

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

Monday, August 28, 2023

5:30 p.m.

In Person: 2001 28th Street, 1st Floor Training Room**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sonia Silva (Dist. 1) – Chair

David Kessler (Dist. 3) – Parliamentarian

Flossie White (Dist. 4): *Absent*

Bryson Gholston (Dist. 3)

Destiny Adams (Dist. 5): *Excused*

BreAnne Patterson (Dist. 5)

Dian Schneider (Dist. 2) – 1st Vice Chair

Michael Herrera – BOS Appointee

Michael Bryant (Dist. 3)

Jeff Burdick (Dist. 1) –

LaShawna Lee (Dist. 3) – *Excused*

Tracy Lynch – BHB Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tom Mitchell

Alicia Austin-Townsend, Turn BHS

KERNBHRS STAFF:

Stacy Kuwahara

Jessica Armstrong

Alison Burrowes

Lynn Corse

Candee Del Rio

Christina Rajlal

Tammy Cates

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Sonia Silva, Chair, welcomed everyone; each board member introduced themselves.
2. **Establish Quorum:** 8 present, 2 excused, 1 absent. Quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft) for June 26, 2023, Regular Meeting:** MOTION by Michael Herrera to approve minutes and seconded by Jeff Burdick. ALL AYES: Motion passed.
4. **Presentation(s):**
 - **“September is Suicide Prevention Awareness and Recovery Month” – Christina Rajlal, PhD, MBA:**
Shared a presentation on Suicide Prevention & Awareness, 988, Recovery Month, Calendar of Events, and Additional Events throughout the month. Time allowed for *Questions and Answers*.
 - **“KernBHRS Budget FY 2023-24” – Candee Del Rio:**
Shared a presentation on Budget Timelines, KernBHRS Budgeted Revenues, KernBHRS Budgeted Expenditures, and Payment Reform. Time allowed for *Questions and Answers*.
5. **Public Comment:** None.

6. Unfinished Business: None.

7. New Business:

- A. Revised BHB By-Laws:** New requirement as of January 1, 2023, one of our members should be a Veteran and Allowances for Members: "Just Cause or Emergency" In Effect January 1, 2023 – January 1, 2026. Motion by David Kessler to approve Revised BHB By-Laws and seconded by Dian Schneider. ALL AYES: Motion passed.
- B. Board Resignation(s) and Executive Board Changes:** There are three resignations: Stephanie Hermeston, Lucille Holt, and Deborah Fabos. Dian Schneider is now the 1st Vice Chair. In October, we will present the Slate of Officers for 2024 and 2nd Vice Chair will be filled at that time.

8. Chair Report – Sonia Silva: None.

9. KernBHRS Clinical Services Report –Jessica Armstrong, Deputy Director:

- **Kern Linkage Division:**
 - **Homeless Adult Team:** Hiring a new Supervisor. Gloria Pereyra is overseeing the team until a new person is hired.
 - **Long Term Care:** Working on a Request for Proposal for Skilled Nursing Facilities for in and out of county. This will help our clients that need medical care as well as behavioral health challenges.
 - **No Place Like Home:** College Heights Cottages is opening very soon. Working with the Housing Authority to get prospective tenants assessed and into those units.
- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Division:**
 - **SUD Administration:**
 - Finished EQRO audit and getting ready for DHCS Audit in January.
 - Opioid Settlement Community Forums in Taft, Delano, Frazier Park, and Lake Isabella. Tracy will email fliers to BHB.
- **Adult System of Care:**
 - Intensive Outpatient Treatment Request for Proposal will be released soon.
- **Childrens System of Care:**
 - Submitted a grant application to establish a Children's Crisis Residential Program. This would allow youth in crisis to go to a "home setting" to get intensive crisis related services to avoid Inpatient.
 - Implementing a suicide rapid reporting and response program in partnership with Public Health to enhance our ability to provide timely access to youth that are at risk of self-harm/suicide.

10. KernBHRS Specialty Clinical Services Report – Stacy Kuwahara, Director:

- **Crisis Services:** Looking at volume of people going into Crisis especially youth, our capacity is exceeding the communities need right now and is having a significant impact on our local emergency departments.
 - **PEC/CSU:** Additional Supervisor to focus on clinical interventions and quality outcomes and creating a specific intake, transfer, and resource coordinator to expedite referral and flow.
 - **Emergency Department Response Team:** Currently a small team that works in Kern Medical ED and looking at increasing staffing to support BH clients in emergency departments to work directly with them to evaluate and move them through.
 - **Mobile Evaluation Team (MET):** Big changes go into effect December 31st changing the way MET responds in the community and is mandated by the 988 requirements. It will require MET

staff to respond without law enforcement to be dispatched by 988 when caller meets criteria for that intervention. Requires that MET travel in teams of two and will take priority over law enforcement calls. This will also expand staffing for MET. The East Kern MET team will be expanded through Measure K funding and will be contracted out.

- **Prevention Team:** Narcan, Fentanyl and Xylazine (animal tranquilizer) test strips are available to distribute in community.
- **Psychology Internship Program:** Is growing and is in process of hiring one of the four interns from our program as a permanent employee. Most interns are coming to Kern from outside of California.

11. KernBHRS Administrative Services Report – Alison Burrowes, Deputy Director:

- **Electronic Health Record Transition:** We are 2 months in, services are getting entered and we are looking at running reports and pulling data.
- **Contracts Season Close Out:** Significant challenges with payment reform and rate-based system shifts. Now moving into budgeting and reestablishing timelines for contracting.
- **Specialty Treatment:** Expanding work we do with individuals who have eating disorders. Working on strengthening ties with Public Health for the perinatal population with postpartum depression and anxiety and getting them coordinated into our treatment system.

12. KernBHRS Department Report – Stacy Kuwahara, Director:

- **Budget:** Being passed tomorrow.
- **SB326:** Proposing significant changes to our Mental Health Services Act funding. Moving along and some amendments have been made changing some of our funding, how we use our funding and what we can use that money for. The bill will be finalized and voted on by September 15th. Will go to voters March 2024. If passed, a two-year timeframe to make all these changes.
- **EQRO Audit:** Went great, both mental health and substance use done together. It highlights things that we need to continue to tweak and evolve. At the end, we received some meaningful feedback that was my biggest takeaway by sharing feedback from surveys that we are doing well with our employee morale with communicating and with holding the vision and values of our system and embodying that with client care. Clients they spoke to were very positive about our services.
- **360 Evaluations:** Stacy will be the first one done, followed by Deputy Directors and Management. Looking at leadership, communication, training, equity inclusion and diversity, and overall performance. Tracy will email survey to the BHB.

13. Board Member Item:

- **David Kessler:** Jeff, the MET team and I presented at the CIT International Conference in Detroit on our Virtual MET and Comm Center MET programs. Presentations were well received with standing room only.

14. Committee Reports:

- A. Adult Treatment & Recovery Services** (monthly): Bryson Gholston: Met on August 9th and discussion was mostly on Goals for this committee and having presenters from KernBHRS and community agencies.
- B. Children's Treatment & Recovery Services** (quarterly): Dian Schneider and Jeff Burdick: Met on July 13th and presentation from Jose Espinoza on Mental Health Student Services Act.
- C. System Quality Improvement Committee** (monthly): David Kessler: Met today and will be moving meetings from monthly to bi-monthly. Presentation from Karina Castillo on Unusual Occurrence Report (UOR) MH Timeliness.

15. Announcements to the Public: None.

16. Adjourn: MOTION by Bryson Gholston to adjourn to the next regular meeting In Person on September 25, 2023, and seconded by Michael Bryant, ALL AYES; Motion passed. Adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Items Distributed via Meeting Invite

BHB 2023 Schedule

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