



**San Bernardino County
Behavioral Health Commission
General Session Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Minutes Recorded and Transcribed by: *Giulia Gomez, Office Assistant III*

OPENING REMARKS	PRESENTER	ACTION/OUTCOME
A. Call to Order B. Roll Call – Introductions	Chair, Allie Mink Chair, Allie Mink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting called to order at 12:09 p.m. Attendees welcomed and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Roll Call of Commissioners took place. There is a quorum.
INFORMATION ITEM(S)		
C. Review and Approve Minutes from 2/6/2025 & 3/6/2025	Members of Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were reviewed and no changes were recommended. Motion to accept 2/6/2025 minutes made by Commissioner Uptergrove with a second by Supervisor Armendarez and Commissioner Spence Carpenter abstaining. Motion to accept 3/6/2025 minutes made by Commissioner Dr. Samuel with a second by Vice Chair Cahow with Commissioners Uptergrove and Spence Carpenter abstaining.
D. Public Comment	Niki Dettman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioners Mondragon and Contreras were thanked for attending the I Am Gifted Foundation wellness event. I Am Gifted Foundation: Founded by NFL player Alexander Mattison, the organization focuses on mental health, wellness, and creating core memories for families. Their recent event on March 15 partnered with Wellness Ranch involved unique activities like horseback riding and therapy.
	James Dettman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing Barb Incorporated and Gibson house of men and woman, serving San Bernardino and Riverside counties. The organization provides drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, serving 120 consumers in full-time treatment. 60 in sober living housing and 60 in outpatient. Collaborated with Troy and Eloisa on future community projects. The organization contracts with the San Bernadino County Department of Behavioral Health.
	Garth Pezant, Sr Angelica Manzo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recited a poem regarding corruption in the courts on criminal defense. Thanked commissioners Troy and Eloisa for attending the wellness event. Introduced herself as the Executive Director at Wellness Ranch, serving individuals ages three and older. The mission is to prevent suicide and spread awareness about mental health. Currently, Wellness Ranch is outgrowing its current property and looking for new locations.
	Lori Butler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Mink asked if there were any public comments from the satellite locations. There were none. Introduced herself as the new Executive Director for NAMI, the National Alliance of Mental Illness for San Bernardino area. Nami is hosting a walk on May 4th at Glen Helen Regional Park. The walk aims to provide therapy and resources for people affected by mental illness. NAMI encourages organizations to get tables at the event to provide and spread information.
E. Chair's Report	Chair, Allie Mink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asked that the Commissioners remember their mission and to stay focused on providing the best resources and helping individuals navigate the services available. Introduced Commissioner Hall to the attendees.

F. Commissioner Reports	<p>Amanda Uptergrove</p> <p>Jesse Armendarez</p> <p>Michael A. Hall</p> <p>Dr. Valerie Samuel</p> <p>Jonathan C. Cahow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announced Commissioner Cahow has been voted as Vice Chair. • The Apple Valley satellite location advised the BHC their location could not hear. Chair Mink asked again for any public comment from the satellite locations and there were none. • Assisted with the Commission's annual report and connected individuals to behavioral health resources. • Promoted Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Training to integrate peer voices into care settings. • Judged the Directing Change event, where middle school students created films focused on suicide prevention and peer support. • Encouraged community participation in upcoming events, including the NAMI Walk and Loma Linda 5K "Stomp Out the Stigma" event. • Attended the 2025 Housing Support Symposium in Sacramento, gaining insights into housing and transitional programs. • Participated in the opening of the Adelanto Senior Center, which will provide services to High Desert residents seeking community partnerships. • Collaborated with Tri-State Insurance and Teladoc to discuss establishing a mobile medical ministry unit for veterans, seniors, and underserved communities. • Attended the 2025 Housing Support Symposium in Sacramento, gaining insights into housing and transitional programs. • Engaged with a Youth Advisory Council, supporting young leaders who have founded mental health non-profits. • Collaborated with the Department of Behavioral Health and Homelessness nonprofits. • Discussed previous involvement with the Department of Behavioral Health that included policy changes, including the POST Program, a first-of-its-kind initiative bridging law enforcement and social workers. • Recognized efforts for April Child Abuse Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of community involvement. • Participated in the Rancho Cucamonga Teen Leadership Group, supporting youth mental health. • Attended the Rancho Cucamonga Teen Summit, featuring interactive discussions, mental health activities, and guest speakers. • Engaged with organizations such as DBH Outreach, Wellness Branch, and Masonic Counseling. • Attended the Housing Conference in Sacramento, discussing statewide housing funding and challenges. • Attended the Behavioral Health Center in Apple Valley to learn about programs and services. • Scheduled some tours of the CWIC and BHU offices in Victorville. • Participated in meeting with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department regarding SB 43 and county capacity concerns. • Discussed the impact of SB 43, which allows individuals with severe drug addiction to be placed on 5150 hold.
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	<p>Troy Mondragon</p> <p>Jennifer Spence</p> <p>Delinia Lewis</p> <p>Elosia Conteras</p> <p>Chair Mink</p> <p>Special Guest* Alexander Mattison</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged and thanked the I Am Gifted Foundation, The Wellness Ranch, and NFL player Alexander Mattison for their contribution in hosting an event on mental health and suicide awareness. • Attended the Latino Behavioral Health Subcommittee meeting with Eloisa, where Dr. Priya presented on available healthcare resources for Spanish and non-Spanish speakers. • Encouraged community participation for the NAMI Walk event. • Attended the DAC meeting in person, which included fentanyl training conducted by the county. • Noted the effectiveness of hands-on training for proper naloxone (Narcan) use. • Highlighted the rise in fentanyl-related deaths and the need for increased awareness and preparedness. • Attended the NAMI Pomona Walk kickoff rally, noting its proximity to the fourth district and the importance of regional collaboration. • Participated in a NAMI board meeting to spread awareness of available services in nearby communities. • Attended the BHC Orientation. • Participated in the voting process for Board of Supervisor, Curt Hagman's District 4 Reality Fentanyl Awareness Film Contest, which featured high school students' work. • Encouraged attendees to join the award ceremony and film debut at Harkins Theater in Chino Hills. • Attended the Law Enforcement Data Event with Board of Supervisor Joe Baca Junior. • Attended the Wild Wild West Medical Mental Health Event hosted by the I Am Gifted Foundation and The Wellness Branch Equine Therapy. Met Alexander Mattison, who promotes mental wellness. • Attended Coffee with A Cop (Eastern District), met the new DBH social worker for the Peace Team. • Attended the San Bernardino Valley College Law Enforcement Football Game to support Law Enforcement and honor Deputy Hector Claros Jr. • Attended the Latino Subcommittee Meeting virtually with Commissioner Mondragon. • April 26 (National Take Back Day) – Attending medication drop-off event at Cal State Lot D (10 AM - 2 PM), with resource information available. • Attending the NAMI walk taking place May 4, 2025. • Encouraged the community to engage with District Advisory Committee Meetings in their area & announced that the platform for these meetings is switching from WebEx to Microsoft Teams. • Urged residents to use these meetings as a platform to share concerns, feedback, and ideas with commissioners. • Expressed appreciation for Mattison's contributions to the community. • Shared a personal story about struggling with mental health in college, nearly walking away from a full-ride scholarship. • Overcame challenges through positive mental health practices such as mentorship, physical activity, and self-reflection.
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<p>G. Subject Matter Presentation</p>	<p>Dr. Rebecca Scott Young</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Became an advocate for mental health awareness and breaking the stigma, especially in sports. • I Am Gifted Foundation focuses on spreading positivity, embracing individuality, and supporting mental wellness. • Partnered with The Wellness Ranch and looks forward to more community collaborations. • Thanked everyone for their work in the community and expressed a commitment to future partnerships. • Presentation on Mental Health Services Act Annual Update Fiscal Year 2025/2026. The power point can be found here Tab 6. MHSA Update.pptx <p>Q&A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Mink: Are we targeting only existing service users, or also reaching the public? Are we using channels beyond the department's website to reach more people? Are there 9,634 contracts and 360 survey responses typical, or are they higher/lower than usual? • Jesse Armendarez: Suggested reaching out to the board office, so they can help push out this important information to the public and schools. • Assistant Director, Marina Espinosa: suggested adding the number of participants.
<p>H. Director's Report</p>	<p>Assistant Director, Marina Espinosa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Uptergrove: Do you offer language translations services during your meetings and events and is the marketing also offered in another language? • Board-Approved Agenda Items (March 11, 2025): the Board approved the purchase of a care management system within the department's electronic health record (EHR) from NetSmart Technologies. This item also included funding for additional staffing, specifically two contract psychiatrists and two contract clinical therapists, for the Enhanced Care Management Program and the Justice-Involved Program. This initiative was not MHSA-funded. • Substance Use Disorder & Recovery Services Contract Amendment: An amendment was approved to increase funding for substance use disorder withdrawal management and residential treatment services by \$70,665,272, bringing the total contract amount to \$160,395,592. The contract duration remains unchanged (January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2028). The amendment also allows for contract modifications related to non-substantial changes, provider legal entity updates, and facility locations. This funding was not MHSA-funded. • Managed Care Plan Contract Amendments: Contracts with Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) and Molina Healthcare of California were amended to include an exhibit specifying the data elements and protected health information (PHI) that can be shared between both parties. These amendments did not affect the contract's funding because there was no MHSA. • Approved contract amendments to increase funding by \$800,000 for early intervention, outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, and recovery services for clients referred by the Department of Children and Family Services (CFS), with funds allocated to Inland Behavioral and Health Services, Cedar House Life Change Center, and Clare Matrix,



		<p>and no changes to contract timeframes. Additional increases included \$796,563 for High Desert Child, Adolescent & Family Services Center, Inc. and \$1,092,787 for Inland Valley Recovery Services, with no MHSA funds used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved \$1.06M for the Community Wholeness and Enrichment (CWE) Program through June 30, 2026, funding Red Family Services, South Coast Community Services, and Victor Community Support Services, also not MHSA-funded. • Crisis Walk-In Center Services Contract Amendment: An amendment was approved to increase funding for Valley Star Behavioral Health's Crisis Walk-In Center services by \$3,867,771 and to extend the contract period until September 30, 2025. This amendment was not MHSA-funded. • The Board retroactively approved a standardized contract template for Children's Residential Intensive Services (CRIS), effective July 1, 2024. It also authorized the Department of Behavioral Health to execute individual agreements with CRIS providers without substantive changes. No funding or contract terms were modified. • Fifteen positions from the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) were transferred to the Office of Homeless Services, including roles such as social workers, mental health specialists, and peer and family advocates. Additionally, two vehicles (a Ford Fusion and a Chevy Express van) were transferred. This action did not impact MHSA funding. • Student Assistance & School-Age Treatment Services Contracts: The Board approved contracts for comprehensive treatment services for students, totaling \$50,202,775 for the period of April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Agencies receiving funding include Desert Mountain Children's Center, South Coast Community Services, and Victor Community Support Services. This initiative was partially MHSA-funded. • Expansion of "brave disability" definition: Beginning April 1, 2025, individuals with substance use disorders can qualify for conservatorship under SB 43. Additional treatment beds have been secured to accommodate rising demand for services under the expanded definition. A dedicated webpage with training materials and guidance has been launched to educate healthcare providers and law enforcement on SB 43 requirements. Monthly training sessions have been implemented to help law enforcement understand new criteria for detaining individuals under SB 43. • Public Relations and Outreach (PRO): Key events include the Fentanyl Awareness Field Contest, mental health awareness activities in May, and a community policy advisory meeting in April. Submissions for artwork related to mental health are open until April 14. A "Meet the Artist" event will take place, and the Directing Change Award Ceremony will be held on May 17. The Resilient & Real Summit will feature a panel discussion on suicide prevention, Mental Health, in May.
Adjournment	Chair, Allie Mink	With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.
Next Meeting		<p>DATE/TIME: Thursday May 1, 2025 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. LOCATION: 850 East Foothill Boulevard F120 Rialto, CA 92376</p>



ATTENDANCE					
FIRST DISTRICT	SECOND DISTRICT	THIRD DISTRICT	FOURTH DISTRICT	FIFTH DISTRICT	Board Representative
Lorrie Denson <i>Unexcused Absence</i>	Dr. Valerie Samuel <i>Present</i>	Troy Mondragon <i>Present</i>	Jennifer Spence Carpenter <i>Present</i>	Veatrice Jews <i>Excused Absence</i>	Supervisor Jesse Armendarez <i>Present</i>
Amanda Uptergrove <i>Present</i>	Jennifer Oglesby <i>Present</i>	Allie Mink <i>Present</i>	Delinia Lewis <i>Present</i>	Lynn Summers <i>Unexcused Absence</i>	
Jonathan C. Cahow <i>Present</i>	Michael A. Hall <i>Present</i>	VACANT	VACANT	Eloisa Contreras <i>Present</i>	
GUESTS					
<p>Marina Espinosa, Marybel Valadez, John Granado, Jolean Grider, Giulia Gomez, Latana K. Powell, Tony Bates, Chris Green, Guillermo Navarro, Jonathan Estrada, Corrier McCall, Bryan Clark, Stephanie Mares, Connie Harrison, Anna Duarte, Jeanine Wymer, Maria Aceves, Lizette Vazquez, Jennifer Esparza, Arthur Shaw II, Joshua Taylor, Michael Sweitzer, Rebecca Scott Young, Luis Martinez, Tina Entz, Leann Mast, Jennfer Pacheco, Beth Fishell, La Mika Lydia, Emanuel Perez, Allison Cunningham , Beatrice Blake, Irene McLennon, Cassandra Heger, Niki Dettman, Garth Pezant Sr., Maria Liz Quinones, Shelly Mattazano, Alisha Hendry, Christopher Schrueur, C. Warren, Jessica Madrid, Catrina Figueroa, Candice Hughes, Rachel Miller, Marcellus Everest, Aaron Johnson, Delilah Bahamonde, Christiana Mendez, Jillian Saldana, Reginald Allen, Marlen Hernandez, Carlos Vasquez, Tina Knight, Karen Urquia, Matt Montana, Sonia Navarro, Jennifer Arnold Weaver, Casey McPheron, Tamela Hutchinson, Monica Garcia, Loretta Washington, Candance Armijo, Tim Hougan</p> <p>Apple Valley: Tanya Levell, Brittny Massie, Derean Malia</p> <p>Yucca Valley:</p>					