



# County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

405 W. 5th Street  
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TEL: (714) 834-5481  
MHB Website:

<http://ochealthinfo.com/bhs/about/mhb>

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Doug Chaffee, Chairman**  
Fourth District

**Donald P. Wagner, Vice Chairman**  
Third District

**Andrew Do**  
First District

**Katrina Foley**  
Second District

**Lisa Bartlett**  
Fifth District

## BHAB MEMBERS

Matthew Holzmann

Supervisor Doug Chaffee  
Fourth District

Lauren Deperine

Karyl Dupee, LMFT

Mara James

Stephen McNally

Kristen Pankratz, MSW

Courtney Smith

Jim Taylor

Nita Tewari, PhD

Duan Tran, MSW

Frederick Williams, LMFT

## **Annual Retreat Planning Meeting** **Wednesday, January 26, 2022** **8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location:  
Zoom Teleconference Meeting

## MINUTES

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**Members Present:** Karyl Dupee, Matthew Holzmann, Stephen McNally, Kristen Pankratz, Jim Taylor, Duan Tran, Frederick Williams, Courtney Smith,

**Members Absent:** Lauren Deperine, Supervisor Doug Chaffee, Mara James, Nita Tewari

Call to Order at 8:38 a.m. by Duan Tran

### Welcome and Introductions

- Each member introduced themselves via roll call.

### MHRS Chief's Report – Dr. Veronica Kelley

Dr. Kelley noted that she would like to highlight what we are moving toward as a county and directed attendees to the MHRS Updates for program updates. She gave a brief introduction on her experiences both personally and professionally. She noted some of the codes and regulations that the county must follow and that we serve those who are on Medi-Cal and who are seriously and persistently mentally ill (SPMI) and/or living with an addiction. She noted that the county is paid from the state after settling our cost report and remarked that we have just settled our payments from year 2013-2014 and noted that difficulty that creates when budgeting and planning. She then gave a presentation on the Medi-Cal changes through CalAIM and how the goal is to make our services more efficient, more client centered with reduced costs. She discussed the focus on enhanced case management that can improve the health for those with complex health needs and the community support services that will allow these services to be billed (that were previously non-reimbursable), changes to our eligibility criteria, changes to service documentation and additional benefits for the integration of substance use and mental health services. She noted that these changes will take time since they will affect all aspects of our system policies and procedures, contracts, billing, etc. She noted that the county is applying for the pilot project. BHAB members asked if these changes would streamline our services and she noted that it would. She highlighted services such as jail in reach, peer services, and getting people to the right level of care, can be billed for and therefore we can pay for and sustain staff.



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### HEALTH CARE AGENCY

**Veronica Kelley, Ph.D.,  
Chief**

Mental Health & Recovery Services

**Annette Mugrditchian, LCSW  
Director of Operations**

Mental Health & Recovery Services

**Karla Perez  
Staff Specialist**

Mental Health & Recovery Services

There was further discussion about the certification of peer staff and there will have to be a standardized certification process, and this will be through CalMHSA and counties will have to opt in. Dr. Kelley noted that she will need to get more information on whether non billable peers will be considered part of our system of care.

### Presentation

*Role of the Advisory Board and Members- the Brown Act Review*  
By Massoud Shamel, County Counsel

Massoud presented on the role of the BHAB and reviewed the Brown Act. He noted that the role of the BHAB is as an advisory to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and to the Behavioral Health Director on any aspect of the county mental health and substance use disorder treatment programs. He noted that Ad hoc committees are exceptions to the Brown Act unless it is a committee that never ends and is standing forever. He stated that any emails are considered a serial meeting if a quorum is present on the email and that if anyone is in doubt, they can ask Dr. Kelley. He went over the differing types of meetings regular, emergency or special and the requirements of each. He noted that a subcommittee is a smaller group of a committee, and they are subject to the Brown Act if it never goes away. A question was asked about the BOS Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee since ad hoc committees should be short time committees and this committee has been going on for a while. Massoud said that he would look into it. Dr. Kelley noted that this ad hoc is not part of BHAB. They also asked what number for the BHAB constitutes a quorum Massoud will check and send this number to Dr. Kelley. There was also concern that the WIC says that the BHAB can write their bylaws and they haven't been able to do that, and that this presentation was not posted ahead of time. They also asked what they should do if the BHAB has a differing opinion. They were instructed to inform Dr. Kelley or go to Massoud's superiors. They were also concerned that they don't feel empowered to be part of the community engagement process as noted under WIC section 5604.2 Massoud noted he will look into it and report back. Another member asked if the recordings could be made available for those who can't attend the meeting and Matt Holzmann noted that they could cover that under the planning portion of the meeting.

### BHAB Questions and Requests

Jenny Hudson requested that BHAB members send all requests through the BHAB mailbox (ocbhab@ochca.com) and can Cc the MHRS staff that they think will handle the request rather than emailing MHRS independently. This will enable the staff to track the requests and handle them more efficiently.



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### Review of 2021 Accomplishments

The BHAB noted that the Fentanyl letter and the Older Adult Neurocognitive Program letters that they wrote to the BOS were their accomplishments, and they want to send out the Neurocognitive Program letter out today to the BOS. Members also requested that they be provided with all BHAB letters sent to the BOS within the last five years. They also discussed that they could attend the BOS meetings and present letters to them formally. The Chair also noted that he would like to see the BHAB members increase their reporting to the BOS members. There was a concern that the accomplishments by the county have been done without the guidance of the BHAB. They also felt that the BHAB should resume reviewing county contracts and proposals. Dr. Kelley noted that some BHAB members are appointed to the BOS and have access to them to provide advisement. She noted that she would like an open, respectful and inclusive dialogue and looks forward to collaborating with the BHAB and will do what she can to move things forward. She noted that there will be an updated meeting calendar that can also be posted online.

### 2022 Goals

**Older adult veterans-** It was noted that Chase Wickersham brought an idea to Matt for a program to reach older veterans within Orange County and inquired if other members would be interested in advocating for this program. Kristen noted that she would. They noted that MHRS could help facilitate this. They stated that they could reach out to Antoinette at Veterans Legal Institute about this. Dr. Kelly noted that Christina Weckerly is the HCA manager over veterans' programs and could advise the BHAB on what current programs exist to prevent any overlap in services. The BHAB requested an updated HCA organization chart and Dr. Kelley noted that one is being updated.

**Transparency on data and budgets-** The BHAB wants to be able to track program outcomes and cost per person for these programs to see if the county is getting what we pay for. Dr. Kelley noted that they can schedule quarterly budget presentations to the BHAB and present our outcomes in a way that makes sense to them.

**Improved Community engagement-** There was discussion around going out to promote interest in the community and there was a request for a master calendar. They would like access to a resource center and requested assistance from Dr. Kelley. She noted that she could get business cards for the BHAB members. They could also place free ads in local newspapers about community meeting and reaching out to other counties to get ideas on how to engage the community. Dr. Kelley also discussed if the PIO office could be involved in the meetings. The BHAB also wanted to know the current vacancies on the BHAB. That information can be sent out to the BHAB. Courtney would also like to see improved communication with cultural groups, and she would be interested in taking the lead in that area.

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**Improved engagement with decision makers.** Supervisor Chafee's office will now be involved with the BHAB meetings. It was noted that Supervisor Bartlett's and Supervisor Foley's offices are open to communications with BHAB members. The members would also like to get someone from District 1 involved as well as with Be Well and Mind OC.

**Waste and duplication of services-** There was discussion on ensuring that we are getting positive outcomes in relation to the money we are spending on the MHSA programs. This area can be merged with transparency on budgets and data to get an idea of how the programs are working for everyone.

### Update Committees, Presentations, Virtual Site Visits

The committee list was updated and Karyl noted that the Older Adult Committee could consider partnering with another organization such as the Orange County Aging Services Collaborative. There was discussion around having the SUD and MH portions of the System of Cares Meeting structured so that people could attend both and not split up into separate groups. They noted that they would think about it and that this could be put on the agenda for the next General Meeting. The group did not have time to update their site visit or presentation list for 2022 and will complete this during the February meeting.

### Business Items

It was announced that there will be a listening session for Meeting of Minds on Friday, April 15 from 3:45- 5p.m. at the Anaheim Marriott at 700 West Convention Way

Jim noted that on March 12 there will be a table available at the Swallows Day event.

### Public Comment

Innovation Project Manager, Flor Yousefian Tehrani announced that there will be a meeting on February 3 from 4-6 PM to discuss expanding support for Early Psychosis for youth.

A community member suggested to the BHAB to develop an action plan for a responsive funding mechanism for smaller agencies to be able to come up with ideas to fill needs and gaps since they don't always have the ability to respond within the extensive RFP process. This would promote more equity in community driven ideas.



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## Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

**Officially submitted by: Terri Styner**

*\*\* Note copies of all writings pertaining to items in these MHB 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: OCMentalHealthBoard@ochca.com \*\**