

## COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

ALAN V. ALBRIGHT, LMFT CHAIR

FREDERICK WILLIAMS, LMFT VICE CHAIR

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MAILING ADDRESS 405 W.5<sup>TH</sup> STREET SANTA ANA, CA 92701 TELEPHONE: (714) 834-5481

January 2, 2023 Orange County Board of Supervisors 400 West Civic Center Drive Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Honorable Board Members and Mental Health & Recovery Services Director,

The Orange County Behavioral Health Advisory Board is an official community body that advocates for an accessible, appropriate, and effective behavioral health system that promotes prevention, intervention, recovery, and resiliency for individuals and families in need.

The purpose of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board is to advise the Board of Supervisors and the Behavioral Health Director on all aspects of local Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) programs, advocate for individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) and SUD, and to review programs and services within the local behavioral health system (see WIC 5604.2). Our members represent a diverse group of community members committed to the values of integrity, competence, service, the importance of human relationships, dignity and worth of all people.

On 12/06/2022, the Board adopted a resolution declaring that Racism and Inequity is a Public Health Crisis. The Behavioral Health Advisory Board fully supports this resolution and agrees that racism and inequity can lead to negative behavioral health outcomes which include depression, anxiety, and other chronic conditions which can result in significant impairments in an individual's daily functioning.

We stand with the Board of Supervisors in promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion as core elements of behavioral health services and resources throughout Orange County.

Respectfully,

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Alan V. Albright, LMFT, Chair Behavioral Health Advisory Board Frederick Williams, LMFT, Vice Chair Behavioral Health Advisory Board

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