

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

Meeting Minutes

August 28, 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, Duan Tran, Johnice Williams, Katie Tran, Mario Ortega, Dan Verdugo, Virginia (Gina) Arvizu-Sanchez, Andrew Parker, Belinda McCleese, Wesley Shain, Deana Helmy

I. Check-In, Welcome, & Reflection

- The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m., and the July 24, 2025, meeting minutes were approved as read.
- Co-Chair acknowledged the group's openness and transparency
- Key themes identified for improving BHEC Public Meetings: communication, marketing, content, logistics, and engagement.

II. Business

- Proposed a bottom-up approach to identify service gaps via direct input from BHEC members. Emphasis on elevating concerns to BHS leadership and learning from DHH workgroup efforts.
- Discussed aligning data collection with community-informed policy development. Emphasized the importance of meaningful, community-centered engagement that reflects genuine collaboration and responsiveness to community needs.
- Reassessing the current structure is recommended to better distinguish between subcommittee-specific and county-wide issues.
- Discussed incorporating the Cultural Competence Plan (CCP) process into the Behavioral Health Integrated Plan. Link to be shared with subcommittees.
- Conducted a poll to explore new meeting times for the Steering Committee.

III. Announcements

- The Black and African American (B/AA) subcommittee shared the eight (8) events throughout Orange County, and the upcoming job fair on Sept. 25 at Wellness Center Central.
- The Indigenous and Native American (I/N) subcommittee participated in a regional event and is planning a community survey to assess service needs.
- The Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) subcommittee addressed technical issues in hybrid meetings, continuing the intake process evaluation.

- The SUD subcommittee reported re-engaging with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).
- The Latino/a/LatinX subcommittee reported that it is exploring outreach strategies and developing a newsletter to boost engagement.

IV. Public Meeting Agenda Planning

- Encouraged greater BHS leadership presence and participation at the November public meeting. Suggestions included quarterly attendance, leadership-led updates, and dedicated Q&A sessions to foster open dialogue and transparency.
- Discussed the need to differentiate and better coordinate between county and community-based services.
- Concerns raised about technical language creating barriers. The group is committed to simplifying language and improving accessibility.
- Co-chair assigned homework for September and October meetings to focus on subcommittee transformation.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: September 25, 2025

Next Public Meeting: Thursday, November 6, 2025, 1:00pm - 3:00pm