

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

Meeting Minutes

June 26, 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: Deana Helmy, Luna Lu, Duan Tran, John Reynolds, Johnice Williams, Mario Ortega, Sohail Eftekhazadeh, Virginia (Gina) Arvizu-Sanchez, Andrew Parker, April Thornton, Belinda McCleese, Claudia Gonzalez, Wesley Shain

I. Check-In, Welcome, & Reflection

- Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.
- The April 24, 2025, meeting minutes were approved as read; the minutes were moved and seconded the motion.
- Reflection—Co-Chair led the reflection regarding any updates and what we look forward to heading into summer.

II. Business

- Subcommittees shared feedback and insight into the last public meeting regarding the BHSA focus group session.
- The subcommittees suggested that emotional support was needed, as some questions emotionally impacted participants during the sessions and were difficult to comprehend.
- The subcommittee shared frustration with similar efforts being executed to gain insight, asking the same questions regarding population needs, and the community's fatigue from repeating themselves without apparent resolution. Additionally, the subcommittee expressed feeling ignored, and the efforts displayed a lack of trust in HCA's leadership.
- The subcommittee suggests that HCA's administration attend BHEC public meetings from the top down.

III. Announcements

- The Black and African American (B/AA) subcommittee reported on the events within Orange County for Juneteenth.
- The SUD subcommittee reported on continuous efforts working collaboratively with OC HCA, Public Health Services, leading the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) team with the SUD workgroup.
- The Indigenous and Native American (I/N) subcommittee reported progress on a powwow event that will bring the community together to share the importance of Native American culture.

- The Latino/a/LatinX subcommittee reported on the current climate in California with the ICE raids that are impacting community organizations' events due to fear, and reported that scheduled events have been canceled due to this.
- Additionally, other subcommittees shared similar sentiments that their community events were being impacted by fear, resulting in low participation from community attendees due to ICE raids that have taken place.

IV. Public Meeting Agenda Planning

- The co-chair asked for volunteers for August's planning for the BHEC public meeting with SUD and DHH, who will lead the facilitation for the next meeting. Seeking to explore more momentum for participation. Proposed a shift in subcommittee facilitation for the next meeting.
- The Latino/a/LatinX subcommittee voiced concerns about their experience with inviting the community to public events.
- Co-Chair reinforced and reminded participants of the BHEC mission statement.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: July 24, 2025

Next Public Meeting: Thursday, August 28, 2025, 12:00pm - 3:00pm