



County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

405 W. 5th Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701
TEL: (714) 834-5481
MHB Website:

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

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

Wednesday, February 26, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Meeting Location:

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

Hybrid Option for members of the Public:

<https://zoom.us/j/95862491099>

Meeting ID: ID: 958 6249 1099

Call In: +1 301 715 8592

MINUTES

Page 1 of 4

Members Present: Alan Albright, Fredrick Williams, Hector Bustos, Carla DiCandia, Stephen McNally, Linda Smith, Chase Wickersham, Chinh Tuong Nguyen, Duan Tran, Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento’s Office, Michell Fernandez

Members Absent: Danielle Sena

Staff Present: Annette Mugrditchian, Dawn Smith, Frank Congine, Karla Perez, Linda Molina, Flor Yousefian Tehrani, Sophia Valdez, Anthony Padilla, Sharon Ishikawa, Timothy Sigafos, Anthony Le, Diane Holley, Mark Lawrenz

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

Michell Fernandez

Danielle Sena

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Fred Williams who then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome and Introductions

- Each member introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

- January 8, 2025
 - Minutes were approved as read. Stephen McNally moved the minutes; Carla DiCandia to second. Yes 9/ No 0
- January 22, 2025
 - Minutes were approved as read. Steve McNally moved the minutes; Chase Wickersham to second. Yes 9/ No 0



County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

MINUTES

Page 2 of 4

Presentation:

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

Chorus: Digital Close Loop Referral System

By: Sharon Ishikawa, Timothy Sigafoos, and Thai Nguyen

Sharon Ishikawa provided the need for the development of the Universal Referral Portal. Sharon provided the context for the need for a new system, highlighting changes in policy and need over the past few decades. As a result, processes and procedures that may have worked in the past have become outdated or inefficient. Since 2021, Sharon and her team have been working on OC Navigator and other applications to integrate and connect the various programs and services provided by BHS through Chorus, thus reducing repeated data entry. In 2023, a crisis system of care referral closed loop referral system was launched and in 2024, going into this year, the team has been designing and are working and testing to launch the Universal Referral Portal.

Timothy Sigafoos presented on the Universal Referral Portal. The vision of the portal is to create a fully integrated and responsive behavioral health network for eligible OC residents to obtain timely access to coordinated, personalized care, resulting in improved overall health outcomes and an enhanced quality of life. The portal will allow the system to have a way of moving client and their data through the systems for internal and external programs. The team has been working with Children and Youth Services, Adult and Older Adult Mental Health, Quality Management Services, Data Analytics and Evaluation, the 24/7 Medi-Cal Access Line, and CalOptima to pilot the system and provide feedback to improve the efficiency for clients and staff interacting with the system. Chorus has also provided their feedback to improve processes.

Thai Nguyen demonstrated a beta version of the system, going through a process of setting up a client, documenting referrals, screening tools, and how the system is used by different parties that may be accessing records.

Sharon's team to get back to the board regarding how the integration of a client who is under Medicare will be managed in the system. Board also requested to see information on the top searches in OC Navigator.

BHS Chief's Report

Annette Mugrditchian provided an update on the payment reform fee for service, which is set to be implemented July 1, 2025. Annette also informed the Board that BHS will no longer be working with the Nami warmline. Alternative lines available which are CalHope and California Warm Line, which will be updated to OC Navigator. Linda requested an update on the list of programs that will be terminated due to BHSA. Michelle Smith is currently working on a list to be presented to the Board of Supervisors as well as BHAB. Linda also requested a 25-26 Budget showing programs that will be funded and what amounts they anticipate the funding will be. Regarding the Irvine Campus Update for Be Well, plans to build will be moving forward. More updates will be released soon.



County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

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MINUTES

Page 3 of 4

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Public Comment:

- Keith Torkelson

Mr. Keith addressed the BHAB with suggestions to bring back gift card stipends for public comment and presentations for and by consumers and their family members and to allow for 5 minutes of presentation time for public comment to increase BHAB community engagement.

- Jared Zavala

Mr. Jared Zavala addressed the BHAB with his experience with the ART Program. Through help from a public defender, he has been able to get housing assistance with Phoenix House and sober for a year and a half.

New Business:

MHSA Fiscal Update by Anthony Le

Anthony Le provided an update on the Fiscal Year (FY) 24-25 projections of revenue and expenses and the financial outlook through FY 25-26. The numbers were provided by state consultants earlier in February. Anthony also provided a breakdown of projected ending balances for FY 24-25 and FY 25-26 by MHSA component.

Steve requested a copy of Module 1, which has been approved by the State, and a copy of the changes that are being sent to the State on behalf of Orange County.

Community Events:

- UCI Mental Health Fair – 2/26/25 & Santa Ana College Resource Fair
- Community Listening Sessions
 - March 6, 2025, 4-6 pm, Irvine
 - March 19, 2025, 6-8 pm, San Juan Capistrano
 - March 20, 2025, 4-6 pm, Anaheim

BHSA Co-Chair Applications by Sophia Valdez

Sophia Valdez provided an update on the Community Program Planning Process and the establishment of the workgroup component communities. She requested BHAB's assistance to review applications for the co-chairs of the work groups.

- Committee Updates were postponed to a later meeting.

Member Comment: Chase Wickersham commented on the recent ban by the County Board of S on the sale of nitrous oxide. He suggests that the BHAB may want to discuss this as an action item in the future.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.



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Page 4 of 4

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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	P									
Supervisor Sarmiento's Office	A	P									
Hector Bustos	P	P									
Carla DiCandia	P	P									
Stephen McNally	P	P									
Tuong Chinh Nguyen	P	P									
Linda Smith	P	P									
Duan Tran	A	P									
Frederick Williams	P	P									
Chase Wickersham	P	P									
Miichell Fernandez		P									
Danielle Sena		A									

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 **