



# County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

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

**Wednesday, January 22, 2025  
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Doug Chaffee, Chairman**  
Fourth District

**Katrina Foley, Vice Chairwoman**  
Fifth District

**Janet Nguyen**  
First District

**Vicente Sarmiento**  
Second District

**Donald P. Wagner**  
Third District

## **BHAB MEMBERS**

Alan V. Albright, LMFT  
**Chair**

Frederick Williams, LMFT  
**Vice Chair**

Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento  
Second District

Hector Bustos

Stephen McNally

Linda Smith

Chinh Tuong Nguyen

Duan Tran, MSW

Chase Wickersham

Carla DiCandia

## **Meeting Location:**

601 N. Ross St., (CCC Room#104) Santa Ana, CA 92701

## **Hybrid Option:**

<https://zoom.us/j/99364554212/>

**Meeting ID:** ID: 993 6455 4212

**Call In:** +1 301 715 8592

## **MINUTES**

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**Members Present:** Alan Albright, Fredrick Williams, Stephen McNally, Carla DiCandia, Hector Bustos, Chinh Tuong Nguyen, Chase Wickersham, Linda Smith

**Members Absent:** Duan Tran, Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento's Office

**Staff Present:** Ian Kemmer, Annette Mugrditchian, Dawn Smith, Frank Congine, Karla Perez, Linda Molina, Flor Yousefian Tehrani, Ashley Hutton, Amy Nguyen

## **Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Alan Albright who then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Welcome and Introductions**

- Each member introduced themselves.

## **Approval of Minutes**

- November 27, 2024
  - The minutes were approved with revision for the record. Revised minutes will be sent out. Alan Albright moved the minutes; Hector Bustos seconded the motion. Yes 7 /0 No.

## **BHS Chief's Report**

Ian Kemmer provided an update on the Governor's budget released on January 10, 2025. He highlighted that the January budget is preliminary, and the May budget release would be where the impacts of the budget on Behavioral Health will be revealed. Ian confirmed the hiring freeze is currently in place, primarily due to the County budget. Ian emphasized that despite the impacts of the hiring freeze, BHS continues to navigate moving forward with services provided by the current staff despite additional regulations and the changing program landscape.



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## MINUTES

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### HEALTH CARE AGENCY

**Ian Kemmer, LMFT**  
Director

Behavioral Health Services

**Annette Mugrditchian, LCSW**  
Deputy Director

Behavioral Health Services

**Karla Perez**  
Staff Specialist

Behavioral Health Services

Ian also provided a detailed report on the implementation of Prop 36 so far. The general trend is that there are fewer individuals on the calendar now than there were at the beginning. More individuals are talking with their attorneys at court ahead of time and declining to come to the program, so fewer and fewer people are accepting the terms of the program.

BHS's priorities and focuses will be mandated services and providing billable services. Board members addressed bringing in CalOptima for a presentation to understand how CalOptima operates alongside BHS.

### Presentation:

#### **Care Court Update**

##### **By: Frank Congine**

Frank Congine provided an update on the Care Act statistics. Frank also provided an update on the program initiatives and ongoing efforts to train people in the community internally and externally on the CARE Petition process and how they've tried to simplify it through various partnerships. The team has consolidated the resources and procedures to help people better understand who is qualified for the petition process and how to file a petition. Chase inquired about the funding that has gone into implementing the CARE Act to evaluate the financial efficiency of the program.

### Public Comment:

- Jim Farrell

Mr. Jim Farrell addressed the BHAB about the experience of turning over private conservatorships to the Public Guardians' office.

### New Business:

#### **Approval of the BHAB Comments and Recommendations Letter for 2024**

Chase motioned the letter, and Fred seconded it to open for discussion. Steve suggested amending the letter to include 65+ and 60+ as a threshold for reporting and tracking data for older adults. Linda requested to acknowledge the personnel working in Children's who have been able to improve appointment times for first visits at the clinics over this year. Alan suggested highlighting this improvement in the Annual Report.

The letter was approved via a roll call vote, with one amendment to change the age threshold from 65+ to 60+ to be consistent with MHSA data. Yes 7 /No 1

### **Community Events:**

- Black History Month Parade – 2/1/25
  - Fred and Steve will table.
- Cal State Fullerton Mental Health Resource Fair – 4/22/25
  - Alan, Carla, and Karla will table.



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- Meeting of the Minds – 4/25/25
  - Karla will be at the table. Hector will table in the afternoon.
  - Members to let Karla know of they would like to register as an attendee.
- UCI Mental Health Fair – 2/26/25 & Santa Ana College Resource Fair
  - Alan and Karla to discuss attending for to recruit for BHAB.
  - Linda will go to Alcove to find out who is on the Young Adult Advisory Board and see if any are also interested in sitting on BHAB.
- Karla provided an overview of the process for requesting the stipend as part of being a BHAB Board Member and an update on the request for an increased stipend.

**Committee Updates:**

Karla is working the MHSA office on sending out a flyer through their list serve. This email will include notices for all BHAB meetings for the upcoming month. This should help to increase community engagement in committees.

- **Substance Use Disorder:** The first meeting is coming up on February 5. Fred plans to address the committee's goals for the year and continue seeking the vice chair.

**Psychiatric Advance Directive Updates**

- Flor Yousefian Tehrani provided a one-page document with updates on the Psychiatric Advance Directives Project that includes what has been completed and a timeline of what is expected to come in the next 6-months.

Karla will add addressing the community attendance at BHAB meetings and how to better publicize and advertise meetings as an agenda item for a future meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

2025 BHAB Attendance Record											
General Meetings											
MEMBER	22-Jan	26-Feb	26-Mar	23-Apr	28-May	25-Jun	23-Jul	27-Aug	24-Sep	22-Oct	26-Nov
Alan Albright	P										
Supervisor Sarmiento's Office	A										
Hector Bustos	P										
Carla DiCandia	P										
Stephen McNally	P										
Tuong Chinh Nguyen	P										
Linda Smith	P										
Duan Tran	A										
Frederick Williams	P										
Chase Wickersham	P										
Vacant (Family Member)											
Vacant (PIR)											

**Officially submitted by: Karla Perez** \*\* Note copies of all writings pertaining to items in these BHAB meetings are available for public review in the Behavioral Health Services Advisory Board Office, 05 W. 5th St., Santa Ana, CA 92701, 714.834.5481 or Email: [OCBHAB@ochca.com](mailto:OCBHAB@ochca.com) \*\*