

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

Meeting Minutes

July 23, 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, Johnice Williams, Virginia (Gina) Arvizu-Sanchez, Mario Ortega, Claudia Gonzalez, Belinda McCleese, Nichole Duplesse, Wesley Shain, Omar Guzman

I. Check-In, Welcome, & Reflection

- Meeting was called to order at 1:07pm
- May's meeting minutes need to be updated and approved as read otherwise.

II. Business

- June Public Meeting recap: participant feedback reviewed; DA presentation found resourceful; Native/Indigenous panelist education well-received; considerations for process for future panelist coordination & outreach at BHEC Retreat.
- EIAP: reminder announced; timelines for workgroup plans/goals noted
- Equity Exchange: mockup reviewed.
 - Cultural Awareness highlights queued: California Native American Day (Sept. 25, 2026), Overdose Awareness Day (Aug. 31, 2026), Mid-Autumn Festival (Sept. 25, 2026).
 - Suggestion to update the Cultural Competency Plan (CCP) notice
 - Culture Corner—Did You Know” to include AB 1881
 - Add Fentanyl Campaign and/or Free Naloxone.
 - Future considerations integrating LatinX newsletter via *Workgroup Wire*.

III. Subcommittee/Workgroup Updates

- **Indigenous/Native (I/N) Workgroup**
 - Family social gathering planned as funding restrictions end; currently no MH services in OC.
- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Workgroup**
 - Recap of SB 43, Proposition 1, and poverty traps impacting the community (economy, systems, housing, Social Security); partnering with Dayle McIntosh Center on housing.
- **LGBTQ+ Workgroup**
 - Growing interest (APAIT, OCDE, Shanti OC, Center OC); strong discussion/resources; interested in BHEC Summit.

- **LatinX Workgroup**
 - Increased attendance; reinforce Abrazar client resources; discussion on stigma.
- **Black/African-American (B/AA)**
 - Heavy discussion on Black Infant Health in OC; County meeting updates and funding voices at the Board of Supervisors; resource directory goal remains a challenging effort; workgroup feeling weathered.
- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD)**
 - Exploring new ways to engage in OC CHIP meetings.

IV. BHEC Summit (09/24)

- Calendar invites to be sent for Taskforce meetings (various dates listed in the agenda).
- Planning Excel reviewed; recruitment encouraged (speakers, presentations, support).
- Structure: opening session; six sessions; three repeated breakouts; closing session
- Interested workgroups: LGBTQ+, API, Indigenous/Native, D/HH, LatinX.

V. BHAB & Policy Updates

- Search for a BHAB Liaison is still in progress.

VI. Announcements

- Meeting of the Minds (MoM): Johnice Williams presenting Friday, April 16, 2027 (Anaheim Marriott).
- Departures: Johnice Williams (B/AA Lead) and Rebecca Freeman (Spirituality Lead) stepping away from BHEC.
- Recovery Picnic: moved from Aug 29 to Oct 17.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: August 27, 2026 (1:00pm – 3:00pm)

BHEC Summit: September 24, 2026 (9:00pm – 4:00pm)