

Orange County Health Care Agency – Mental Health and Recovery Services

Behavioral Health Equity Committee – Steering Committee

Co-Chair: Deana Helmy, LMFT, MBA
Behavioral Health Clinician II, OCHCA

Co-Chair: Iliana Soto
Mind-OC

BHEC Steering Committee

Community Members

Sohail Eftekharzadeh
Program Director
CCS/Pathways

Duan Tran
Professor
CalState Fullerton

Michael Arnot
Executive Director
Children’s Cause OC

Maryam Sayyedi
Founder Exec. Dir.
OMID Institute

John Reynolds
Peer Mentor
Royale TRC

Johnice Williams
Peer Community Member

(Open Seat)

County Members

April Thornton
Program Manager
HCA

Teresa Renteria
Program Manager
HCA

Belinda McCleese
BHC II, HCA

Wendy Banicki
HPS, HCA

Hannah Ngo
MHW II, HCA

Daniel Gibbs
Peer Specialist, HCA

Luyen Pham
Service Chief, HCA

Meeting AGENDA

September 8, 2022 - 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

1:00 Welcome and Introductions

○ Approval of August 2022 Minutes SC Members

1:05 Reflection IS/DH

1:15 Business

○ Work Group Reports & Status

- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Belinda McCleese
- O&E to Black/African Americans April Thornton
- OC threshold language/language needs Hannah Ngo/Brittany Whetsell
- LGBTIQ+ Luyen Pham
- Spirituality Daniel Gibbs
- Community Relations & Education Michael Arnot

○ CCPU Progress Update DH/IS

2:05 Planning for Public Meeting IS/DH

2:15 BHAB Update DT

2:20 Announcements SC Members

○ Racism is a Public Health Crisis. Structural, Systemic and Institutional Racism must be directly addressed.

- Board of Supervisors (Resolution No. 21-028):

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS declares our commitment to protect and improve the lives of Orange County residents in acknowledging the grave harms of racism, repudiate those who perpetrate acts of racism, and commit to work in our role as a county government to eradicate racism.”

2:30 Adjourn

Next Meeting (Public): October 13, 2022 - 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Virtual via ZOOM

BHEC efforts are focused on the promotion of behavioral health equity for unserved and underserved racial and ethnic communities, as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning/queer and intersex (LGBTQI), Veterans, deaf and hard of hearing and other cultural groups. Key strategies are focused on data, policy, quality, and communication.