

## Title: BHAB Subcommittee Participation and Partnership Report 12/3/24

**Introduction:** The BHAB Participation and Partnership Subcommittee is instrumental in authentically engaging a diverse range of stakeholders, crucial for improving the mental health services care-delivery system. This ensures meaningful opportunities for community-based input within the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB).

**Activities and Initiatives:** The subcommittee addresses pressing issues related to mental health and substance use, emphasizing increased BHAB membership diversity and community involvement. There is an urgency in including and elevating safety-net community-based organizations in the dialogue and in future outreach strategies. This involves meeting the community where they are.

**Community Outreach and Partnerships:** In our November meeting a report was shared on the efforts to engage youth in the BHAB and as BHAB members. Accessibility, relationship-building, and community co-facilitation with organizations and members in their hubs are vital aspects of outreach efforts. A subcommittee member from the Institute for Public Strategies offered more connectivity to community-based efforts and the youth they serve.

**Challenges and Solutions:** “Meeting the Community Where They Are”, is one of the primary challenges faced by the Participation and Partnership Subcommittee. A recent conversation with a BHAB attendee from San Diego Youth Services and a student at San Diego State Social Work Program attended the BHAB at the November meeting via online. There was a difficulty in understanding the topics and technical connectivity issues. The enthusiasm to participate as part of their program and interest in behavioral health led them to further reach out to the Chair of the Participation and Partnership Subcommittee. He was invited to the next P&P meeting to better ground in the BHAB Process and Topics. The P&P Subcommittee can serve as an inclusive space for dialogue and better understanding.

**Engaging Priority Communities for Equity:** An essential aspect of meeting the community where they are involves intentional engagement with priority communities, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), differently abled, and immigrants. The subcommittee acknowledges the historical disparities faced by these communities and is committed to addressing them through targeted efforts. This includes focusing on areas such as the East and Indigenous Rural Communities, which have been identified as facing a disproportionate number of disparities.

**Conclusion:** In summary, the Participation and Partnership Subcommittee is practicing meaningful stakeholder engagement, contributing to healthier communication and best practices with the community.