



# 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, May 28, 2025**  
**10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

### **Meeting Location:**

601 N. Ross St., (MPR Room) Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Hybrid Option for members of the Public:**

<https://zoom.us/j/99364554212>

**Meeting ID:** ID: 993 6455 4212

### **MINUTES**

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## **BHAB MEMBERS**

Alan V. Albright, LMFT  
**Chair**

Frederick Williams, LMFT  
**Vice Chair**

Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento  
Second District

Hector Bustos

Adela Cruz

Stephen McNally

Linda Smith

Duan Tran, MSW

Chase Wickersham

Carla DiCandia

Michell Fernandez

Danielle Sena

**Members Present:** Alan Albright, Frederick Williams, Supervisor Sarmiento's Office, Hector Bustos, Carla DiCandia, Stephen McNally, Danielle Sena, Linda Smith, Duan Tran, Chase Wickersham, Michell Fernandez, Adela Cruz

**Staff Present:** Ian Kemmer, Linda Molina, Anthony Padilla, Karla Perez, Amy Nguyen, Tracy Rick, Mark Lawrenz, Frank Congine, Bhuvana Rao

### **Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Alan Albright who then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Supervisor Sarmiento shared about the recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness Month at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) Meeting on May 20, 2025. Supervisor Sarmiento highlighted the various services and resources provided by the County, and the partnership with CalOptima, to meet the mental health needs of the community. Future challenges will be the transition from Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) in the new year, and uncertainty of funding due to budget and political administration. Supervisor Sarmiento expressed appreciation for the BHAB, supporters of the BHAB, and discussions that normalize and prioritize mental health.
- Each member introduced themselves.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- April 9, 2025: Hector Bustos made a motion to approve, and Chase Wickersham seconded for approval. (Yes 11/No 0)
- April 23, 2025: Linda Smith made a motion to approve, and Chase Wickersham seconded for approval. (Yes 11/No 0)

### **BHS Chief's Report**

Ian Kemmer shared about items regarding the MHSA Plan and transition of postvention services of the 988 line through Didi Hirsch which were presented at the BOS meeting on May 20, 2025, which will be continued to the June 20, 2025 meeting.



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## MINUTES

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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

Based on procurement process, alternate provider was recommended for the 988 line. Concerns were expressed with splitting providers, including potentially higher costs and decreased services. Ian noted that in the procurement process, the newly proposed provider had scored higher than the current provider; related to the interview portion. Linda Smith requested clarification as to the funding of the 988 line. Ian clarified that the May revise has funding for the 988 line that is statewide. Orange County funds a local portion of it so that services continue locally. Alan Albright had questions regarding location of services. Ian explained Didi Hirsh provided services in Santa Ana and OCAPICA provides services in Garden Grove. Services would be available via telehealth for both providers, but the primary use of services are in person. Alan expressed concern of accessibility of services if the services are only available in Garden Grove. Ian clarified that there are other services within the county that can help with postvention services and clarified the relationship between 988 and Didi Hirsch. Bhuvana Rao briefly explained the process for postvention telehealth services. Adela Cruz inquired about mobile service for clients who need rides for appointments, which Ian shared there is a partnership with CalOptima to provide that assistance.

Steve McNally inquired if there are any other contract providers that do not bill Medi-Cal, which Ian shared there may be some, depending on the service. With the new BHSA model, the plan is to move providers to billable services. Steve also asked about recording and tracking linkages, which Ian confirmed is in place.

Adela inquired about building capacity in the workforce to be able to provide immediate and/or specialized services across the system. Ian shared that an emphasis on urgency to connect clients to services and expanding capacity is the goal. Currently it is limited by staffing numbers and changes in funding in programs. Adela also asked about agency expectation to expand specialized care with other agencies to maximize access. Ian shared this is being looked into by reviewing current systems to reimagine a new system where each provider can be more of a generalist and gaps in services are filled by existing providers.

Chase Wickersham requested a dashboard for OC Navigator. Ian expressed a dashboard could be created to show data around OC Navigator campaign.

### Procurement Process Presentation

By: Juan Corral, Brittany Davis, and Susan Kessel

Juan Corral, Brittany Davis, and Susan Kessel presented on the different stages of the procurement process .

Brittany explained the solicitation process, the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, and evaluation of the proposal. HCA monitors all Human Services Contracts as subrecipients, a higher level of monitoring to ensure compliance with funding source requirements to ensure proper stewardship of funds and compliant with contract requirements.



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Due Diligence is the initial screening of contractors before executing a contract. This step involves running a Dun & Bradstreet report and a Secretary of State search. Subrecipients who expend more than \$1,000,000 in federal awards must go through a Single Audit. If a contractor is a Non-profit, they maintain a non-profit status to do business. Some funding sources require DOJ non-profit status and must be maintained. Sanction screenings is the process of checking information about a person entity goods or services against sanction lists that prohibit or restrict trade or financial transactions. Sanction screenings are required for all industries to comply with regulations and prevent fraud and illicit activity. Due Diligence process is required for subcontractors as well.

Monthly meetings take place with all stakeholders to discuss current contracts and other matters. Programs are required prepare Expenditure and Revenue Reports, which serve as a tool for both contract monitoring and fiscal monitoring for audit purposes. Procurement also conducts annual site visits to ensure contractual requirements for services are met.

Standard contract terms are 3-years with an option to extend for an additional 2-years. At contract closeout, a Final Annual Contract Fiscal Review will take place to review and reconcile contract end costs and settle finale contract costs.

Annually, County will compete a performance evaluation for the Contractor to formalize feedback provided throughout the year. If a contractor is not compliant, a Corrective Action Pan is set in place. Contractors that do not meet these timelines become at risk for termination. All Notice to Corrective Action Plans are reported to the County Procurement Office and the BOS.

### Public Comment:

- **Joe Banez**  
Mr. Vanez is a Senior Director of Engagement with the non-profit organization Shatterproof. Mr. Vanez shared about the services they provide to the community to those recovering from additions.
- **James Farrell**  
Mr. Farrell started a conservatorship assistance group, using his experience of becoming a conservator to help those who also need guidance. Mr. Farrell shared about his experience regarding the lack of understanding of conservatorship law by many agencies. Mr. Farrell requested a formation of an interdisciplinary team that comprises all the different agencies to look for the care of families.



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- Keith Torkelson  
Mr. Torkelson shared a presentation on his proposal for a Housing Solutions Bundle. In his presentation, he shared proposed savings, approximations for the cost of homelessness including treatment and justice involvements and incarceration costs.

Other agenda items were moved to the next committee meeting due to time constraints.

Steve McNally requested BHAB board meetings and committee meetings be added to calendars that are distributed to the public to increase attendance.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:46 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, 405 W. 5th St., Santa Ana, CA 92701, 714.834.5481 or Email: OCBHAB@ochca.com \*\*

| 2025 BHAB Attendance Record<br>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      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Supervisor Sarmiento's Office                   | A      | P      | P      | P      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Hector Bustos                                   | P      | P      | A      | P      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Carla DiCandia                                  | P      | P      | A      | P      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Stephen McNally                                 | P      | P      | P      | P      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Tuong Chinh Nguyen                              | P      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Linda Smith                                     | P      | P      | P      | P      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Duan Tran                                       | A      | P      | A      | A      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Frederick Williams                              | P      | P      | P      | P      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Chase Wickersham                                | P      | P      | P      | P      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Mitchell Fernandez                              |        | P      | A      | A      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Danielle Sena                                   |        | A      | A      | P      | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Adela Cruz                                      |        |        |        |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |