



ORANGE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

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Substance Use Disorder Committee Meeting AGENDA

Wednesday, May 1, 2024
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

***In-Person meeting**

601 N. Ross St., Santa Ana, CA 92701

Hybrid Option:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83048609550>

Meeting ID: 830 4860 9550

11:00 – 11:05 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Members: Steve McNally, Fred Williams, Susan Emerson, Alan Albright
Public- Veronica Briones, Tamara Jimenez
Staff- Tracy Ernt, Diane Holley, April Thornton

11:05 – 11:10 a.m.

Public Comment: N/A

11:10 – 11:55 a.m.

Scheduled Discussion Items:

- **Site Visit Evaluation and discussion-**
 - Adult Residential Treatment (ART) Team- There is currently treatment on demand, this was one of the biggest concerns from the committee. The ART team has been working harder on not having a wait period for placement/ treatment. One of the concerns brought up by Susan is that there is 50% of folks who are seeking treatment and are provided with a bed, however, don't get into treatment for various reasons. 25% of the 50% won't go into treatment due to not having a place for their cars or a pet. The other 25% did not provide a response as to why they are not ready for treatment. The group discussed recommendations as to how to lower these percentages. Some of the options included to help folks with storage/ parking ability for the members cars or a location where they can care for their pets while they are in treatment.

April reported that the HCA just signed on a new provider, Recovery Beat, who can support having members in treatment while having their pets on-site with them. Diane Holley mentioned that BHS is looking at ways to help the need; internally staff is having discussions to accommodate folks who have cars and pets. April did mention that some facilities do have storage space for the individual's belongings or space for pets. Members recommended to have a list of all facilities are available, including who has car spaces, space for pets, etc.

- Fred asked for the length of time folks are in residential treatment. April confirmed that

there is no defined time but rather based on medical necessity.

- Steve mentioned managing the expectations on patient treatment to provide to the community and allow trust. This would help people feel more comfortable about getting into treatment. Steve also requested having data on how much it costs for residential treatment to help with determining which inpatient works best for treatment.
- Alan asked to see how many treatment beds are available and knowing trends of vacancy rates. It would be great to know how many people actually get referred and placed into treatment via ART team. Hopefully obtain this information in the next few months from staff. They would like to have this information as a foundation to be able to provide a more concrete recommendation. April mentioned that the actual number of beds are around at 216 beds, but this number will flexuate day by day based on a number of factors such as staffing patterns.

Currently, HCA has a Request for Application process open which is easier to work with rather than a Request for Proposal, so that when a provider wants to work with the County and provide services they can work with the county and contract.

Overall the members were very grateful to do a site visit with the ART and thanked HCA for allowing the BHAB to help in providing recommendations. Susan provided some recommendations- 1) a community liaison to have communication wit the committee and improving treatment on demand.

Tamara Jimenez thanked April and her team for their tremendous help in helping providers in seeking contracts with the County.

Steve asked if there are any enhanced board in cares and enhanced rates.

- **Vera’s Sanctuary- Item tabled**
- **Discussion around SUD Needs and Gaps – Item tabled**
- **Withdraw Management- Item tabled.**

11:55 - 12:00 p.m. Announcements- Next meeting will be June 5th.

12:00 p.m. Adjourn

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You may request supporting documentation distributed to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board as related to the agenda items upon request from Karla Perez, kperez@ochca.com