



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, March 25, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

Meeting Location:

601 N. Ross St., 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

Page 1 of 3

BHAB MEMBERS

Alan V. Albright, LMFT
Chair

Frederick Williams, LMFT
Vice Chair

Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento
Second District

Adela Cruz

Cielo Echegoyen

Michell Fernandez

Stephen McNally

Linda Smith

Duan Tran, MSW

Cecilia Vega-Gonzalez

Chase Wickersham

Members Present: Alan Albright, Frederick Williams, Linda Smith, Duan Tran, Stephen McNally, Chase Wickersham, Cielo Echegoyen, Cecilia Vega-Gonzalez, Michell Fernandez

Members Absent: Supervisor Sarmiento, Michelle Fernandez, Adela Cruz,

Staff Present: Ian Kemmer, Anthony Padilla, Karla Perez, Gabriela Saldana, George Varela, Dawn Smith, Bhuvana Rao, Anthony Lee, Terri Steyner, Flor Yousefian Tehrani, Rebecca Miller, Xyanya Garza,

Call to Order

Alan Albright

- 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:

Fred Williams

- Chase Wickersham motions to approve the February 25, 2025, General meeting minutes. Cielo Echegoyen seconds. Minutes approved (7/ Yes, 0/ No).

Behavioral Health Services Update:

Ian Kemmer gave an overview on Behavioral Health Events and highlights. He then provided an update on how HR1 and how it will affect client eligibility and redetermination processes, estimating that approximately 233,000 people may lose insurance coverage and impacting billing revenue for safety net services. The discussion highlighted that while the system will continue serving uninsured clients as a safety net, additional funding would be needed, though specific funding sources remain under consideration.

Ian also addressed concerns about the mobile crisis benefit, which is proposed to change from a required State benefit to an optional County benefit, potentially requiring the County to cover 50% of the costs instead of the current 85% State coverage.



County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

MINUTES

Page 2 of 3

Ian Kemmer, LMFT
Director
Behavioral Health Services

Karla Perez
Staff Specialist
Behavioral Health Services

In addition, Ian covered several key topics related to project funding and campus development. Ian discussed the challenges with money flow into projects and the need to make changes quickly due to time constraints, with a possibility of funds returning to the state if not used appropriately. Concern was expressed about the Irvine campus, including the emphasis on serving insured individuals and the timeline for certificate of occupancy, which is required before services can begin.

Suicide Data for Orange County, By: Samana Zarebabadkoki

Samane presented a comprehensive overview on suicide data trends in Orange County. She highlighted increases in suicide rates among certain demographic groups and included the leading means for suicide between 2015-2021 and 2020-2024. The discussion covered how suicide data is classified using ICD-10 codes and originates from coroner reports, though not all deaths investigated by coroner are classified as suicide.

The group also explored the process by which coroners determines suicide cases, including reviewing evidence such as notes and suicidal statements, though the exact trigger for coroner involvement remains unclear. The group discussed suicide by age groups, with particular attention to the 40–55-year-old age group which showed a significant decrease.

New Business:

- **Suicide Prevention Coalition- Bhuvana Rao,**
Dr. Rao began by thanking BHAB Board for attending and being involved in Suicide Prevention Coalition meetings on a regular basis. Bhuvana shared about a partnership with all community colleges, four-year-colleges and trade schools; they have consistently attended meetings and have been sharing what their concerns have been. There will be a resource fair at Cal State Fullerton on March 28, 2026. Next quarterly meeting will take place on April 15 2026.
- **Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair-**
No new nominations were received, members were advised to send any nominations from now until April 22nd to Duan Tran or Karla Perez. Changes to Bylaws are going to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on April 14, 2026, for approval. If approved, the current Chair and Vice Chair can serve an additional year as Chair and Vice Chair if voted on by the members. The elections will take place on April 22, 2026, during the next BHAB General meeting.

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