



COUNTY OF ORANGE  
HEALTH CARE AGENCY  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
ADVISORY BOARD

MICHAELL ROSE, DrPH, LCSW  
MHB CHAIR

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ADAB CHAIR

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**Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder  
System of Care Meetings  
NOTES**

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**Teleconference meeting via Zoom**

**By Computer:** <https://zoom.us/j/819682651>

**By Phone:** +1 301 715 8592

**Meeting ID:** 819-682-651

**Members Present:** Karyl Dupee, Matthew Holzmann, Mara James, Steve McNally, Kristen Pankratz, Michael Rose, Courtney Smith, Nita Tewari, Duan Tran, Frederick Williams

**Members Absent:** Lauren Deperine, Supervisor Katrina Foley, Jim Taylor

**I. Welcome & Introduction: Michael Rose**

- Meeting began at 9:03 a.m. Members of the BHAB introduced themselves via roll call.

**II. Public Comment**

- Johnice Williams-  
Ms. Williams provided information on the CAMPRO Southern Regional Forum, taking place on October 5 & 6, 2021. There are only 30 slots for Orange County, and she is working with Min Suh to gather invites. Ms. Williams also provided some background on the topics of the forum.

**III. SUD Treatment Overview: Ian Kemmer**

Ian Kemmer presented some additional information that was requested during the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programs that were presented at the General BHAB Meeting on August 25, 2021. He included information regarding SUD treatment protocols used by the County, including length of treatment and transitions of care. Another concern that was clarified was the use of medication assisted treatment such as with methadone or vivitrol. Lastly, how Sheriff's Department and Drug Court interact with the County system. Ian explained providers provide assessments for the level of care and for placement; the length of stay is determined based on medical necessity of services. Case management is provided by the client's current program until client is successfully linked with a receiving provider. There is a Peer Mentoring Program for SUD, with the goal to improve quality of life for the client to help navigate the system, provide ancillary services and community integration.

#### IV. SUDSOC and MHSOC Breakout Sessions

Substance Use Disorder System of Care (SUDSOC)

Mental Health System of Care (MHSOC)

- **SUDSOC Breakout session:**
- The committee members discussed what items to include on the SUD Overdose prevention letter. Steve McNally provided a letter that he drafted which included items from the original letter as well as informative data. Fred Williams provided the original letter that the ad hoc had written jointly. Steve McNally's letter included background information so that those who read the letter will have information readily available. He voiced that his letter should accompany the original letter when sent to Supervisor Foley and her staff. Fred Williams and Nita Tewari appreciated the information but felt that the letter was too long and should be as concise as possible. Sandra Fair provided some guidance on the letter as well as provided some feedback in looking back to the Opioid Prevention report that she wrote along with the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board. The members agreed that the "ask" was clear in Steve's letter and suggested this be included in the final letter. In addition, Ian Kemmer noted that the letter should point out HCA SUD programs and provide ways to treat opiate addiction. Furthermore, Fred Williams voiced that HCA should have more public service campaigns to make the public aware of what is available. Mark Lawrenz noted that they are planning some campaigns and will notify the board when they are underway. In addition, April Thornton noted that Fentanyl strips could be a good source to prevent overdoses as they can be provided to a person discharging from custody or leaving residential treatment, similar to what other counties have done. Missy Held voiced that harm reduction and more educational information can help reduce deaths, especially those who overdose on accident.
- The members decided that to finalize the original draft letter, the ad hoc would clean up the original letter and add the "ask" format used in Steve's letter. They felt that they would need one more meeting to complete this. They will send to Karla Perez upon completion for an upcoming vote during their General Meeting taking place September 22, 2021.
- **MHSOC Breakout Session:**
- Dr. Rose provided information on a Suicide prevention Conference called Be Well Together. Artwork by Daniel Gibbs was utilized on the flyer which will be distributed by email. The panels to be featured at the conference were described, and she added that a flyer detailing the Children and Youth and Adult panels will also be sent out at a later time.
- The Suicide Prevention Resolution was presented by Bhuvana Rao. This resolution will mark both Suicide Prevention Week, September 6-11, and Suicide Prevention Month in September. It was meant to normalize conversation about suicide prevention and educate the community on the signs leading to suicide. Highlights of the Resolution were read, and included statistics and impact of suicide, what the Board of Supervisors (BOS) are prepared to do about it, prevention strategies, the role OC residents can play, and how to educate the community. The BOS proclaimed that Suicide Prevention Week would be held on September 6-11 and that Suicide Prevention day would be held on September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Questions and comments about The Suicide Prevention Resolution were provided and included information about how the resolution would be promoted and how resources would be accessed. Some suggestions provided were to include solutions in the resolution and to have a shortened version be sent out as a form of grass roots outreach. In addition, it was creating a video was suggested, describing suicide prevention. Facts about Didi Hirsch as a suicide prevention resource were provided. Efforts towards reaching older male adults, who are greatly at risk, were promoted. Questions were asked about how survivors of suicide would be included within future forms of

outreach. Lastly, thoughts about the supportive resources available for those grieving a loss of a loved one to suicide were expressed. A calendar detailing information about suicide prevention opportunities has been distributed.

**V. Feedback from Breakout Sessions:**

- The members returned to the main session and shared some of the items and topics that each committee discussed during their breakout sessions.

**VI. System of Cares Shared Items:**

Public Comment (s) Received:

- Member of the public at the last general meeting on 8/25/21 expressed concern that the SUD and Mental Health System of Care meetings are being held separately and want outcomes to know how the cooccurring programs are performing. Michael Rose stated that they wanted the members to be able to discuss their issues and have the time to do so within their own group, especially for those members who are more reserved. This is harder to do in a large group. She also noted that perhaps a deeper dive could be done into looking at cooccurring outcomes. Karla will look into adding this topic in the future.

**VII. Announcement:**

- Suicide Prevention Summit will be held on Friday 9/9 and 9/10/21 by Los Angeles Department of Mental Health. Website for more information and registration.  
[www.lasuicidepreventionnetwork.org](http://www.lasuicidepreventionnetwork.org)
- Recovery Happens Month is in September. There will be a Recovery Rally and OCHCA will have resource tables at the event on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Fred Williams noted that September will be Suicide Prevention and Recovery Happens month, he asks everyone to spread the word about the available activities to as many people as possible

**VIII. Adjournment**

- Meeting ended at 10:37 a.m.