



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>

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Doug Chaffee, Chairman
Fourth District

Katrina Foley, Vice Chairwoman
Fifth District

Janet Nguyen
First District

Vicente Sarmiento
Second District

Donald P. Wagner
Third District

Wednesday, April 23, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Meeting Location:

601 N. Ross St., (CCC Room#104) Santa Ana, CA 92701

Hybrid Option for members of the Public:

<https://zoom.us/j/95862491099>

Meeting ID: ID: 958 6249 1099

Call In: +1 301 715 8592

MINUTES

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BHAB MEMBERS

Alan V. Albright, LMFT
Chair

Frederick Williams, LMFT
Vice Chair

Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento
Second District

Hector Bustos

Stephen McNally

Linda Smith

Duan Tran, MSW

Chase Wickersham

Carla DiCandia

Michell Fernandez

Danielle Sena

Members Present: Alan Albright, Fredrick Williams, Supervisor Sarmiento's Office, Stephen McNally, Linda Smith, Chase Wickersham, Danielle Sena, Carla DiCandia, Michell Fernandez, Hector Bustos

Members Absent: Duan Tran

Staff Present: Ian Kemmer, Linda Molina, Karla Perez, Amy Nguyen, Anthony Padilla, Dawn Smith, Tracy Rick, Lisa Row, Stacey Berardino, Adelene Tsujiuchi, Xyanya Garza

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:05 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

- March 26, 2025
 - Minutes were approved as read. Chase Wickersham moved the minutes; Supervisor Sarmiento's Office to second. Yes 9/ No 0.

BHS Chief's Report

Ian Kemmer provided an update on the reorganization of the Outreach and Engagement (O&E) Team, as approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) at the May 20, 2025, BOS Meeting. A portion of BHS team will transition to reporting to The Office of Care Coordination (OCC) at CEO to coordinate shelter services. Steve McNally inquired about CalOptima funding for the O&E team. CalOptima will be funding a portion of the program that is going to OCC and a portion of BHSA funds will also go to OCC, so reporting will need to be sent back to BHS.



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HEALTH CARE AGENCY

Ian Kemmer, LMFT
Director

Behavioral Health Services

Linda Molina, LCSW
Deputy Director

Behavioral Health Services

Karla Perez
Staff Specialist

Behavioral Health Services

Ian announced that May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the focus is on highlighting the work that has been done to change stigma around mental health.

Ian provided updates on the implementation of Prop 36, which requires treatment for those who have theft and/or drug charges in lieu of jail time. About 25% of the people who have been offered this program have accepted treatment. OCHCA's BHS team has become a model for the state due to successful systems that have been implemented. Anticipating that a new bill to come that would help with funding.

Ian provided updates on the Ducks contract, which was one of ways that OC Navigator was promoted to the community. Alan asked for clarification on contract funding and Ian informed the group that the contract includes a whole campaign including banners, helmet branding, smile cam, and other collaborative community events. Steve requested to see chorus reports on successfulness between Angels/Ducks and OC Navigator.

The BHAB requested to know what contracts or items are coming up for future renewals for improved community interactions. In addition, Steve suggested sharing a calendar with all community events to be shared across the various meetings to continue to promote awareness about BHS in the community.

Vasila Ahmad on behalf of Supervisor Sarmiento expressed appreciation for everyone's feedback and comments regarding Ducks contract. She will be addressing this with their staff further.

Ian shared BHS has opted into the incentive program of BH Connect which allowed for funding opportunities. BHS would need to stand up additional evidenced-based practices required by BH Connect to be able to opt into additional funding sources. Currently reviewing what BHS is doing to see what still needs to be started up and utilizing planning on utilizing Centers of Excellence once they are available. Ian suggested an additional meeting in the future to explain and address BH Connect.

Ian updated the BHAB on the Irvine Campus, the facility will open in August. There will be an outpatient building, residential substance use programs, crisis residential/CSU, and sobering programs. Steve inquired about the providers that would be at Irvine, however as those are in RFP negotiation these could not be discussed at this time.

Steve also inquired about Prop 1/BHCIP Infrastructure dollars. Award funding is pending to be released in May. BHS has applied for the max level possible.

Danielle asked about medical detox services. Currently no RFP out for medical detox, but that is something BHS is considering since the only current one is College Hospital.



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Linda Molina provided an and overview and update on SB 43. Linda and Mark Lawrenz had been meeting with the state workgroup on implementation to get feedback from other Counties that have begun implementing SB 43. There is an internal workgroup with BHS, Public Guardian's office, EMS, and Correctional Health to adapt an internal process. The current focus is the revision of LPS designation training and meeting with hospitals to understand their challenges. SB 1238 is the companion bill, outlining changing designations of facilities, and requirements for trained individuals. More guidance to come by the State to help define expectations. Currently, county facilities can receive dually diagnosed individuals but are not able to intake an individual that is solely SUD diagnosed. Currently working facilities towards being able to handle a standalone individual by January.

Presentations

OC Older Adults needs Assessment Report Presentation

By: Chrislyn Nefas – Data Analytics Senior Manager, County Executive Office
Claudia Harris – Office on Aging, Director, OC Community Services

Claudia Harris and Chrislyn Nefas presented on the Older Adults Needs Assessment Report, providing the going over the overall process, the background, findings for Orange County's older adult and aging population, the methods, the design of the report, where to access the report, and the County's next steps.

In 2019, the State Government gave an executive order, driving the State's needs to address the aging population to encourage local entities to develop the Master Plan on Aging. State level Master Plan for aging was released by the state in 2021, to be used as a 10-year road map for the demographic shift.

In January of 2023, the county began its process for the Master Plan for aging. Surveys were conducted from September through 2023 – January 2024. From February 2024 – January 2025, data from surveys was validated, analyzed, and reported on with the release of the Older Adults Needs Assessment Report being released in February 2025.

Surveys were designed based on the State's five goals. There were three surveys conducted targeting community, caregiver, and paid providers. First goal from survey is housing for all ages and stages. Second goal is health reimaged. Third goal is inclusion and equity, not isolation. Fourth goal is caregiving that works. Fifth goal is affordable aging.

CALBHB/C and CBHPC Updates

Danielle shared updates from the Planning Council to the BHAB via email. Linda highlighted a concern that the MHA peer support warmline will be running out of funding, as peer support warmline was funded through state, not BHSA. Steve shared that since warmline was statewide, peers answering calls are located all over the state, and the average length of a call was about 15 minutes, similar to NAMI.



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New Business

- Letter of Support for SB 531.

Alan provided a brief overview of SB 531 to the Board.

A vote by rollcall took place, the item was motioned by Carla DiCandia and seconded by Steve McNally. Yes 7/Abstain 2

Discussion: Ian Kemmer provided feedback that this bill is an education curriculum bill, not a treatment bill. Linda Smith shared that in her Children's committee, she asked representatives of the Department of Education for some input before action was taken, but they were not ready to provide input in that moment. Hector Bustos provided feedback on this letter with respect to taking the first steps towards changing mental health stigma in early ages. Carla DiCandia felt that long-term effects of lack of education for mental health awareness do fall upon BHS and for that reason, this bill would be highlighting the importance of prevention in early ages.

Draft will be revised to include Ian Kemmer as recipient of letter.

Public Comment:

- Riley Chin with State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Mr. Chin shared that State Council has developed a form called Share Your Medicaid Story. It is a form that allows the public to share how they have been positively impacted by Medical, CalOptima, and Medicaid funded services. Expressed appreciation for the Crisis Intervention Team and training provided to the community.

Karla Perez sent out email regarding Community Care Expansion Preservation RFP Opportunity Announcement for Board members to review.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

2025 BHAB Attendance Record General Meetings											
MEMBER	22-Jan	26-Feb	26-Mar	23-Apr	28-May	25-Jun	23-Jul	27-Aug	24-Sep	22-Oct	26-Nov
Alan Albright	P	P	P	P							
Supervisor Sarmiento's Office	A	P	P	P							
Hector Bustos	P	P	A	P							
Carla DiCandia	P	P	A	P							
Stephen McNally	P	P	P	P							
Tuong Chinh Nguyen	P	P									
Linda Smith	P	P	P	P							
Duan Tran	A	P	A	A							
Frederick Williams	P	P	P	P							
Chase Wickersham	P	P	P	P							
Mitchell Fernandez		P	A	A							
Danielle Sena		A	A	P							

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 **