BEHAVIORAL HEALTH&RECOVERY SERVICES

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KERN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Draft for Approval

Monday, January 25, 2021
5:30 p.m.
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS)
Via Microsoft TEAMS

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)
Patricia Rodriguez (BHB Coordinator) Excused
Bryson D Gholston (Dist 3) Absent
Deborah Fabos (Dist 2)
Joseph Brennan (Dist 1) Absent
Nancy Solis (Dist 5)
Nicole Villaruz (CAO Appointment)
Richard Hofferd (Dist 5)
Traco Mathews (Dist 4)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Mary Sawyer
Marisa Garcia Trebizo
Robyn Garcia
Steven Kresha

KernBHRS Staff:

Alison Burrowes – Deputy Director
Ana Olvera
Robin Taylor – Deputy Director
Shannon Tolar
Stacy Kuwahara -Director
Tonya Mann
Tracy Lynch
Lupe Zachary (Scribe)

1. Welcome and Introductions by Charles Collom (Chair), all others self-introduced themselves.

2. Establish Quorum: 9 present 2 absent; Quorum Established.

3. Approval of Regular Meeting Draft Minutes for 11/23/20: MOTION by Sonia Silva to approve minutes and seconded by Stephanie Hermeston. Minutes are attached to the meeting invite.
APPROVED; ALL AYES.

4. **Presentation:** Robin Taylor of KernBHRS' Department Operation Center Team, shared and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on KernBHRS' COVID-19 Operation. Ms. Taylor allowed time for *Questions and Answers*.

5. **Public Comment:** Dr. Mary Sawyer (served on Housing Committee) would like to see in this meeting some information on housing developers. Currently working with some developers on affordable housing for mental health and special needs clients. Requested who would be the contact for KernBHRS regarding this topic. Director Kuwahara, requested that Dr. Sawyer provide contact information to Lupe Zachary (scribe) so that her questions can be submitted to the Director.

6. **Unfinished Business:** None mentioned in today's meeting. However, in the meeting of 11/23/20 Mr. Hoffer would like to see more presentations on local emergencies and law enforcement personnel; more information on Police Activity League, the sheriffs rescue and other local agencies such as Pathways.

7. New Business: None.

8. Chair Report – Charles Collom: (Transcript of Spoken Comments)
"Good evening and welcome to the first meeting of the Kern County Behavioral Health Board of 2021. I want to thank you all for making the time to be here and taking the effort to wrestle with the technological difficulties of our new virtual world.

As you know, Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services' director, Bill Walker, has retired and we have found a most capable person to take his place in the department. I am pleased to welcome Ms. Stacy Kuwahara to her new position on behalf of the Behavioral Health Board. Ms. Kuwahara has worked at KernBHRS since 2008, starting as a volunteer clinician working with youth in foster care. During her time with us, she has worked with many teams and across many divisions, eventually taking significant leadership roles including Deputy Director of Finance, Medical Services, Contracts, Information Technology Services and Quality Improvement. Additionally, she has served as the Logistics and Operations manager overseeing our department's response to disasters, including the COVID-19 epidemic.

Ms. Kuwahara is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist having received her MA in Counseling Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara. She's not a CSU, Bakersfield grad, but we won't hold this against her. She is licensed in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and a Six Sigma Green Belt.

At home she has a 14-year-old son, three dogs, and a cat who I am told is a meddlesome troublemaker in the neighborhood. In her spare time, she enjoys equestrian riding and baking—a hobby I encourage her to share with all of us when we return to in-person meetings.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Ms. Stacy Kuwahara, the new Director of Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services."

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

- Launched last month, Individual Placement Support (an evidence-based program) helps clients by meeting them where they are on goals; working through the Adult Transition Team (Lerdo Facilities) and Transitional Adult Youth. Looking for businesses that will work with the program; share any recommendations with Alison Burrowes.
- Chronic Psychosis Workgroup focuses on training for staff related to the needs of chronic psychosis Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing: approximately 25 practitioners just completed the training.
- Substance Use Disorder Division Administrator Ana Olvera is now our Operations Chief for our Department Operation Center.
- Hope through Mentoring Conference happens yearly and is open to any individual or organization who is currently a mentor or interested in being a mentor in the community.
- Substance Use Disorder Division: Drug Free Kern Coalition working with several committees. Meeting to commence again 1/27/2021 and held Wednesdays at 3:30. Please visit the website: https://drugfreekern.org/
- Kern Linkage: Transition of parolees is complete; working directly with parole services to serve their most intensive individuals from their service system.
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (mimics outpatient treatment but in-custody) in collaboration with Sherriff's Office at Lerdo Facility was put on hold due to COVID-19 but now is back. First group graduating this weekend.
- Programs changes and cuts to some internal programming and with some contractors. Center for Gender Diversity reduced funding but still offer some services. Contract with White Wolf Wellness that provided yoga was discontinued. FRED (canine therapy) finishing it at end of this fiscal year. Hoping to bring these groups back at some point.
- BHRS Dept Divisions Changes: Contracts Team and Quality Improvement Division have moved under Deputy Director Alison Burrowes. Will share updates in future BHB meetings.

10. KernBHRS Specialty Clinical Services Report – Robin Taylor, Deputy Director
- BHRS Department Divisions Changes: Medical Services and Finance Division have moved under Deputy Director Robin Taylor. Will share updates in future BHB meetings.
- Crisis Division: Working with Bakersfield Police Department (BPD) on developing a pilot project with Mobile Evaluation Team and BPD dispatch.
- Children's System of Care: Foster care focus in partnership with Department of Human Services and Probation Department. Structure has been set for a Family Urgent Response (FURS) Team; submitted to the state. Will have a 24/7 state hotline.
- AB2083: Behavioral Health Departments and Children's System of Care are setting up an interrelationship team to assure we are doing what is in the best interest for children.
- Finance Division: Fiscal year 2021-2022 budget planning in the works. More information to come.

11. KernBHRS Department Report – Stacy Kuwahara, Director
- Excited about working with KernBHRS's strong leadership. Setting priorities and objectives. Focus on the people we serve.
- Director's Vision: How do we continue to be better in helping the people that we are serving and how do we serve them in the best possible way.
- Will be sharing in these meetings budget/fiscal reporting.
- Shared and reviewed Organizational Chart (attached to invite).

12. Board Member Item:
- *Question*: Richard Hofferd - Will there be plans to share presentations at BHB meeting?
  Answer: Director Kuwahara – Share ideas or items of interest that you would like to see presented. Mr. Hofferd also shared interest about presentation on local agencies/law enforcement. This information is listed on item # 6 above. David Kessler offered to present Sheriffs Department services related to mental health. Will work with Robin Taylor to present at next BHB meeting February 22, 2021.
- Nicole Villaruz shared that today is her last meeting as Board of Supervisors' Representative Member for Leticia Perez District 5. New appointment of Joe Brennan to represent Phillip Peters District 1, term to expire 12/31/2021. Thank you for serving Ms. Villaruz.
- Deborah Fabos requested a presentation on status of the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program. Add to next BHB executive meeting to schedule presentation for meeting in March 2021.

13. Public Announcements: None.

14. Adjourn to next regular meeting, February 22, 2021 via Microsoft Teams: MOTION by David Kessler to adjourn and seconded by Robin Taylor.
APPROVED: ALL AYES.

Adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Items Distributed Via Meeting Invite

BHB Agenda for January 25, 2021
Meeting Minutes (Draft) from November 23, 2020
KernBHRS Organizational Chart
2021 BHB Meeting Schedule

https://www.kernbhrs.org/behavioral-health-board

NOTE: See action items on following page.

New Action Item for Lupe Zachary (scribe): Regarding Item #5, reach out to Dr. Sawyer and request her contact information and provide to Director Kuwahara. *Task completed 1/25/21.*

New Action Item for BHB Coordinator: Regarding Item #6, add this request for presentations on local emergencies and law enforcement personnel to the February meeting agenda.

New Action Item for BHB Coordinator: Add to next BHB agenda (2/22/2021) David Kessler to present Sheriff's Department services related to mental health. Will work with Robin Taylor.

New Action Item for BHB Coordinator: Add to next BHB executive meeting to discuss Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program Presentation and to schedule presentation for meeting in March 2021.

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