



COUNTY OF ORANGE
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
ADVISORY BOARD

MICHAELL ROSE, DrPH, LCSW
MHB CHAIR

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

Wednesday, October 13, 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: Supervisor Katrina Foley, Karyl Dupee, Matthew Holzmann, Mara James, Steve McNally, Kristen Pankratz, Michael Rose, Courtney Smith, Nita Tewari, Duan Tran, Frederick Williams,

Members Absent: Jim Taylor

I. Welcome & Introduction: Michael Rose

- Meeting began at 9:05 a.m. Members of the BHAB introduced themselves via roll call.

II. Public Comment

- N/A

III. Be Well Mental Health Crisis Unit: Annette Mugrditchian

- An update was given on the new Be Well Mental Health Crisis Unit also known as Hope. This is an individual contract between Mind OC and the specific cities in which they provide services. Currently they only operate and have a contract with Huntington Beach, but will be expanding to Garden Grove, Irvine, and Newport Beach. Two staff members work at a time and the program operates 12 hours a day, but they want to eventually provide services 24 hours a day. The program only responds to calls that come through the police department non-emergency line or through dispatch and are not contacted directly by the public. The program responds to “welfare check” calls which encompasses mental health issues, public disturbances, substance use, etc. and currently 41% of these calls come from a private residence. The Hope program doesn’t provide treatment or ongoing services, only follow up and transportation. The Hope team will link individuals to their private provider, a county provider, Outreach and Engagement or the CAT team as applicable to the clients needs. As a new program, information is only available for September 2021, but during the month of

September, the program received and responded to about 120 calls in Huntington Beach. Annette answered questions about how the program is being communicated to Huntington Beach residents, how CAT, PERT, Outreach and Engagement and Be Well coordinate services amongst their programs, if peers will be used in the Hope program, about reimbursable CAT services, and Supervisor Foley asked if the cities are being reimbursed for providing these services through the Hope program. This question will be followed up on, as well as if peers have been hired in the Hope program and when the county is reimbursed for MHSA funded CAT, does the reimbursement go back into the MHSA fund for CAT. Supervisor Foley also requested that the Be Well data be sent to her prior to her afternoon meeting with the Health Care Agency (HCA). Michael Rose noted that a future presentation should be scheduled with Be Well for a program update.

IV. SUDSOC and MHSOC Breakout Sessions

Substance Use Disorder System of Care (SUDSOC)

Mental Health System of Care (MHSOC)

○ SUDSOC Breakout session:

- There were concerns that the same individuals that are homeless are being seen repeatedly and not being helped. Mark Lawrenz noted that the Outreach and Engagement team is out every day and does go to the encampments. He stated he can find out what cities and areas they go to on which days to inform the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB).
- The group discussed next steps now that the overdose prevention letter has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors. Matt Holzmann mentioned that there are now regulations for facilities to have naloxone at their site and Annette noted that facilities contracted with the HCA have been required to have this available. It was asked if the county is working on an ad campaign about Naloxone. Not now, but Mark Lawrenz agreed that it would be a good idea and to also inform the public about Good Samaritan laws around the usage of Naloxone. Ian Kemmer noted that HCA is working on adding training on Naloxone to an existing contract with Hazelton and will provide more information as it becomes available. There is also concern about a new drug being used that is more powerful than Fentanyl-Carfentanil and how to inform the public about it. The Mental Health Student Services Act Regional Mental Health Coordinators mentioned that they develop presentations for families and students in the Orange County school districts and could present on this. It was requested that the BHAB be able to see the presentation and that it be available to share with private schools, too. Mark also noted that ADEPT could do age-appropriate presentations and share these with the BHAB. There was also a discussion about how providers each order their own Naloxone which is easier to track than ordering large amounts for distribution that could end up sitting in a storage area and not being used. With regard to harm reduction measures, the use of needle exchange programs was discussed, and that research is available on these programs from San Francisco, Portugal and a model in Vermont but that the BOS has not been in support of needle exchange programs in Orange County. It was also asked if the schools are ordering Naloxone since they are approved ordering entities. This can be followed up on with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE).

○ MHSOC Breakout Session:

- Michael Rose initiated a discussion regarding the Community Suicide Prevention Initiative (CSPI) Conference scheduled to take place later that week. Basic information on the CSPI conference was given, including supportive partnerships, the date and time, and how many were registered so far. The different roles and backgrounds of the team members putting the conference on, and their contributions, were elaborated on. The structure for the upcoming CSPI conference was provided and the keynote speakers were announced. The conference

will be interactive, wellness focused, and directed toward high-risk populations. Rather than the dark and gloomy themes often associated with a discussion on suicide, the conference's content will be upbeat and will culminate with an in person walk on the following Saturday at Saddleback Church. The overarching goal will be to start an open dialogue and to recruit a broader audience for the cause of suicide prevention. A recording will be posted on the Be Well website. CEUs will not be available, and people of all backgrounds are welcome. Future tours will occur and might include the accessing of resources like OC Links and OC Navigator

- Daniel Gibbs described the CAMPHRO Peer Summit that occurred on Wednesday October 6th. The summit focused primarily on peer certification for the State of California and what requirements current peers will have to meet in order to merit that certification. The Summit included discussion on topics like Assisted Outpatient Treatment and the use of Psychiatric Advance Directives. The summit also provided a forum to promote peers in the workplace and create an environment that exemplifies the assets peers bring to the table.
- Other comments or questions
- Kristen Pankratz remarked on the importance of marketing suicide prevention to schools and parents.
- Bhuvana Rao described how the CSPI Conference will make suicide prevention a focus to many different walks of life.
- Karyl Dupee had multiple ideas about how to market important mental health information in our communities. Animated board signs, music festivals and golf tournaments were among her suggestions.
- Mara James gave her experiences of attending mental health themed events and described how they might be reestablished.

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 Care Shared Items:

- Michael Rose shared that at the end of November the Data Notebook is due again. This was completed last year by Matt Holzmann, Steve McNally and Karyl Dupee and she asked for any volunteers to complete it for this year. This process is a collaboration with the BHAB, and Behavioral Health Services and this year will be focused on adult residential care and health and equity. Matt Holzmann, Karyl Dupee and Steve McNally agreed to complete it again for this year.
- Nita Teware and Karyl Dupee are the Nominating Committee for the BHAB Chair and Vice Chair for 2022. Nominations can be emailed to them. Nominations will also take place at the October 27 BHAB general meeting. There will be time for final nominations and voting at the BHAB general meeting on November 24.
- Michael Rose noted that she will be stepping down from the BHAB at the end of this year.
- Annette noted that Dr. Jeff Nagel will be retiring from the county in January and there is an active recruitment for his replacement.
- Steve McNally requested the name of the contact from County Counsel who will determine if there will be an MHSA committee. He also wanted information on whether the WIC Code will be followed. The name of the contact is not known yet, but once it is known, it can be shared, and they will be present in the meetings.

VII. Announcement:

- Hoag will be offering Mental Health First Aid Workshops in November and December. These are certifications for adults interacting with adults and adults interacting with youth.
- Suicide Prevention Initiative reminder was mentioned.
- Michael Rose will send information about the Walk on Sunday as requested by a community member.

VIII. Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 10:30 a.m.
- The next meeting will be the BHAB General Meeting on October 27.