

Orange County Health Care Agency - Behavioral Health Services
Behavioral Health Equity Committee
(BHEC) Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Facilitated by: **Co-Chair, Dr. Deana Helmy, LMFT, MBA** **Co-Chair, Luna Lu, Psy.D**
Ethnic Services Manager, OC HCA Clinical Director, AASCSC

In Attendance: Luna Lu, John Reynolds, Johnice Williams, Katie Tran, Sohail Eftekharzadeh, Virginia (Gina) Arvizu-Sanchez, Andrew Parker, Claudia Gonzalez, Wesley Shain, Nichole Duplesse

I. Check-In, Welcome, & Reflection

- Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., and each member was introduced.
- The March 27, 2025, meeting minutes were approved as read; the minutes were moved and seconded the motion.
- Reflection—A member of the Substance-Use Disorder (SUD) subcommittee led the reflection for April, which is Alcohol Awareness Month, sharing an article that sparked a reflective conversation.

II. Business

- Voted to have a new steering committee member, Nichole Duplessee, for the LGBTQ+ Subcommittee.
- Presented a sign-in and attendance tracker protocol via Microsoft (MS) Forms that will be streamlined in June 2025.
- The Black African American (B/AA) subcommittee reported that their April 17th meeting had the Council of Aging Southern California participate and present.
- The Asian and Pacific Islander (API) subcommittee reported on their next meeting and shared an event for May 3rd that will observe Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month.
- The LGBTQ+ subcommittee reported contacting three to four allied organizations for outreach efforts to co-facilitate a panel discussion for the upcoming BHEC public meeting.
- The SUD subcommittee reported that its next meeting is on Monday, April 28th, at 3 p.m. It has been working collaboratively with OC HCA, Public Health Services, which is leading the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) team with the SUD workgroup. The subcommittee hopes to align similar meeting goals.
- The Indigenous and Native American (I/N) subcommittee reported exploring the certification and training by Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) developed for the Native American and Alaskan populations. They have a new staff and will pilot and establish a play group.

III. Announcements

- BHEC Steering Committee Community Member announced that their facility (Clarvida) was able to get a one-year contract for the Wellness Center.
- The B/AA subcommittee announced three (3) upcoming Juneteenth events in Orange County:
 - Saturday, June 14, 2025, Orange County Heritage Council - Juneteenth Festival at Pearson Park in Anaheim.
 - Thursday, June 19, 2025, City of Buena Park - Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom at Boisseranc Park.
 - Saturday, June 21, 2025, BIPOC Orange County - OC Juneteenth Freedom Celebration at Great Park in Irvine.
- 2025 Meeting of the Minds Conference, Friday, April 25, at the Anaheim Marriott.

IV. Public Meeting Agenda Planning

- Co-Chair announced that the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) office from BHS's Community Program Planning (CPP) team suggested to host the focus sessions during the subcommittee breakouts during the next BHEC Public meeting.
- API and LGBTQ+ subcommittee presented a tentative facilitation agenda to support May's public meeting.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: June 26, 2025

Next Public Meeting: Thursday, May 29, 2025, 12:00pm - 3:00pm