

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

Meeting Minutes

July 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: Johnice Williams, Mario Ortega, Virginia (Gina) Arvizu-Sanchez, Andrew Parker, April Thornton, Belinda McCleese, Claudia Gonzalez, Nichole Duplesse, Wesley Shain

I. Check-In, Welcome, & Reflection

- The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m.
- The June 26, 2025, meeting minutes were approved as read; the minutes were moved and seconded the motion.
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II. Business

- Shared outcomes and insight from a meeting that the Co-Chairs had in early July regarding the next public meeting, tailoring the meeting to focus on wellness due to the current climate. As well, the exploration of canceling the next public meeting.
- Collectively discuss the exploration of a hybrid meeting and alternative solutions.
- Robust discussions and conversations surfaced about revamping the facilitation, communication, marketing, content, logistics, and engagement for future public meetings.

III. Announcements

- The Black and African American (B/AA) subcommittee reported that they cancelled their meeting. Shared announcement about the H.E.A.A.L.collective, OC Black Solidarity Network.
- The Indigenous and Native American (I/N) subcommittee reported working on a wellness event in the fall. Discussed supporting youth in the system and curated a women's talking circle.
- The Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) subcommittee reported feeling culturally weathered. I shared that ASL is waiting for translations for the OC Navigator website.
- The LGBTQ+ Subcommittee reported that an email list is being curated for outreach purposes.
- The SUD subcommittee cancelled their meeting and has been working with the OC CHIP group.
- The Laino/a/LatinX subcommittee reported that Omar G, a parent educator, has expressed interest in leading equity work and will be in attendance.

- Spirituality subcommittee reported ongoing presentations that are upcoming at faith-based congregations and Hoag Hospital.

IV. Public Meeting Agenda Planning

- A reminder was shared that 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.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: September 25, 2025

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