

**BHEC Steering Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2025**

**Facilitated by** Luna Lu, Community Co-Chair, and Deana Helmy (OCHCA)

**In Attendance:** Deana Helmy, Luna Lu, John Reynolds, Johnice Williams, Katie Tran, Mario Ortega, Sohail Eftekhazadeh, Gina Arvizu-Sanchez, Andrew Parker, April Thornton, Claudia Gonzalez, Daniel Gibbs, Teresa Renteria, Brittany Whetsell, Wesley Shain

**I. Check-In & Welcome**

- Steering-Committee members approved the last meeting minutes
- Sohail noted to update organization to Clarvida
- Community Co-Chair Luna Lu, led the reflection and icebreaker activity

**II. Business**

- The co-chairs debriefed the retreat and discussed expectations and plans for 2025, including the development of community events and the activities and plans for various committees. There are vacancies on the committee with the departure of Michael Arnot, Brian Gilbert, and Iliana Soto-Welty.
- Each public meeting for 2025 will be led by 2 subcommittees, starting with the Black/African American and Spirituality subcommittees for the February meeting.
- Co-leads for the Black/African American Subcommittee will create a PowerPoint presentation on the African American community and mental health for the public meeting.
- The Spirituality Committee discussed plans to present at NAMI's National Conference and to engage with spiritual communities on mental health issues.
- The Latinx Subcommittee shared their plans to create a flyer and regroup in February.
- The SUD Subcommittee discussed their participation in public meetings and plans for future online meetings.
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Subcommittee are currently working on a resource guide for OC Navigator, and have shared challenges with securing ASL interpreters for meetings and session.
- The Native/Indigenous and LGBTQ+ are building their teams and determining their meeting day/time.
- The API subcommittee will be resuming their meetings with an in-person meeting scheduled for February 11.

**III. BHAB Updates**

- Vacancies on the Board

**IV. Announcements**

- Discussed the OC CHIP Mental Health Workgroup and the SUD Workgroup.

**V. Public Meeting Agenda Planning**

- Set a time for both subcommittees who will be leading the public meeting to follow up and go over the agenda and activities.
- Revise the flyer to indicate light refreshments will be served.
- Subcommittees to prepare for discussion around cultural development trainings as they pertain to mental health and substance use in their respective communities.

**Next Public Meeting: Thursday, February 20, 2025 (12:00 pm - 3:00 pm)**

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 27, 2025 (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)**