

KERN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 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 Chair - *Excused*
Flossie White (Dist. 4)
Sonia Silva (Dist. 1) - *Excused*
BreAnne Patterson (Dist. 4) Parliamentarian
Tiara King (Dist. 2) – *Absent*
Jackeline Cortes (Dist. 5)
Connie Perez-Andreesen (Dist. 5)

Jeff Burdick (Dist. 1) – 1st Vice Chair
David Kessler (Dist. 4)
Michael Herrera (Dist. 1) – *Absent*
Ishmeet Singh (Dist. 2) - *Excused*
LaShawna Stowe (Dist. 3) – *Absent*
Genora McClanahan (Dist. 5) - *Excused*
Priscilla Sanchez (Dist. 5) – BOS Appointee

Maria Gonzalez – BHB Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: GILBERT LAROQUE (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BAKERSFIELD RECOVERY SERVICES).

KERNBHRS STAFF: Alison Burrowes (BH Director), Heather Hornibrook (BH Deputy Director), Jessica Armstrong (BH Deputy Director) Robin Taylor (BH Deputy Director), Eileen Mendoza (Health Care OST), Maria Gonzalez (BHB Coordinator).

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Michael Bryant, Chair, welcomed everyone; each board member introduced themselves.
2. **Establish Quorum:** 8 present, 4 excused, 3 absent. Quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft) for January 27, 2025, Regular Meeting:** MOTION by David Kessler SECONDED by Jeff Burdick ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED.
4. **Presentation(s):** Presentation “Bakersfield Recovery Services” provided by Gilbert LaRoque. *Time allowed for Questions & Answers.*
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Unfinished Business - Maria Gonzalez:**
 - Annual BHB Report - We are in the process of refining the style and content of this year’s report. A subcommittee has been formed, including Jackeline Cortes and Flossie White, and we will be meeting with the PIO on March 25, 2025, to review and discuss the infographics for the report. Our goal is to make the report more user friendly, ensuring it is something we can share not only with the Board but also with partner organizations and the public.

7. New Business – Alison Burrowes:

- Prop 1 Board changes – Proposition 1 introduces a new requirement that the Board include a member from the Board of Supervisors, in addition to the Chairperson's representative. We are currently coordinating with the CAO's office to determine which member will join the Board. This will necessitate updates to the BHB bylaws, and we anticipate that this process will take several months to complete. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

8. Chair Report – Michael Bryant:

- Behavioral Health Board Training Schedule – Training for the Central Section will take place in Folsom, CA on April 18, 2025, from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM and Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The Southern Section training, which we are part of, will be held on Friday from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM in Marina Del Rey, CA. Typically, these trainings span two days, but according to their calendar, we will have a one-day session. You can register via Zoom, and the trainings will be held either in person or via Zoom. For more information and details about these trainings, please visit (www.CalBHEC.org)

9. KernBHRS Administrative Services – Heather Hornibrook, Deputy Director

• **Clinical Plan Services:**

- Contracts
 - Negotiations for the Systems of Care contract are ongoing.
- DHCS Children and Youth Behavioral health Initiative (CYBHI) Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
 - Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) training was completed in August 2024, and as a result, 25 families have enrolled in the program since its launch.
- Prop 47
 - Of the clients/ families who enrolled early on and stayed engaged, five families are currently progressing through Phase II of PCIT.

• **Department Supports**

- MHSA
 - The MHSA Annual Plan is being finalized and will open for public comment starting March 1, 2025, for a period of 30 days. The MHSA team will review the plan with the Behavioral health Board during their meeting on April 28, 2025. The plan will receive final approval during that meeting.
 - Planning for Mental Health Month is already underway, with a key focus on spreading awareness and reducing stigma surrounding mental health. The MHSA team is currently working on the event calendar for May and has already finalized a few events.

• **Training and Compliance**

- CFLC
 - The monthly calendar of events for the CFLC is available on the KernBHRS website (www.KernBHRS.org)
 - Clarvida has been awarded the operation of the CFLC Program through an RFP process. The CFLC will remain at its current location at the Westchester facility under Clarvida's operation. The contract negotiations are in progress, and the targets board date for final approval is April 29, 2025.

• **Finance**

- The Department budget is scheduled for submission on April 25, 2025.

• **QID**

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- The External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) Audit is scheduled for April 10, 2025, and will be a conducted as a desk review.
- The DHCS Triannual Audit will take place in June of 2025. This audit will be combined for the first to review both Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services. The audit will span 10-days and focus on our contract compliance with DHCS.

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

- **Adult System of Care**
 - April 2025 will mark the 6-month point for CARE Court Services in Kern County. Data related to this will be shared at next month's BHB meeting.
- **Kern Linkage**
 - The Mobile Clinic continues to participate in weekly outreach events throughout the city, engaging individuals and promoting available BH and SUD services, as well as shelter opportunities.
 - The Housing Services Team has completed its Request for Proposal to add additional Sober Living facilities to the Housing Team Contracts. The award process is now underway, and we are excited to incorporate these new facilities into our organization.
 - These facilities are dedicated to collaborating with our System of Care to help individuals maintain housing while promoting their independence.
- **Substance Use Disorder Division:**
 - The Pilot Program for Intensive Case Management and Medical Detox through Good Sam has been operational since February 3, 2025, and has served 41 individuals as of March 19, 2025. Of those, 38 individuals have been successfully connected to SUD case management for ongoing support following their detox discharge.

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

- **Crisis Services Division**
 - MKS remodel/ construction project, which includes improvements to the PEC/CSU, is nearing completion. IT and Facilities are collaborating to finalize the process of moving staff, furniture, and equipment back to their usual workspace within the next few weeks.
- **Children's System of Care**
 - The vacancy for the BH Unit Supervisor for the Youth Bridge program, which oversees the Youth Suicide Reporting Response program, has been filled.
 - KernBHRS participated in the State Annual Grantee meeting for the Youth Suicide Reporting and Rapid Response Grant on March 19, 2025.
 - Additionally, the fidelity recertification for the Transition to Independence Process (TIP) model has been completed. The TIP model is an evidence-based approach designed to support youth and young adults with emotional and behavioral challenges as they transition to independence.
- **Infrastructure and Technology Services**
 - The Software development team has successfully implemented a new Housing application, migrating existing housing data from the legacy Microsoft Access Database to an ASP.NET web application using SQL Server Database Management System.
 - The Software Development team is also collaborating with Human Resources on the development of a new HR system and an HR Investigation application.
 - The EHR Support has been working with staff to update their Taxonomy codes on NPPES and within the EHR system, as the State has made significant changes to Taxonomies.
 - We continue to work on amending our contract with CalMHSA to include a new Prescriber Module in SmartCare.
 - Additionally, IT and Facilities have met with CSOC Administrator and Probation staff to plan for a new JPPS Modular building project, which is expected to begin in May 2025.

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- **Medical Services**

- The UCLA-Kern Psychiatry Residency Program has received the match results. Five residents will be joining the general track, while two residents will be joining the Child Track. In June 2025, Medical Services Leadership will present to the BHB, offering details about the division and the UCLA-Kern residency and fellowship program.

12. KernBHRS Department Report – Alison Burrowes, Director:

- **New Legislative Changes**

- Our State Director's Association is actively advocating against cuts to Medi-Cal, as most of our services are funded through this program. These proposed cuts would pose significant challenges, especially in light of other funding shifts and increased requirements that we are already addressing.

- **Work with Managed Care Plans**

- We are working closely with local managed care plans to discuss and collaborate on changes in service responsibilities for individuals with serious behavioral health challenges. This includes new developments related to housing and the introduction of the transitional rent benefit, which will be available under the Managed Care Plans.

13. Board Member Item: None

14. Committee Reports:

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

- Next Meeting will be held on April 9, 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 May 19, 2025.

15. Announcements to the Public: None.

16. Adjourn: MOTION by Jeff Burdick to adjourn to the next regular meeting in person on April 28, 2025, and SECONDED by Breanne Patterson. ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED. Adjourned at 6:30pm

Items Distributed via Meeting Invite

BHB 2025 Schedule

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