



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, June 24, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.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

Linda Smith
Vice Chair

Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento
Second District

Adela Cruz

Cielo Echegoyen

Michell Fernandez

Stephen McNally

Frederick Williams

Cecilia Vega-Gonzalez

Chase Wickersham

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

Members Absent: Supervisor Sarmiento

Staff Present: Dr. Veronica Kelley, Karla Perez, George Varela, Gabriela Saldana, Michelle Smith, Anthony Le, Kevin Clark, Dawn Smith, Azahar Lopez, Rebekah Radomski, Ian Kemmer, Vanessa Thomas, Terri Styner, Xyanya Garza

Call to Order

Alan Albright

- The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Alan Albright who then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Linda Smith

- Cielo Echegoyen motions to approve May 27, 2026, General meeting minutes. Frederick Williams seconds the motion. Minutes approved (9 yes/ 0 No / 1 Abstain).

Behavioral Health Services Update: Dr. veronica Kelley, HCA Director

Dr. Kelley provided an update on the Behavioral Health Director recruitment process, reporting 88 applications were received and noting that interviews are scheduled for July 9, 2026. As part of the board's Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) duties, there will be board member volunteer assistance needed during the recruitment process. Dr. Kelley also discussed updates on 911 diversion with the Sheriff's Department and Prop 36 funding and raised concerns about expiring waivers, particularly the CalAIM waiver which may face challenges due to federal administration's focus on short-term savings over long-term benefits.

Dr. Kelley discussed budget challenges in the County, noting that while HCA has not been notified of layoffs, other departments have already implemented them. She explained the County is facing financial constraints due to federal grant changes, particularly regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) requirements and performance metrics, which may impact their services.



County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

MINUTES

Page 2 of 3

HEALTH CARE AGENCY

Dr. Veronica Kelley, LCSW
Agency Director
Healthcare Agency

Karla Perez
Staff Specialist
Behavioral Health Services

Patients' Rights Advocacy Services Overview:

- By: Valerie Williams

Valerie presented on the Patients' Rights program for the County of Orange, explaining their services including weekly capacity hearings for LPS (Lanterman-Petris Short Act) patients, grievance investigations, and jail outreach at Santa Ana jail. She detailed their dual advocate system where Advocate A handles patient interviews and Advocate B provides hearing representation, ensuring transparency and allowing patients multiple opportunities to appeal decisions. The program serves 442 clients monthly through nine advocates and provides educational materials, with data tracking.

Old Business:

Alan Albright

2025 Annual report Draft: A draft of the Annual Report for 2025 was provided to all members for their review and comment. They were asked to forward any edits or changes to Karla Perez within one week.

Workgroup Updates: Alan asks BHAB members to provide workgroup updates at next BHAB Study Committee Meeting. Adela Cruz will attend the Suicide Prevention Committee moving forward.

Future Presentations: Alan asks board members to make suggestions for future presentations. There is a need to fill calendar for August, September and October for Study Committee meetings for this year.

New Business:

Alan Albright

MHSA Fiscal Update- Anthony Le

Anthony provided a fiscal update showing projected MHSA funds of \$243 million for fiscal year 2025-2026, with an expected ending balance of \$291.1 million that will carry over to BHSA.

Public Comment:

Linda Smith

Marley Chang –

Mr. Chang provided information on The Annual State Contest, "There Otta be a Law" will be ending on June 30, 2026. Marley encouraged the community to follow and participate and this competition. This competition helps the medically underserved population.



County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

MINUTES

Page 3 of 3

Keith Torkelson:

Mr. Torkelson provided a presentation on Housing Advisory with a Focus on Room & Board. His goal is to provide consumers with resources, including Orange County beds, to support access to healthy, safe, well-managed, high-quality housing options.

Announcements:

Linda Smith

Linda Smith announced that Michelle Smith is the new BHS Deputy Director. Alan Albright reminds Board to make suggestions for upcoming presentations.

Cielo Echegoyen shared about seeing an increase in advertisement of OC Links in the Santa Ana and Latino community.

The next BHAB General Meeting will be on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, from 10:00am-11:30am.

Adjournment:

Alan Albright adjourned meeting at 11:56 am.

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 **

2026 BHAB Attendance Record General Meetings													
	MEMBER	28-Jan	25-Feb	25-Mar	22-Apr	27-May	24-Jun	22-Jul	26-Aug	23-Sep	28-Oct	25-Nov	23-Dec
1	Alan Albright	P	P	P	P	P	P						
2	Supervisor Sarmiento's Office	A	A	A	A	A	A						
3	Stephen McNally	P	P	P	P	P	P						
4	Cecilia Vega-Gonzalez	P	P	P	P	P	P						
5	Linda Smith	P	P	P	P	P	P						
6	Duan Tran	P	P	P	A								
7	Frederick Williams	P	P	P	P	P	P						
8	Chase Wickersham	P	P	P	P	P	P						
9	Michell Fernandez	P	A	P	P	P	P						
10	Adela Cruz	P	P	A	A	P	P						
11	Cielo Echegoyen		P	P	P	P	P						

Present: P

Absent: A