LPI, NCPT – Chair, Behavioral Health Commission – Chair, Veterans Committee
David Schoelen, LCSW – Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health – MHSA Administrator

VISION

We continue to work and plan for a day when a grateful nation will fully recognize and meet the needs of its veterans and their families. We envision this happening and plan to use every resource and ability we have to serve our veterans and their families. Our committee is dedicated, concerned, hopeful, and ready to serve our veterans as they have served and sacrificed for our nation.

MISSION STATEMENT

To address and alleviate the mental health and substance abuse disorder needs of veterans and their families, and to recommend and propose related helpful services. We have joined our meetings with neighboring counties as well as the United States of America Veteran Affairs and Cal-Vet to accomplish our goals.

"...The Veterans Committee is sponsored by the Riverside County Behavioral Health Commission and consists of one Behavioral Health Commissioner, several Riverside County Department employees, neighboring county employees, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, and the California Department of Veterans Affairs; with a group of volunteers. Its purpose is to identify strategies for improving support reducing the stigma of mental illness and improving the quality of life for veterans and their families dealing with mental illness. Its function is to advise and foster a collaboration of veteran's families and mental health support organizations to address and alleviate the mental health and substance abuse problem needs of veterans and their families, as well as, recommend and propose related services..."

GOALS

To monitor and assure that all veterans requesting Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) services receive those services according to department policy and veteran needs; to continue our expansion of the committee and welcome members from diverse backgrounds and positions to participate in meeting our goals. We set four areas of importance to address, however, the dynamics of our society have recently changed and we are addressing areas of concern as they become a priority. Our goal is to continue the focus on 1.) Opioid Abuse; 2.) Veteran Suicide; 3.) PTSD; and 4.) Stigma. The cultural dynamics have enhanced the aforementioned issues veterans face and our goal is to help the veterans and their families overcome and succeed in a time of added adversity. In addition, the previous year we had been challenged with the COVID-19 health crisis, which has increased the demands on our veterans. Also, we went live with our meetings on or about May 2023. The attendance crumbled tremendously at the in-person meetings, along with retirement of Mr. Aurelio Sanchez LCSW, and more recently, relocation of Tonica Robinson, LL.M., MPP - Riverside University

Health System - Behavioral Health - Mental Health Services Program Manager - Cultural Competency and Innovation.

As committee Chair, and respectfully, on behalf of our committee members, since we are now under the umbrella of MSHA and Cultural Competency, we request funding to hire a Behavioral Health Specialist and Case Manager to assist the Veteran Service Liaison to better serve the 125,000 (plus) Veterans in Riverside County. This past year's COVID restrictions have harmed the committee's ability to fully engage the community we serve. The committee members took the necessary precautions to continue to meet the needs of our Veterans and their families.

We have learned and noticed that with the COVID epidemic, Veterans have had a very rough go of it, even more so than the general public. To begin with, veterans have had difficulties getting appointments with the Loma Linda VA Hospital. This problem continues to date because of the backlog of veterans needs to see health care providers.

Another important issue has been the Department's commitment to providing services to veterans who elect to receive assistance from the County instead of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Mission Act has empowered our veterans to get immediate assistance for most needs they may have. However, our Director has committed to receiving Veterans at our local Substance Abuse and Mental Health Clinics, and they will not be turned away, regardless of medical benefits.

The Veterans Committee continues to collaborate with the Veterans Court. The mission of Riverside County Veterans Court is to provide an inter-agency, collaborative treatment strategy for veterans in the criminal justice system suffering from mental health and/or substance abuse disorder problems. The committee receives regular input on this matter from representatives from the County and Behavioral Health Department's Family Advocates, who are regular attendees at committee meetings.

The Committee continued to grow significantly and the energy level and camaraderie remained strong until the in person meetings. The Riverside County Department of Veteran Services Director Grant Gautsche and Deputy Director Kelly have since retired.

Adult Protective Service Director, and DPSS Director attending and collaborating with our committee have ceased because workload and other commitments. However, we still have our counterpart from San Bernardino County Behavioral Health, the Department of Veterans Affairs Representative, and the California Department of Veterans Affairs CalVet, which has built a strong foundation with a wealth of exchange of information for our committee to build on. To better understand the effort put forth by the members - such as driving a long distance to attend our meetings since the COVID ban has been lifted, members being the patriots they are with the will to help, and put forth a heartfelt commitment to better serve our veteran population. I am proud to be associated with all of the members who attend and serve on our committee.

This writer has attended several meetings (round table) with Ranking Member Congressman Mark Takano, as well as one meeting with U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, Congressman Takano, California Senator Roth, and Assembly Woman Sabrina Cervantes, regarding Viet Nam Veterans and the PACT Act implementation.

In conclusion, with our sincere efforts and vested interest in serving and saving veterans, our goal is to make a positive impact on our veteran population and give back to them for their service as best we can.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gentillalli, M.Ed., LPI, NCPT – Behavioral Health Commissioner – Chair, Veterans Committee

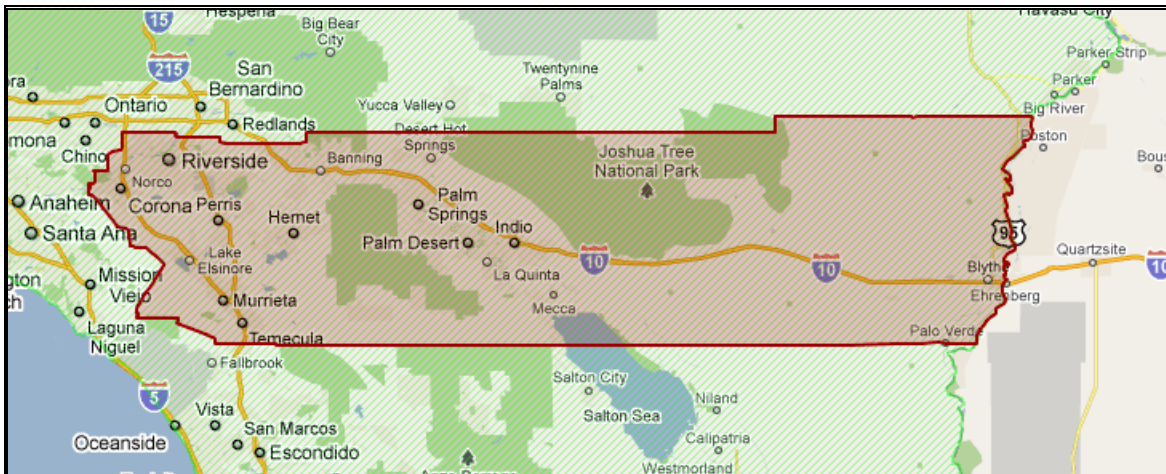
David Schoelen, LCSW – Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health – MHS Administrator

REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARDS

Richard Divine, Desert Region Board Chair
DESERT REGIONAL BOARD

Brenda Scott, Mid-County Region Board Chair
MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BOARD

Greg Damewood, Western Region Board Chair
WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD



DESERT REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

Richard Divine – Desert Regional Board – Chair

James Grisham – Desert Region Mental Health Services (MHS) Administrator

* * * * *

MISSION STATEMENT

To support the Behavioral Health Commission's goal of providing the County of Riverside and its consumers the best Behavioral Health services as possible. The Advisory Board advocates and promotes for services for all citizens and cultures residing in our region and become a voice for our community to make sure they receive the programs and clinics they deserve.

GOALS

To reduce stigma and increase utilization of recovery oriented services through education and awareness and to support the mission of the Riverside University Behavioral Health System. Our goal is to help empower our consumers to take advantage of the programs that the County provides.

The Desert Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Board is one of three (3) regional boards that cover Riverside County. Because our County is so large, the original Mental Health Director appointed 3 regional boards to represent and advocate for all citizens of this large area. The Desert Region covers from Calimesa, through Banning and Beaumont, the Coachella Valley Continuing east to Blythe and the Arizona border. The Desert Regional Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Our agenda Contains one or two presentations conducted either by the Behavioral Health Department or the Regional Director. Also, we have monthly reports by our local substance abuse and TAY (Transitional Age Youth) managers. A monthly report is given to the Board by our Children's and Tay Manager Ms. Kelley Grotsky and our regional manager Mr. Jim Grisham.

Our May is Mental Health event has been the John Benoit annual art show and creative writing contest. This event has been going on for the last 18 years and growing every year. This year our show was held on May 9th, at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. Attendance this year was over 300 people and an even greater number of art entries. Lunch was provided by our local NAMI affiliate and was greatly appreciated.

As Chair Person I would personally thank Dr. Quinn who had personally taken upon herself to run this event, with the help of Mark Miller, Secretary of the board, and other members. Our artists have sold over 50 pieces of art and congratulations to them.

The Desert Regional Advisory Board has maintained a excellent group of members who represent all of our communities, throughout the Coachella Valley, and most walks of life. Our group is very active in community

affairs and the various local programs provided by the department. This Advisory Board takes a great deal of time to make sure the Behavioral services of our clients and community are being met.

The Board would like to take this time to thank Dr. Chang and the Department for keeping us apprised of the programs and staff that makes our region work. We would also like to thank Regional Managers, Jim Grisham and Kelley Grotsky for their energy and expertise, making sure that the Desert Region has the programs needed to provide our consumers with the services they need.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Divine

Chairperson

MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Brenda Scott —Mid-County Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Board - Chairperson
Ramon Amado – Mid-County Behavioral Health Advisory Board- Co-Chairperson
Jennifer Woodworth – Mid-County Behavioral Health Advisory Board - Secretary

Venice Russ--Mid-County Regional Behavioral Health Services Administrator-Adult Service (until October 2022)

Beverly McKeddie—Mid-County Regional Behavioral Health Services Administrator-Children’s Services/TAY Services

MISSION STATEMENT

To support the Behavioral Health Commission’s mission with our input, voice, advocacy, and promotion of quality services for the culturally diverse communities of the Mid-County Region.

REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD GOALS

To reduce stigma and increase utilization of services through education and awareness; to support the mission of Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) to provide recovery-oriented services; to empower consumers of the Mid-County Region to achieve greater independence; to advise the Mid-County Region and the Behavioral Health Commission; and to promote Board membership.

MID-COUNTY REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL GOALS

To reduce stigma and increase utilization of services through education and awareness; to support the mission of Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) to provide recovery-oriented services; to empower consumers of the Mid-County Region to achieve greater independence; to advise the Mid-County Region and the Behavioral Health Commission; and to promote Board membership.

FY23 ANNUAL GOALS

- a. Assess the efficacy and quality of current BH programs/services to minorities and diverse groups within the Mid-County Region.
- b. Monitor the growth/quality of the FSP program in Mid-County
- c. Monitor any cuts planned for Mid-County programs due to reduction of monies coming to the county for BH services.

- d. Support the development of programs and services specific to victims, survivors and family members of COVID-19.

INTRODUCTION

The Mid-County Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Board continued the goals established. The purpose of this was to focus the Mid-County Board on specific areas of concern that fell within their region. In doing so, the Board is able to focus its attention on how RUHS serves its the diverse populations and how it has worked to preserve its funding and staffing to better serve the County and its various regions effectively. Due to pandemic guidelines the Board continued to meet via Zoom until April 2023. May 4, 2023 was the first in-person meeting. The schedule of meetings remained the same with many agencies and programs within the Mid-County Region scheduled for a presentation to this Board. Representatives were invited to inform the Board of what was happening within the region and to share their successes and challenges. Through questioning and discussing with the various individuals connected to programming the Board stayed abreast of the overall funding as well as staffing within the region and consistently explored and supported the development of services.

There were a few changes within management. Venise Russ, Administrator for Adult Services left the department in October 2022 and Toni Robinson took that position from November 2022-June 2023.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

Mid-County Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Board of Riverside University Health Systems invited speakers from various agencies and programs throughout the county to advise the Board as to the services available through their programs for the residents of Mid-County. The agencies scheduled to host the Board presented their programs and activities. The site/program supervisor typically attended the meeting to provide the Board with an overview of the services and to share updates regarding any staff changes, funding issues, or new programs. It was also an opportunity to share any challenges the program was experiencing. Each site shared a celebrate recovery moment, where they invited a consumer of their program to share their story and provide information about their experience with the services received. Board members asked questions with both staff and the consumers to find ways to further improve services.

Presentations included the following programs:

- Mid-County Wraparound Program
- Peer Resource Centers
- Temecula Adult Clinic
- UNRUH Civil Rights,
- Transitional Age Youth (TAY)
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Update on 988
- Hemet Adult Clinic
- 211 United Way
- Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Program (SAPT)
- RUHS Mobile Crisis Teams
- Homeless Housing Partnership & Education (HHOPE)
- Temecula Children's Clinic
- MHSa 3-Year Plan

- Mature Adults Program
- Man Therapy
- Lake Elsinore Children's Clinic
- First Episode Psychosis Program

In addition to specific agency presentations, the Mid-County Board has Administrators and/or Supervisors from Adults, Children, Substance Abuse, and Older Adults Services attend Board meetings monthly, bi-monthly, and/or quarterly where they present updates on their programs and answer any questions Board members may have. This procedure supports the relationship between the Board, Mid-County program staff and the area programs. The Board sees this as an opportunity to provide a forum for programs to share their concerns as well as their successes.

For a detailed description of the presentations and updates please reference the minutes of each of the monthly meetings.

BOARD MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Mid-County Regional Behavioral Health Board Members are actively involved in both community and department activities. They participated in the following events; The Annual NAMI Walk on Saturday, November 5, 2022 and May Is Mental Health Month events on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at Central Park in Menifee.

In addition, each Regional Board member is assigned to one of the Behavioral Health Commission's Sub-Committees and attend those meetings monthly and/or bimonthly. Some Board members attend several committee meetings on behalf of the Regional Board.

Mrs. Brenda Scott, Chairperson of the Mid-County Regional Board, attended monthly Commission meetings as chair and provided updates to the Commission on the activities of the Regional Board. She was also the Regional Board's representative to the Commission's Membership Committee, Adult System of Care Committee, and Housing Committee. In addition, she has been actively involved in advocating for the Hemet Recovery Village and has attended several Hemet City Council meetings in favor of this project.

Dr. Walter Haessler served on the Behavioral Health Commission and the Legislative Committee.

SUMMARY

During this fiscal year, the Mid-County Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Board examined the needs of our area and the services that were being provided. As an Advisory Board to the Behavioral Health Commission we will continue our growth to discover new ways to be of assistance to our region, the Commission and the Department. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve. We are looking forward to continuing to provide the support and advocacy for our region in the upcoming fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Scott, Mid-County Regional Advisory Board Chairperson

Officers: Ramon Amado, Vice Chairperson, Co-Chairperson
Jennifer Woodworth, Secretary
Mrs. Brenda Scott, Secretary FY22, Co-Chairperson FY23
Ms. Kimberly McElroy, Secretary FY23

Members: Walter T. Haessler, M.D.
Dolores De Martino
Glen Shepherd
Shanie Todd

WESTERN REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Greg Damewood – Western Regional Board – Chair

Vacant – Western Regional Board – Vice Chair

Vacant – Western Regional Board - Secretary

Alea Jackson – Adult Western Region Mental Health Services Administrator

Novanh Xayarath – Western Region Children’s Behavioral Health Services Administrator

James Ortego, Western Region Mature Adults Administrator

Francisco J. Huerta – Western Region Senior Family Advocate

Maria T. Gonzalez, Western Region Children’s Behavioral Health Peer Specialist – Parent Partner

And other administrators, supervisors and managers contributing to meetings this year

MISSION STATEMENT

To support the Behavioral Health Commission’s mission with our input, voice, advocacy, and promotion of quality services for the culturally diverse communities of Western Region.

GOALS

To reduce stigma and increase utilization of services through education and awareness, and to support the mission of Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) to provide high quality care to residents of the Western Region within its charter.

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2022 – JULY 2023

The Western Region Behavioral Health Advisory Board (WRBHAB) members and attendees supported the efforts of the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) to the best of its abilities. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to greatly alter and affect the daily operations of RUHS-BH but were resolving to a large degree mid-2023. The provision of quality services continues to be provided via Telehealth and ZOOM meetings held as the norm and Field Based services provided to support consumer needs along with face-to-face services resuming. Public transportation has been a barrier for many who continued in person with services at programs due to time it takes to commute and times of service transport. Other changes this year included program staff turnover, retirements, time needed off due to co-vid infections reported and relocation of service programs, as well as expansion of FSP services in all outpatient programs. The Strategic Plans of the County of Riverside are all inclusive and the Western Region participants have participated as best possible over the last fiscal year.

Face to face, services were needed to meet clients' needs, as study numbers found interpersonal interaction were critical for ongoing wellness or recovery. The front-line staff met the guidance of management and proceeded meeting in person with clients to ensure progress made for mental health was not lost and to help prevent such challenges as self-injury by clients and to their families as much as possible. Housing and facilities continued to the best of everyone's abilities and funding.

Staff improved ways to meet clients and to work in a safe manner during the pandemic and post pandemic. Creativity and devotion to new ways to serve our population is a testament to the dedication of all involved in the Western Region and all county services for those needing mental health and substance abuse treatment and support. The Western Region addressed staff turnover and relocation of programs also largely influenced by the pandemic. Health of all involved have been of primary consideration and cooperation with mandates of the CDC.

Our ten regional meetings provided an opportunity for attendees to share positive efforts to have the same level of services throughout this challenging service period of report as largely affected by covid and staffing needs. Site reviews were on hold due to no face-to-face meetings as well as many other face-to-face, however in person meetings are expected to commence in September 2023. Celebrations such as May is Mental Health Month were again celebrated and joined by our Chair.

Western Region and all the County of Riverside Behavioral Health System looks forward to any way to provide and support the best methods to serve its population with Western Region ready to continue and find even more ways to help our consumers be the best they can achieve to be.

Support of community events included:

- Monthly speakers have presented various topics of interest and ways to support mental health and reduce stigma. We have also had input as to increased membership via county representatives.
- We shared and discussed any personnel changes or new services such as drug treatment and alcohol abuse or retirements that occurred with management making best course changes to meet needs.
- One member of this Board also served on other committees as chair: Criminal Justice Committee, Membership Committee, and on the Commission; the other members serve and attends various committees and motivate actions via sharing information and working with others in the county system and county resources. We are pursuing more WR Board members as we have lost members to new jobs, transfers, moving, and passing away.
- Partnered with Adult FSP/Western Region staff and Consumers to make over 400 homemade greeting cards for the "Cards 4 Kidz" Program @ Loma Linda's Children's Hospital during the holidays, backpacks for school were supported by staff.
- Collaborated with Adult FSP/Western Region staff and HHOPE to facilitate *The Longest Night Event*, which provided blankets, grooming kits, hats, and gloves to over 100 homeless Consumers during the coldest night of the year.

- Behavioral Health Commission training is scheduled for 2023 and invites Regional Boards to participate.
- In February a special guest speaker Benita Ramsey, Cultural Competency Liaison, presented on the purpose of the RUHS-BH Interfaith & Spirituality Committee is to promote the optimal health and well-being for all Riverside County's faith and spiritual communities including behavioral health providers. The Interfaith and Spirituality Committee is dedicated to reducing the stigma of behavioral health concerns by collaborating with county agencies, and stakeholders. Please continue to review as other presentations were also shared for education and improvement.
- Riverside County conducted community dialogues with the faith community. Approximately 380 individuals representing the faith community, mental health professionals and consumers. In summary, both the mental health providers and the faith community need training and guidelines to facilitate the process of integrating spirituality and mental health. Most of the faith communities are attempting to respond positively to those suffering with a mental illness. Many people of the faith community have positive attitudes, feelings, and behaviors as it relates to seeking professional health outside the church.
- March speaker was Dr. Ernelyn Navarro, AATF, Cultural Competency Liaison and spoke about The Asian Diaspora. Asians have journeyed far to explore and to trade but in the past two centuries, they have been on the move to seek free and more prosperous lives. The majority have headed West, especially to the U.S., Canada, and Australia. Like newcomers everywhere, they endured severe hardship and prejudice, but many have thrived in their adopted homelands. The following are symptoms of acculturative stress and descriptions, Acculturative stress as nostalgia – The person may feel longing for relatives, friends, and familiar cues and experiences. Acculturative stress as disorientation and loss of control – Familiar cues about how another person is supposed to behave are missing. Disorientation creates anxiety, depressive thinking, and a sense of desperation. Acculturative stress as dissatisfaction over language barriers – Lack of or difficulties in communication may create frustration and feelings of isolation. Acculturative stress as loss of habits and lifestyle – The individual is not able to exercise many previously enjoyed activities; this causes anxiety and feelings of loss. Acculturative stress as perceived value differences – Differences in values are typically exaggerated; new values seem difficult to accept.
- May speaker was Thomas Vosser, Man Therapy and spoke about many issues concerning Men and how they view therapy. He stated that working aged men (25-54 years old) account for the largest number of suicide deaths in the U.S. These men are also the least likely to receive any kind of support and depression is the leading cause of disability in the U.S. affecting 16+ million Americans. White men account for seven of 10 of all completed suicides and Men are 3.63 times more likely to die by suicide than women are. Man, Therapy goals are to shrink stigma, increase help seeking, and decrease suicide ideation. The question is how do we reach men in distress who do not access mental health resources? These are some approaches on how we can close that gap, meet men where they are, give men at least a chance to fix themselves, and show male testimonials of hope and recovery. The big idea is to use humor and male stereotypes to start the conversation and get men to think differently about their mental health. Research has shown that 80% of men improved on depression over the course of the project. Depression and suicidal ideation scores significantly reduced poor mental health and improved

perceived problem solving for reaching out to others. It is important to create a sustainable content to reach audiences that are move diverse across channels.

- May is Mental Health Month and was successful and fully supported by everyone who attended. This year several Behavioral Health Administrators from various regions were responsible for planning the guests, vendors, food, music and being present the day of the event to make sure that everything ran smoothly. The Western Region was excited and geared up for May is Mental Health Month that was held on May 18, 2023, at Fairmont Park from 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM and was accessible to the public and invited everyone to join. A day of activities, local resources and services for mental health, substance use, and all-around wellness was shared and celebrated. Many exhibitors registered and attended supporting information and leadership to the community. Staff also attended having had their own tables representing each region and handing out swag to all participants and information about their specific programs. This celebration was reviewed as a huge success which even brought KOLA Radio to our celebration. We are looking forward to next year’s event.
- Clients and Staff gave back to the community by participating in “Keep MoVal Beautiful” - A Beautification program in the City of Moreno Valley. Adult FSP/JWC have a designated Street (Pigeon Pass/Hidden Springs Rd), which they have committed to clean 4x/year, for the past 5 years. A name placard with the agency name and logo identifies this portion of the street.
- Reports regarding behavioral health challenges to Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative, Inland Regional Center, and the Regional Coalition Office on Aging were shared during this report year.
- The Chair attended both Inland Empire Disability Collaborative meetings and Inland Regional Center Trustee meetings held by internet to better know updates and issues for our area and those served.
- Linked with Non-Profit Agency such as - *Building Up Lives Foundation* to provide food, clothing, and essential supplies to Consumers during Coronavirus pandemic along with other non-profits as available.
- The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk will be held in October 2023. Outreach efforts regarding behavioral health challenges to Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative, Inland Regional Center, and the Regional Coalition Office on Aging
- The Chair attended both Inland Empire Disability Collaborative meetings and Inland Regional Center Trustee meetings to be informed of events and issues occurring in our area and those we serve in the community; and,

Shared Reports from Western Region:

Alea Jackson, M.S., LMFT- Mental Health Services Administrator Western Region Adult Programs

The adult programs are prioritizing filling the vacancies for the following positions: BHSS, BHS II/III, CTI/II, and PSS. We are actively participating in the recruitment process and working the current candidate list(s) to

expedite hiring. The Western regions 3-year MHSA goal includes expanding the regions Full-Service Partnership programs at Jefferson Wellness and Blaine Street Clinic.

Jefferson Wellness Center-Full-Service Partnership (JWC FSP)

The JWC leadership participated in the hiring fair on June 13th and 14th. JWC selected two OA candidates for two of the vacant OA II positions. The department authorized hiring on the spot, which resulted in expediting the onboarding process for the selected candidates. JWC FSP program has increased its FSP enrollment from 216 to 338 from December 2022-present date. The program has worked collaboratively with ITF to enroll adult ITF patients in FSP level of care prior to psychiatric hospitalization discharge. We have assigned a BHS II from Jefferson Wellness Clinic and Corona Wellness Clinic to the Arlington campus to liaise the warm hand off process for patients discharging from ITF. The Liaison is on site Monday-Friday 7:30 AM – 6:00 PM.

Enhanced Care Management (ECM)

There are 85 clients who are actively enrolled in ECM, and we continue to work toward the goal of reaching maximum capacity of 250. The program currently has three vacancies on the five staff care team. However, we are onboarding an RN and have interviews scheduled for the BHS III and CSA positions. The program is planning to pilot the child/youth ECM implementation.

Blaine Street Clinic

The adult outpatient program provides outpatient treatment services to 1,725 general mental health consumers and 62 FSP members. The program currently has one BHSS vacancy and several CT I/II vacancies. Interviews for vacant positions are currently scheduled. We recently filled the Peer Family Advocate position. Blaine is also working collaboratively with the BH ITF Liaisons to enroll adult ITF patients in the Blaine FSP program.

Pathways to Success (PTS)

On June 29, the program participated in a site review with Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). We addressed the objectives and goals to sustain the program, enhance, and maximize service delivery for Riverside County consumers. The program is currently expanding its collaboration to the transitional aged youth FSP programs. The program staff is currently conducting orientation in the western, mid-county, and desert regions. The program currently has two vacant BHSII positions in Riverside.

Novanh Xayarath LMFT -- Mental Health Services Administrator Western Region Children's Programs and TAY Stepping Stone.

First Episode Psychosis (FEP) – Department received a three-year block grant to develop a FEP program to serve all three regions (western, mid county, and desert). Program will target TAY age youth with first psychosis

symptoms. The team is comprised of a supervisor, two Clinical Therapists, two Behavioral Health Specialists, two Peers, half time Psychiatrist, and .25 research assistant. The team will split between serving western/mid county and desert. The FEP staff in the desert will be co-locate with Riverside Family Wellness Center and for desert FEP staff; they are co-located at TAY Flow in La Quinta. There are currently eight active cases with three referrals being screened for admission. The program has three vacancies (BHSII in desert, Peer in western, and a CT in desert). The OAI and CT position for western team is currently going through the employment onboarding process. Technical Assistance (TA) calls with the state have started and staff have enrolled in Cornerstone training and education platform. In addition, staff have begun training on how to run groups using Happy Neuron platform on engaging consumers to increase skills. The program also received four vehicles that were requested at the beginning of the grant.

Youth Hospital Program is fully staff and continues to provide excellent care to individuals discharging from local hospitals. YHIP is an intense field-based program providing short-term therapy and case management services to stabilized youth coming out of area hospitals. The program continues to receive steady referrals and currently have 62 active cases. YHIP this year was tasked to take lead for western region children in monitoring and enrolling consumers admitted to ITF who are 18 years old and younger not open to county clinics to enroll them to YHIP's FSP RU and provide follow up care. YHIP is also tasked with coordinating care for ITF consumers open to contract providers who need FSP services.

ISF Wraparound – Has a new supervisor who took over position when the previous supervisor retired after almost 30 years of service to the department. The program was able to backfill for most of their vacant positions. There is currently one vacancy (BHSII). ISF is contractually obligated to prioritize Probation referrals. Due the low numbers of referral from Probation Department, ISF has taken on more Medi-Cal referrals from outpatient clinics. ISF continue to plan and prepare to transition to high fidelity wraparound services as mandated by the state of CA. Transition has been delayed to early 2024.

Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) – MDFT is fully staff with exceptions to their office assistant position. Program staff and supervisor had their credentialing renewed from MDFT International. The program outcome measures continue to show that MDFT is effective with good outcomes. The program supervisor and department MDFT trainer will be retiring in July 2023. Regional Manager over MDFT has request permission from department leadership to add a Senior Clinical Position to fill role as trainer since the Supervisor position will not get backfill but instead, the team will be supervised by the Mid County MDFT Supervisor.

Children's Treatment Services (CTS) – Program staffing is at 100%. Currently no vacancies. CTS is the largest children's outpatient program in west region. It serves as the hub for Trauma Focus – Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) as well as eating disorder. CTS also provide significant coverage for surrounding programs and contract providers who need support with medication services or specialized treatment services such as eating disorder or TF-CBT.

TAY Stepping Stones - The program is currently understaffed. There are two CT vacancies, and one CT is on FLMA leave, which leaves one full time CT on duty. A TAY Peer and BHSII positions were added to the program. The program continues to provide online groups and some in person activities. Therapy and med services continue to be provided. Stepping Stones collaborated with Public Defender's office to have lawyer and paralegal at TAY Stepping Stones to help TAY Youth with probation/court related issues. Stepping Stone also collaborating with Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) to do Care

Space program to provide MH services to RCOE students under a special grant. This collaboration has resulted in additional referrals coming into the program.

Moreno Valley Children's Interagency Program (MVCHIP) - The program was able to fill most of its staff vacancies. The programs Senior Clinical Therapist will be retiring in July. Program is looking to hire their front office staff as Office Assistant were promoted within the program to different position. The clinical staff are trained in TF-CBT and eating disorder. Referrals for MVCHIP had more acute needs requiring many services for stabilization. The program also saw increase of referrals averaging 50 a month. Because of the increase, the program has developed additional groups and expanded assessment intake slots.

Riverside Family Wellness Center (RFWC) – The program supervisor will be retiring in July. There is currently recruitment to backfill the position. The program has two of four clinical therapist positions filled. Recruitment to backfill the vacant positions have been difficult due to lack of candidates to hire. RFWC continues to provide services that include individual, family, group, and medication services. Program specialized in eating disorder and trauma focus cognitive behavioral therapy. RFWC had a therapist transferred in with knowledge/experience of working with youth who have been trafficked and sexually exploited. Referrals remained consistent.

Additional notes:

Due to increase in eating disorder referrals, several contract providers in west region have agreed to take on ED referrals and provide services. Contract providers have access to eating disorder trainings and ED Champions for consultation and case guidance.

All children's programs are working towards developing and preparing new workflow to address all the CalAims changes that is coming to the department this coming year.

Thank you for your time and consideration - *Novanh Xayarath LMFT*

Tony Ortego, LMFT – Behavioral Health Services Administrator Western Older Adult Integrated System of Care program

The Older Adult Integrated System of Care Committee (OASOC) meets monthly with consumers, community stakeholders, other local agencies, and staff to increase understanding, educate, and inform members of available Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) Older Adult services and resources, to share common concerns, and to advocate and promote quality treatment and services to all consumers. The objective of the OASOC is to assist consumers in their recovery by maintaining a physically and emotionally healthy lifestyle so they can remain in their home or community-based housing for as long as possible. Services are provided by a multi-disciplinary staff with specialized training in evaluating and addressing both mental health conditions and issues of aging.”

Meetings are typically held at Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health's (RUHS-BH) Conference Center on Rustin Avenue in Riverside and occasionally in Mid-County and Desert Regions. OASOC meetings were held in virtual forums during the COVID-19 Pandemic. RUHS-BH Older Adult Integrated System of Care regional staff members are encouraged to participate in and promote many local events and health fairs to increase awareness of treatment, access to services and reduce stigma.

Consumers have actively participated in the OASOC Committee and have contributed valuable perspectives thus promoting an authentic community and consumer led direction.

Notable initiatives include partnering with Riverside County Office on Aging and Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) – Adult Protective Service’s Elder Abuse Forensic Center on several initiatives aimed at identifying older adult consumers who may be in need of assistance, as well as collaboration with Inland/SoCal United Way and 211+ to create partnerships that are familiarized with the needs of the mature adult population and to increase the utilization of services available through the 211 network. Tony Ortego represented OASOC as Co-Chair of the Cultural Competency Program Asian American Task Force (AATF), served on the Planning Committee for the 2023 Annual Hope Event and the 2023 Lunar Festival, a celebration of Asian American culture which takes place in downtown Riverside. He represented OASOC while serving on the Planning Committee for the Annual Riverside County Elder Abuse Symposium held on June 1, 2023, which raises awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. Representatives/participants from the OASOC participated in these events as well. Tony Ortego provided information on the unique needs of the mature adult population at the State Representatives Roundtable Meeting in April 2023. His contribution was noted in the California Department of Aging publication. Tony Ortego provides Mature Adults program information through ongoing participation in the Riverside County Advisory Council on Aging meetings. This Council acts in an advisory capacity to the Riverside County Office on Aging and the Board of Supervisors on issues affecting older persons and adults with disabilities in the County, including, but not limited to, health, education, employment, housing, transportation, and recreation. In addition, Tony Ortego represents RUHS-BH Older Adult program and the OASOC as a member of Riverside County’s Desert Healthcare District & Foundation committee.

Community Events this year included RUHS-BH May is Mental Health Awareness Month Fairs which took place at community parks in the western region -Riverside, and also in Menifee, and Palm Desert; the John J. Benoit Desert Mental Health Arts Festival that was held on May 9 at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission; the Annual NAMI Walk 2023 which took place at Diamond Valley Lake; the first annual Walk for Mental Health that was held in the city of Coachella on May 6; the 2023 Annual Hope Event, the 2023 Lunar Festival, a celebration of Asian American culture which takes place in downtown Riverside, along with the Asian American Pacific Islander Task Force May 2023 Hope event; and the annual Riverside County Elder Abuse Awareness Symposium in Riverside which was sponsored by RUHS-BH Older Adult program. OASOC presents Mature Adults program information on an on-going basis at the Rotary Club in Desert Hot Springs for outreach and engagement, as well as a at the Monthly Senior Collaborative meeting through Jewish Family Services of the Desert.

Other notable collaborative services include Maintained status as Title V clinics throughout the Mature Adult Wellness and Recovery Clinics, which enabled our clinics to be training grounds for the Senior Community Service Employment Program – a program that is funded by The California Department of Aging and the US Department of Labor. Additionally, with emphasis on local interagency fluidity of services, OASOC established and maintained close relationships with partners at Legacy Apartments (Desert Region), Snowberry (Western Region) and the Vineyards (Mid-County Region) supporting the highly specialized needs of the Full-Service Partnership (FSP) consumers who reside there. On site services include monthly partnership meetings and case management services on premise. OASOC also continues to expand intra-county collaborative efforts by embedding RUHS-BH Older Adult program staff at two Office on Aging locations (Western and Desert regions) in Riverside County. In addition, OASOC continues to work collaboratively with DPSS Adult Protective Services, which also includes embedded DPSS staff in our Wellness and Recovery for Mature Adults clinic located in Riverside.

OASOC continues to promote and highlight services provided by the RUHS-BH Older Adult program on-site Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment programs in the Riverside/Western region, Lake Elsinore, Temecula, San Jacinto, Desert Hot Springs, Wellness & Recovery Clinics for Mature Adults. In response to the national opioid epidemic, the DHCS Naloxone Distribution Project has made it possible for all Mature Adults clinics to be stocked with Naloxone/Narcan in case of emergency need. During the past year, Western Riverside, Desert, and Mid-County Mature Adults (Older Adult) programs provided Full-Service Partnership (FSP) services to members with the most critical need. The FSP programs specialize in reaching disenfranchised mature adults who are at risk of being homeless or hospitalized and those with co-occurring disorders.

Thank you for your time and consideration – *James Ortego, LMFT*

Francisco J. Huerta -- Senior Behavioral Health Peer Specialist

As the Western Region Senior Family Advocate, I am very happy to report that things are looking great in our region. Our Family Advocate Program has been supporting all RUHS BH-OP clinics, SAPT Clinics, as well as BH Crisis Centers, ETS/ITF, Law Enforcement, and the community at large.

In the Western Region we receive over 20 new referrals weekly, while providing continuous support to existing families and making ourselves available to BH staff, Hospital staff, Crisis Team, Law Enforcement and Community Providers. We facilitate weekly evening Zoom family support groups (English/Spanish), including an in-person weekly family support group at Blaine St Clinic and at the TAY Stepping Stones Center. Due to the pandemic, we just started to provide in-person educational presentations to the community and are excited to do many more. We are in several collaboration committees/meetings (Inpatient/Outpatient Communication, Housing, Western Region BHC, Western Region Sups, and TAY Collaborative). We are also involved in our RUHS BH-OP clinics' weekly treatment team meetings.

We have been able to decrease hospitalizations and incarcerations (Recidivism), by providing support, resources, and education to families/caregivers. Our TEAM has been able to assist families/caregivers to understand and navigate the BH system. Continuously collaborate and develop effective relationships with Behavioral Health providers, programs, clinics, and community organizations to promote family integration into our behavioral health services delivery. Assist Behavioral Health clinics, hospitals, and other behavioral health service facilities by being a liaison for clinic staff and the Family Advocate Program.

We continue to be an essential role in the Adult Behavioral Health clinics as family members and caregivers of the adult consumers need to have someone who advocates, informs, trains, supports and empowers families/caregivers who directly or indirectly receive behavioral health services. We participate on FSP teams to help communicate, represent, and promote the families/caregiver's perspective within the behavioral health system and FSP teams.

The Family Advocate Program strives to remove barriers associated to gaining access to support systems for families. This involves meeting them where they are, whether that is in the community or home visits.

Having support staff explore resources has proven to be more effective than providing a list of possibly helpful phone numbers for families to call. Establishing trust with families/members by meeting them where they are often leads to regular clinic visits where staff can engage and re-engage families/members.

Our goal is to continue adding Family Support Groups, Sibling Support Groups and Family Educational trainings. Current available curriculum includes DBT for Families, Family WRAP, Real Recovery for Families, from Crisis to Stabilization Family Groups, Mental Health First Aid and Recovery Management for Families.

We recently created a FAMILY ADVOCATE PROGRAM email, aimed specifically to receive referrals from our Hospitals, Crisis Teams, and Law Enforcement. We hope this will reduce recidivism in hospitalizations and incarcerations, by supporting those families/caregivers who are in current crisis mode.

Thank you for your time and consideration - *Francisco J. Huerta*

Maria T. Gonzalez -- Western Region Senior Behavioral Health Peer Specialist – Parent Partner

As the Children’s Western Region Senior in Parent Support and Training Program (PS&T Program), we support all BH Peer Specialist - Parent Partners in RUHS BH children outpatient clinics and Children Contract Providers. PS&T program has continued to partner with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and Probation regarding Pathways training for new staff. PS&T and DPSS have incorporated the changes in both systems to ensure that all children entering the child welfare system receive behavioral health services as needed. As well as providing support to the community at large.

PS&T Program facilitates weekly in-person and virtual parenting classes such as Educate, Equip and Support, Nurturing Parenting, Triple P, and Teen Triple P. PS&T Programs facilitate in-person monthly Spanish and English “Open Doors” Support Groups and participate in outreach events such as Children’s MH Awareness, and May is MH Month. We collaborate with other community fair organizations to bring awareness and resources to the community. PS&T Program has a Boutique with clean and gently used clothing donated by staff and outside donations for families receiving services in one of our clinics. In this fiscal year, 29 parents and 25 youths came by and benefited from these donations.

PS&T Program organizes several community outreach projects, including the Backpack Drive, Thanksgiving Basket giveaway, and Snowman Banner Holiday drives. These initiatives aimed to provide support and resources to families, children, and transition-age youth (TAY) in RUHS BH children outpatient clinics, Children Contract Providers, and the community at large.

PS&T Program Manager and Senior Parent Partners participate in various committees and collaborations throughout the County, such as Southwestern and Western Regional Child Care Consortium (Committee), HOPE Prevent Child Abuse Board, United Neighbors Involving Youth (UNITY), IECHI Task Force, QPI, Growing Healthy Minds, Perinatal Collaborative, Child Abuse Prevention Council HOPE (Moreno Valley, Corona, Riverside, Temecula, Desert Hot Springs), SELPA Interagency Meeting, Riverside County Department of Mental Health Committees/Boards, Cultural Competency Committee, Translation and Interpretation Committee, Cultural Awareness Celebration Committee, Pathways to

Wellness/CCR - Collaboration with DPSS, TAY Collaborative Committee, Pathways to Wellness/CCR - Family Perspective Presentation, Mental Health Children’s Committee, Western Region Supervisors Meeting, Central Region Supervisors Meeting, Mid-County Region Supervisors Meeting, Desert Region Supervisors Meeting, Pathways to Wellness (CSOC) CORE Meeting, Pathways to Wellness (CSOC) Steering Committee, Pathways to

Wellness (CSOC) Work Groups Leader Orientation, TAY Collaborative, AAFWAG, Coalition Youth Experiencing Homelessness, DPSS FSS/HSP, Youth Homelessness Committee, CES Navigation Council, Healthy Jurupa Valley, Latino Commission, IEHP/BH, Suicide Prevention Coalition, WRAB Meeting, Trauma Informed System Champions, MCAH Community Advisory Board, DRC, QSRC Consortium, Housing Support Section 8 Meeting, PEI Steering Committee, Children's Coordinator, YAC/YAB (COC Housing workforce Solutions), and CES Community Partnership Meeting.

PS&T Program Behavioral Health Peer Specialists- Parent Partners (PP) across the RUHS BH Children's outpatient clinics are the voice of the families as we advocate for their child's BH needs. We hold hope as families enter the Behavioral Health system and go through their child's recovery journey. It is crucial to have trained BH Peer Specialist-PP across the RUHS-BH children's outpatient clinics to bring awareness and education on Behavioral Health to parents seeking services and simultaneously decrease hospitalization recidivism.

Thank you for your time and consideration – **Maria T. Gonzalez**

There are over 50 service points in the Western Region. Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program is also under the purview of the Commission; therefore, the Western Region also provides feedback on these programs. Peer Support members provided insights regarding services and suggestions for improvement of services and savings via our internet or e-mail communications.

The Western Region Board members conduct meetings monthly, per the Commission schedule; therefore, ten meetings are targeted per year. Transportation has been a challenge for some attending meetings, so it is hoped we may still extend the opportunity of attendance via ZOOM or the attached phone services as we return to meeting face to face. We now have a bus stop at the front of Rustin complex, which does improve physical attendance for those without vehicles.

Our Board would also ask for any assistance for additional qualified members to join our Board. The Chair, Greg Damewood, is currently serving on the Behavioral Health Commission besides this Board and Chairs the Criminal Justice Committee along with serving on the Membership Committee.

All are appreciated and welcome to our board meetings. We appreciate any guidance and support from our District 5 Supervisor, Mr. Yxstian Gutierrez, and his staff. We invite any other BOS that may cover Western Region to direct volunteer members for consideration to our Regional Board. Commissioners of our main board and all management always have an open invitation and appreciation for participating at our meetings very much respecting, The Brown Act, to all interested in proceedings and activities.

The Administrators, Supervisors, Leads, Peer Support of the County attending our meetings have been very supportive of this Board. Peer Support members provide insights as to ongoing and suggested new services for improvement of services and savings. Our liaison, Norma MacKay, Executive Assistant, has helped with all arrangements to now meet in person and coordinates presenters.

The Board will continue to provide another year of service and offer support to Western Region with our volunteerism to the best of our abilities. Please review the following insights to add to the understanding of some of the ongoing service efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Damewood, Western Board Chair.

Alea Jackson, Western Region Adult Behavioral Health Services Administrator

Novanh Xayarath, Western Region Children's Behavioral Health Services Administrator

James Ortego, Western Region Older Adult Senior Behavioral Health Services Administrator

Francisco J. Huerta, Senior Family Advocate

Maria T. Gonzalez, Western Region Children's Senior Behavioral Health Peer Specialist – Parent Partner

In addition, to all others contributing and attending as outlined by this report listed at the introduction and in the body of this report a deep appreciation is expressed for your volunteerism, care, compassion, and professionalism -

SITE REVIEWS

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic implemented on March 19, 2020 by Governor Gavin Newsom, all Site Review appointments were cancelled to ensure the safety and health of the public, Commission members, and staff.