

Orange County Health Care Agency - Behavioral Health Services
Behavioral Health Equity Committee
(BHEC) Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2026

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Facilitated by: **Co-Chair, Dr. Deana Helmy, LMFT, MBA** **Co-Chair, Luna Lu, Psy.D**
Ethnic Services Manager, OC HCA Clinical Director, AASCSC

In Attendance: Deana Helmy, Luna Lu, Duan Tran, Johnice Williams, Virginia (Gina) Arvizu-Sanchez, Rebecca Freeman, April Thornton, Belinda McCleese, Nichole Duplesse, Wesley Shain

I. Check-In, Welcome, & Reflection

- Meeting was called to order at 1:05pm
- Acknowledged: the Garden Grove chemical leak and evacuation impacts, including County programs affected by the incident. The mosque shooting in San Diego reaffirms the Committee's commitment to anti-hate efforts, community healing, and solidarity.
- Previous meeting minutes were approved as read

II. Subcommittee/Workgroup Updates

- **LGBTQ+ Workgroup**
 - Lead attended a Narcan (Naloxone) training at the LGBTQ+ Center OC. Connected with the Senior Director of Advocacy and Education, generating interest in supporting the workgroup and forming strategic OC partnerships. Engagement expected to create advantageous connections that will strengthen outreach and resource-building.
- **Asian Pacific Islander (API) Workgroup**
 - Reported activities from AAPI Heritage Month. Conducted community outreach at the Heritage Museum in May. Delivered a presentation for CalOptima providers on Chinese American community needs, which was well-received.
- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH)**
 - Continued discussions about the differences in needs and service delineation between adult mental health and child and youth services populations. The workgroup is identifying communication and access points unique to each system.
- **American Indian/Native/Indigenous (AI/NI)**
 - Planning a family social on June 15th in the evening. Preparing to present Circle of Care data collected since September, including focus groups, key informant interviews, community needs assessment findings, and data presentation planned for late July to community members.
- **Spirituality Workgroup**
 - Hosted a workshop at Meeting of the Minds (MoM) titled: Engaging Spirituality: The Benefits of Living Within a Spiritual Worldview to Build Coping and Resilience. The

workshop provided meaningful exposure and generated interest in both the workgroup and BHEC overall.

III. Business

- Committee reported excellent feedback from the recent Equity Exchange edition.
- Members discussed continuing to strengthen engagement and cross-workgroup collaboration.
- Reminder for EIAP Quarterly check-in is due on 06/30

IV. June's Public Meeting Agenda Planning

- Proposed theme for the June 22, 2026, Public Meeting, "Fostering Belonging: Strategies to Prevent Hate," with the co-chair serving as the moderator for the meeting.
- Suggested reaching out to the Orange County Human Relations Commission to support the anti-hate theme and explore collaboration opportunities.
- Highlighted District Attorney Todd Spitzer's platform for reporting hate crimes, ensuring the community knows how and where to report incidents.
- Identified potential panelists from various BHEC workgroups and communities: Black/African American (B/AA), Spirituality, LatinX, LGBTQ+, Disability community; these voices would help create a diverse, experience-centered panel aligned with the meeting's theme.
- The focus of the panel discussion emphasizes story sharing that highlights lived experience, community-specific strategies to foster belonging, cross-community collaboration in preventing hate, and resourcing and reporting pathways for safety, support, and accountability.

V. BHAB & Policy Updates

- Duan Tran announced last day with Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was 05/27/2026

VI. BHEC Summit

- Committee agreed that the 9-2pm timeframe works well, but there is interest in extending the event to 4pm to allow extra time for networking based on survey feedback.
- The DHH workgroup will host a breakout session designed for 32-36 participants. Other workgroups are encouraged to host their own breakout segment to increase representation and community engagement.
- The Committee discussed inviting Jerry Tello as the keynote speaker for the Summit, along with HCA leadership, i.e., Dr. Veronica Kelley or Michelle Smith.

VII. Announcements

- Shared upcoming Juneteenth Celebrations across Orange County:
 - North Orange County – Buena Park
Juneteenth Celebration | June 19, 2026 – Boisseranc Park
Hosted by: City of Buena Park

- Central Orange County – Santa Ana
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VI. BHEC Summit

- Committee agreed that the 9-2pm timeframe works well, but there is interest in extending the event to 4pm to allow extra time for networking based on survey feedback.
- The DHH workgroup will host a breakout session designed for 32-36 participants. Other workgroups are encouraged to host their own breakout segment to increase representation and community engagement.
- The Committee discussed inviting Jerry Tello as the keynote speaker for the Summit, along with HCA leadership, i.e., Dr. Veronica Kelley or Michelle Smith.

VII. Announcements

- Shared upcoming Juneteenth Celebrations across Orange County:
 - North Orange County – Buena Park
Juneteenth Celebration | June 19, 2026 – Boisseranc Park
Hosted by: City of Buena Park

- Central Orange County – Santa Ana
OC Juneteenth Festival | June 20, 2026 – Centennial Regional Park
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Next Steering Committee Meeting: July 23, 2026 (1:00pm – 3:00pm)

Next Public Meeting: June 22, 2026 (4:00pm – 6:00pm)

Orange County Health Care Agency - Behavioral Health Services
Behavioral Health Equity Committee
(BHEC) Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2026

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Facilitated by: **Co-Chair, Dr. Deana Helmy, LMFT, MBA** **Co-Chair, Luna Lu, Psy.D**
Ethnic Services Manager, OC HCA Clinical Director, AASCSC

In Attendance: Deana Helmy, Luna Lu, Duan Tran, Johnice Williams, Virginia (Gina) Arvizu-Sanchez, Rebecca Freeman, April Thornton, Belinda McCleese, Nichole Duplesse, Wesley Shain

I. Check-In, Welcome, & Reflection

- Meeting was called to order at 1:05pm
- Acknowledged: the Garden Grove chemical leak and evacuation impacts, including County programs affected by the incident. The mosque shooting in San Diego reaffirms the Committee's commitment to anti-hate efforts, community healing, and solidarity.
- Previous meeting minutes were approved as read

II. Subcommittee/Workgroup Updates

- **LGBTQ+ Workgroup**
 - Lead attended a Narcan (Naloxone) training at the LGBTQ+ Center OC. Connected with the Senior Director of Advocacy and Education, generating interest in supporting the workgroup and forming strategic OC partnerships. Engagement expected to create advantageous connections that will strengthen outreach and resource-building.
- **Asian Pacific Islander (API) Workgroup**
 - Reported activities from AAPI Heritage Month. Conducted community outreach at the Heritage Museum in May. Delivered a presentation for CalOptima providers on Chinese American community needs, which was well-received.
- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH)**
 - Continued discussions about the differences in needs and service delineation between adult mental health and child and youth services populations. The workgroup is identifying communication and access points unique to each system.
- **American Indian/Native/Indigenous (AI/NI)**
 - Planning a family social on June 15th in the evening. Preparing to present Circle of Care data collected since September, including focus groups, key informant interviews, community needs assessment findings, and data presentation planned for late July to community members.
- **Spirituality Workgroup**
 - Hosted a workshop at Meeting of the Minds (MoM) titled: Engaging Spirituality: The Benefits of Living Within a Spiritual Worldview to Build Coping and Resilience. The

workshop provided meaningful exposure and generated interest in both the workgroup and BHEC overall.

III. Business

- Committee reported excellent feedback from the recent Equity Exchange edition.
- Members discussed continuing to strengthen engagement and cross-workgroup collaboration.
- Reminder for EIAP Quarterly check-in is due on 06/30

IV. June's Public Meeting Agenda Planning

- Proposed theme for the June 22, 2026, Public Meeting, "Fostering Belonging: Strategies to Prevent Hate," with the co-chair serving as the moderator for the meeting.
- Suggested reaching out to the Orange County Human Relations Commission to support the anti-hate theme and explore collaboration opportunities.
- Highlighted District Attorney Todd Spitzer's platform for reporting hate crimes, ensuring the community knows how and where to report incidents.
- Identified potential panelists from various BHEC workgroups and communities: Black/African American (B/AA), Spirituality, LatinX, LGBTQ+, Disability community; these voices would help create a diverse, experience-centered panel aligned with the meeting's theme.
- The focus of the panel discussion emphasizes story sharing that highlights lived experience, community-specific strategies to foster belonging, cross-community collaboration in preventing hate, and resourcing and reporting pathways for safety, support, and accountability.

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