

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

Monday, February 24, 2025

5:30 p.m.

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

Michael Bryant (Dist. 3) – Chair

Bryson Gholston (Dist. 3) – 2nd Vice ChairFlossie White (Dist. 4) – *Absent*

Sonia Silva (Dist. 1)

*BreAnne Patterson (Dist. 4) Parliamentarian – *Excused*

Tiara King (Dist. 2)

Jackeline Cortes (Dist. 5) – *Excused*

Connie Perez-Andreesen (Dist. 5) – Absent

Jeff Burdick (Dist. 1) – 1st Vice Chair

David Kessler (Dist. 4)

Michael Herrera (Dist. 1)

Ishmeet Singh (Dist. 2)

LaShawna Stowe (Dist. 3)

Genora McClanahan (Dist. 5) – *Absent*

Priscilla Sanchez (Dist. 5) – BOS Appointee

Maria Gonzalez – BHB Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marisa Trebizo, CSV

KERNBHRS STAFF:

Jennie Sill

Belinda Vieyra

Isabel Sickler

Allissa Lopez

Jessica Armstrong

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Michael Bryant, Chair, welcomed everyone; each board member introduced themselves.
2. **Establish Quorum:** 10 present, 2 excused, 3 absent. Quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft) for January 27, 2025, Regular Meeting:** MOTION by Bryan Gholston SECONDED by Tiara King ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED.
4. **Presentation(s):** PowerPoint presentation, "Working with Schools" provided by: Jennie Sill, Belinda Vieyra, and Liz Bailey *Time allowed for Questions & Answers.*
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Unfinished Business:** None
7. **New Business:** None

8. Chair Report – Michael Bryant:

- Annual Report – Committee of the Board has been assigned their sections for the Annual Report and will have until March 24, 2025 to present a draft to the Administrators and will have until April 25, 2025 to present the Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors.

9. KernBHRS Administrative Services – Belinda Vieyra, KernBHRS Administrator on behalf of Heather Hornibrook, Deputy Director:

• Clinical Plan Services

- Contracts
 - Currently we are in process of scheduling contract negotiations.
 - KernBHRS has over 200 contracts, with 191 contracts that are Board Agreements and need Board of Supervisors approval.
 - Avoiding of retro contracts: have close communication with the Contracts team and the different Systems of Care.
- DHCS and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
 - 11 clients/families currently enrolled.
- Recovery Station
 - In March, Telecare will deliver a presentation to BPD's Impact Team who regularly deal with homeless individuals to review services offered, ideal candidates, behaviors and symptomology, how to access services, and informational materials will be provided for the officers.

• Department Supports

- MHSA
 - During the February Stakeholder meeting, the team provided information to our stakeholder on current housing programs available in Kern County. The March Stakeholder meeting will include a presentation on permanent supportive housing and feedback on innovation plans.
 - Planning for May is Mental health awareness month and will help spread awareness and reduce stigma surrounding mental health.

• Training and Compliance

- CFLC
 - CFLC Monthly calendar is available on the www.kernbhers.org website
 - Clarvida was awarded the contract of the CFLC Program through the RFP process. Currently in negotiations phase. When operated by Clarvida, the CFLC will remain at the Westchester location.

• QID

- KernBHRS Spring 2024 Client Perception Survey that was distributed. 92% of participants were very satisfied with services and should be sending results so we will be reviewing the data as well. Can share information.

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

- **Adult System of Care:**
 - The ASOC administrator returned from leave. Finished our first quarter of care court and has been submitted to the state. Will share that update during our next meeting.
- **Kern Linkage:**
 - Kern Linkage is the division who spearheads our headcount. Many department staff participated.
 - 400 volunteers and 50 of them came from KernBHRS.
 - PET MOU between KernBHRS and Kern County Animal Services going to the board on 2/25/25.
 - Kern County Animal Services will provide additional assistance to individuals who have animals and are currently homeless, living in our navigation centers, participating in Care Court, engaging in our own team who have animals, help with vaccines, spayed/neutered, and have daycare centers for individuals during services.
- **Substance Use Disorder Division:** Treatment Court (Prop. 36): mandated treatment for individuals facing felony convictions. Referrals are being received and screening while in custody and are discharged into treatment.
 - American health Services will open a new location for narcotic treatment program services at 609 18th St soon (pending Medi-Cal certification)
 - Contract negotiation meetings are scheduled for March.
 - Requests for Proposals for SUD Residential services posted Friday, February 21st.
 - Homekey+: Need supportive housing options. To apply, you need to have a letter of support from our department. Prop 1 housing money will help pay for rent necessities for folks living there. This is a competitive grant so if nobody from Kern applies then it will move to another region. Will send out additional information to BHB members.

11. KernBHRS Specialty Clinical Services Report – Allissa Lopez, KernBHRS Administrator on behalf of Robin Taylor, Deputy Director:

- **Special Projects**
 - KernBHRS makes progress in planning of implementation of SB 43 with 311 days left until implementation.
 - BH continuum Infrastructure Program (BCHIP) funded project is also making progress. Kern County General Services is negotiating a contract for the General Contractor and Architect of Record through our RFP process. Next will be planning and design, then construction for the New Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit. Family Resource Center will begin late 2025.
- **Crisis Services Division**
 - MKS remodel/ construction project included the PEC/ CSU improvements are nearing completion after a few construction setbacks and month until reopened.
 - A fire inspection occurred today, testing the newly installed fire security system.
 - The new Kern Adult Psychiatric Health Facility and Kern Youth Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) received their License and designation on January 31, 2025, and opened their doors for services.
 - Telecare is the operator for the Adult PHF.
 - Central Star is the operator for the Youth PHF.

- **Children's System of Care**
 - As a result of AB 1051 we completed approximately 16 contracts (mostly single case agreements) with out-of-county STRTPs or Mental Health Plans to facilitate Behavioral Health Services for those who placed out of County
- **Infrastructure and Technology Services**
 - Resumed reporting CSI data to the State since going live with SmartCare. We anticipate being caught up between August and October this year.
 - As of March 1st, we will no longer be using Citrix and will be about \$92,000.00 in annual savings for our department. Will be migrating to Microsoft Web Apps for internal and external access.
 - Working with CalMHSA to amend our agreement and use the new prescription module
 - Will be implementing a new HR information system for our HR division to track employee onboarding, offboarding, licensing and other employee-related information.
 - Some of our facilities staff are going through training to use AutoCad Software. This will allow them to update our existing floor plans and design 2d and 3d models that are needed for upcoming projects.
- **Medical Services**
 - MOU with Kern County Managed Care Plans:
 - Anthem's MOU in final review with the health plan
 - MOU language for Kaiser is with their legal team
 - KHS (aka Kern Family) MOU is executed

12. KernBHRS Department Report – Jessica Armstrong, Deputy Director on behalf of Alison Burrowes, Director:

- Governor's Proposed Budget
 - No funding for the new mandates such as SB43, Prop36, and SB 525.
 - Provisions will happen for the Governor's Budget in May of 2025.
 - We are still awaiting approved programs for BCHIP planning for Prop1.

13. Board Member Item: None

14. Committee Reports:

Adult Treatment & Recovery Services (quarterly): Bryson Gholston:

- Next meeting will be held on March 12, 2025

Children's Treatment & Recovery Services (quarterly): Jeff Burdick:

- Next meeting will be held on April 10, 2025

System Quality Improvement Committee (bi-monthly): David Kessler:

- Next meeting will be held on March 24, 2025

15. Announcements to the Public: None.

16. **Adjourn:** MOTION by David Kessler to adjourn to the next regular meeting in person on March 24, 2025, and SECONDED Sonia Silva by. ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED. Adjourned at 6:20pm

Items Distributed via Meeting Invite

BHB 2025 Schedule

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