



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, October 11, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

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

- Members Present:** Alan Albright, Karyl Dupee, Susan Emerson, Steve McNally, Kristen Pankratz, Chase Wickersham, Frederick Williams
- Members Absent:** Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento's Office, Hector Bustos, Matthew Holzmann, Tuong Chinh Nguyen, Duan Tran,
- County Staff:** Veronica Kelley, Annette Mugrditchian, Mark Lawrenz, Flor Yousefian Tehrani, Brad Hutchins, Julia Rinaldi, Karla Perez,

I. Welcome and Introductions:

- Alan Albright called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Members of the committee introduced themselves.

II. Public Comment:

Jim Farrell:

Mr. Farrell expressed the need to for resources for other drugs such as methamphetamines and not just fentanyl and opioids.

III. Schedule Discussion Items:

- Opioid Abatement Plan Update:
Mark Lawrenz provided a comprehensive overview of the Opioid Abatement Plan. He included the data on the current opioid crisis in Orange County. He provided information on the settlement and distribution of funds, which is \$3.3 million for Orange County annually for 18 years, this includes funds allocated from 16 cities. A detailed plan was designed to address the opioid prevention, education and intervention needs of Orange County using Opioid Use Disorder standards of care and best practices. Those efforts will be continuous through MHRS, contractors, and community coalitions. Mark reviewed the four strategies: 1) Addressing the needs of criminal justice involved persons- which will provide medication assisted treatment in the jails and offer recovery supports upon transition in the community. In addition, there will be Narcan vending machines available at discharge. 2) Addressing the needs of pregnant or parent women and their families,

including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome 3) Preventing misuse of opioids and overdose- to include multimedia education campaigns and fentanylisforever.org website. 4) Preventing overdose deaths by implementing harm reductions services- this will include naloxone education, trainings and distribution as well as overdose prevention kits. Finally, Mark reported on the next steps.

The BHAB members engaged and provided several comments and suggestions to include: exploring options on how to track opioid reversals, exploring using social media pop-up ads that would inform the community on about fentanyl and where they can access Narcan. A member suggested focusing on the underlying causes to see how the problem can be fixed rather than only focusing on opioid reversals, treating the issue should be key and really focusing on education and addressing stigma.

The next Fentanyl Townhall was announced, taking place on October 24, 2023. A flyer of the drop-in sites for Narcan will be sent to out to all members.

IV. Open Discussion:

- **Future Site Visits:**
Future sites were identified, to include OASIS, US VETS, The Rock Center, MECCA, Council on Aging, Wellness Centers, OA PACT Program.

- **BHAB Events Tabling Procedure:**
Alan Albright reviewed the BHAB Events Tabling Procedure that will be used for all tabling events moving forward.

- **Upcoming tabling events:**
October 16 & 17, 2023- Plan of Safe Care Summit
October 26, 2023- 2023 OC Public Safety & Reentry

- Alan Albrights requested a follow-up on the BHAB Canopy.

- **Follow-Up Items List:**
Karla Perez reviewed the follow-up items list.

- **Announcements:**
Announcements included upcoming events:
 - Vanguard University Health Fair- October 28, 2023
 - The Villa's 60th Anniversary- October 15, 2023
 - Out of Darkness Walk at Centennial Park in Santa Ana
 - CCAP Conference- October 25-29, 2023

V. Adjournment: Meeting ended at 10:46 a.m.