



**KERN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Draft for approval

Monday, May 18, 2020

5:30 p.m.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Via Microsoft TEAMS

BOARD MEMBERS:

Charles Collom
Clarence Cryer (absent)
Deborah Fabos (exused)
Doug Jauch
Fawn Dessy

Frank Ramirez
Jean Lockhart (absent)
Jeff Burdick
Kate Tandy

Richard Hofferd
Nicole Villaruz
Sonia Silva
Bill Walker

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rachel Mehia, Turning Point
Robyn Garcia, Clinica Sierra Vista

Marissa Treviso, Clinica Sierra Vista

KernBHRS

Alison Burrowes
Jenni Sill
Lynn Corse
Robin Taylor

Shannon Tolar
Christina Rajlal
Heather Hornibrook
Mitchall Patel

Stacy Kuwahara
Robert Farmer

1. Welcome and Introductions: Dr. Kate Tandy, Chair welcomed all in attendance. Board members provided self-introductions.
2. Establish Quorum: 9 present 3 absent; quorum established.
3. Approval of Draft April 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes: MOTION by Sonia Villa and seconded by Charles Collom to approve April 27, 2020 regular meeting minutes.
APPROVED ALL AYES.
4. Public Comment: An opportunity was provided for members of the public to address the Board.
 - Rachel Mehia, Turning Point, Integrated Services for Mentally Ill Parolees (ISMIP). Rachel is concern that the governor is going to eliminate ISMIP Program. The program deals with the severally low functioning and mentally ill parolees such as Schizophrenia and active psychosis. Rachel does not know if she will have enough time to transition all the men. Rachel is asking for input.
 - Bill informed Rachel that he will have the substance abuse administrator and deputy director reach out to her and provide a solution. Bill suggested that Rachel send an email to Patricia Rodriguez, Board Coordinator with her contact information so we can have the appropriate staff reach out to her.
5. Presentation by Mitchall Patel, Bakersfield Health and Recovery Services – Presentation on May Mental Health Awareness Month.



6. New Business: None.

7. Chair Report – Dr. Kate Tandy – Nothing to Report

8. Presentation by Christina Rajlal, Bakersfield Health and Recovery Services – Presentation on MHSA 3 Year Plan. Christina is required by the state to present this to the Behavioral Health Board and get feedback which Christina will record and add it to the summary of the plan. Christina is seeking the board's approval so she can move forward and present the report June 16, 2020 at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Question from Fawn Dessy, Board Member:

What does the housing component mean under PEI?

Fawn stated that in her experience with her daughter for some of the severely ill you must be actively involved in a medical treatment or they will probably not accept services. Fawn stated that while some people may like Yoga it is not a conducive environment to those who are severely ill. Fawn believes that this is an underserved population and would like to see more programs and funding that are geared towards people who are severely ill. Fawn believes that with the right treatment these people can become productive members of society.

Answer:

MHSA wanted to expand housing as well as address some of the barriers that come along with housing. Christina has added a component that would allow for someone who is homeless to keep their belongings or a pet. They have also increased the availability to access housing services under MHSA. The housing program under system development so it can support FSP and PEI clients. There are some PEI programs that may link to housing so a program was created that can be used throughout all MHSA spectrum of programming,

Question:

Fawn asked Christina what programs are available to our violent and vulnerable population?

Answer:

Christina stated that most of the home to stay referrals of those who will receive services will come out of FSP. These are individuals who are in our ATT HAT program that are in the justice system and are trying to get on their feet or people in adult WRAP and TAY. These are the people with the largest amount of needs that linked to services therefore it is put into system development. Under PEI we serve youth that will engage through PEI that have levels of need. We do not refer people to programs they will not benefit from especially those who have the highest level of need or just entered the system through PEI. Housing will lie with those with the highest level of need under FSP.

Richard Hoffer, Board Member commented that he appreciates the time and effort it takes to implement these programs and to get them integrated to suite the needs to each client.

Kate motioned the board to approve the MHSA 3 Year Plan, Charles Collum motioned, Richard Hoffer second the motion all in favor AYES, Fawn Dessy opposed. Motion pass.

9. Specialty Clinical Services Deputy Director's Report – Robin Taylor

- Shared with the board that all services are continuing in our Crisis Service and Children's Services.
- For Children's services there was a slight decrease as we adjusted to other methods to try and reconnect children and their families to services through telehealth and outreaching. This has helped us provide ongoing services to those individuals who have high needs or risk of crisis.
- Our WARP around team are at Mary K Shell providing support to Crisis services and responding to our PEC CSU and Kern Medical ED if needed and coordinating with Bakersfield Recovery Healthcare Hospital Children's Inpatient Facility to ensure that all of these services are continuing during this pandemic. Jenni and her team have been working hard to make sure that children and their families are continuing to have the services and the support and access to care that they need.
- Crisis services is up and running even though the lobby in Mary K Shell is not open anyone who comes in will receive services.

- Robin spoke on access to services and the number of assessments that have dropped. An average would be 232 assessments per month currently we are averaging about 171. Regarding the hotline the average calls are 10 calls per day higher that are COVID related. Our other crisis units crisis walk-in center, our mobile evaluation team and our PEC monthly flow remains the same prior to COVID-19. In addition, our inpatient facilities three of our four have a protocol in place to provide inpatient Psychiatric services if they encounter someone who is COVID-19 positive.
- 10. Budget and COVID-19 Impact – Stacy Kuwahara, Deputy Director**
- Stacy gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Kern BHRS Fiscal Budget Review 19/20 addressed the board answer questions and comments.
 - Stacy informed the group that medical services is continuing to provide services via Telehealth and person to person services especially in our jails and nursing services who do injections to our most vulnerable clients.
- 11. COOP's and Re-opening Plan – Alison Burrowes, Deputy Director**
- Alison spoke about the different ways that the county departments are looking at reopening. Alison stated that BHRS has continued to reopen during the pandemic so the reopening plan may look a little different for the department.
 - Alison spoke about the four-phase plan for reopening. Each phase provides some expansion of services with some additional on-site work force. The plan is to expand some services in June and continue to maximize remote work and telehealth where we can.
 - We will expand in areas where we see some gaps and barriers for clients and for staff. Alison has received great feedback from some of the managers and staff. A survey will go out to clients, family members and to contractors to give us a better understanding of what services we need to expand in this initial phase.
 - Some clinic sites will be opening that were originally closed.
 - We will be adding some additional non-clinical staff who are having challenges working from home regarding accessing equipment and performing work functions the need to be performed at the work site.
 - For Substance Abuse Disorder Systems, in our Gateway system we have been consistent with the number of calls coming in an average of 200 calls per week.
 - We added SUD case management under the waiver this past year. This is an area that we are looking to expand in phase one to offer assistance and follow-up on treatment.
 - Recovery Station is set to open on June 1st. Unfortunately, we will not be able to do an open house so the opening will look different, but we will share more information as we get closer to that event.
 - Under Kern Linkage we have a full-service partnership with the MHSA team. They have been able to reach 88% of their clients each month. We also have a specialty forensics team over at Kern Linkage and they have been able to reach out to 100% of their clients since COVID. We have fulltime staff located at the low barrier shelter that opened last week ready to provide services.
 - Over in the Adult System some of our consumers finding new ways to spend time with family and friends, some have been able to save money and have shown a significant reduction in no show to doctors appointments. Consumers like the new virtual method of meeting with their doctor's and psychiatrist. This is something we may consider keeping move forward.
 - There have been some challenges regarding the Adult System including the limited resources that are available in the community. The biggest challenge has been engaging the clients by phone especially those with more significant symptoms like psychosis, homeless individuals, and some of the elderly especially those who are in skilled nursing facilities. We are looking at increasing our field-based services in phase one and looking at using iPads in the skilled nursing facilities to allow for some face to face contact.
 - For Recovery Support Administration we have the contract through Flood Ministries for the homeless outreach program. They have housed 5 of our top 10 homeless individuals. In April, 37 individuals were places into temporary housing and 12 individuals were places into permanent housing.

- Our Consumer Family Learning Center (CFLC) is using virtual technology and hosting the Advisory Board meetings and daily virtual groups. A lot of consumers have participated in the virtual Yoga and our certified peers have been able to maintain contact with all 99% of their case loads and have helped them to remain stable in the community.
- Under Recovery Supports our Peer Employment training was switched over to a virtual training. We have successfully completed two rounds.

12. KernBHRS Department Report – Bill Walker, Director

- Bill informed the group that we still working on the Annual Plan. Due to COVID the plan has been delayed.
- Bill thanked the management team for their quick response and diligence in putting a plan together when the county shelter in place order was activated.
- Bill spoke about the budget that Stacy presented. Bill stated that we may have to change some things and reduce somethings. Funding for our severely ill and most vulnerable will not be cut we will need to create models that will work for these individuals who have a hard time with technology and are hard to reach. Bill was very appreciative when he heard Alison mention that 98% of people who were receiving regular peer support services from peers have not fallen into crisis.
- Bill stressed the importance of maintaining all our funding streams, so we have our dedicated professionals, our strong peer support, and our delivery system.
- Last week 500 of our staff participated in a Townhall meeting. Staff was had the ability to ask questions to our administrative staff and receive answers regarding our reopening.
- This week we will be doing a call (Townhall style) with some of our contactors who are seeing funding shift occur.
- Bill reminded the group that we are 139 days (or 38%) into the calendar year, 332 (88%) into the fiscal year, 220 days till Christmas and 63 days since the March 16th shelter in place order went into effect.

13. Board Member Item: None

- Richard Hoffed, Board Member shared that he has been sharing Art with some friends virtually and has found it very therapeutic. Richard offered to help others who maybe struggling and find art therapeutic get connected.

14. Public Announcements: NONE

MOTION by Charles Collom and seconded by Frank Ramirez to adjourn to the next regular meeting June 22, 2020, VIA Microsoft Teams

APPROVED ALL AYES; adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Items Distributed

Behavioral Health Board Agenda
MHSA 3 Year Plan