



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
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Vicente Sarmiento
Second District

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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

Wednesday, October 29, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Meeting Location:
750 The City Drive South, Orange, CA 92868
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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Members Present: Alan Albright, Frederick Williams, Adela Cruz, Linda Smith, Chase Wickersham, Ethan Truong, Duan Tran, Stephen McNally

Members Absent: Supervisor Sarmiento's Office, Carla DiCandia, Michell Fernandez, Danielle Sena

Staff Present: Ian Kemmer, Linda Molina, Anthony Padilla, Helen Cameron, Karla Perez, Amy Nguyen, Xyanya Garza, Uyen Stoecker, Gabriela Saldana, George Varela, Grace Lee, Sophia Valdez, Mark Lawrenz, Dawn Smith, Nathan Lopez, Dawn Smith, Carolina O'Neal, Terri Styner, Brad Hutchins

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.

Approval of Minutes:

- September 25, 2025: Chase motioned to approve the minutes, Steve to second. Minutes approved (Yes 7/No 0)

BHS Chief's Report

Ian Kemmer shared that the Tracy Lacey contract was approved at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting on October 28, 2025. The contract was updated to detail the responsibilities of Tracy Lacey in assisting the Community Planning Process (CPP) under BHSA based on latest regulations provided from the State. This included implementation of the interdisciplinary collaboration and cultural transformation model, workforce development activities, data dashboards and annual report summaries. The goal of the contract is to establish the CPP and for the consulting contract to not need renewal after February 2027. Linda Smith asked for clarification of Public Health's involvement in the CPP. Ian clarified due to funding limitations, Public Health is shrinking, therefore CPP will be centralized between Public Health and Behavioral Health. The role of the consultant will be to provide technical assistance to develop the Integrated Plan.



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HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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Karla Perez
Staff Specialist
Behavioral Health Services

Alan Albright noted there was section in the amendment noting a responsibility of the contractor to identify all relevant stakeholders across the behavioral health system and implement a stakeholder engagement plan and questioned if there was a written stakeholder engagement plan from the contractor. Ian shared it is being developed currently. Sophia shared the goal is for this to be developed by early next year. Alan requested a copy to be shared with the BHAB when it becomes available.

Chase Wickersham requested a report on number of beds available for a person taken off hold and moved into a treatment bed instead of releasing to the streets. Ian shared this information is being prepared as a part of the SB 43 process. It is understood that there is a need to build out a system where individuals can stay in appropriate level of care. Chase asked if information can be provided before the end of the year.

Chase also inquired about the assignment to have a clinician working at the Veteran Services Office (VSO). Ian confirmed they are working on this. Steve McNally added he would like to know when this is expected to begin.

Steve requested to see a monthly report on inpatient beds. Steve inquired when the Board of Supervisors will be briefed on the SB 43 implementation plans and if the same information can be shared with BHAB. Ian clarified BHS has already been meeting with the Board of Supervisors and will update BHAB as well. Steve also requested an expenses report and timeline for the Tracy Lacey contract and how it will reflect on the Annual Revenue and Expenditure reports.

Ian confirmed Michelle Smith has been providing updates regarding CPP and Linda Molina has been sharing regarding SB 43 during the BHS updates. There will be information sessions for HCA to inform the community about SB 43.

The Day Treatment Intensive Program, also known as the Intensive Outpatient Program, for children's services was approved through CHOC. The adult portion of the service will be going back for a different procurement process and the providers have been notified. Alan mentioned the service was previously available and asked why it had stopped. Ian confirmed it was stopped due to funding issues, but it is now back with the Medi-Cal benefit. The plan is to start small with a couple of programs to see its sustainability and ability for expansion.

Adela Cruz inquired about the collaboration with the school districts for receiving services. Ian confirmed that there is collaboration with school districts and its at the provider level. Ian suggested that CHOC be brought in at a future date to talk about their approach. Steve asked how long it would take for the new RFP process to be completed, which Ian shared it would take about six months. HCA chose to reopen the RFP.



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Linda Smith asked if Ian had any concerns regarding what various programs are facing due to the amount of change and expectations coming in the future. Ian shared despite concerns, the goal of the team is to tackle the most pressing priorities first and plan for overall sustainability. Particularly with contracts, currently working with a consultant provided by the state to help develop contracting language to meet priorities and maximize on Medi-Cal billing. Updates will be provided in the future as the leadership works together to plan for the changes.

Updates & Presentations:

- **Continuation of Children & Youth Services Full-Service Partnership (FSP) Data By: Dawn Smith**

Dawn Smith continued the presentation from the prior meeting. She provided an example of contract language, providing an example of outcome language. Dawn went over the changes to Full Service Partnerships (FSP) that will come into effect with BHSA, which requires implementation of an Evidence-Based Practice known as High-Fidelity Wraparound. Currently there are three wraparound/ high-fidelity wraparound providers in collaboration with Social Services.

Linda inquired about the integration of SUD, to include psychiatry and Medically Assisted Treatment services. Dawn confirmed psychiatrists have been able prescribe, although it is not a common practice within BHS's child psychiatrists; this will be a big change in the system. Linda also inquired about eligibility for foster and justice-involved children. Dawn explained this transition is currently being worked out to ensure individuals are being treated at an appropriate and effective level of care. Linda also asked if there will be a state uniform screening tool for this process. This is currently being evaluated. Dawn clarified it is a requirement to evaluate and determine the needs of the youth and then connect with the most appropriate level of care.

Alan asked if there is a state letter or information notice that outlines state mandated data fields. Dawn shared this could be provided after the meeting.

Chase asked if leadership felt it necessary to reach out to the BOS or other advocacy groups to voice to policy developers the impacts of certain mandates and policies on the individuals on the front lines who are constantly trying to keep up with the changing demands. Ian shared he does participate in discussions with associations and the BOS to provide feedback and concerns that have come out of implementation of new policies and mandates.

Steve asked who the 3 providers that work with both SSA and HCA. Dawn shared it is Olive Crest, New Alternatives, Inc. and South Coast Children's Services. He also asked if there is blended funding for these providers and if SSA has been affected by the budget constraints. Dawn shared while the costs currently are covered by SSA some potential discussion that this type of funding will shift to BHS as part of BH Connect.

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Steve inquired about the number of foster children in Orange County, and the number of those that are in the County mental health plan. Dawn will provide this information after the meeting.

Dawn addressed questions regarding FSP services. Dawn also provided clarification regarding the summary table of contracted annual maximums and minimums. All of the providers were at or below the annual minimum track service hours expectation, supporting the transition for fee-for-service model. Providers have been communicated the need to push for billable services and improve sustainability.

New Business

• **2025 Data Notebook**

Alan went over the 2025 Data Notebook Survey with the board members. Linda pointed out a discrepancy with a response on the survey regarding the program's non-profit status and if there is a board for the organization so further clarification will be needed.

Chase Wickersham motioned to approve the report with modifications as needed. Steve McNally seconded the motion. Vote by role call. (Yes 8/No 0)

• **BHAB Chair and Vice Chair Nominations**

Voting will take place at General Meeting on December 3, 2025.

- Nominations for Chair: Fred Williams
- Nominations for Vice Chair: Alan Albright

Old Business

• **BHAB in the Community Updates**

- Alan attended a focus group for Veterans, which had minimal attendance. Alan highlighted minimal participation from veterans and veteran organizations, as shown in the CPP Stakeholder Breakdown. He also shared the veteran population in Orange County is aging, not increasing. This is due to higher costs of living in the county, pushing younger veterans to live elsewhere. This shift in the veteran population is important to note in planning for the needs for older veteran services.
- Linda shared about the CALBHB/C meeting she attended and shared about another county reporting on their 3-year plan. While not directly comparable with Orange County due to size differences, it gave a good representation for what should be reported in the county 3-year plan.
- Steve attended an event held by Supervisor Nguyen where private providers provided real-time services. Steve highlighted a dental crew and how dental services could be used as a hook to address substance use disorders.
- There are some upcoming changes with the Brown ACT but it is not fully clear so further updates regarding this will be provided.
- Alan highlighted the BHSA Workgroup Updates which were included in the handouts.

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- Alan shared about his attendance at the Community First Conference. Alan suggested getting a spot to table for BHAB next year, emphasizing the attendance of Law Enforcement would be another opportunity for engagement and participation in the community planning process.
- Chase asked about hosting a BHAB meeting at Edwards Life Sciences, which is a manufacturing company for heart valves. There is a large veteran community so it could be an opportunity for community engagement.

Public Comment

- Keith Torkelson
Mr. Torkelson provided a presentation on a housing solution bundle. He proposed the development of a dedicated helpline. Benefits of the housing solution bundle include centralized management, housing navigation, reduced administrative burden, improved housing access, and provide for professional technical assistance.
- Diana Heineck and Robin
Ms. Diana Heineck and Ms. Robin shared about their experience in the MHSAs housing.

Announcements

- Adela will be putting together a workgroup to review the crisis response systems, different entry points in the community, and trying to build a collaborative that can better bring awareness and educate the community about the system.
- The BHAB Annual Report is available, and Alan requested for supervisorial appointed members to share the report with their Supervisor or board office staff. Also requested to have the BHAB flyers shared with the Board Supervisors as well.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:47AM.

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 ***

MEMBER	2025 BHAB Attendance Record General Meetings											
	22-Jan	26-Feb	26-Mar	23-Apr	28-May	25-Jun	23-Jul	27-Aug	24-Sep	29-Oct	26-Nov	
Alan Albright	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Supervisor Sarmiento's Office	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A		
Hector Bustos	P	P	A	P	P	A	A	A				
Carla DiCandia	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	A		
Stephen McNally	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P		
Tuong Chinh Nguyen	P	P										
Linda Smith	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Duan Tran	A	P	A	A	P	P	A	P	A	P		
Frederick Williams	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Chase Wickersham	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Michell Fernandez		P	A	A	P	P	A	P	P	A		
Danielle Sena			A	P	P	A	P	P	P	A		
Adela Cruz					P	A	P	A	P	P		
Ethan Truong						P	P	P	P	P		