



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

Draft for approval

Monday, June 22, 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
Katherine Lee, Telecare
Robyn Garcia, Clinica Sierra Vista

Marissa Treviso, Clinica Sierra Vista
Rachelle Ramirez, Telecare
David Heffron, Telecare

Jim Wheeler, Flood Bakersfield
Shauna Chisholm, Telecare

KernBHRS

Alison Burrowes
Jenni Sill
Lynn Corse
Robin Taylor

Shannon Tolar
Christina Rajlal
Heather Hornibrook
Lesleigh Davis

Ana Olvera
Rhonda Barnhard

1. Welcome and Introductions: Dr. Kate Tandy, Chair welcomed all in attendance. Board members provided self-introductions.
2. Establish Quorum: 9 present 2 absent 1 excused; quorum established.
3. Approval of Draft May 18, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes: MOTION by Charles Collom and seconded by Frank Ramirez to approve May 18, 2020 regular meeting minutes.
APPROVED ALL AYES.
4. Public Comment: An opportunity was provided for members of the public to address the Board.
 - Fawn Dessy would like to have the opportunity to review candidates for the New Director position.
 - Bill will set up a meeting with board end of July early August to review and receive feedback on the potential candidates.
5. Presentation by Ana Olvera Behavioral Health and Recovery Services – Presentation on Bakersfield and Delano Recovery Stations.
 - Alison gave an opening statement on how the Recovery Station project came to fruition.
 - Ana shared and presented on the Opening of the Bakersfield and Delano Recovery Stations addressed questions and comments.



- David Heffron of Telecare presented on the process of getting people in and discharged addressed staff questions and comments.
- Rachelle Ramirez of Telecare shared where some of the referrals come from and success stories addressed questions and comments.
- Shauna Chisholm of Telecare shared on the opening of the Delano Recovery Station addressed questions and comments.

6. Unfinished Business:

- Bill shared that he is still working on the 2019 BHB Annual Report due to COVID-19. Bill is in the process rewriting some of the components.

7. New Business - None

8. Chair Report – Dr. Kate Tandy

- Kate shared she is very excited for the opening of the Recovery Stations even though we are in the beginning stages Kate looks forward to hearing more success stories.
- Kate reminded everyone that there is no Strategic Planning for this year instead we will have our regular Behavioral Health Board meeting Monday July 27th.
- Kate thanked the team for their leadership during this difficult time.
- Today is Board Member, Frank Ramirez last meeting. Kate thanked Frank for his service.

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

- Robin shared the department continues to work under the Disaster Operations Center (DOC). Our focus is safety while still providing vital (virtual and supporting face to face and in person when needed) services to our community.
- Robin shared that Crisis is fully operational and continue to provide the same flow of services through our PEC, the evaluation center, crisis walk in center and the mobile evaluation team.
- Access and Assessment through Mary K Shell had a slowdown but is starting to pick back up now that people are feeling more comfortable being out in the community.
- The mobile evaluation team is operating 24/7 supporting law enforcement and our community members.
- Children's Services is continuing to provide services virtually and in person when needed.
- Robin shared the plan to work with the school districts on finding ways to support, our continued partnership and referral system not knowing what school will look like this year.
- Robin shared that we partnered with Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) to apply for the Mental Health Services Act Grant. BHRS was awarded six-million-dollar grant to work with the schools in supporting foster youth and homeless youth and ensuring they have access to services when they need them. KCSOS will be taking the lead on this project.
- The MHSA three-year plan that was approved by the Behavioral Health Board and the Board of Supervisors was submitted.
- Robin and her team are currently working with the MHSA team on the budget. Robin shared the background on the MHSA funding and where it comes from.
- Robin ensured that MHSA has a fund balance and support to make it work focusing that all core services are covered.

10. COOP's and Re-opening Plan – Alison Burrowes, Deputy Director

- Alison Planning Chief for the DOC is focusing on reopening some of the services that were limited under COVID.
- Alison was happy to receive the news that the governors guidelines regarding the use of masks was in line with what BHRS has in place. Mask are being worn at all the work sites and all common areas.
- Masks are being provided to consumers who do not have a mask prior to entering the building.

- Alison shared that survey's for consumers and family members were published and to date we have received over 500 responses. Alison is still in the process of compiling the data to see what the challenges are and what are the priority areas we need to address and how can it inform our practices moving forward.
- Alison is very interested in the level of services that are being provided under COVID and making sure that we are still reaching all individuals in need.
- For the Adult System of Care, we have seen an increase since COVID. There has been an increase in a months' time compared to how it was in February.
- There is still a push for efficiency of appointments and making an effort to reach out to people during this time 80% of those individuals have been contacted within a 30-day period. Those teams are serving high acuity to some low to moderate individuals.
- There are programs with high need individuals that we have made more contacts with. One being the WISE program which is our more vulnerable elder population. Alison reports that they have been able to contact everyone on that case load despite the level of difficulty in reaching these individuals being that some in skilled nursing facilities.
- Over in our Kern Linkage we have similar numbers. We have been able to connect with 80% of the individuals and 100% for some of our more specialty population. This is an area where we serve some of our homeless population.
- Under COVID if we are not able to reach someone by phone or by telehealth, we are going out into the field to try to find them as best as we can.
- In Recovery Supports Administration about 98% of our consumers have been contacted.
- Our Consumer Learning Center has moved to virtual. We have more individuals participating in these virtual services since COVID.
- We are in the process of developing new service delivery models. We are looking at all the groups prioritizing them and finding the safest way to bring them back on site.
- In SUD System, Gateway numbers dropped from 450 prior to COVID and 265 in April. Numbers are starting to climb again in May we hit 350.
- For our Case Management Substance Use Disorder Team, they have had a steady climb during this time. The drop off came in April and May where individuals were dropping off from SUD services and clinical care. Alison shared plans to do more to reach out to these individuals.

11. KernBHRS Department Report – Bill Walker, Director

- Bill reminded the group that we are 174 days (or 48%) into the calendar year, 357 (88%) into the fiscal year, 98 days since the March 16th shelter in place order went into effect.
- Bill touched on the budget, realignment dollars, the bailout and how that affects us as a department.
- Bill shared that the department will not be laying off staff but construct the budget in a way that will allow us to continue to provide services to our most critical and continue to have the department fully staffed.
- Bill shared that we will be recruiting for new board members to fill our current vacancies and for those terming out. Bill will meet with Mitchall Patel, Public Information Officer to go over some strategies in recruiting new member and focus on targeted recruitment.
- Bill touched on the racial disparities that are going on in our world during this COVID pandemic and the partnership that we have with law enforcement. Bill sent a message to all staff to ensure them that BHRS will make every effort to increase our involvement on social disparities issues in the community.
- Bill gave a huge shout out to Telecare and thanked them for being in our community.

12. Board Member Item: None

13. Public Announcements: NONE

- Frank addressed the board and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the board.

- Frank thanked Bill for his comment regarding social disparities. Frank would like to see more members of the board representing the school districts once he leaves.
- Frank passed on information to the Bakersfield City School District, Superintendent of Schools, and the Kern High School District regarding serving on our board.
- Frank would like to see the MHSA and the school districts partnership to continue and grow beyond the level that it currently is.
- Frank commented on the Juneteenth webinar. Frank believes that this is the direction we need to go and provide more bilingual services and invest in better technology, so these types of webinars are accessible to everyone.
- Frank spoke on Bill's replacement. Frank shared that there are a lot of good people within the department who would be qualified to be Bill's replacement. Frank would like to advocate and have the board move in that direction.
- Question: Charles would like to know when the numbers will be available to determine what effect COVID had on the communities we service, individuals needing mental health services.
Answer: Bill shared that we are currently working with CBHDA on a FEMA federal grant to set up EAP services (public assistance program) for people who don't meet Behavioral Health treatment for serious mental illness but the stresses of pressure. Bill will come back to this question at a later date.

MOTION by Jeff Burdick to adjourn the meeting Seconded by Charles Collom. Next regular meeting July 27, 2020, VIA Microsoft Teams

APPROVED ALL AYES; adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Items Distributed

Behavioral Health Board Agenda
Minutes from May 18, 2020
Recovery Station Presentation