



# 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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Duan Tran, MSW

Chase Wickersham

**Wednesday, September 27, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

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

## MINUTES

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

**Members Absent:** Hector Bustos, Susan Emerson, Matthew Holzmann, Kristen Pankratz, Chase Wickersham,

## Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 9:05 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

- August 23, 2023
  - Alan Albright made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2023, meeting and Steve McNally seconded the motion. The minutes were approved for the record. Yes 7 /0 No/ 0/ abstain

## Public Comment

- Keith Torkelson:  
Mr. Torkelson provided updates on a housing resource for submission for OC Navigator. He provided his personal story, shared details on the Recovery Happens Picnic and details on site visits.



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## 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 – Annette Mugrditchian

Annette Mugrditchian provided the Mental Health Services and Recovery (MHRS) update. She provided some highlights including updating on Care Act, which launches on Monday, October 2, 2023. Petitions will begin to be accepted and forms will soon be available online as well. Petitions will be accepted at all courthouses as well as submissions online. Moreover, Kaiser is now one of the managed care plans, HCA is working collaboratively to have the MOU in place with Kaiser which will begin effective January 1, 2024. In addition, we received notification of being awarded \$31.6 million for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing, Care Act being one of the target populations as well as mental health, substance use disorder, and homelessness and in risk of homelessness. We have received approval from the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to accept those funds and will begin working with the 6 providers on establishing contracts to access the 135 beds. The providers include Project Kinship, Costa Mesa Shelter, Collette's, Grandma's House, City Net and The Villa.

Members asked for a future update or presentation regarding the Kaiser Development through CalOptima.

Michelle Smith provided an update on SB 326 and AB 531, both bills will part of the Prop one on the March 5<sup>th</sup> primary as one initiative. It is being proposed to change MHSA to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), with funding percentages of 35% for Full Service Partnerships (FSP), 35% for other behavioral health supports, 30% for housing interventions, and we were allowed flexibility between the funding pot between 7%-14%, which would be something that would be included in the Plan. Should this proposition pass, it would become effective January 2025, and operational July 1, 2026. Any previous MHSA language that did not roll over to the new BHSA would become inoperative January 1, 2027. In addition, they included a grant for Innovation (INN) that will be managed by the Oversight and Accountability Commission due to the removal of the INN fund as a categorical funding pot.

## Presentation

*MHSA Innovations Update: OC Navigator*

**By:** Armen Arevian, MD PhD

Dr. Arevian provided a comprehensive update of the MHSA Innovations project, OC Navigator. He included the background and goal of the project as well as key accomplishments. Dr. Arevian shared how much OC Navigator has impacted the community and provided data to show how much the community has accessed the website. Lastly, he included community feedback.

Members asked for follow-up information, they would like data on law enforcement involvement during calls, and data usage from the [www.Angels.ocnavigator.org](http://www.Angels.ocnavigator.org). they also suggested to add OC Navigator as a sponsored site, such that when you google mental health it can direct you to OC Navigator.



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## Old Business

- New meeting time for 2024: (*Action Item*)  
Alan called for a motion to approve the newly proposed meeting start time beginning January 2024, the meetings would now start at 10:00 a.m. Fred Williams made a motion to approve the new meeting start time for 2024, and Duan Tran seconded the motion. The BHAB's new start time for their meetings was approved for the record. Yes 7 /0 No/ 0/ abstain

## New Business

- **MHSA Fiscal Update: Julia Rinaldi, CEO/ Budget**  
Julia Rinaldi provided an MHSA Fiscal update. She included a summary of the MHSA funds for all MHSA components, including a breakdown summary by fiscal years 21/22 and 22/23.

## Committee Updates:

- Older Adults Committee- The committee is focusing on updating the Older Adults Behavioral Health Resource Guide and will send out to the BHAB soon.
- Children and Youth Committee- The committee is scheduling their first meeting on October 9, 2023, 1:00 – 1:00 p.m. During this meeting they will review committee goals.
- SUD Committee- They have not met recently, but announced the upcoming California's 10<sup>th</sup> annual Addiction Conference at the Newport Beach Hyatt on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:42 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 \*\**