



BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH & RECOVERY
SERVICES

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

Monday, May 24, 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)

Dian Schneider (Dist 2)

Joseph Brennan (Board of Supervisors appointee)

Nancy Solis (Dist 5)

Richard Hofferd (Dist 5)

Deborah Fabos (Dist 2) - *Excused*

Traco Matthew (Dist 4) - *Excused*

Joshua Finney (Dist 1) - *Absent*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sue Watson

Angel Galvez

Rachelle Classen

Marisa Trebizo

Katie Sons

Nicholas Kittleman

Jim Wheeler

Sharon Woolfolk

Robyn Garcia

Taya Power

Autumn Lit

Wesley Lu

KernBHRS Staff:

Stacy Kuwahara - Director

Patricia Rodriguez

Shannon Tolar

Alison Burrowes – Deputy Director

Tonya Mann

Lynn Corse

Robin Taylor – Deputy Director

- Welcome and Introductions** by Charles Collom (Chair), all others self-introduced themselves.
- Establish Quorum:** 9 present 1 absent 2 excused; Quorum Established.
- Approval of Regular Meeting Draft Minutes for April 26, 2021:** MOTION by Richard Hofferd to approve minutes for April 26, 2021 meeting and seconded by David Kessler; ALL AYES: APPROVED.
- Presentation:** Tonya Mann, "Psychiatric Evaluation Center, Crisis Walk-in Clinic and overview of Inpatient Facilities" allowed time for *Questions and Answers*.
- Public Comment:** None
- Unfinished Business:**
 - Youth By-Laws: One minor change to the By-Laws was to add the youth age range (16-25). By-Laws were submitted and approved by County Counsel.
- New Business:** None
- Chair Report – Charles Collom:** Beginning in June all sub-committee chairs or appointees will give an update on their committees.



Hope. Healing. Life.

- Richard Hofferd will report on the Adult Treatment and Recovery Services, Joshua Finney will report on Children's Treatment and Recovery Services and David Kessler will report on System Quality Improvement Committee.
- Charles addressed a concern regarding the number of people who serve on the board and have intimate experiences with mental illness whether as a peer, family member or caretaker.

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

- Update on the current COVID restrictions. KernBHRS has moved to having 50% of staff onsite and having more in person group services. KernBHRS anticipates that more staff will be on site as of June or July.
- Substance Use Disorder Division, KernBHRS just completed a Request for Proposals for our outpatient service providers to begin Fiscal Year 2022-2023.
- Adult Services System is in the process of strengthening the services for those individuals with psychosis. A video was recently created to give the clients perspective on psychosis.
- KernBHRS hosted a couple of townhalls to provide education material should a family member ever become hospitalized, what the inpatient in-service experiences is like and how to support the individual through their treatment.
- Expanding our use of the Evidence-Based Practice of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for Psychosis. We recorded a video training to expand staff's working knowledge of CBT for psychosis. We will be intergrading this training for all new staff then add in staff who are already working with this population.
- We are in the process of initiating an Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI) Program and was awarded an EPI Plus Grant through the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. The goal of the grant is to expand and strengthen services for individuals with early signs of psychosis through technical assistance provided by the state, funding for staff and the collaboration with other counties.
- Some of the positions that KernBHRS will be able to fund through this grant is a Patient and Family Navigator and an Outreach Worker. These positions will help individuals and families navigate through our system.
- Due to budget impacts one of the program changes is the discontinuation of staff onsite at our Green Gardens facility in South Bakersfield. Services will continue just in a different manner.
- The Consumer Learning Center will be moving from a fulltime staff model to a 50% volunteer model and have limited staff onsite. Lynn Corse is in the process of recruiting volunteers.

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

- Kern County is currently in the orange tier. KernBHRS is operating at 50% capacity in our units and clinics and face to face in person services.
- The department is currently preparing for fire season with our county's Emergency Operations Center. We are working with our providers to ensure that they are working with all our clients in the community to have individuals aware and prepared for fire season.
- Smart911 is an innovation plan that we funded through Mental Health Services Act. This tool is a registry for individuals to provide vital information for first responders prior to responding to a crisis and was helpful when the Power Safety Shut Offs happened during the summer.
- KernBHRS and Bakersfield Police Department (BPD) will be partnering and starting a new pilot program in July. This program will help a staff member from the Mobile Evaluation Team located at the 911 communications center to help identify and divert mental health calls from BPD to the appropriate mental health personnel.
- Services at Mary K Shell are starting to increase. More face-to-face services as restrictions lift.
- Shared information on Assembly Bill AB988. This bill will allow the three-digit number 988 to be the suicide prevention hotline number similar to 911. Robin is watching the bill closely and working on building a committee to see how this will be directed for implementation.
- All in-person doctors are working 50% in the office.
- Children's services have seen an increase in the last 30 days. Parents are starting to feel more comfortable coming into the office and getting face to face services.

- We have partnered with the school districts to ensure that we have a good plan to support our youth when the students return to school in the Fall.
- Zero Suicide is up and running. We have created a great process for screening at every point of contact ensuring those individuals who are at risk of suicide have the proper interventions and treatments available. Our Zero Suicide initiative is to make a suicide a never event.
- KernBHRS is planning for in person trainings for staff while maintaining safety guidelines.
- Shared information on the events happening throughout the community for May is Mental Health Month.
- KernBHRS started the Ever-Green Mural Project, a permanent mural campaign that will bridge our two biggest months. Starting in May through September there will be five community murals that will be placed throughout the county and that will focus on reducing the stigma of mental health. First location to receive a mural will be Mary K Shell.

11. KernBHRS Department Report – Stacy Kuwahara, Director

- Stacy shared a highlights form Governor’s May Revise:
 - Last year California’s projected budget was at a deficit by \$54 billion. This year the state is projecting a \$75.7 billion surplus.
 - Some of the realignment funding projections were addressed in the budget. The realignment projections going into next year look to be above where they were pre-COVID. Realignment funding is used to pay for services that are not covered by Medi-Cal.
 - The Governor is looking at putting \$12 million in the homelessness package. The focus is to build a long-time solution to end homelessness.
 - The governor is looking at putting a lot a money to behavioral health services. KernBHRS will apply for a one-time grant that will be used to build out what we expect to be ongoing behavioral health expansions. We are hoping to put this money towards our psychiatric health facilities.
 - There is a huge focus on children/youth and their behavioral health needs.
 - A strategic planning event will be scheduled in July for BHB Members. Stacy will send out a doodle poll with suggested dates and feedback.

12. Board Member Item:

- Richard shared that he will not be able to give a report on his committee next month due to a prior commitment. Richard will delegate and have someone give the report on his behalf.
- Dian asked for clarification on the date of the next board meeting and Stacy confirmed that it is Monday, June 28th.

13. Public Announcements: None.

14. Adjourned: Next regular meeting, June 28, 2021, via Zoom: MOTION by Sonia Silva to adjourn and seconded by Dian Schneider. APPROVED; ALL AYES.

Adjourned at 6:30p.m.

Items Distributed Via Meeting Invite

BHB Agenda for May 24, 2021

Meeting Minutes (Draft) from April 26, 2021

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