



# County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

405 W. 5th Street  
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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, January 28, 2026**  
**9:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.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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## **BHAB MEMBERS**

Alan V. Albright, LMFT  
**Chair**

Frederick Williams, LMFT  
**Vice Chair**

Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento  
Second District

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, Adela Cruz, Linda Smith, Carla DiCandia, Duan Tran, Stephen McNally, Chase Wickersham

**Members Absent:** Michell Fernandez, Danielle Sena, Supervisor Sarmiento, Michelle Fernandez, Danielle Sena, Ethan Truong

**Staff Present:** Ian Kemmer, Anthony Padilla, Karla Perez, Gabriela Saldana, George Varela

### **Call to Order**

- The retreat was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by Alan Albright.

### **BHS Director Report**

Ian Kemmer provided a comprehensive update on Behavioral Health Services and updated BHAB on their 2024 recommendations.

BHAB's 2024 recommendations consisted of data and reporting needs for older adults and targeted community education and outreach.

**Data and Reporting Needs:** Ian mentioned BHS is currently reconfiguring the entire system, and the department is working on meeting State requirements to meet current standards and State regulations. BHS will use the gathered data to create a mock dashboard for the State, which the department will continue to add to throughout the year, and produce a good report. The intent is to eventually have a public-facing document for the community.

**Targeted community education and outreach:** BHS provides presentations, community planning meetings, and forums. It is the department's goal to keep the County's website up to date, informing the community of upcoming events where they can attend training or informative meetings. help update the County's website. We have well-researched platforms, including suicide strategies, crisis continuum of care units, OC-Links, and OC Navigator, as well as the Anaheim Ducks and Angel campaigns.



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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

Linda asked how effective are the Ducks and Angels campaigns? Are these campaigns serving our targeted demographic?

Ian's response: For advertising, it is very difficult to measure success. We measure success by the community reaching out to OC-Links, accessing the OC Navigator platforms, and acquiring help.

Adela asked whether BHS is collecting information from individuals accessing services? Ian's response: Yes, that occurs throughout the system. Data quality is a requirement of the State. BHS receives very high scores, as reflected in the EQRO.

Ian provided an update on 2025 accomplishments for BHS, it included some of the following updates:

#### **Payment Reform – Countywide initial implementation Underway**

- Payment Reform infrastructure is live; billing, rates, contracts, and EHR changes are actively implemented countywide.

#### **BH CONNECT Incentive Program – \$3.5 Million Earned**

- OC successfully completed its first BH CONNECT submission, earning **\$3.5M**, with infrastructure in place to pursue up to **\$133M through 2029**.

#### **Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Expansion & Fidelity**

- System wide EBP implementation/expansion underway, including High Fidelity Wraparound, FFT, MST, PCIT, CSC, and DTI (contracts approved; Implementation set) with additional EBP's continuing to roll out.

#### **Crisis Continuum Expansion & 988**

- Expanded crisis response capacity through new request for proposals (RFP), regional CAT deployment, 911 diversion, and public awareness campaigns.

#### **Bed Capacity Growth & System Flow**

- Active Expansion of acute, LTC, and residential capacity to support SB 43 readiness and reduce ED and jail bottlenecks.

#### **Closed -Loop Referrals (CLR) – Countywide Launch**

- Countywide CLR initiative was launched using CHORUS, with multi-agency alignment underway.

#### **BHSA Integrated Planning & Transformation**

- BHSA integrated Plan and early operationalization development underway with cross-division leadership and multi-year planning horizon.



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### **SB 43 Implementation & Readiness – Go Live January 1, 2026**

- SB 43 has been implemented through cross-system planning, first responder tools, online and in-person trainings, and community education in advance of the January 1, 2026, effective date.

### **Brown Act and Member Duties Overview by Theresa Comstock**

Theresa presented a comprehensive overview of the Brown Act, covering its basic requirements, teleconferencing rules, and new alternative teleconferencing provisions that took effect January 1st. She explained that advisory boards are considered eligible subsidiary bodies, subject to specific teleconferencing rules that require authorization from the Board of Supervisors every six months and approval from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board. Theresa also discussed the "just-cause" allowances, which allow members to participate remotely in up to two meetings per year, provided they notify staff and the Chair at the earliest opportunity and comply with participation requirements.

Theresa also provided a comprehensive overview of the member duties and responsibilities as suggested by the WIC.

### **2026 Goals (Action Plan) and Strategic Planning:**

- The BHAB discussed increasing member attendance and participation at General meetings and Study Committee meetings.
- Adela Cruz suggested the BHAB follow up with public comments received. Alan mentioned that the BHAB used to have a liaison to review any public comments that required follow-up. He suggested that we bring this back if a member is interested in taking on this responsibility. Linda Smith recommended that during Public Comment, Fred Williams inform community members that BHAB is unable to reply to public comment, and at the end of their comments, thank them for their feedback and make them feel appreciated.
- BHAB discussed the planning of a new workgroup for Crisis Services in particular for Youth. Adela Cruz has been making progress in gathering members to participate in this new workgroup. Adela will contact Karla Perez to schedule initial meeting once they are ready.



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The BHAB reviewed the presentations that were provided to their board during 2025. Following this, they came up with a list of 4 to 6 priority topics that require greater attention by the board in 2026.

#### **List of Priorities for 2026**

1. BHS/ BHAB integration into the community (1)
2. Sharing publicly available information
3. Workforce development (3)
4. Early Intervention & Intervention for Children and Youth (3)
5. Suicide prevention Efforts: SUD, MH with a focus on Older Adults and LGBTQ+ (5)
6. OC Links: Linage, Process (3)
7. Law Enforcement disengagement policies (4)
8. PAD's (2)
9. Sequential Intercept Model
10. Prop 1 related to housing
11. Caregiver mental health support for those with dementia & Alzheimer's
12. Addressing the latest Conditions of Children's Report
13. Reviewing outcomes for outreach efforts
14. SB43
15. SUD Continuum of Care-Update presentation

#### **Top 6 Priorities Voted by Members:**

1. Suicide prevention Efforts: SUD, MH with a focus on Older Adults and LGBTQ+
2. Law Enforcement disengagement policies
3. SUD Continuum of Care-Update presentation
4. Workforce development
5. OC Links: Linage, Process
6. SB43

#### **BHAB Discussion:**

- Members discussed the efficacy of BHAB in the community and participating in tabling events. They would like to see what kind of impact the tabling events have on gaining more membership or public attendance to their meetings.
- Linda suggests that the BHAB District Representatives have talking points when they schedule their one-on-one meetings with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) offices.
- Steve McNally suggested having an HCA Calendar of events with dates of where the BOS will be present.



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### BHAB Discussion:

- Members strategized and provided a few options for possible site visits. Some of which included Recovery Beach, Phoenix House, CHOC, Irvine Campus, OC Links, and Sober Solutions.

### Announcements

- The Black History Festival and Parade will be on February 7, 2026, Fred will attend the morning shift, and Steve McNally will attend the afternoon shift.

**Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

**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 \*\**