

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

**Meeting Minutes**

October 23, 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, Johnice Williams, Virginia (Gina) Arvizu-Sanchez, Belinda McCleese, Wesley Shain, Deana Helmy, Claudia Gonzalez

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

- The meeting was called to order at 1:08pm, and the September 25, 2025, meeting minutes were reviewed.
- A correction was noted: a member was mistakenly listed as present and has since been removed.
- Decision: minutes approved with correction.
- Members shared personal and professional updates.

**II. Business**

- Debriefed the September Steering Committee Meeting with key takeaways, sharing a desire for mutual understanding, finding middle ground, and identifying a starting point for BHEC's work.
- Subcommittee Revamp Conversations Follow-up continued discussion on restructuring subcommittees, emphasis on clarifying roles and improving functionality.
- Workgroup structures were reviewed, their current structures were discussed, and potential improvements to support collaboration and accountability were considered.
- CPP Alignment and Vision were tackled by reviewing a PowerPoint presentation from the October PAC meeting, which included Statewide Behavioral Health Goals, Preliminary CPP Findings of goals, barriers, gaps, and recommendations.
- Members noted strong alignment with findings related to BHEC concerns and emphasized the need to develop a clear direction.
- Discussed the importance of establishing a structured feedback loop with leadership to ensure BHEC input is acknowledged and integrated into decision-making.
- Discussion on developing a formal recommendation document on behalf of BHEC to communicate BHEC's insights and priorities, advocate for structural and policy changes, provide direction for future work, and outline the next steps of refining and finalizing draft goals for BHEC.
- Begin drafting the BHEC recommendation document was considered.
- The December BHEC Retreat was discussed by polling to gather availability. Members expressed interest in using the retreat to reflect on the year's work, reconnect with BHEC's purpose, and strategize for 2026.

- Communication and outreach were discussed with the BHSA and BHEC email listservs. The purpose and audience of each list were clarified, messaging was streamlined, and essential updates were ensured to reach all stakeholders.

### **III. Announcements**

- The Indigenous and Native American (I/N) subcommittee shared that LA County has a Native Unit, which could serve as a model for similar efforts in Orange County.
- The Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) subcommittee is scheduled to meet next month. Comment on the discussion on the need for a dedicated unit similar to the County's API unit, asking the following question: What would a DHH unit look like? What barriers would it address?

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

- Reviewed current registration numbers.
- Discussed postponing some aspects of the meeting due to low turnout.
- Emphasized the need for enhanced marketing efforts, spotlighting workgroups to shift purpose perception and increase engagement.
- Discussed using storytelling and visuals to highlight BHEC's impact.

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

**BHEC Retreat: TBD**