



County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

405 W. 5th Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701
TEL: (714) 834-5481
MHB Website:

<http://ochealthinfo.com/bhs/about/mhb>

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Matthew Holzmann

Stephen McNally

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Jim Taylor

Duan Tran, MSW

Chase Wickersham

Wednesday, February 22, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Meeting Location:
601 N. Ross St., Santa Ana, CA 92701
Conference Center

MINUTES

Page 1 of 4

Members Present: Alan Albright, Matthew Holzmann, Stephen McNally, Kristen Pankratz, Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento, Jim Taylor, Chase Wickersham, Fred Williams

Members Absent: Karyl Dupee, Heidi Girolamo, Duan Tran

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Alan Albright who then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome and Introductions

- Each member introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

- January 25, 2023
 - Matthew Holzmann made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2023, meeting and Jim Taylor seconded the motion. The minutes were approved for the record. Yes 7 /0 No/ 1/ abstain

Public Comment

- Keith Torkelson:
Mr. Torkelson provided an update presentation on the Housing Solutions Bundle, Innovation project concept.
- John Wording
Mr. Wording provided information on a project “Life Score” created for mental health and suicide prevention. Providing opportunities to increase access to services in Orange County and measuring of outcomes.
- Evan Planto:
Commander Planto from the Newport Harbor, American Legion, he shared information about the “Be the One” which is a program Veterans use in which helps individuals who are suicidal. He expressed support for programs like Life Score in which Be the one can really benefit from.



County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Wednesday, February 22, 2023
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MINUTES

Page 2 of 4

HEALTH CARE AGENCY

**Veronica Kelley, Ph.D.,
Chief**

Mental Health & Recovery Services

**Annette Mugrditchian, LCSW
Director of Operations**

Mental Health & Recovery Services

**Karla Perez
Staff Specialist**

Mental Health & Recovery Services

MHRS Chief's Report – Veronica Kelley

Dr. Kelley provided a Mental Health Services and Recovery (MHRS) update. She provided some highlights including State updates. The re-org for MHRS is moving along successfully, she provided a brief overview the shift from 3 directors to now 8 divisions to provide effective treatment and leverage of resources. The new divisions will include Substance Use Disorder (SUD), Forensics, Crisis System of Care, Children and Youth, Adults and Older Adults, Mental Health Services Act, Quality Management, and Research and Evaluation. There was an added Administrative Manager II for CAT and one for Planning and Grants. We are currently in phase one of restructuring and will move to phase two in 9-12 months when we will look at making any additional minor changes as needed. On the State level, Supervisor Sarmiento and a team from the County, attending to the Policy Forum for the National Association of County Organizations in Washington D.C., which provided the opportunity to address things at the federal level that impact Counties. They talked about how to get the Federal lobbyists to align with what the County needs in addition to what the State of California needs. Other topic that were discussed was the Institute for Mental Disease (IMD) Waiver, Opioids crisis and substance use funding flexibility, focusing on justice, and an update on Care Court.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update – Michelle Smith

Michelle Smith provided an update on the MHSA Community Program Planning (CPP). The MHSA Office has held 4 CPP meetings in January, which included 2 that were focused around Innovation, a Community Engagement Meeting (CEM) discussing the Workforce, Education and Training component, and lastly a CEM for early childhood mental health. All of which included a total of 192 attendees for the month of January, in addition they held 3- ad hoc planning committee meetings. In addition, the MHSA office would like to engage and start planning with the Veteran's population as well as the underserved cultural groups. Michelle informed the members that they would like to post the MHSA plan by the first week of March. Matthew Holzmann requested to have Mike Geiss provide an update on the budget soon, similar to those he did during the MHSA Steering Committee Meetings.

Presentation

MHSA Fiscal Update

By: Julia Rinaldi
CEO Budget

Julia Rinaldi provided a comprehensive update of the MHSA budget projections for FY 2022-23. She include projections for each of the MHSA components and projected actuals through January FY 22-23. In summary, HCA and CEO Office have continued to meet regularly to review and update projection amounts and ensure the funding is being used to plan for and be compliant with approved initiatives.



County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Wednesday, February 22, 2023
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MINUTES
Page 3 of 4

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Presentation (Continued)

Housing and Supportive Services Overview

By: Linda Molina, LCSW
MHRS/AOABH

Linda Molina provided an overview of the Housing and Supportive Services. She included information on Board and Cares and Permanent Supportive Housing, and MHSA Housing. She also provided information the various housing and supportive services, to include year-round emergency shelters, bridge housing, MHSA housing, continuum of care, and rehabilitation programs.

Old Business

- Approval of Bylaw Amendments: (action Item)
Alan Albright reviewed the proposed changes for this action item, which included changes to the membership term and adding inclusivity language for LGBTQ+, TAY, and Veterans, and removal of the System of Care committees and adding of the Study Meeting. Alan Albright called for a motion to approve the bylaw amendments. Jim Taylor made a 1st motion and Fred Williams seconded the motion. Steve asked for the board to add additional seats to the membership to allow for more specific seat slots. Matthew Holzmann requested a vote by roll call. The bylaw amendments were approved for the record. Yes 7 /0 No/ 0/ abstain.
- Approve Letter of Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and MHRS Director (action item):
Alan Albright provided information on the purpose of the letter, which is addressing BHAB's support for Board of Supervisors' (BOS) efforts to support equity, diversity, and inclusion. As well as an acknowledgement of the issues that were raised in the BOS resolution. Alan asked for a motion to approve the item. Steve McNally made a motion to support the letter and Chase Wickersham seconded the motion. The letter of support was approved for the record. Yes 7 /0 No/ 0/ abstain.

New Business

- Information on Site Visit to Be Well:
Alan informed the BHAB members of the upcoming site visit to Be Well, which will be taking place on February 28th and March 1st. He asked members to please sign up through Karla Perez if they wish to attend either of the site visits.
- New Changes to Teleconferencing Allowances:
Karla Perez explained of the new changes in the teleconferencing allowances which will take effect on February 28th. The changes that will take effect will include moving all committee and board meetings subject to Brown Act to shift back to in-person only. Hybrid version can still be an option but not for members.



County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Wednesday, February 22, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

MINUTES

Page 4 of 4

New Business

Chase provided a quick report on his observation for OC Navigator - Chase raised a concern as Dr. Arevian did not share any plans for "collaborating" with existing agencies currently offering resources and referrals being used by Orange County residents such as 211OC. For the period April 7, 2022 to October 7, 2022, Dr. Arevian shared that OC Navigator had 16,900 unique users but Chase found that 211OC had 49,871 users for the same period. Similarly, he had 4,902 searches for resources but 211OC had 186,188 searches and he had 2,800 average users per month and 211OC had 7,124 average users. Chase questioned if the County was not supporting 211OC's efforts since so many residents in the County are currently using 211OC to find resources. He would like to ensure that OC Navigator works in coordination with these existing programs.

Committee Reports

- N/A

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Officially submitted by: Karla Perez

*** Note copies of all writings pertaining to items in these BHAB meetings are available for public review in the Behavioral Health Services Advisory Board Office, 05 W. 5th St., Santa Ana, CA 92701, 714.834.5481 or Email: OCBHAB@ochca.com ***