

***Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Behavioral Health Board***

Annual Report 2024

Table of Contents

Behavioral Health Board

Message from the Chair	2
2024 Member and District Representation	3
2024 Committees	4

Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Director's Report	5
Mission, Vision, Values	5
Executive Team	6
Department Report	7-14

Provider Network

Contract Providers	15-20
--------------------	-------

Highlights

Internal Highlights	21-22
External Provider Highlights	23-24

Data & Reports

Consumer Demographics	25
KernBHRS at a Glance	26

Message from the Chair



It has been my honor and pleasure to have been selected to serve as the Chair of the Kern County Behavioral Health Board (BHB) and to have the Board advocate for individuals and families living with mental and/or addiction issues. The Board would like to congratulate the staff of Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (KernBHRS) on their accomplishments this past year. These included implementing CARE Court, adding their Mobile Unit, opening the new Kern County Psychiatric Health Facilities, and becoming Blue Zone certified. The Board looks forward to working with KernBHRS staff in the coming year as they navigate the changes and future implementations of SB 43, Proposition 1, and Proposition 36.

Thank you to all the BHB Members, KernBHRS staff, community partners, and our clients for making this a transformative year.

Member & District Representation

Board of Supervisors



District 1
Phillip Peters



District 2
Chris Parlier



District 3
Jeff Flores



District 4
David Couch



District 5
Leticia Perez

Behavioral Health Board

**Priscilla Sanchez – BOS Liaison
At-large BOS Representative
Appointed 2025**

Alison Burrowes – Liaison

**Jeffrey Burdick – 1st Vice Chair
District 1 - Appointed 2021**

**Sonia Silva - Member
District 1 - Appointed 2019**

**Michael Herrera – Member
District 1 - Appointed 2024**

**Ishmeet Singh – Member
District 2 - Appointed 2025**

**Tiara King- Member
District 2 - Appointed 2023**

**Second District
(1 Vacancy)**

**LaShawna Stowe – Member
District 3 - Appointed 2023**

**Michael Bryant – Chair
District 3 - Appointed 2023**

**Bryson Gholston – 2nd Vice Chair
District 3 - Appointed 2021**

**BreAnne Patterson – Parliamentarian
District 4 - Appointed 2023**

**Flossie White – Member
District 4 - Appointed 2021**

**David Kessler – Member
District 4 - Appointed 2021**

**Connie Perez-Andreesen – Member
District 5 - Appointed 2024**

**Genora McClanahan – Member
District 5 - Appointed 2023**

**Jackeline Cortes – Member
District 5 - Appointed 2024**

Committees

Adult Treatment & Recovery Services

Chair: Bryson Gholston

Children's Treatment & Recovery Services

Chair: Jeff Burdick

System Quality Improvement

Co-Chair: Jennie Sill and Erika Rosales

Board Mission Statement

The Mission of the Kern County Behavioral Health Board is to advocate for individuals and families living with mental illness and/or addiction by support and oversight of Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

About the Board

Each member of the Board of Supervisors appoints three county residents to represent their District and the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Supervisors are asked to appoint members in three category types: consumer or family member, professional, and public interest and attempt to make appointments that reflect the diverse ethnic and cultural background of their District.

The Behavioral Health Board must comply with Welfare & Institutes Code Section 5604(a), which requires:

- Minimum of 50% (8 members) of the total membership shall be consumers, parents, spouses, siblings, or children of consumers who are receiving or have received behavioral health services.
- Minimum of 20% (3 members) shall be consumers.
- Minimum of 20% (3 members) shall be family members of consumers.
- One member of the Board of Supervisors.
- One member shall be between the ages of 16 and 25.
- One member shall be a veteran
- One member must be an employee of a local education agency.
- The remaining members should include individuals who have experience and knowledge of the behavioral health and substance use disorder system to provide a balance of health professionals and public interest members.

Director's Report



Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) is pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report, in collaboration with the Kern County Behavioral Health Board. This report is intended for the Board of Supervisors and community stakeholders, providing an overview of the significant progress made in improving the delivery of mental health, substance use, and crisis services across the county.

Throughout 2024, KernBHRS has made substantial strides in enhancing access to care, strengthening partnerships, and focusing on system improvements. By working closely with community organizations and key stakeholders, we have introduced innovative programs for both youth and adults, expanded mobile crisis services, and bolstered our outpatient services to better meet the evolving needs of individuals and families in Kern County.

These efforts have been vital in supporting vulnerable populations, providing critical infrastructure improvements, and ensuring that our services are more accessible to those in need. Additionally, we've focused on expanding access to medical and substance use treatment, furthering our mission to improve the health and well-being of those we serve.

The Kern County Behavioral Health Board has played a key role in supporting these changes. Their ongoing guidance and advocacy have helped shape the strategies and initiatives of KernBHRS. The Board has provided valuable insights into the needs of the community, and their efforts in reducing stigma, promoting wellness, and supporting recovery continue to influence our work.

We appreciate the Board's continued support in guiding KernBHRS and ensuring that behavioral health services remain accessible and impactful for those we serve. Their leadership has been important in encouraging community collaboration and helping mental health and substance use services meet the evolving needs of Kern County residents.

As we move forward, KernBHRS remains committed to working collaboratively with the Behavioral Health Board and other partners to ensure that our community's mental health and recovery needs are met with compassion, transparency, and excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alison Burrowes".

Alison Burrowes, MA, LCSW
Behavioral Health Director

Hope. Healing. Recovery.

mission

Working together to support hope, healing, and recovery.

vision

Delivering excellent behavioral health care to support the well-being of our community.

values

Healing, service excellence, community, innovation.

Executive Team



Robin Taylor, LCSW, is the Deputy Director of Specialty Clinical Services at KernBHRS, with over 20 years of experience in Behavioral Health. She has worked with adults and minors in outpatient, crisis, and inpatient settings since 2008. Robin has held leadership roles in both private behavioral health organizations and KernBHRS, including serving as Crisis Services Administrator. She has played a key role in securing funding for Kern County's infrastructure expansion and brings expertise in leadership, licensing, new operations, and large-scale project management.



Jessica Armstrong, LMFT, is the Deputy Director of Clinical Services at KernBHRS, with nearly 20 years of experience in behavioral health. She joined KernBHRS in 2005 as a therapist and later led the Contracts Division, improving contracting practices and oversight. Jessica has worked with children and adults in various settings, including outpatient clinics, homeless services, and criminal justice environments, and contributed to the development of homeless service programs. A Taft native, she has been instrumental in enhancing mental health services in rural Kern County.



Heather Hornibrook, LMFT LPCC, is the Deputy Director of Administrative Services at KernBHRS, with over 20 years of experience in behavioral health. She started with KernBHRS in 2005 as a BH Therapist on the Foster Care Team and has since supervised the Foster Care and JPPS teams. Heather has also served as administrator for the Kern Linkage Division, Adult System of Care, and Clinical Plan Services Division. She played a key role in the System of Care Redesign, which standardized care practices across outpatient teams.

Adult Services

In 2024, the department focused on improving access to services within our adult treatment system. As a result, initial assessments are now completed within six days and clients are quickly connected to outpatient teams. Follow-up appointments are scheduled within 10 business days, and psychiatric appointments within 15 business days, reflecting improvements in wait times and service delivery.

To support individuals requiring intensive outpatient services, the Adult Wraparound team and the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team have played a key role in delivering essential care. In 2024, the Adult Wraparound team assisted 597 clients, and the ACT team provided support to 209 clients. These programs offer high-touch, personalized assistance to individuals with the most complex needs, helping them maintain stability in the community. The teams also play a proactive role in preventing psychiatric hospitalizations through frequent check-ins, early crisis intervention, and collaborative treatment approaches.

In the past year, work with individuals facing challenges engaging in services also expanded. The Bakersfield Referral Team successfully connected 70 clients to outpatient services, and the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program petitioned for 20 new court-ordered services, working alongside ACT for comprehensive care. In October 2024, the department launched the CARE Court Program ahead of schedule. The program, part of the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act, offers a less restrictive behavioral health intervention for individuals with psychotic disorders at risk in the community.

The department's efforts to support individuals facing complex challenges have led to additional initiatives aimed at improving care and outcomes. This includes the establishment of High-Risk Eating Disorder Interdisciplinary Treatment Team meetings, which bring together community representatives to support clients with severe eating disorders, helping them maintain their health and avoid hospitalizations. Additionally, the department continued to expand upon our partnership with Kern Medical by providing Psychiatry Residents and Fellows with specialized experience in Addiction Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and General Psychiatry. Building on this collaboration, a new rotation with the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Team was introduced as part of Kern Medical's Addiction Medicine Fellowship.

Services for justice-involved individuals, including those on Court-Ordered Diversion, were expanded in 2024 to include services at additional outpatient teams. The department also collaborated in the Readiness Assessment for the CalAIM Justice Initiative, set to launch in mid-2025. This statewide effort aims to provide Medi-Cal services to individuals within 90 days of their release from correctional facilities. KernBHRS worked closely with Managed Care Plans, Probation, and the Kern County Sheriff's Office to support local implementation.



In the area of housing and homeless services, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Grant funds were used to support a program providing duffel bags with essential items for individuals transitioning into housing. The Mobile Clinic with Street Psychiatry (MCSP) initiative brought psychiatric and medical care directly to the community, partnering with organizations like Flood Ministries and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to create a "one-stop shop" for services. The department also expanded services for homeless shelters and navigation centers in Kern County, including services at the "Hope on Hart" project. These efforts improved mental health, social functioning, and access to vocational and educational opportunities for people experiencing homelessness.

In June 2024, the CalWORKs (California Work Opportunity and Responsibly to Kids) behavioral health program underwent restructuring due to state funding shifts, which led to the development of a revised service model for Welfare-to-Work parents. By October, services were fully integrated into KernBHRS' adult outpatient teams and contracted providers. This integration ensured that clients could continue their treatment seamlessly while meeting the requirement to submit monthly participation plans to the Department of Human Services.

To assist individuals transitioning into and out of KernBHRS Specialty Mental Health Services (SMH), the department maintained its strong collaboration with Kern County's Managed Care Plans (MCPs). Efforts were focused on strengthening referral pathways and refining processes to transition clients to lower levels of care within community. This year, we collaborated to implement a new transition of care tool designed to improve access, linkage, and coordination. Additionally, data sharing initiatives with the county's largest MCP commenced, further enhancing collaborative efforts.

In 2024, the Consumer Family Learning Centers (CFLCs) continued to serve as vital resources for individuals with behavioral health challenges and their families. The three centers—Bakersfield CFLC, Clarvida Ridgecrest HOPE Center, and Clarvida Tehachapi Learning Center—offered a variety of social and educational activities aimed at fostering connection and recovery. The Bakersfield CFLC provided both in-person and virtual programs in English and Spanish, with Peer Specialists playing a pivotal role by sharing their lived recovery experiences to inspire and support participants. During 2024, Clarvida was selected through a competitive bidding process to operate the Bakersfield CFLC program. Clarvida is slated to begin operating the CFLC during the latter part of 2025.



Children's Services

In 2024, the Children's teams made significant progress in delivering coordinated services to youth and families across Kern County. As part of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)—a California initiative focused on placing children in family-like settings and ensuring services are tailored to individual needs—the CCR team completed 65 Qualified Individual Assessments and participated in 296 Intensive Care Coordination meetings to support foster youth and their families. The Youth Wraparound Team also worked closely with the new Youth Psychiatric Health Facility (PFH) to provide timely crisis care and treatment.

The Youth Multi-Agency Integrated Services (MIST) team, recertified as a Treatment Foster Care Oregon (TFCO) provider, supported foster youth in maintaining family-like environments. The department also collaborated with Kern County Public Health and Kern Medical to deliver rapid crisis care and reentry support for youth after suicide attempts through the Youth Bridges Program. The Transition Age Youth (TAY) Team, which supports former foster and probation youth ages 18-24 transitioning into adulthood, addressed challenges like homelessness and resource gaps. TAY services expanded to include specialized dyads, pairing therapists with case managers to enhance treatment coordination, and were further strengthened through direct referrals from the Dream Center.

KernBHRS introduced Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) this past year, an evidence-based practice providing intensive therapy for children aged 2 to 7 and their families. To date, 11 children and their families have successfully participated in this program. These efforts reflect the department's dedication to promoting resilience, well-being, and positive outcomes for Kern County's youth and families.

Over this period, our justice-involved youth continued to receive care from the Juvenile Probation Psychiatric Services (JPPS) team, and through the Crossroads Team. Through these teams, the department facilitated therapy groups focusing on communication, relationships, and reentry. Additionally, the Jamison Foster Care Team maintained the provision of trauma-informed care and behavioral health support for children at the Jamison Children's Center, providing these valuable services to some of the most vulnerable children placed in the county's foster care system.

Over the past year, the department also focused on raising awareness about alcohol and drug misuse among youth through impactful public education and community outreach efforts. Our Prevention staff participated in workshops, school programs, and public events, engaging with young people, parents, and educators to highlight the risks of substance use and the importance of early intervention. Their efforts aimed to reduce stigma, provide resources, and empower individuals to make healthier choices, fostering a safer and more informed community for Kern County's youth and families.





Substance Use Disorder Treatment

In 2024, the department made significant advancement with regards to substance use disorder service integration and expansion. A key focus was preparing for Senate Bill 43, which broadens the definition of Grave Disability under the Lanterman Petris Short Act (LPS) to include substance use disorders, medical care needs, and personal safety. To address these changes effectively, our Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment experts worked closely with staff in the areas of Crisis, Medical Services, and in outpatient mental health treatment teams to identify and bridge service gaps. This collaborative approach ensures that the department will be prepared to provide comprehensive support for individuals impacted by the new legislative framework.

The passage of Proposition 36 in California during 2024 marked a major shift in the approach to criminal justice and substance use treatment. In December, the department partnered with Kern County's Court System to implement the new initiative, introducing "Treatment Court" and establishing a collaborative referral system for eligible individuals to enter diversion programs. KernBHRS substance use treatment providers play a key role by offering assessments, treatment services, and court reporting, working collectively to support Treatment Court participants in accessing essential resources. Developed alongside two local judges, the Kern County Treatment Court ensures that individuals mandated to undergo substance use disorder (SUD) treatment are directed to appropriate care within the treatment system.

This past year, KernBHRS partnered with the Kern County Administrative Office, Good Samaritan Hospital, and Kern Health Systems to participate in a pilot program integrating medical detox services with intensive case management and aftercare. This initiative was made possible through Fentanyl Prevention Funding secured by Assemblymember Dr. Jasmeet Baines. The program provides safe, medically supervised detoxification while connecting individuals to ongoing behavioral health services and recovery support, addressing both immediate and long-term needs. KernBHRS and our partners are hoping to share the success of this program with other counties, fostering innovative solutions to substance use disorder challenges statewide.





Crisis & Emergent Services

In 2024, KernBHRS achieved significant milestones in crisis care, enhancing services for Kern County residents. Key advancements included the launch of the Mobile Evaluation Team's mobile crisis response benefit, which strengthened rapid intervention efforts. The department also expanded collaboration with local law enforcement, including the Bakersfield Police Department and the Kern County Sheriff's Office, fostering a more coordinated response to community needs. The Access to Care Hotline expanded text and chat capabilities, providing 24/7 support and complementing the 988 Lifeline.

Two new inpatient hospitals added 16 adult and 16 youth psychiatric beds to the county's resources, addressing critical needs for acute care. Additionally, the Mary K. Shell building underwent essential life and safety upgrades, including a fire suppression system and renovations began at the Psychiatric Evaluation Center, ensuring safe and effective services for those in crisis. These developments mark significant progress in improving crisis behavioral health care for the community.



Community Engagement & Education

In 2024, our Behavioral Health Department prioritized community engagement to enhance transparency, collaboration, and service delivery. During this period, the department hosted 18 stakeholder meetings, including eight Spanish sessions, to actively connected with the public to provide updates on changes in funding, programming, and services. These meetings served as a critical forum for eliciting feedback from the community, ensuring that the voices of stakeholders were heard and incorporated into decision-making processes. KernBHRS is committed to tailoring services to meet the evolving needs of the community. Our proactive approach to engagement continued to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders, empower individuals with valuable information, and reinforce our dedication to improving outcomes for all residents.

Outreach and education were also a priority for the department. Efforts were made to educate the community about available services, promote awareness around mental health, and reduce stigma associated with seeking care. Through workshops, public events, and targeted campaigns, the department worked to foster understanding, encourage early intervention, and empower individuals to access support without fear of judgment. These initiatives underscored the department's dedication to building a more informed, compassionate, and inclusive community.



A photograph of the Kern County Courthouse, a modern building with a grid-like facade of glass and metal. The building is partially obscured by a large yellow graphic element on the right side of the page. The text is overlaid on a light green rounded rectangle.

Infrastructure & Financial Operations

The department made significant improvements in digital infrastructure and reporting capabilities in 2024. The department's Software Development team migrated historical reporting data from the prior Electronic Health Record (EHR) system to the department's new health record (SmartCare), while also developing a new reporting tool to help manage client care timeliness of services and documentation of services.

KernBHRS technical support staff strengthened security measures for laptops, computers, mobile devices, and email systems in collaboration with the County Information Technology Services Department. Our Facilities staff completed several improvement projects across locations, including the successful opening of two new Psychiatric Health Facilities, and updated signage to reflect new organizational branding.

In our Finance section, the department has made significant strides in enhancing collections from private insurance and Medi-Cal. These improvements are the result of targeted additional training and the successful registration of clinicians in private clearinghouses for credentialing. This proactive approach aligns with the department's efforts to prepare for new state mandates, which will necessitate updates to billing and reporting practices.

Our Finance staff have continued to play a vital role in supporting the department and our many contracted providers. Staff continue to efficiently manage reporting, purchasing, payment, and payroll activities while ensuring strict compliance with evolving laws and regulations. Additionally, over the past year the department has worked closely with contracted providers to facilitate a smooth transition to a rate-based payment system for behavioral health services.

To support our extensive provider network, the department has continued to work on improving contracting and contract monitoring processes, conducting gap analyses to streamline procedures and increase efficiency in procurement and contract management. This ongoing work aligns with infrastructure and plan operations, optimizing resources to benefit both the department and the communities we serve.

KernBHRS Quality Improvement staff continued to dedicate themselves to ensuring regulatory compliance and enhancing service delivery within our network of care. Over the past year, the department has completed more than 77 projects aimed at improving the quality of care. These projects included conducting four performance improvement initiatives, monitoring 15 substance use treatment programs for quality and compliance, and reviewing the quality of over 6,000 treatment notes. Additionally, through our Quality Improvement Division, the department provided more than 40 clinical documentation trainings, conducted 26 Medi-Cal site certifications, and analyzed performance across more than 30 key performance indicators. These efforts have been essential in maintaining high standards and ensuring continuous improvement in the services provided.



Supporting Our Workforce

Over the past year, the KernBHRS Psychology Internship Program, accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), continued work to preparing interns for the professional practice of clinical psychology. The program continues to foster the next generation of psychologists by providing comprehensive, hands-on training in various clinical settings. Additionally, the department has long been committed to supporting the professional growth of social work and counseling students and graduates by offering internships and practicum placements. These opportunities help students develop their clinical skills, deepen their understanding of behavioral health, and prepare for successful careers in these critical fields.

In line with our commitment to staff well-being, the department launched the Employee Wellness Initiative to create a healthier, more supportive work environment. As part of this initiative, wellness spaces were established at each site, offering staff designated areas to unwind, relax, or engage in physical activities using on-site workout equipment. The department recognized the importance of both physical and mental well-being and created a variety of resources to support staff health, including the addition of healthy snacks to common areas and the identification of walking paths for outdoor exercise. Both indoor micro gardens and community gardens were also set up to encourage mindfulness, relaxation, and a connection to nature. These garden spaces not only provide a therapeutic environment for staff but also promote sustainable practices and team-building activities. In addition to these physical changes, the department organized wellness events, including stress management sessions. Thanks to these collective efforts, each location in the department has been Blue Zone Project Approved, a recognition of outstanding efforts to foster a culture of health and well-being for employees.

To further support staff engagement, the department introduced "Director Connects," a weekly 30-minute online/virtual session with the director that is open to all staff members. These informal sessions offer a platform for employees to connect directly with leadership in a relaxed and open environment. "Director Connects" have proven to be valuable for fostering a sense of community within the department. Topics covered include cultural events, health and wellness tips, community resources, interviews with community members and internal staff, and episodes often incorporate fun discussions to bring some levity to the workday. By providing this regular opportunity for connection, the department has continued to strengthen our commitment to staff well-being, open communication, and a positive organizational culture.

Looking Ahead

Reflecting on the progress made and the changes ahead, it is clear that the department is entering a period of transformation. We are preparing to integrate several upcoming changes, including those related to Behavioral Health Transformation, Senate Bill 43, BH-Connect, and others. Over the next year, KernBHRS will continue working closely with the Behavioral Health Board and community stakeholders to navigate these changes, meet new requirements, and adjust to evolving responsibilities. As the behavioral health landscape shifts, we will remain flexible in our approach, staying responsive to emerging needs and regulatory expectations. Through collaboration, service enhancement, and a focus on innovation, we are committed to improving outcomes for those we serve while strengthening the behavioral health system for the future.

Provider Network

<i>Provider</i>	<i>Services Provided</i>	<i>Adult Mental Health</i>	<i>Children's Mental Health</i>	<i>Substance Use Disorders</i>
ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN POTENTIAL, INC	Behavioral Health Mobile Crisis and Non-Crisis Services		-	-
AEGIS TREATMENT CENTER, LLC	Narcotic Treatment Plan	-	-	
AMERICAN HEALTH SERVICES, LLC	Substance use services	-	-	
AMERICAN HEALTH SYSTEMS	Narcotic Treatment Program	-	-	
BAKERSFIELD AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT	Supportive services			
BAKERSFIELD BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE HOSPITAL, LLC	Inpatient Hospitalization			-
BAKERSFIELD CITY SCHOOL	Prepare U Curriculum	-		-
BAKERSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT	Crisis		-	-
BAKERSFIELD RECOVERY SERVICES	Detox, outpatient, residential, perinatal	-	-	
BAKERSFIELD-KERN REGIONAL HOMELESS COLLABORATIVE	Housing		-	-
BETHANY SERVICES, INC.	Supportive Services		-	-
CAMERON YOUTH HOME FACILITIES	Short -term residential	-		-
CASA OF KERN COUNTY	Court appointed Advocates	-		-
CENTRAL STAR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, INC.	Crisis	-		-
CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTER PROTOCOL	Investigation & prevention	-		-

<i>Provider</i>	<i>Services Provided</i>	<i>Adult Mental Health</i>	<i>Children's Mental Health</i>	<i>Substance Use Disorders</i>
CHILDNET YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES	Outpatient, drug diversion, prevention	-		-
CITY OF BAKERSFIELD	Housing		-	-
CITY SERVE	Housing		-	-
CLARVIDA	Outpatient, drug diversion, prevention			
CLARVIDA FORMALLY COLLEGE COMMUNITY SERVICE	Outpatient			
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA	Outpatient,			
COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN	Advisory	-		-
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF KERN	Crisis			
COMMUNITY SERVICES ORGANIZATION BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS, INC.	Outpatient, drug diversion	-	-	
CORNERSTONE	SUD Services in Tehachapi	-	-	
COTTAGE OF HOPE & GRATITUDE	Housing		-	-
CRESTWOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INC.	Long-term inpatient, psychiatric health facilities, crisis residential		-	-
FREISE HOPE HOUSING	Housing		-	-
EXPRESS PHARMACY	Prescription services			
FIRST 5 KERN	Help Me Grow Kern County	-		-
FLOOD BAKERSFIELD MINISTRIES	Outreach, engagement & linkage to Homeless		-	-
FREEDOM HOUSE	Housing		-	-

<i>Provider</i>	<i>Services Provided</i>	<i>Adult Mental Health</i>	<i>Children's Mental Health</i>	<i>Substance Use Disorders</i>
GLOBAL FAMILY CARE NETWORK	Short-term residential	-		-
GOLDEN EMPIRE AFFORDABLE HOUSING INC.	Housing			-
GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL	Geropsychiatric inpatient hospitalization		-	-
GREEN GARDENS	Housing		-	-
HEALTH NET COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS, INC.	Health & wellness		-	-
HENRIETTA WEILL CHILD GUIDANCE & ADULT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, INC.	Outpatient services			-
HERITAGE LIVING INC	Housing		-	-
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF KERN	Housing		-	-
INYO COUNTY OF KERN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Crisis		-	-
KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES	Housing	-		-
KERN COUNTY HISPANIC COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE, INC.	Housing	-	-	
KERN COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY	Crisis			
KERN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	Prevention & education	-		-
KERN HEALTH CARE NETWORK	Health & wellness			
KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS	Health & wellness			
KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	Prevention & education	-		-

<i>Provider</i>	<i>Services Provided</i>	<i>Adult Mental Health</i>	<i>Children's Mental Health</i>	<i>Substance Use Disorders</i>
KERN MEDICAL HOSPITAL	Inpatient Hospitalization		-	-
KOINANIA FAMILY SERVICES	Foster Youth	-		-
LA PAZ GEROPSYCHIATRIC CENTER	Residential Housing for treatment	-	-	
LOST HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT	Prepare U	-		-
MARLEY'S MUTTS	Therapy			-
MEDICAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.	Outpatient		-	-
MERCY HOUSE LIVING CENTERS	Housing		-	-
MONO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT	Crisis			
NEW START YOUTH FACILITY, INC.	Short-term residential	-		-
NORTH CHESTER PHARMACY	Prescription services			
S.T.E.P.S	Drinking driver program, outpatient			
SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	Care Coordination For High-Risk Students	-		-
STEWARDS, INC.	Representative Payee		-	-
STOCKDALE BOYS CENTER	Short-term residential	-		-
SYCAMORE HEALTHCARE, INC.	Residential		-	-
TAFT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	Prepare U Program	-	-	-
TARZANA TREATMENT CENTERS, INC.	Residential treatment		-	
TELECARE CORPORATION	Crisis stabilization, sobering station			
TFC CONSULTANTS, INC.	Training	-		-
THE CENTER FOR SEXUALITY & GENDER DIVERSITY	LGBTQ+ counseling			-

<i>Provider</i>	<i>Services Provided</i>	<i>Adult Mental Health</i>	<i>Children's Mental Health</i>	<i>Substance Use Disorders</i>
THE CENTER FOR SEXUALITY & GENDER DIVERSITY	LGBTQ+ counseling and supportive services			-
THE LIVE NETWORK, PBC	Prevention	-		-
THE OPENDOOR NETWORK	Housing		-	-
THE THIRD TRADITION SOBER LIVING	Housing	-		-
TULARE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	Prevention & Education	-		-
TURN BEHAVIORAL FORMALLY MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS	Outpatient		-	-
UNICORN GARDENS	Short-term residential	-		-
WASCO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	SUD Services for High Risk Youth	-		
WESTCARE CALIFORNIA INC.	Short-term residential	-	-	
YOUR DRUG STORE, INC.	Prescription services			
YOUTH QUEST GUIDANCE CENTER INC.	Short-term residential	-		-

Thank you,



Blue Zones & Employee Wellness

In 2024, KernBHRS earned Blue Zones certification for 11 of its sites, highlighting its commitment to a healthier workplace culture. As part of this effort, KernBHRS introduced wellness programs to improve staff health and engagement.

Key initiatives included creating wellness rooms at seven sites for staff to relax and recharge. AeroGardens were also introduced to allow employees to grow indoor plants and herbs, encouraging healthy eating for potlucks and meals. Additionally, staff were encouraged to form walking Moais—groups that walk together regularly to stay active and build social connections.

These initiatives have fostered a workplace culture focused on employee well-being, benefiting both staff and the broader community.



bakersfield.bluezonesproject

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act

The CARE Act introduces a new pathway to provide mental health and substance use disorder services to severely impaired Californians, particularly those suffering from homelessness or incarceration without treatment. Through the CARE Act, civil court can petition to create a voluntary CARE agreement or a court-ordered CARE plan, which will then be implemented to offer necessary services. The CARE Act Court specifically supports individuals diagnosed with Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders—conditions that often prevent individuals from recognizing their need for help. The court aims to build a relationship with each participant, motivate them to develop a personalized treatment plan, and support their journey toward improved health and wellbeing. As participants progress and no longer require the court's involvement, the case will be dismissed. The CARE Act Court was launched ahead of schedule in October 2024, with 59 referrals in the first 6 months.





Mobile Behavioral Health Services

This program is designed to reduce barriers to psychiatric and behavioral healthcare for homeless individuals and those who are hard to reach. In a significant step forward, the mobile clinic was delivered on August 29, 2024, and staff began training to ensure efficient and effective service delivery. Through the MHSIA Innovations Plan, time-limited funding supports the development of new practices to better serve these populations. A key component of this initiative is Street Psychiatry, which provides a comprehensive range of behavioral health services, including psychiatric evaluations, medication management, assessments, and case management, all delivered directly in the field. The program utilizes an RV and Sprinter vans, specially equipped vehicles to support field-based services. A multidisciplinary team, consisting of peers, therapists, nurses, and psychiatrists, collaborates to ensure holistic care. The primary goals of this program are to engage individuals in treatment and connect them with essential resources, ultimately aiming to improve their overall quality of life.



Cultural Competence

In February, to kick off our year of celebration, we hosted the “Let’s Talk Community Workshop” in honor of Black History Month. This event fostered meaningful dialogue and brought together individuals from various backgrounds to reflect on how mental health stigma is rooted in slavery and historical trauma. This event shed light on how to acknowledge the need for healing, how to challenge stigma, and how to access culturally competent services in our community. In May, we continued our commitment to diversity by celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) Month. A series of events throughout the month highlighted the achievements, traditions, and rich cultural history of the AAPI community. These opportunities provided staff and community members with a chance to discuss how to speak openly about how stigma impacts mental health issues within families and how to access mental health resources. Finally, in June, we celebrated Juneteenth, honoring the emancipation of enslaved African Americans/Blacks. Through educational programs, reflections, and commemorative events, we recognized the ongoing journey toward hope, equality and freedom.



Contract Provider Highlights

Kern Medical Behavioral Health Unit

Kern Medical Behavioral Health Unit (KM BHU) unit continues to provide support to our clients during some of their most vulnerable times. KM BHU case managers do a fantastic job at coordinating client care with mental health outpatient teams as well as providing linkage support through our KernBHRS Crisis Care Management Outreach (CCMO) team. Social Workers, case managers, and psychiatrists are advocates for clients making appropriate referrals to higher levels of care and community agencies to help meet their needs.

Crestwood PHF case managers provide support to our clients in linkage to their outpatient teams as well as linkage to services through the KernBHRS CCMO liaison. Crestwood PHF provides groups where clients can develop coping skills to utilize during their care and post discharge. The staff do an amazing job at meeting clients where they are at and tailoring care to be client centered.



Provider: Third Tradition

The Children's System of Care is fortunate to have Third Tradition Sober Living Environment in our Continuum of Care. Third Tradition has developed sober living programming that is tailored to the needs of our Transitional Aged Youth. Third Tradition staff embraces the spirit of recovery and makes extraordinary efforts to provide heart felt care to meet the needs of our youth. They believe in our Youth and are committed to our youth moving into adulthood successfully and away from the influence of substances. In the years that they have been one of our contract providers they have made a large contribution and provided life changing support to many of our Kern County Youth.



Kern Transition Program

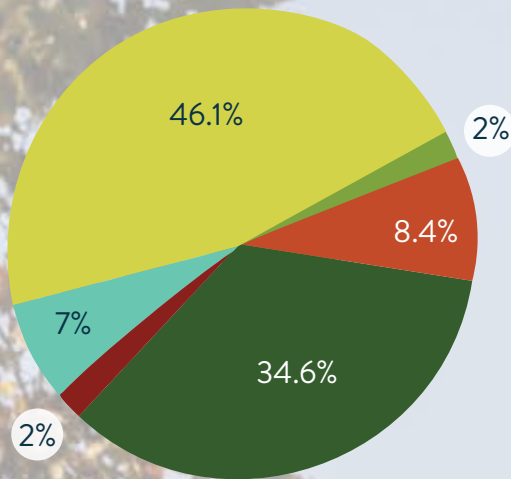
The Kern Transition Program is a partnership with Clarvida that serves individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system to help reduce recidivism, enable recovery, and support community reintegration. The annual program evaluation provided valuable insights regarding the tremendous work that Clarvida has accomplished. The support provided by Clarvida staff left a heartfelt impact on the clients, with many of them expressing immense gratitude for the many ways their Clarvida staff stepped in to help.

From assisting with the daunting task of completing forms and navigating complex systems to ensuring access to crucial services, these Clarvida staff made a difference. Their staff became a vital source of support, filling out SSI and court paperwork side-by-side and lending a steady hand through challenging processes. The staff's compassionate client care extends to providing transportation and attending appointments together, offering not just practical help but also a comforting presence.

Clarvida staff have been described by our clients as pillars of strength, helping clients navigate complex systems, complete necessary forms, and accessing crucial services—always walking alongside them during these taxing and essential tasks, demonstrating the impact this program has on the clients in which it serves.

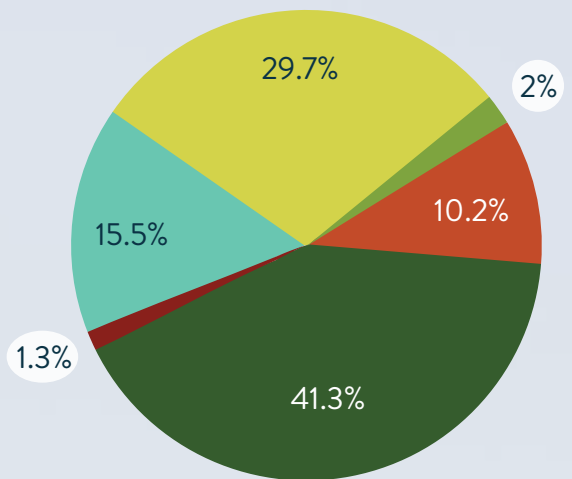
Consumer Demographics

SUD Ethnicity of individuals served.



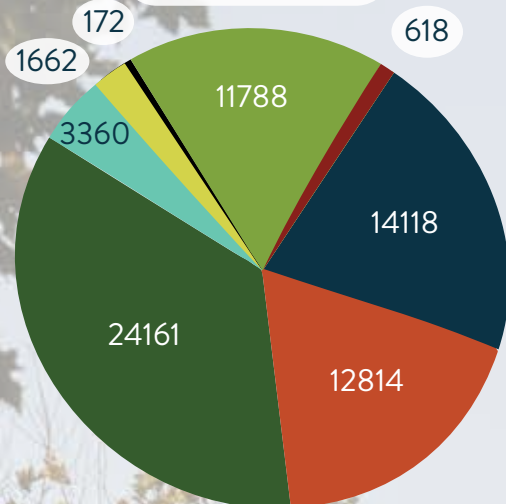
■ Asian ■ Black
■ Hispanic ■ Native American
■ Other ■ White

MH Ethnicity of individuals served.



■ Asian ■ Black
■ Hispanic ■ Native American
■ Other ■ White

Age Group of Individuals



■ MH Age Group 0-15 ■ MH Age Group 16-25
■ MH Age Group 26-60 ■ MH Age Group 61+
■ SUD Age Group 0-15 ■ SUD Age Group 16-25
■ SUD Age Group 26-60 ■ SUD Age Group 61+

KernBHRS at a Glance

3,741



Adults Served at PEC*

1,045



Children Served at PEC*

9,106



Inpatient Admissions

Total of 4,786 Served

10,900



Calls to the 988
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

13,712



Calls to the
SUD** Access Line

5,089



Texts & Chats to the 988
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

202



Contractors

887



Staff

*PEC- Psychiatric Evaluation Center
**SUD- Substance Use Disorder

