

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

**Meeting Minutes**

September 25, 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, Virginia (Gina) Arvizu-Sanchez, Claudia Gonzalez, Belinda McCleese, Wesley Shain, April Thornton

**I. Check-In, Welcome, & Reflection**

- The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m., and the August 28, 2025, meeting minutes were approved as read.
- The reflection promoted deep conversation about the emotional toll of the work and the need for meaningful engagement.
- Members expressed a desire for transparent outcomes and clarity from BHS leadership, and the committee emphasizes the importance of human connection, consistency, and shared values in BHEC's work.
- The reflection also sparked dialogue about what BHEC wants to teach and learn from the public, and how to foster power and investment in the committee's mission.

**II. Business**

- The August Steering Committee Meeting was debriefed, and the co-chair acknowledged the committee's frustrations with the current landscape and the emotional labor involved. Members reiterated the need for SMART goals and visible impact.
- The DHH workgroup's efforts and barriers were spotlighted as an example of ongoing challenges.
- The co-chair shared a Subcommittee Revamp Conversation on the proposal to redesign the subcommittee from population-based to issue/topic-based groups, with potentially focus areas.
- CPP Goal Setting and Vision, reaffirming that BHEC is the Cultural Competency Committee, where discussions included aligning BHEC's goals with the Cultural Competency Planning (CCP) and exploring frameworks such as cultural competency, cultural humility, and CLAS standards.
- Members reviewed how BHEC fits into the broader BHS ecosystem, including its connection to the BHSA CPP framework, PAC, BHS Leadership, BHAB, County Executive Management, and the BOS.
- Empathy training and potential role-reversal exercises between community members and leadership were discussed. Budget considerations were raised.

### **III. Announcements**

- The Black and African American (B/AA) subcommittee promoted Roots on the Block, an event on 9/27 at Jerome Center in Santa Ana.
- The Indigenous and Native American (I/N) subcommittee reported continuing needs assessment, expanding Sacred Path office, elder storytelling, and historical conversations.
- The Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) subcommittee is planning a 10/20 workgroup meeting. They discussed making meetings more engaging to address fatigue.
- The SUD subcommittee highlighted the Orange County Community Health Improvement Plan (OC CHIP) efforts, accessibility initiatives, communication education, and a recent family picnic aimed at destigmatizing SUD.
- The Latino/a/LatinX subcommittee reported on their behalf on piloting a newsletter to increase community awareness and engagement.
- The LGBTQ+ subcommittee emphasized meeting the community where they are; it shared events such as the VROC Gala, Hope Vietnamese Cultural Festival on 10/03, and Autumn Fest Open House on 10/04 at Albert D. Salgado Recreation Center.
- The Spirituality subcommittee was reported on their behalf, preparing a presentation for St. John Neumann; they are receiving positive feedback from Hoag's presentation.
- The Asian Pacific Islander (API) subcommittee reported holding an August meeting and seeking clarity on future expectations.

### **IV. Public Meeting Agenda Planning**

- Members provided input on themes, logistics, and engagement strategies.
- In preparation for the November Public Meeting, we reviewed updates to the BHSA webpage, including the integrated Google Calendar featuring public events and the upcoming BHEC public meeting. We previewed the registration form and flyer placeholder.
- The themes for the November 6 meeting include community connection, wellness, healing circles, and resilience. Members discussed the importance of providing food, noting the absence of a July meeting.
- Discussion included aligning public meeting content with subcommittee focus areas and CPP goals.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: October 23, 2025**

**Next Public Meeting: Thursday, November 6, 2025, 12:00pm - 3:00pm**