



# 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, August 27, 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/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

Adela Cruz

Carla DiCandia

Michell Fernandez

Stephen McNally

Danielle Sena

Linda Smith

Duan Tran, MSW

Ethan Truong

Chase Wickersham

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

**Members Absent:** Hector Bustos, Adela Cruz

**Staff Present:** Linda Molina, Helen Cameron, Karla Perez, Amy Nguyen, Flor Yousefian Tehrani, Mark Lawrenz, Dawn Smith, Tracy Rick, Tracy Ernt, Jan Amick, Christy Read-Gomez, Anthony Padilla

### **Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Alan Albright who then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- July 23, 2025: Carla motioned to approve the minutes Linda to second. Minutes approved (Yes 11/No 0)

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

Linda Molina provided a follow up regarding information requested after the reduction of the warmline. The impact this has had on the State warmline is not currently available. NAMI received grant funding to continue warmline services, and they have been allowed to keep the equipment purchased with county funds; and same phone number despite the sunseting contract. The warmline is currently operating at reduced hours. Linda clarified county resources are still available and the protocol for a call that comes into OC Links that may need redirecting to the State warmline. Linda received feedback about ways to publicize the State warmline so the community could be made aware of the resources. Bhuvana provided additional information about the publication of changes due to the sunseting of the NAMI contract.

Linda also addressed the concerns regarding ICE raids and how they have impacted services provided to the community. Currently there has not been much impact to adult services and there has been a small impact on services provided to youth in term of



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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

individuals not coming to their appointments. The agency has been reminding the public that there are alternatives to in-person visits. Clients who miss appointments are being followed up on, and clients are being informed and educated on their rights.

Linda also provided an update on the county's implementation of the unfunded mandate SB 43, which is set to take effect in January. Both internal work groups and statewide collaborative groups have been working towards developing standards and guidelines to ensure readiness of implementation and prepare for the likely increase in 5150s. The state has provided interim guidelines for LPS-designated facilities to be able to address and severe substance use disorder (SUD) population appropriately. The team is also working with the first responder work group to draft a training guideline and developing a pocket guide. The SB 43 website is currently in the process of being set up and will be a resource for first responders and the public. It is set to launch in the upcoming months. Steve inquired about law enforcement cooperation regarding transportation of individuals who are 5150 but are refusing to seek help. Linda explained the current policy and procedure regarding what should be done by BHS staff in these instances. Conversations surrounding this topic have been ongoing with law enforcement. Alan would like to discuss this further at a future BHAB meeting. Carla wanted to add the review of benchmark agencies to understand their protocols surrounding this as well.

Linda Smith brought up concerns regarding the contract for Tracy Lacey and the BHAB's role in reviewing the committee planning process for MHSA. Steve provided additional feedback regarding BHAB's role with the community planning process. Linda Smith requested further information regarding how the funds from the increased contract for Tracy Lacey would be spent. Alan requested Ian and Michelle to attend the next Study Committee meeting to follow up on this further as well.

Linda shared that BHS is actively working with a provider that provides peer services to recruit a peer to be stationed at the VSO to provide mental health services to veterans when they come to the VSO looking for services. Alan inquired if there was a resource guide for services specifically for veterans in the county. BHS will confirm the availability of that document.

### New Business:

- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Continuum of Care**  
By Mark Lawrenz

Mark Lawrenz presented on the SUD system of care. Mark started off by providing the non-clinical definition of addiction followed by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) definition. Mark explained how the SUD system of care is built on ASAM guidance. ASAM, is the most widely and comprehensive set of guidelines for placement, continued stay, transfer, and discharge of clients with SUD and co-occurring disorders.

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A Brief ASAM tool is used at initial interactions with a client to determine level of care placement, and a Full ASAM is completed once placed in a level of care. Mark gave an overview of the six dimensions of assessment.

OCHCA's Drug Medi-Cal serves adolescent and adult Medi-Cal members through the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System. Services are both county-operated and county-contracted.

Jan Amick presented on Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT), which is the use of prescription medications for opioid use disorder and alcohol use disorder. This service is available in all SUD levels of care and some treatment programs will provide these medications directly.

She also provided an overview of the Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) also known as the Opioid Treatment Program (OTP). These services are also available to adolescents aged 12 and older, and adults, and are provided by our licensed NTP facilities. The services provided include assessment and evaluation, treatment and discharge planning, MAT, individual and group counseling, care coordination, substance use educational groups, case management, and coordination of dosing needs to clients in residential programs.

Outpatient Treatment is provided in two levels of care. Regular outpatient treatment is less than 6 hours of treatment a week for adolescent clients, and up to 9 hours of treatment for adults. Intensive outpatient treatment is 6 to 9 hours of treatment for adolescent clients, and 9 to 19 hours of treatment for adults. Services include assessment and evaluation, treatment and discharge planning, individual and group counseling, care coordination, substance use education, drug screening, and referral and linkage to services.

Christy Read-Gomez provided an overview of Withdrawal Management programs, which are clinically supervised programs serving individuals 12 years and older who experience moderate withdrawal symptoms and need 24-hour support to safely withdraw from substances. Services include assessment and evaluation, observation, medication services, care coordination, and referral and linkage to services.

Residential Treatment is a 24-hour, non-medical, residential program that includes clinically managed low and high intensity levels of care as determined by medical necessity. Services include assessment and evaluation, treatment and discharge planning, individual and group counseling, substance use education, care coordination, structured activities, and referral and linkage to services.



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Perinatal services are available to clients who are pregnant or up to 12 months postpartum. Services include additional parenting education, referrals, transportation, and childcare. Recovery Services is ongoing aftercare to reinforce recovery, maintain progress, prevent relapse, and reintegrate into day-to-day functioning. Recovery Residence Housing is available to adults 18 years and older needing a sober living environment. Residents must be enrolled and actively participating in a recovery service to maintain their sobriety.

The key strategies for engagement and retention through the programs are providing a welcoming and nonjudgemental environment, meeting clients where they are, creating a culture of support, focusing on therapeutic strategies over punitive actions, and ensuring low barriers to access treatment.

SUD treatment services can be accessed through the 24/7 Medi-Cal Member Access Line, OC Links, OC Navigator, and any County Mental health, SUD, and Open Access clinic during business hours.

Authorization for Residential Treatment (ART) is a referral for residential treatment for adults to go through the ART team who provide brief levels of care assessments to authorize and place adults into residential treatment. Priority populations for admission into treatment include: pregnant women, individuals who use IV drugs, individuals with a fentanyl use disorder, and individuals receiving withdrawal management services. ART is currently being decentralized from the Westminster Clinic.

Mark shared about 2025/2026 SUD expansions including a mobile narcotic treatment program, opening of the Sobering Center at Be Well Orange Campus, system wide expansions, and Be Well Irvine Campus Programs.

Alan requested Mark to come to the upcoming study committee meeting to present on the data points.

Chase Wickersham inquired how the sheriff's jail program works with the BHS programs. Mark encouraged a presentation from Correctional Health Services. Tracy shared briefly about services that can be provided to individuals after they are discharged from the jails. Chase asked about the number of clients served. Tracy shared that more individuals receive treatment while in custody than BHS will see once released because individuals do not continue their treatments.

Carla shared feedback about the various types of experiences of people who have moved through the SUD continuum of care. Tracy addressed some of the barriers of access that Carla mentioned.



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### Public Comment:

- **Marley Chen**  
Mr. Marley Chen with State Council on Developmental Disabilities shared about a service that State Council provides to assist with individual who may not be able to receive services due to premature termination of Medicaid services.
- **Keith Dooley**  
Mr. Keith Dooley provided a presentation on Metrics and Measurement regarding a housing solution bundle. Keith provided estimated costs, and a risk assessment of the proposal.
- **Jim Farrell**  
Mr. Jim Farrell shared about an experience he had while assisting an individual that was released from a jail system, who needs medical assistance and assistance with accessing resources.
- **Diane**  
Ms. Diane, a resident of MHSA project housing, shared her residential experience and expressed her concerns.

Alan went over the upcoming meeting events.

**Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:48AM.

**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](mailto:OCBHAB@ochca.com) \*\*

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	P	P	P	P			
Supervisor Sarmiento's Office	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Hector Bustos	P	P	A	P	P	A	A	A			
Carla DiCandia	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P			
Stephen McNally	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Tuong Chinh Nguyen	P	P									
Linda Smith	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Duan Tran	A	P	A	A	P	P	A	P			
Frederick Williams	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Chase Wickersham	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Mitchell Fernandez		P	A	A	P	P	A	P			
Danielle Sena		A	A	P	P	A	P	P			
Adela Cruz					P	A	P	A			
Ethan Truong							P	P			