



BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH & RECOVERY
SERVICES

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

Monday, February 22, 2021
5:30 p.m.
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS)
Via Microsoft TEAMS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Collom - Chair	Joseph Brennan (Dist 1)
Sonia Silva – 1 st Vice Chair (Dist 1)	Nancy Solis (Dist 5)
Stephanie Hermeston - 2 nd Vice Chair (Dist 1)	Joseph Brennan (Board of Supervisors appointee)
David Kessler – Parliamentarian (Dist 3)	Richard Hofferd (Dist 5)
Tracy Lynch (BHB Coordinator)	Traco Mathews (Dist 4)
Bryson D Gholston (Dist 3)	Joshua Finney (Dis 1)
Deborah Fabos (Dist 2)	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Mary Sawyer	Sharon Woolfolk	Robyn Garcia
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KernBHRS Staff:

Stacy Kuwahara - Director	Patricia Rodriguez	Lesleigh Davis
Rhonda Barnhard	Christina Rajlal	Jessica Armstrong

- Welcome and Introductions** by Charles Collom (Chair), all others self-introduced themselves.
 - New members Bryson D Gholston, Joseph Brennand and Joshua Finney were welcomed to the meeting.
 - Brief background was provided for each of the three new members.
- Establish Quorum:** 12 present 0 absent; Quorum Established.
- Approval of Regular Meeting Draft Minutes for January 25, 2021:** MOTION by David Kessler to approve minutes and seconded by Richard Hofferd. Minutes are attached to the meeting invite.
APPROVED; ALL AYES.
- Presentation:** Lt. David Kessler of Kern County Sheriff's Office, shared and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on Officer Training and In Custody Behavioral Health Services. Lt. Kessler allowed time for *Questions and Answers*.
- Public Comment:** None.
- Unfinished Business:** None.
- New Business:** None.



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8. Chair Report – Charles Collom:

- The Executive Committee approved applications of Lorre Webb and Flossie White and submitted to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), Pending BOS approval.
- Share with Chair any outside agencies or organizations that you would like to come and speak or present before the BHB.

9. KernBHRS Adult Clinical Services Report – Lesleigh Davis (reporting for Alison Burrowes, Deputy Director):

- Individual Placement Support (IPS) Program: Recruiting businesses with whom we can link our clients. Staff have met with local employers such as Amazon, Ross, Hobby Lobby, Michaels, Dollar General and Lowes. Program includes partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation. Plan to begin linking individuals to employment opportunities in March. Thanked Mr. Matthews who connected us to the BC Hire Up Program.
- Chronic Psychosis Workgroup: Focuses on the needs of those with Chronic Psychosis and trainings that are specific with this population. Developing the Family Orientation Townhall, Part 2, to highlight how the Adult Wraparound Team and Outpatient Team work together to assist an individual as they discharge from an Inpatient facility. Will complete the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Psychosis (CBTp) training by March 1 and will be made available for all KernBHRS staff.
- Substance Use Division (SUD) – Residential Treatment: Expanded residential treatment services. Working with Westcare and Tarzana Treatment Centers along with our previous providers. With Tarzana, we now have residential treatment available for adolescents.
- Kern Linkage Division (KLD) – Homeless Outreach: Expanding our homeless outreach and have implemented intensified behavioral health outreach to individuals with acute behavioral health challenges in downtown and Oildale area. Partnering with Clinica Sierra Vista as part of their Street Outreach Team.
- Quality Improvement Division (QID): Preparing for an external review. The State contracts with an agency to perform an external quality review of services. Focus is on access to care, quality of care, and timeliness of our services, specific to the SUD Plan. Holding focus groups and will talk with clients, staff members, and family members. Will produce a report which gives us valuable insight on how we can make improvements.

10. KernBHRS Specialty Clinical Services Report – Stacy Kuwahara, Director (reporting for Robin Taylor, Deputy Director):

- Hosting a Black History Month Event this month on Friday, February 26 from 3-5 PM. Flyer for this invite was included on this meeting invite. Zoom link is embedded on flyer.
- Psychology Internship Program: Selected four interns for our four slots. Excellent start for the Psychology Internship Program.
- Budget: Working on for upcoming Fiscal Year. Stacy will speak more in Director's report.
- Crisis: Working with Bakersfield Police Department on a pilot project bringing Mobile Evaluation Team (MET) staff and placing them in the Dispatch communications center to assist so that we have a mental health staff integrating, participating, relating to the mental health calls as they are coming into 911.
- Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF): Moving forward with the PHF for two new facilities (adult and minor) with 16 minor beds and 16 adult beds. Presenting to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for approval in March for this project. Requesting BOS to approve to release Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSOQ) and Request for Proposals (RFP) for the design build so we can finalize the financing and move forward with buildout plan.
- Children Services: Developing a Family Urgent 24/7 Response Team effective March 1. Provides support to foster kids and their families. Partnership KernBHRS, Department Human Services, and their Contractor (AspiraNet), and Probation. Foster families and kids will call the State hotline when they are in crisis. Hotline makes a warm hand off to the Family Urgent Response Team then team will respond to the family and work with them 24/7.
- Medical Services: Implementing Zero Suicide initiative for all adult teams. Working with all Contractors and Children's Teams to integrate this plan. Suicide numbers in Kern County were relatively low prior to COVID-19. Later part of 2020 suicide rates increased. We had a significant spike in November (around Thanksgiving).

Recruitment: In final round of interviews with our graduating Residents and Fellows for our Residency program. We are hoping to increase our Doctor contracts through our Residency Fellows that will be graduating this year.

11. KernBHRS Department Report – Stacy Kuwahara, Director

- Welcome new BHB members. Looking forward to you joining us and learning more about our programs.
- Preparing a new member orientation.
- Budget/Fiscal Update: Governors proposed budget came out in January 2021.
 - Increased money for Mental Health (MH) in very specific areas: Significant amount of money offered as one-time funding through grants that will be potentially targeting infrastructure, rehabbing buildings, and building new buildings to support increased MH needs.
 - Funding for Children's services and Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) population or people coming out of incarcerated settings.
 - Conversations with our County Administrative Officer (CAO) around our specific funding and local impacts.
 - KernBHRS is not a general funded department; funding is independent, and we are not often subject to some of those county wide impacts and fluctuations.
 - We are identifying and planning that the CAOs office always has the option of taking a percentage of our realignment funding and diverting it over to other health services for the County. We anticipate and plan for this realignment redirection.
 - There may be some reductions and impacts to both Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and realignment funding. Being very prudent in how we go forward with our planning for next year's budget.
 - Anticipate we will continue to maintain some of our vacancies and keep vacancies more on the administrative side and less on the direct service side.
 - Programmatic impacts: Will evaluate where our priorities and mandates are. Attempting to reduce any further impacts to our Contractors.
- Homeless Initiative:
 - Starting a small aggressive pilot where we will have a number of Outreach (OR) workers that will be working alongside Flood, Clinica Sierra Vista and their Medical OR, and other partners to be doing some targeted innovative progressive types of OR for our very visible vulnerable mentally ill people who are living on the street.
- COVID: Continuing to operate during COVID. Focusing on getting staff and clients vaccinated. Working on advocating their access to the vaccine as well as setting up resources to support them in getting vaccine if they choose to.
- BHB Annual Plan: Working on draft for 2020. 2019 Plan was not submitted due to COVID.

12. Board Member Item: None.

13. Public Announcements: None.

14. Adjourn to next regular meeting, March 22, 2021 via Microsoft Teams: MOTION by Stephanie Hermeston to adjourn and seconded by David Kessler.

APPROVED: ALL AYES.

Adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Items Distributed Via Meeting Invite

BHB Agenda for February 22, 2021

Meeting Minutes (Draft) from January 25, 2021

<https://www.kernbhhs.org/behavioral-health-board>