



BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH & RECOVERY
SERVICES

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

Monday, March 22, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS)

Via Zoom

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Collom - Chair

Sonia Silva – 1st Vice Chair (Dist 1)

Stephanie Hermeston - 2nd Vice Chair (Dist 1)

David Kessler – Parliamentarian (Dist 3)

Tracy Lynch (BHB Coordinator)

Bryson D Gholston (Dist 3)

Joseph Brennan (Board of Supervisors appointee)

Nancy Solis (Dist 5)

Richard Hofferd (Dist 5)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Mary Sawyer

Angel Galvez

Rachelle Classen

Sharon Woolfolk

Nicholas Kittelman

Robyn Garcia

Tyler Frost

KernBHRS Staff:

Stacy Kuwahara - Director

Patricia Rodriguez

Sarah Appleton

Alison Burrowes – Deputy Director

Tonya Mann

Heather Hornibrook

Robin Taylor – Deputy Director

Jessica Armstrong

- Welcome and Introductions** by Charles Collom (Chair), all others self-introduced themselves.
- Establish Quorum:** 8 present 3 absent; Quorum Established.
- Approval of Regular Meeting Draft Minutes for February 22, 2021:** MOTION by David Kessler to approve minutes and seconded by Stephanie Hermeston. Minutes are attached to the meeting invite.
APPROVED; ALL AYES.
- Presentation:** Sarah Appleton of Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, shared and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT). Dr. Appleton allowed time for *Questions and Answers*.
- Public Comment:**
 - Angel Galvez, Chief Executive Officer of the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project. Angel is applying to become a Behavioral Health Board member.
 - Caller with concern regarding an incident at local hospital.
- Unfinished Business:** None.
- New Business:** None.



Hope. Healing. Life.

8. Chair Report – Charles Collom: Good evening and welcome to our March 22 board meeting of the Kern County Behavioral Health Board. I hope you are all well. I have three items for tonight.

- First, our Adult Treatment and Recovery Services Committee is in need of a Co-Chair. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month from 4-5 PM on Microsoft Teams. Member attendance is encouraged.
- Our Children's Treatment and Recovery Services Committee is also in need of a Co-Chair. Meetings are held on Thursdays, including April 8, July 8, and October 14 from 3:30-5 PM on Microsoft Teams.
- We are in process of forming a committee to plan our July 2021 Strategic Planning meeting. This committee will work to set the agenda for the meeting and work out logistical details.
- If you are interested in any of these service opportunities, please let us know as soon as possible.
- Thank you all for your service to the board, this agency and our community.

9. KernBHRS Adult Clinical Services Report –Alison Burrowes, Deputy Director:

- Provided update on service operations during COVID
- Moving ahead with Kern Relational Outreach and Engagement Model (ROEM (homeless pilot project)). Adding additional behavioral health staff to provide services in the field to engage with some very vulnerable and visible homeless individuals. Our focus will be downtown and Oildale.
- Partnered with the Housing Authority on the Housing for Healthy Californians' grant. Received just over \$600,000 for rental assistance for the chronically homeless.
- Completed Request for Proposal (RFP) for Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment in the Bakersfield area. Anticipate selection process to happen quickly.
- Upcoming External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) review for our Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Division. This is the quality review process that is required annually by the State.

10. KernBHRS Specialty Clinical Services Report –Robin Taylor, Deputy Director:

- Provided update on service operations during COVID.
- For Children's System of Care: We have a new program working in partnership with Department of Human Services and Kern County Probation called the Family Urgent Response System (FURS) team that started March 1, 2021. The State will have a 24/7 hotline for foster youth and their families in need of support. The hotline provides a warm handoff to the local FURS team.
- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Team will be present the MHSA Annual Plan and Mental Health Month activities for the month of May. Please visit our website to view and provide feedback on The MHSA Annual Plan.
- Crisis Services is working on expanding our partnership with law enforcement. Two new projects that we are developing Agreements with Bakersfield Police Department (BPD) and Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO). One is with BPD as a pilot program with our Mobile Evaluation Team (MET) staff located at their dispatch center to support mental health crisis calls and provide intervention and guidance. The second project is with KCSO and adding an additional co-response team that will have behavioral health staff and KCSO deputy responding to calls that are behavioral health specific calls.
- Medical Services had their first outpatient medical leadership workgroup meeting with all Medical Directors from internal Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and contracted outpatient services to ensure we are providing consistent comprehensive and integrated care.
- Our annual budget is being prepared to be submitted to the County Administrative Office by April 20, 2021.

11. KernBHRS Department Report – Stacy Kuwahara, Director

- We are continuing to use video platforms with as many clients as possible. We expect the transition back into in person services will be challenging for clients.
- Participated in Lobby Day last week.

- Homeless Outreach Team: Alison has done an amazing job getting this team operational in a short amount of time. The team is targeting vulnerable people that are visibly impaired by either mental health or substance use and homeless. Really appreciative of the work that this team is doing.
- Behavioral Health Board Annual Report: We will have a draft ready for review at the next meeting in April.
- Strategic Planning: Start planning next month for the Strategic Planning event tentatively scheduled in July.

12. Board Member Item: None.

13. Public Announcements: None.

14. Adjourn to next regular meeting, April 26, 2021 via Zoom: MOTION by Richard Hoffer to adjourn and seconded by David Kessler.
APPROVED: ALL AYES.

Adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Items Distributed Via Meeting Invite

BHB Agenda for March 22, 2021

Meeting Minutes (Draft) from February 22, 2021

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Organizational Chart

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