



# 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>

**Wednesday, May 24, 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 3

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Donald P. Wagner, Chairman**  
Third District

**Andrew Do, Vice Chairman**  
First District

**Vicente Sarmiento**  
Second District

**Doug Chaffee**  
Fourth District

**Katrina Foley**  
Fifth District

**BHAB MEMBERS**

Alan V. Albright, LMFT  
**Chair**

Frederick Williams, LMFT  
**Vice Chair**

Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento  
Second District

Karyl Dupee, LMFT

Susan Emerson, LCSW, CATC IV

Matthew Holzmann

Stephen McNally

Chinh Tuong Nguyen

Kristen Pankratz, MSW

Duan Tran, MSW

Chase Wickersham

**Members Present:** Alan Albright, Karyl Dupee, Stephen McNally, Chinh Tuong Nguyen, Kristen Pankratz, Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento, Duan Tran, Chase Wickersham, Fred Williams

**Members Absent:** Matthew Holzmann

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 9:04 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**

- **March 22, 2023**
  - Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2023, meeting and Susan Emerson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved for the record. Yes 9 /0 No/ 1/ abstain
- **April 26, 2023**
  - Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2023, meeting and Alan Albright seconded the motion. The minutes were approved for the record. Yes 9 /0 No/ 1/ abstain
  - Steve McNally requested to have a tracking list of requests made the BHAB members and asked that public comments be recorded more accurately.

**Public Comment**

- **Jim Farrell-**  
Mr. Farrell expressed concern for co-occurring treatment for clients receiving treatment at the Phoenix House.
- **Jim Rusher-**  
Ms. Rusher expressed concern for treatment care at Royal Hospital and Founders House in Artesia.



# County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

## MINUTES

Page 2 of 3

### 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

### Public Comment: *(Continued)*

- Lina Smith-  
Ms. Smith expressed her support and applauded the MHSA Substantive Recommendations letter.
- Keith Torkelson-  
Mr. Torkelson reported on a site visit he did to a co-occurring treatment program.

### MHRS Chief's Report – Dawn Smith

Dawn Smith provided the Mental Health Services and Recovery (MHRS) update. She provided some highlights including the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approval of the Vietnamese Full Service Partnership (FSP) program at the April 25, 2023, BOS meeting. This will add services that are intended to outreach to the Vietnamese community. HCA will re-release the Spanish FSP request for proposal (RFP) with the hope to obtain bidders for that contract. Dawn also highlighted Housing and Supportive Services, on April 28, 2023, MHRS submitted the application for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing. The Bridge Housing will help people who are experiencing homelessness who have a serious mental health issue and substance use condition that prevent them from accessing help and moving out of homelessness. The goal is to create new beds in Orange County that will be accompanied by supported services and navigation. Some of the BHAB members requested additional details regarding the Bridge Housing project such as the ages it will serve, the type of housing that would be provided and if any would be ADA compliant. Alan Albright requested there be a follow-up to this project in a future meeting.

Under Crisis and Acute Care Services, Dawn highlighted the implementation expansion of peer support services through College Hospital Costa Mesa. They will help folks after they are discharged from the hospital in getting settled and getting them to their outpatient appointments.

On April 25, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved an expansion in Children and Youth Services contracts, which will allow an extension of 45 clinicians across children's outpatient system of care. Alan Albright asked for a follow up on this expansion and asked for the language that is included in the contracts for the providers be provided to the BHAB to be able to see the variations and measure the expansion.

Dawn highlighted the fentanyl and opioid overdose prevention efforts and shared some of the fentanyl townhall events that are taking place. In addition, she updated the BHAB on the new master agreement for Recovery residences, which include 7 providers and securing 221 beds for Orange County. Steve McNally asked for an update on the co-occurring services. She also provided an update on the Opioid settlement funds. Finally, She informed the board that the governor released the May Revise and will continue to modernize MHSA, however the funding for this is still unclear.

### New Business

- The Substance Use Disorder Update was tabled to the next meeting.



# County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

## MINUTES

Page 3 of 3

### 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

### Old Business

- Approval of the MHSA Substantive Recommendations Letter:  
Alan Albright called for a motion to approve the letter. Chase Wickersham made a motion to approve the MHSA letter and Karyl Dupee seconded the motion. Item passes 10 yes / 0 No / 0 Abstain.

Alan Albright opened for any edits or comments from the members. Chase expressed support for the letter and added comments on a better marketing approach for the MHSA plan. He would like to see more than 51 public comments during the 30-day public comment period of the MHSA plan. Alan Albright highlighted recommendation 1 of the letter which would expand the community involvement in the community planning process, which should gather input from the community. Supervisor Sarmiento highlighted the importance of branding and outreach and engagement to have a robust return on efforts as the community is not aware of how many services are available to them throughout Orange County. He also pointed out barriers that folks may encounter that may limit them in navigating the system. He supported the way the recommendations supported his comments but would like to follow up to ensure that those efforts are being implemented and addressed. Karyl Dupee also favored the letter and appreciated other member comments. Steve McNally asked that the forum that is addressed in recommendation 1-be an ongoing basis rather than one annual forum. Supervisor Sarmiento added that in recommendation 2C, there should be an opportunity for stipends for staff as an incentive. Alan Albright closed with informing members that he will be present at the BOS meeting on 6/6/23 when the plan goes before the BOS for their approval to provide a public comment on behalf of the BHAB and reference this letter.

### Presentation

#### ***EQRO Overview and Findings for Orange County***

**By:** Azahar Lopez, PsyD, CHC  
Sandra Okubo, MPH  
Mental Health and Recovery Services

Dr. Lopez provided an understanding of an EQRO, which is a third-party review which conducts a review of services, with the goal to identify system-level strengths, opportunities for improvement, and recommendations to improve quality. Dr. Lopez reviewed the FY 22/23 findings and highlighted the system strengths and recommendations, DMC timeline metrics, outcome measurements, and dashboard reports.

(Due to lack of time, the presenters will return to the next general meeting to finish the presentation.)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:47 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 \*\**