



COUNTY OF ORANGE
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
ADVISORY BOARD**

Alan V. Albright, LMFT
CHAIR

Fred Williams, LMFT
VICE CHAIR

MAILING ADDRESS:
405 W. 5th Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Study Committee Meeting
Notes**

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**601 N. Ross St. CCC room,
Santa Ana, CA 92701**

Members Present: Alan Albright, Steve McNally, Tuong Chinh Nguyen, Kristen Pankratz, Duan Tran, Chase Wickersham, Frederick Williams

Members Absent: Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento's Office, Karyl Dupee, Susan Emerson, Matthew Holzmann,

County Staff: Flor Yousefian Tehrani, Brad Hutchins, Julia Rinaldi, Bhuvana Rao, John Crump, Terri Styner, Karla Perez,

I. Welcome and Introductions:

- Alan Albright called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. Members of the committee introduced themselves.

II. Public Comment:

Michael Arnot-

Mr. Arnot asked the BHAB to look into what was originally promised by Be Well on their delivery of services.

III. Schedule Discussion Items:

- MHSAs Update: Bhuvana Rao

Dr. Rao provided an update on MHSAs, she reminded the BHAB of the MHSAs PAC meeting taking place next Thursday, September 21st. Michelle Smith will provide an update on SB 326 as well as the County Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and an overview of the Clinical High Risk and OC CREW program services. MHSAs continues to monitor updates related to SB 326. Both SB 326 and AB 531 will be presented as a Proposition 1 on the March 5, 2024, ballot. As SB 326 has evolved with each iteration, there continues to be an emphasis on increased state control, increased reporting requirements without increased funding, and reduced local control and flexibility for the use of the BHSA funds. Since the last update, there have been a few highlights:

- Now counties will be able to move between 7% - 14% of funds, if approved by DHCS, between the categorical buckets with no more than 7% being taken from

each bucket. For example: We have the FSP, Other BH Supports, and Housing Intervention buckets. We could reduce the Housing bucket by 7% and add the 7% to the Other BH Supports bucket.

- A new source of grant funding, the BHSA Innovation Partnership Fund (\$20M) will be established and administered by the MHSOAC. This will be a competitive grant – counties will no longer have dedicated Innovation component funding.

Local control of prevention funds to address equity and disparities continues to be a concern. SB 326 amendments continue to divert prevention funding from counties to the state level, which further lowers the amount of funding available to counties. CBHDA and CSAC continue to work with the administration and anticipates many years of clean up language being necessary before any statute is finalized. Lastly, for AB 531, the amount of for the bond increased from \$4 billion to \$6 billion.

IV. Open Discussion:

- **Review of Didi Hirsch Update:**
Dr. Rao provided an update on referrals between Warmline and Crisis Lifeline in Orange County. She included the history of the Warmline as to how it went from an emotional support for callers to a call center that is now 24/7 including adding paid staff including Spanish and Vietnamese staff to meet the needs of the community. In addition, some of the funding is the add technology and data collection capability to obtain real time data. Some of the members expressed concern regarding the data provided. Dr. Rao suggested having a presentation provided by the Warmline staff. In addition, Dr. Rao suggested sending the monthly links to the dashboard to include data on the call volume to the Warmline and the Hotline. Alan Albright requested a copy of the NAMI Warmline contract and build an ad hoc with Steve McNally, Chase Wickersham, Alan Albright and a subject matter expert from the County.
- **Future Site Visit Options:**
Karla Perez informed the BHAB that she is working on scheduling two site visits, US Vets and OASIS. She will also look into Council on Aging as requested. Steve suggested obtaining program information and data prior to doing site visits, in particular for full services partnerships. Alan asked Steve to generate his questions and provide them for program.
- **Data Notebook 2023:**
Alan Albright informed the BHAB of the release of the Data Notebook for 2023. He urged the members to review the notebook and inform Karla Perez if interested in participating in this year's ad hoc. MHRS staff will provide most information that is needed for the BHAB to answer the questions provided in the Data Notebook and have a meeting with the ad hoc to allow for any discussion prior to submitting to the State. The Data Notebook if focused on MHSA Community Program Planning is due on November 30th. Steve agreed to provide some guidance as he has been a part of this ad hoc for several years. The Data Notebook ad hoc for this year will include: Chinh Nguyen, Chase Wickersham, Steve McNally, and Alan Albright.
- **BHAB Committee Update:**
Children and Youth Committee: New members were added to this committee, Alan Albright and Chinh Nguyen.

Karla Perez reminded the BHAB of the Brown Act rules for all standing committees.
Steve McNally asked for assistance in booking a room for his standing committees.

- **New Meeting Times for 2024:**
Alan Albright suggested changing the meeting start time from 9:00 am to 10:00 am, leaving the standing meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. This item will be a voting item during the next General meeting.

V. Adjournment: Meeting ended at 10:41 a.m.