KERN COUNTY
SEMI-STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE HEALTH RECORD PROJECT

MULTI-COUNTY INNOVATIONS PLAN

KERN COUNTY



APPENDIX: KERN **COUNTY**

1. COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION (*who is your Project Lead, as provided to CalMHSA*)**: Mark Kimmel**

2. KEY DATES**:** (*Include actual dates and/or expected dates, as per your local timeline)*

Local Review Process	**Dates**
30-day Public Comment Period (begin and end dates)	5/5/25-6/4/25
Public Hearing by Local Mental Health Board	5/19/25
County Board of Supervisors' Approval	7/15/25

This INN Proposal is included in: (*Check all that apply*)

	Title of Document	**Fiscal Year(s)**
	MHSA 3-Year Program & Expenditure Plan	
	MHSA Annual Update	
X	Stand-alone INN Project Plan	FY 2025-26

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL NEED(S) (*Include specifics from your local community program planning process (CPPP), e.g., comments about your county's processes, past efforts to address local needs, and challenges with: navigating implementation of multiple complex behavioral health policy changes, including developing policies & procedures, providing staff training, collecting data, and using data to monitor implementation progress / provide feedback to individual staff and/or providers over time; leveraging real-time enhanced data analytics/dashboards to inform continuous quality improvement efforts across your provider network, at the individual client and program levels. Include suggestions from stakeholders, e.g., county staff, contracted providers, system partners, clients, family members, and other interested parties. Include challenges meeting current and future reporting requirements and business needs, past efforts to address local needs, etc.*)

Several county organizations, including KernBHRS, have joined together to participate in an Electronic Health Record (EHR) solution—CalMHSA's SmartCare. Originally developed as a claims management tool, SmartCare has since evolved into a comprehensive platform that supports counties in developing individualized care plans and managing provider networks, fiscal responsibilities, regulatory compliance, and forecasting for Medi-Cal members. It also enhances the provider-member relationship by reducing administrative burdens, allowing clinicians to focus more on patient care.

Record-sharing capabilities across counties further streamline client experiences and ease documentation requirements for the behavioral health workforce.

This shift comes at a critical time for county behavioral health systems facing major financial and policy changes. Statewide initiatives like California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), Behavioral Health Transformation (BHT), and the Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT) Demonstration demand that county plans adapt quickly to new policy directions while broadening access to evidence-based, responsive care. These initiatives emphasize improving outcomes for individuals and families facing the most severe inequities, including those involved in the child welfare system, those at risk of homelessness, individuals involved in the justice system, and people with complex behavioral health needs.

As part of the migration to SmartCare, KernBHRS has experienced a reduction in available dashboards compared to its previous electronic health record. Dashboards are vital for clinical and administrative decision-making when the data is accessible to line staff, supervisors, and administrators. KernBHRS has identified specific areas where dashboards would be critical to move forward, including service utilization, coordination with Managed Care Plans (MCPs) with interim housing, transitional rent, and permanent supportive housing, as well as with client outcomes, documentation compliance, and demographic insights. Changes in policies and procedures have the greatest impact on our provider networks and Medi-Cal member populations. Maintaining these policies aligned with ever-changing Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) guidance is an ongoing challenge. This workload detracts from Kern BHRS's ability to focus on clinical operations and quality improvement.

Within the past 12 months, there have been discussions with stakeholders about improving the EHR system. KernBHRS has received feedback from our stakeholders about their experience with SmartCare. Through the CPPP process, in both English and Spanish, we have had robust conversations about their specific needs with SmartCare and elected to approve and move forward with the CalMHSA innovation plan. Participation in CalMHSA's Semi-Statewide EHR Innovation offers a unique opportunity to not only improve care coordination and outcomes but also to rebuild and enhance data tools that support transparent, informed decision-making at all levels of care delivery.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESPONSE TO LOCAL NEED(S) AND REASON(S) **WHY YOUR COUNTY HAS PRIORITIZED THIS PROJECT OVER OTHER CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED IN YOUR COUNTY** (*Include information describing what your county hopes to achieve by participating in this INN project, referencing the project's learning goals)*

Implementing statewide behavioral health policy changes on a county-by-county basis presents significant challenges, including inconsistent training resources, procedural guidelines, and data collection practices. This fragmented approach often leads to disparities in service delivery, redundant resource use, and public confusion when individuals must navigate varying procedures across jurisdictions. The complexity and volume of required tasks, such as interpreting regulations, updating EHR systems, revising workflows, and training staff, can overwhelm county plans and result in negative impacts on both service providers and the individuals they serve.

KernBHRS, for example, currently maintains 252 active policies, with approximately 60 percent in various stages of revision. The workload associated with continually updating and revising policies to stay aligned with evolving Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) guidance is substantial. In the face of ongoing change and new statewide initiatives, Kern BHRS has prioritized participation in the multi-county policy implementation support to leverage subject matter experts to develop and distribute compliant, standardized policies on behalf of Kern County, as well as provide training and implementation support across Kern's provider network. This centralized support would ease the local burden and ensure consistency with state regulations.

Dashboards play a crucial role in clinical and administrative decision-making when the data is readily available to frontline staff, supervisors, and administrators. A key issue is the inconsistency in data collection and reporting practices across counties, which impedes accurate monitoring of policy implementation and outcomes. KernBHRS has struggled with leveraging real-time data and analytics to track progress and provide feedback to staff, providers, and other stakeholders. The need for comprehensive dashboards that provide insights into service utilization, compliance, client outcomes, and demographic data has been a focal point of stakeholder feedback.

The Multi-County Policy Implementation Support initiative aims to address these challenges by providing county plans with critical resources and technical expertise to implement key policy changes effectively. Prioritizing policies based on finalized DHCS guidance, the initiative will allow counties to concentrate on clinical operations while relying on CalMHSA to build the implementation infrastructure needed to support system-wide transformation.

Key features of the initiative include:

- Simplifying complex regulations into clear, consistent guidance and sharing it through a collaborative learning platform.
- Training county behavioral health staff at all levels on new policies, workflows, and their operational impacts.
- Configuring EHR systems to support updated clinical and administrative workflows.
- Standardizing data collection across counties to enhance policy monitoring and enable shared learning.
- Deploying advanced dashboards to track progress and support continuous improvement.

KernBHRS has prioritized participation in the CalMHSA EHR Innovation project to address longstanding challenges related to policy implementation, staff training, and data-driven quality improvement. By joining this initiative, KernBHRS aims to reduce the burden of maintaining hundreds of evolving policies, standardizing data collection, and implement enhanced dashboards for real-time monitoring of outcomes, compliance, and care coordination. These advanced analytics tools will provide timely insights into service delivery, financial performance, and operational efficiency. Custom dashboards will allow KernBHRS to monitor policy implementation efforts, including the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, evidence-based practices, and care coordination, while also tracking compliance metrics such as Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) and guiding quality improvement efforts. The county sees this project as a strategic solution to fragmented local efforts and a way to align with statewide initiatives like CalAIM and the CARE Act. It was chosen over other priorities because it offers comprehensive support, including centralized policy development, consistent training, and advanced analytics tools, that will enable KernBHRS to improve system performance, meet reporting requirements, and ultimately deliver more equitable and effective behavioral health services.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS (*Describe the county's CPPP for the Innovative Project, encompassing inclusion of stakeholders, representatives of unserved or under-served populations, and individuals who reflect the cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity of the County's community. Include details of stakeholder meetings, i.e., number and demographics of participants, community groups and system partners, methods of dissemination of information about the proposed project, and comments received regarding the INN project.)*

DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS (CPPP)

The Community Program Planning Process (CPPP) is a vital platform that values and incorporates the voices of community members and stakeholders in shaping the direction of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding. Through this process, participants are invited to share their perspectives on the effectiveness of current mental health programs and offer input on future initiatives. Community engagement is not only welcome, but it is also essential to ensure our services reflect the needs of Kern County's diverse populations.

Stakeholder Inclusion and Meeting Accessibility

CPPP meetings are designed to be inclusive and accessible, with recurring sessions scheduled for the **2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of every month**. The **2nd Wednesday meetings are conducted in English**, while the **3rd Wednesday meetings are held in Spanish**, which is Kern County's primary threshold language. This bilingual approach ensures that language is not a barrier to participation.

In addition to regularly scheduled meetings, **special sessions are held on an as-needed basis** to further expand stakeholder input opportunities. Meetings are conducted in a **hybrid format**—both in-person and virtually via Microsoft Teams, allowing stakeholders to attend in the manner most convenient and comfortable for them. These meetings are hosted in various geographic locations throughout the county to promote regional access and inclusion.

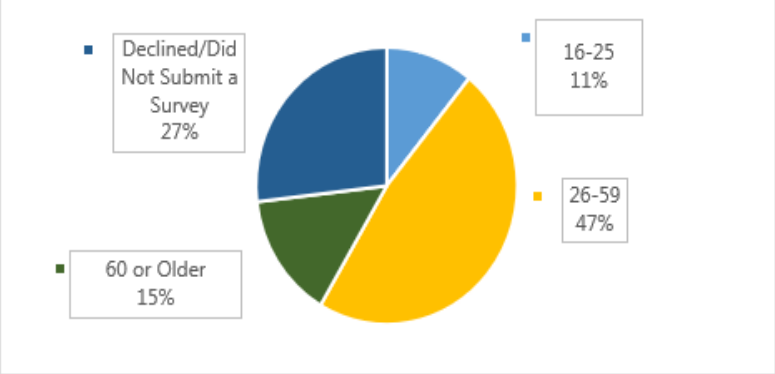
Demographic Data Collection

To ensure that the needs of all community members are represented, Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (Kern BHRS) collects **self-disclosed demographic data** from stakeholders who attend meetings, whether in person or online. This data is critical to identifying trends, understanding the unique challenges of various groups, and tailoring services to meet diverse community needs.

Collected demographic data includes:

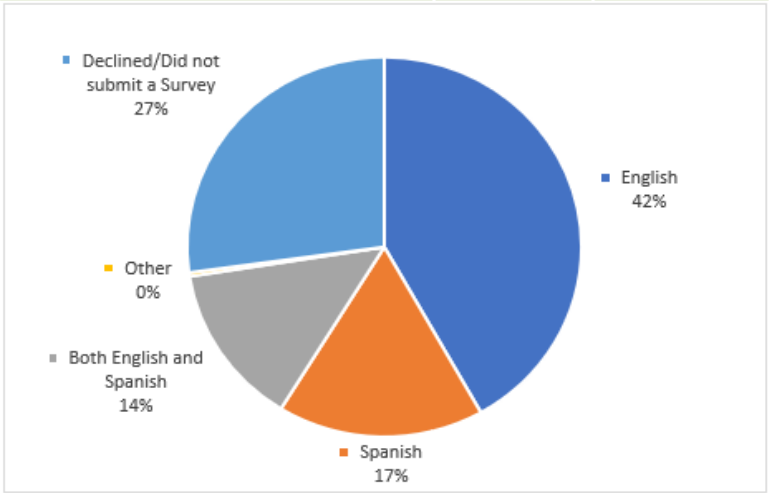
- **AGE OF STAKEHOLDERS**

AGE GROUPS	N	%
0 – 15	0	0%
16 – 25	34	11%
26 – 59	149	47%
60 or Older	46	15%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	84	27%
TOTALS	**313**	**100%**

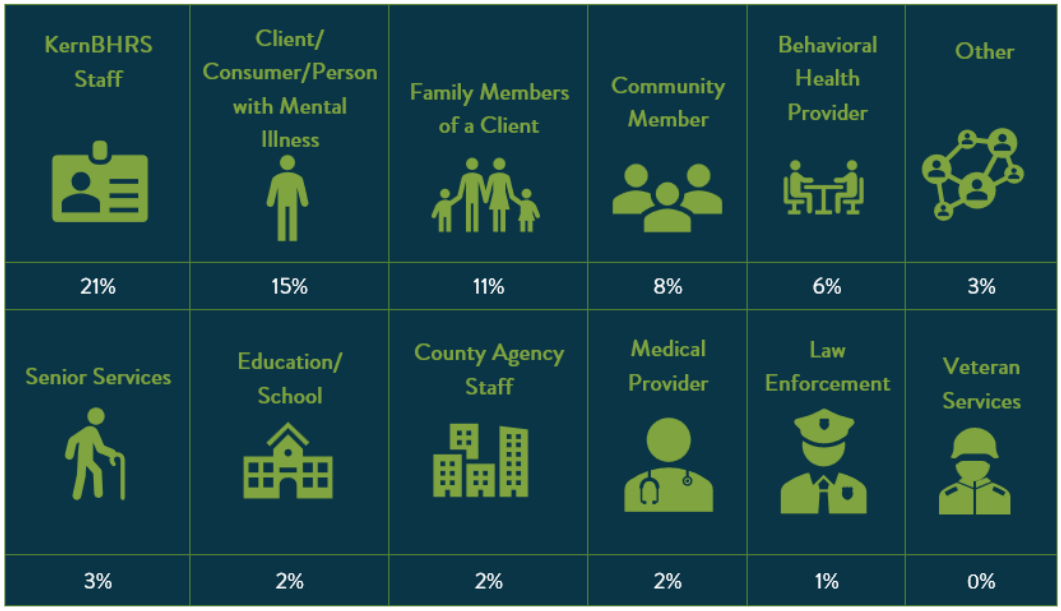


- **PRIMARY LANGUAGE**

PRIMARY LANGUAGE	N	%
English	131	42%
Spanish	53	17%
Both English and Spanish	43	14%
Other Language	1	0%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	85	27%
TOTALS	**152**	**100%**



- **STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION*(e.g., consumer, family member, provider)**



*NOTE: 107 (28%) stakeholders who Declined/Did not submit a survey were not represented in the above chart.

- **IDENTIFICATION OF UNSERVED/UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS**

One of the questions we asked stakeholders was to tell us what populations they feel are currently unserved or underserved. The answers we receive from our stakeholders help us assess our programs and plan needed changes to current and future services.

In the past 4 fiscal years, Homeless or at Risk of Homelessness has ranked #1 with an average of 12%.

AVERAGE 12% **Homeless or at Risk of Homelessness**	**AVERAGE 9%** **Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) (16-25)**	**AVERAGE 8%** **Those in Rural Kern County Areas**

- **REPRESENTATION OF UNSERVED/UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS**

Stakeholders are routinely asked to identify which populations they believe are currently unserved or underserved. Their responses directly inform program evaluation and service planning.

Over the past four fiscal years, **"Homeless or At Risk of Homelessness"** has consistently ranked as the top underserved population, with an average of **12%** of stakeholders identifying it as a primary concern.

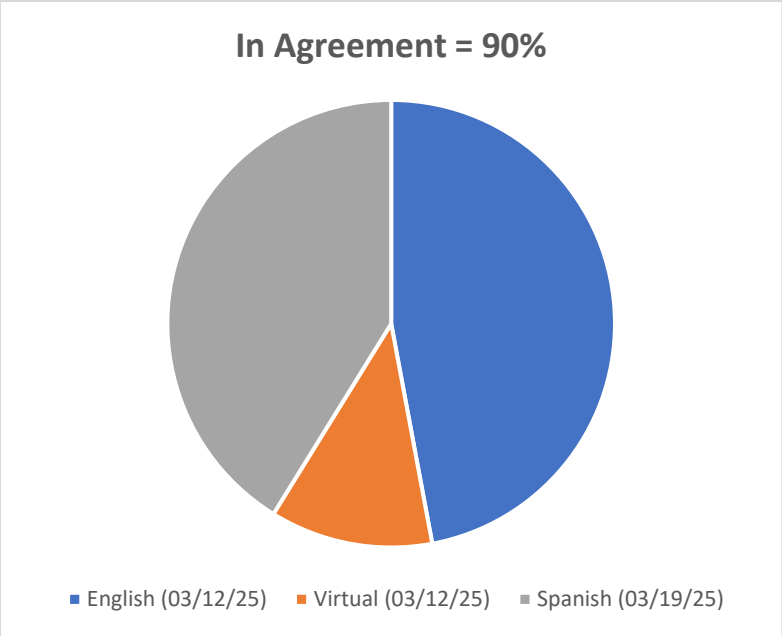
Community Support and Feedback on the Innovative Project

Stakeholder feedback is central to the development and refinement of Innovation (INN) projects. During the **June 24, 2024**, stakeholder meeting, participants expressed a need for expanded **Electronic Health Record (EHR) resources and training**. This feedback initiated a continued dialogue that extended into **March 2025**, when stakeholders formally **voted to allocate Innovation funding toward two priorities**:

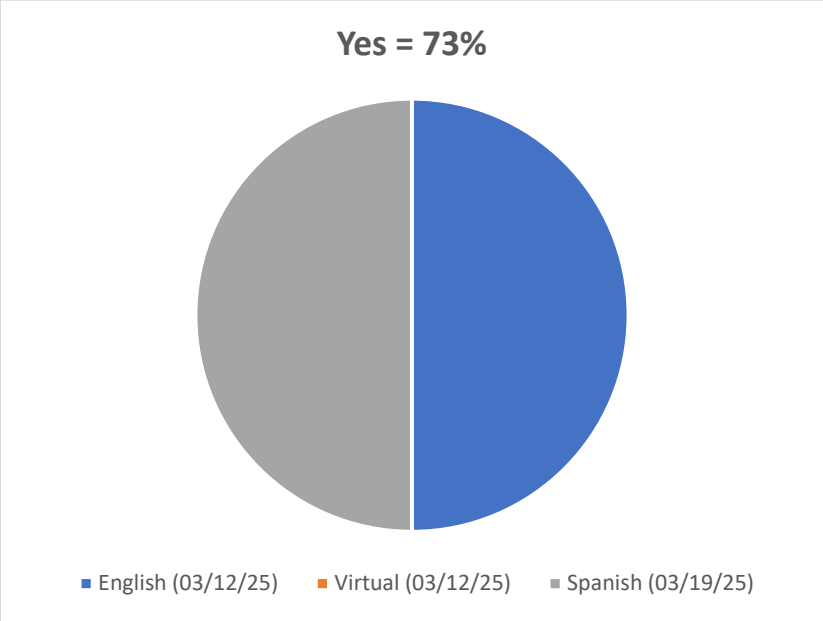
1. **Enhancement of Data Analytics and Dashboarding**
2. **Participation in the Multi-County Policy and Procedure Implementation Support initiative**

These decisions reflect a responsive and collaborative planning process, demonstrating that stakeholder voices directly influence county-level mental health initiatives.

Stakeholders voted to utilize MHSA/INN funding to enhance data analytics and dashboarding



Stakeholders voted to use MHSA/INN funding to join the Multi-County Policy and Procedure Implementation Support.



6. CONTRACTING *(What project resources will be applied to managing the county's relationship to the contractor(s)? How will the County ensure quality as well as regulatory compliance in these contracted relationships?)*

CalMHSA will serve as the Administrative Entity, Project Manager, and Project Evaluator, and Participation Agreements will be executed with the Kern County Contracts team. Streamline Healthcare Solutions LLC is the vendor selected for the development, implementation, and maintenance of the semi-statewide EHR.

7. COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION PLAN (*Describe how you plan to communicate results, newly demonstrated successful practices, and lessons learned from your INN Project. How do you plan to disseminate information to stakeholders within your County and (if applicable) to other counties? How will program participants or other stakeholders be involved in the communication efforts?*

Open communication with all stakeholders will be provided through regularly scheduled stakeholder meetings. Updates on the successes and challenges of the program will be communicated to all parties. A survey is conducted at the end of each stakeholder meeting to gather feedback from every individual successfully. Additionally, Stakeholders can communicate suggestions or opinions during the "listening session" portion of the meeting.

Outcome measurement data and plans for improvement will be communicated with the public through annual updates and three-year plans. A final Innovation Report will be written and posted on the Kern BHRS website at the end of the Innovation project term.

Other counties can contact the Kern MHSA Team for information on the program directly through email or stakeholder meetings, ensuring that you are always supported and heard. The MHSA Team has a public email used to communicate openly with the public for all inquiries and concerns.

Additionally, the MHSA Team provides a Quarterly report of findings from each stakeholder meeting. Once published, these reports are available in English and Spanish on the Kern BHRS website, ensuring that all stakeholders are well-informed. These quarterly reports aid in the transparency of each Stakeholder meeting and the collection of public comments, fostering a sense of involvement. The Quarterly report also lists the self-disclosed demographics of those who attended the meeting. At the end of the fiscal year, the quarterly reports are combined into an annual stakeholder report, which contains all findings and suggestions from a year's worth of stakeholder feedback.

8. COUNTY BUDGET NARRATIVE (*Include description of expenses for local Personnel, Operating and Consultant Costs, as well as the source(s) of funds to be used to support this project. Provide a brief budget narrative to explain how the total budget is appropriate for the described INN project. The goal of the narrative should be to provide the interested reader with both an overview of the total project and enough detail to understand the proposed project structure. Ideally, the narrative would include an explanation of amounts budgeted to ensure/support stakeholder involvement (For example, "$5000 for annual involvement stipends for stakeholder representatives, for 3 years: Total $15,000") and identify the key personnel and contracted roles and responsibilities that will be involved in the project (For example, "Project coordinator, full-time; Statistical consultant, part-time; 2 Research assistants, part-time…"). Please include a discussion of administration expenses (direct and indirect) and evaluation expenses associated with this project. Please consider the amounts associated with developing, refining, piloting, and evaluating the proposed project, and the dissemination of the Innovative project results. <u>Please include a summary of how your county plans to sustain the project or keep particular elements of the INN project without the ability to utilize certain components of the MHSA funding stream that are no longer available due to the new funding allocations within the BHSA</u>.*

KernBHRS estimates personnel costs, including salaries, wages, and direct expenses, at $100,000 for both FY 25-26 and FY 26-27, totaling $200,000. Consultant and contract expenses, which cover Multi-County Policy and Procedure Implementation Support, Enhanced Data Analytics/Dashboard solutions, and a fixed administrative/reporting fee assessed by CalMHSA, are budgeted at $225,600 in direct costs with no indirect costs for FY 25-26. For FY 26-27, these expenses are projected at $230,000 in direct costs and $32,400 in indirect costs, totaling $262,400. As a result, the total individual county innovation budget is $325,600 for FY 25-26 and $362,400 for FY 26-27, combining to $688,000 over the two years.

For long-term sustainability, Kern may consider leveraging Behavioral Health Services Subaccount (BHSS) funds under the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). According to the BHSA Policy Manual (Sections A.5 and A.5.2), BHSS funds may be used for the “improvement of information technology to support behavioral health administration and services,” as well as to “modernize and transform clinical and administrative information systems,” including Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems.

9. BUDGET & FUNDING CONTRIBUTION **BY FISCAL YEAR AND SPECIFIC BUDGET CATEGORY**

	BUDGET BY FISCAL YEAR AND SPECIFIC BUDGET CATEGORY						
COUNTY:	***Kern***						
EXPENDITURES							
	PERSONNEL COSTS (salaries, wages, benefits)	**FY 22-23**	**FY 23-24**	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**TOTAL**
1	Salaries				50,000	50,000	100,000
2	Direct Costs				50,000	50,000	100,000
3	Indirect Costs						0
4	**Total Personnel Costs**				100,000	100,000	200,000
	OPERATING COSTS*	**FY 22-23**	**FY 23-24**	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**TOTAL**
5	Direct Costs						0
6	Indirect Costs						0
7	**Total Operating Costs**						0
	NON-RECURRING COSTS (equipment, technology)	**FY 22-23**	**FY 23-24**	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**TOTAL**
8							0
9							0
10	**Total non-recurring costs**						0
	CONSULTANT COSTS/CONTRACTS	**FY 22-23**	**FY 23-24**	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**TOTAL**
11	Direct Costs				225,600	230,000	455,600
12	Indirect Costs					32,400	32,400
13	**Total Consultant Costs**				225,600	262,400	$488,000
	OTHER EXPENDITURES (explain in budget narrative)	**FY 22-23**	**FY 23-24**	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**TOTAL**
14							0
15							0
16	Total Other Expenditures						0
	EXPENDITURE TOTALS	**FY 22-23**	**FY 23-24**	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**TOTAL**
	Personnel (total of line 1)				50,000	50,000	100,000
	Direct Costs (add lines 2, 5, and 11 from above)				275,600	280,000	555,600
	Indirect Costs (add lines 3, 6, and 12 from above)					32,400	32,400
	Non-recurring costs (total of line 10)						
	Other Expenditures (total of line 16)						
TOTAL INDIVIDUAL COUNTY INNOVATION BUDGET					**325,600**	**362,400**	**688,000**
	CONTRIBUTION TOTALS**	**FY 22-23**	**FY 23-24**	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**TOTAL**
	County Committed Funds						
	Additional Contingency Funding for County-Specific Project Costs						
	TOTAL COUNTY FUNDING CONTRIBUTION				0	0	0

10. TOTAL BUDGET CONTEXT**: EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING SOURCE & FISCAL YEAR**

BUDGET CONTEXT - EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING SOURCE AND FISCAL YEAR (FY)							
COUNTY:	***Kern***						
ADMINISTRATION:							
A.	Estimated total mental health expenditures for administration for the entire duration of this INN Project by FY & the following funding sources:	**FY 22-23**	**FY 23-24**	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**TOTAL**
1	Innovation (INN) MHSA Funds				325,600	362,400	688,000
2	Federal Financial Participation						0
3	1991 Realignment						0
4	Behavioral Health Subaccount						0
5	Other funding						0
6	Total Proposed Administration				325,600	362,400	688000
EVALUATION:							
B.	Estimated total mental health expenditures for EVALUATION for the entire duration of this INN Project by FY & the following funding sources:	**FY 22-23**	**FY 23-24**	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**TOTAL**
1	Innovation (INN) MHSA Funds						
2	Federal Financial Participation						0
3	1991 Realignment						0
4	Behavioral Health Subaccount						0
5	Other funding						0
6	Total Proposed Evaluation						
TOTALS:							
C.	Estimated TOTAL mental health expenditures (this sum to total funding requested) for the entire duration of this INN Project by FY & the following funding sources:	**FY 22-23**	**FY 23-24**	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**TOTAL**
1	Innovation(INN) MHSA Funds*				325,600	362,400	688,000
2	Federal Financial Participation						0
3	1991 Realignment						0
4	Behavioral Health Subaccount						0
5	Other funding**						0
6	Total Proposed Expenditures				325,600	362,400	688,000
* INN MHSA funds reflected in total of line C1 should equal the INN amount County is requesting approval to spend.							
** If "other funding" is included, please explain within budget narrative.							

KERN COUNTY / Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Alison Burrowes, MA, LCSW
DIRECTOR

Kern County Semi-Statewide Enterprise Health Record (EHR) Project 30-Day Public Comment Period



HOPE, HEALING, RECOVERY

PO Box 1000, Bakersfield, CA 93302 | 661.868.6600 | www.kernbhrs.org

Kern County Semi-Statewide Enterprise Health Record (EHR) Project
30-Day Public Comment Period

The 30-Day Public Comment Period for the *Kern County Semi-Statewide Enterprise Health Record (EHR)/Multi-County Innovation Plan* occurred from May 5, 2025, through June 4, 2025. Here is the demographic data and the feedback it received.

Total Attendance (16 in-person & 8 Virtual)	**24**
Total Survey Responses (12 hard copies & 8 Online)	**20**
Total Completion Rate	**83%**

COUNTY REGION



7% North
52% Central
3% West
14% East

CONSUMER/FAMILY MEMBER

21% Consumers

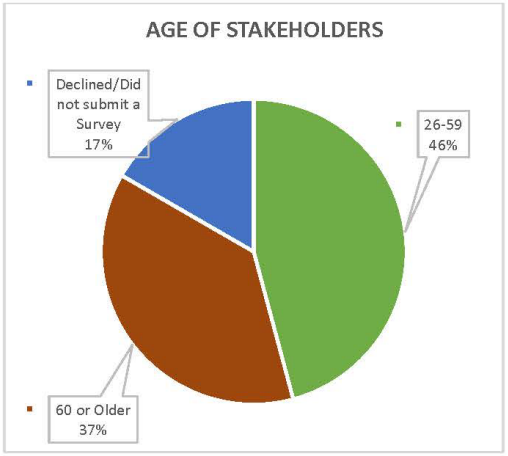


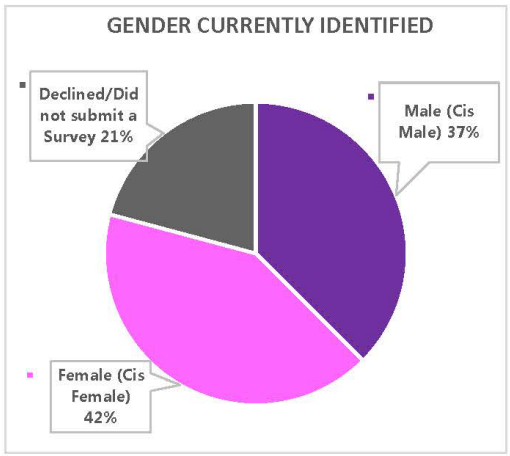
7% Family Members

MILITARY SERVICE



0% Current
8% Previous
71% None
21% Decline





Age Group:	
0-15	0.0%
16-25	0.0%
26-59	45.8%
60 or Older	35.5%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	16.7%
Gender assigned at birth:	
Male	37.5%
Female	45.8%
Intersex	0.0%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	16.7%
Gender Currently Identified with:	
Male (Cis Male)	37.5%
Female (Cis Female)	41.7%
Transgender/other	0.0%
Genderqueer	0.0%
Non-Binary	0.0%
Genderfluid	0.0%
Questioning or Unsure	0.0%
Other Gender Identity	0.0%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	20.8%
Disability:	
Vision	0.0%
Hearing, or Difficulty Understanding	0.0%
Mental/Cognitive (excludes behavioral)	16.7%
Mobility/Physical	0.0%
Chronic Medical Illness	12.5%
None	33.3%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	37.5%
Veteran Status:	
Yes, I Am a Veteran	8.3%
No, I Am Not a Veteran	70.8%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	20.8%
Primary Language:	
Only English	50.0%
Only Spanish	25.0%
Both English and Spanish	4.2%
Another Language ***(Tagalog)***	4.2%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	16.7%

Sexual Orientation:	
Straight/Heterosexual	66.7%
Gay or Lesbian	4.2%
Questioning or Unsure	0.0%
Queer	0.0%
Asexual	0.0%
Bisexual	0.0%
Pansexual	0.0%
Another Sexual Orientation	0.0%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	29.2%
Race:	
Asian	4.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%
Black/African American	4.2%
Latino/Hispanic	37.5%
Tribal/Native American	4.2%
White/Caucasian	25.0%
Two or More Races	4.2%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	20.8%
Ethnicity:	
African	0.0%
Asian Indian/South Asian	0.0%
Cambodian	0.0%
Chinese	0.0%
Eastern European	4.3%
Korean	0.0%
Middle Eastern	0.0%
Vietnamese	0.0%
European	4.3%
Filipino	4.3%
Japanese	0.0%
Caribbean	0.0%
Central American	8.7%
Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano	30.4%
Puerto Rican	0.0%
South American	4.3%
Two or More Ethnicities (see below)	8.7%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	34.8%
Two or More: Eastern European & Mexican	

*Group/Category	
Client/Consumer/Person with Mental Illness	20.7%
Family Member of a Client or Person with Mental Illness	6.9%
KernBHRS Staff	17.2%
Law Enforcement	0.0%
Veteran Services	0.0%
Senior Services	3.4%
Education/Schools	0.0%
Community Member	6.9%
County Agency Staff (Not KernBHRS Staff)	3.4%
Behavioral Health Provider (Not KernBHRS Staff)	0.0%
Medical Care Provider	3.4%
Other	6.9%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	31.0%
Describe others: community-based organization	

*Population you feel is most unserved/underserved in the above-mentioned community	
Children/Families	5.0%
Transitional Aged Youth (16-25)	20.0%
Older Adults	10.0%
Homeless or At Risk of Homelessness	10.0%
Those in Rural Kern Areas	5.0%
Veterans	0.0%
Those with Substance Use Disorders	5.0%
Latino/Hispanic	0.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0%
Black/African American	0.0%
American Indian / Alaska Native	5.0%
LGBTQ+	5.0%
Other	0.0%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	35.0%

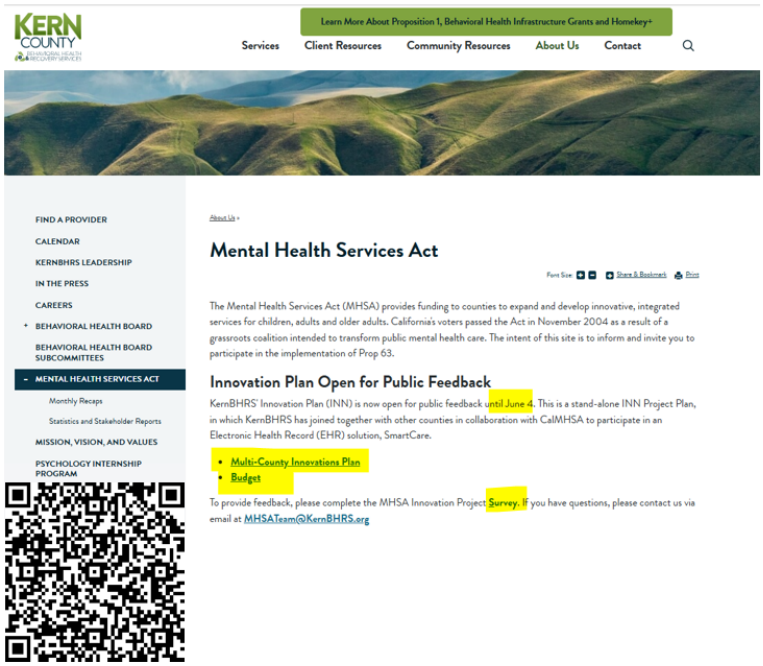
Region of the County you are most involved	
Arvin/Lamont	3.4%
Bakersfield	51.7%
Delano/McFarland	0.0%
California City/Mojave/Rosamond	0.0%
Wasco/Shafter	3.4%
Buttonwillow/Lost Hills	0.0%
Oildale	3.4%
Kern River Valley	10.3%
Tehachapi	0.0%
Ridgecrest	0.0%
Taft	3.4%
Frazier Park/Mountain Communities	0.0%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	24.1%

*Participants may select more than one answer to survey questions.

*Please indicate the types of services or programs that would be appropriate to service the above-mentioned population	
Prevention	12.5%
Early Intervention	3.1%
Outreach for Recognizing the Early Signs of Mental Illness	15.6%
Stigma and Discrimination Reduction	6.3%
Access and Linkage to Care	6.3%
Peer-Based Services	9.4%
Intensive Outpatient Treatment	3.1%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	43.8%
How did you learn about this public forum?	
Flyer	6.3%
From a friend or family member	6.3%
From a co-worker/colleague	12.5%
Social media	6.3%
Email/Text invitation	0.0%
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	68.8%

30-Day Public Comment

- Visit our website at https://www.kernbhrs.org/about-us/mental-health-services-act
- Circulation and Public comment period: May 5 – June 4, 2025
- Provide feedback at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Innovation-MultiCountyProject



Feedback / Response Matrix

Commenter	Comment	Theme	Response	Action Taken
Community Member (Spanish-speaking)	“Está bien todo el apoyo que les den. Gracias.” (Translation: "All the support they give is good. Thank you.")	General Support	Thank you for your supportive comment. We appreciate your participation and are committed to continuing efforts that benefit the community.	No changes needed. Positive feedback acknowledged and shared with the planning team.
Community Member (Spanish-speaking)	"(Estoy) de acuerdo con la exposición" ((I) agree with the project)	General Agreement	Thank you for your agreement with the project.	No changes required. Support acknowledged.
Community Member (Spanish-speaking)	"No (tengo) preguntas." (I don't have questions.)	Neutral/No Comment	Thank you for participating in the comment period.	No action required.
Community Member (Spanish-speaking)	"Esperemos que sea bueno para todos en general" (Hopefully it's good for everyone in general)	Hopeful Support	Thank you for your hopeful outlook. We aim to make the Innovation Project beneficial for all communities.	Feedback acknowledged and noted for community outreach planning.
Community Member (Spanish-speaking)	"Me gustaría que los trabajadores tengan más entrenamientos y que el doctor primario esté involucrado en la salud del paciente que tiene algún diagnostico mental." (I would like the employees to have more training and for the primary doctor to be involved in the health of the patients with a mental diagnosis.)	Training, Care Coordination	Thank you for your suggestion. We recognize the importance of training and coordination with primary care in mental health. These elements will be considered in implementation planning.	Will explore integration strategies between primary care and behavioral health as part of training and care models.

Feedback / Response Matrix

Kern River Resident (anonymous)	Concerned that rural communities like the Kern River Valley are left out of service delivery; recommends including River Sage Revival and similar local groups.	Rural Equity, Community Inclusion	Acknowledged; emphasized importance of including local partners and described steps being taken to involve rural groups. Invitation to participate in stakeholder group extended.	Will explore partnership with River Sage Revival and ensure inclusion in planning workgroups.
Director of Veteran Services, River Sage Revival	Requests funded pilot access to SmartCare for rural CBOs to support ECM and CS delivery. Recommends budgeting for shared license model to reduce financial barriers and connect veterans in rural Kern to care systems.	Rural Access, Veteran Services, Innovation Licensing	Thank you for your thoughtful input. We recognize the importance of including rural CBOs in SmartCare access. While we will explore options to reduce barriers, we also acknowledge that funding availability under Proposition 1 may impact feasibility. Your input will inform future planning.	Will assess implementation options and ensure rural provider needs are considered as SmartCare and funding transitions are evaluated.
River Sage Revival	Recommends that the MHSA Innovation Plan include tools to identify and address rural service gaps (e.g., ZIP code-level data, transportation, community provider access). Urges inclusion of rural CBOs in dashboard development, outcomes tracking, and structured feedback loops. Offers partnership to address equity concerns.	Rural Equity, Data-Driven Planning, Community Inclusion	Thank you for your detailed and insightful feedback. We agree that meaningful inclusion of rural ZIP codes, transportation barriers, and trusted community providers is essential to achieving the goals of the Innovation Plan. While implementation will depend on system capabilities and available funding, we are committed to improving rural representation in data and feedback processes. Your offer to partner is appreciated.	Will explore integration of rural-specific metrics and feedback mechanisms as SmartCare is implemented. River Sage Revival's input will help inform equity-centered planning and stakeholder engagement strategies.

KERN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2025
5:30 p.m.
In Person: 2001 28th Street- 1st Floor, Training Room

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Bryant (Dist. 3) – Chair
Bryson Gholston (Dist. 3) – 2nd Vice Chair
Flossie White (Dist. 4) - *Absent*
Sonia Silva (Dist. 1)
BreAnne Patterson (Dist. 4) Parliamentarian - *Absent*
Tiara King (Dist. 2)
Jackeline Cortes (Dist. 5) - *Absent*
Connie Perez-Andreesen (Dist. 5) - *Absent*
Jeff Burdick (Dist. 1) – 1st Vice Chair - *Excused*
David Kessler (Dist. 4)
Michael Herrera (Dist. 1)
Ishmeet Singh (Dist. 2)
LaShawna Stowe (Dist. 3) - *Absent*
Genora McClanahan (Dist. 5)
Priscilla Sanchez (Dist. 5) – BOS Appointee

Maria Gonzalez – BHB Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Hannah Garber- La Vida Nueva.

KERNBHRS STAFF: Mark Kimmel (MHSA Coordinator), Heather Hornibrook (BHRS Deputy Director), Jessica Armstrong (BHRS Deputy Director) Alison Burrowes (BHRS Director)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Michael Bryant, Chair, welcomed everyone; each board member present introduced themselves.

2. **Establish Quorum:** 9 present, 1 excused, 5 absent. Quorum was established.

3. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft) for April 28, 2025, Regular Meeting:** MOTION by TK SECONDED by BG ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED.

4. **Presentation(s):** PowerPoint Presentation, "La Vida Nueva" by Hannah Garber. *Time Allowed for Questions & Answers.*

5. **Public Comment:** None

6. **Unfinished Business**: **Maria Gonzalez, Administrative Coordinator**
   - **BHB Annual Report – Final Report**
     - Changes: Formatting and Coloring.
     - No Changes: Content

   MOTION by SS SECONDED by TK ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED.

7. **New Business**:
   - **INN CalMHSA: Mark Kimmel, MHSA Coordinator**
   - Public Comment Period
     - The 30-day public comment period is scheduled from May 5 to June 4, 2025. Stakeholders are encouraged to review project materials available at kernbhrs.org and submit feedback via the survey link: SurveyMonkey.
   - Part 1: Policies and Procedures Development
     - Development of standardized policies and procedures in alignment with Behavioral Health Information Notices (BHINs).
     - Implementation of Learning Management System (LMS) training for line staff to improve understanding and adherence to policies and reduce information silos.
     - Leadership training sessions are being planned.
     - CalMHSA is leading the creation of a statewide training platform.
     - Executive team will receive ongoing updates throughout implementation.
   - Part 2: Enhanced Analytics – PHI Dashboards
     - Billing & Claiming**:** Focused on granular financial tracking.
     - Services & Demographics**:** Analyzing client data, diagnoses, and service types.
     - Operations**:** Monitoring Electronic Health Record (EHR) user activity.
   - Inquiries
     - For questions or additional information, contact the MHSA Team at MHSATeam@kernbhrs.org

     MOTION by DK SECONDED by BG ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED.

   - **July Strategic Planning Dates**
     - Saturday July 12, 2025 9AM-12PM
     - Monday July 14, 2025 5:30PM-7:30PM
     - Saturday July 19, 2025 9AM-12PM
   - BHB members will take a poll and decide on a date for July's meeting in June.

8. **Chair Report – Michael Bryant:**
   - **CalBHBC Training**
     - 1-Day Training: A virtual training session will be held via Zoom from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Registration is currently open**.**
     - 2-Day Training: An in-person training is scheduled to take place in Folsom, CA on October 17–18, 2025.

9. **KernBHRS Administrative Services – Heather Hornibrook, Deputy Director:**
   - **Clinical Plan Services**
     - Contracts
       - Remaining board dates before the end of the fiscal year are as follows: 6/17/25 and 6/24/25.
   - **Department Supports**
     - MHSA
       - Working on the upcoming Integrated Plan for FY 2026-2029 that will forecast and budgets for all funding sources in the Department.
     - Cultural Competence Team
       - Honoring AAPI month, weekly lunch and learns at Various sites, with guest speakers, cultural food and education on the Filipino heritage.
     - Psychology Internship Program

- Business as usual.

- **Training and Compliance**
  - CFLC
    - The CFLC monthly calendar is available on www.KernBHRS.org
    - Clarvida has been awarded the operation of the CFLC Program through the RFP process. Contract negotiations are currently underway. The program will remain at the Westchester facility.
- **QID**
  - Business as usual.
- **Finance**
  - Business as usual.

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

- **Adult System of Care**
  - New CARE Court Data – Attached.

- **Kern Linkage**
  - Dr. Aroldo Orantes is the new supervisor over the Supportive Pathways Opportunities Team.
  - Bernice Cuevas is the new Co-Supervisor with Correctional Behavioral Health and will oversee the Programming for Correctional Integrated Care.
- **Substance Use Division**
  - Clinica Sierra Vista has officially launched Contingency Management Services in Bakersfield, making it the 7th clinic in Kern to offer these services.
  - The SUD Residential RFP closed in late March and awards are pending.
  - A Medical Detox RFP will be posted within the next month to seek proposers to offer this service in for Medi-Cal beneficiaries for the first time in Kern.

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

- No report

12. KernBHRS Department Report – Alison Burrowes, Director:

- **Residential RFP**
  - We continue to collaborate with the city on the residential Request for Proposal (RFP).
  - The city has been awarded $22 million for the development of a new residential facility. This will be a collaborative project with KernBHRS.
    - The current total of 109 residential treatment beds; plans are in place to add 65 additional beds.
    - Facility design will accommodate women, men, and families, ensuring resources are tailored to meet individual and family-specific needs.
- **Budget Update**
  - Participated in the State Director Association Meeting in Sacramento (Thursday and Friday).
  - No funding cuts have been made to Behavioral Health at this time. However, no funding will be available to support:
    - Senate Bill 525 (SB525)
    - Proposition 36 (Prop36)
- **Proposition 47 (Prop 47) Grant**
  - Exploring the possibility of applying for the Round 5 Prop 47 grant.
  - The county remains eligible, having been approved in Round 3.
  - The State is encouraging reapplication.

- **Local Advisory Council**
  - Discussion underway regarding quarterly meetings for LAC.
  - Final decision expected in June pending further input from BHB members.

13. **Board Member Item:** None

14. **Committee Reports:**

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

- Last meeting was held on May 14, 2025. Bryson provided a report to the board. Meeting frequency has been changed to quarterly at 4:00-5:00 in person.

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

- Next meeting will be held on July 10, 2025

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

- Next Meeting will be held in September 2025

15. **Announcements to the Public:** None

16. **Adjourn:** MOTION by BG to adjourn to the next regular meeting in person on June 23, 2025, and SECONDED by DK. ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED. Adjourned at 6:55pm

Items Distributed via Meeting Invite
BHB 2025 Schedule
https://www.kernbhrs.org/behavioral-health-board

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - COUNTY OF KERN

1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, California

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2025

9:00 A.M.

Note: Members of the Board of Supervisors may have an interest in certain contracts that the Board considers where the member holds a position on a non-profit corporation that supports the functions of the County. Supervisors are assigned to these positions as part of annual committee assignments by the Chairman of the Board. These interests include, with the Supervisor holding the position, the following: California State Association of Counties (Supervisors Peters and Perez); Community Action Partnership of Kern (Supervisor Parlier); Kern County Network for Children (Supervisor Peters); Kern Economic Development Corporation (Supervisors Peters, Couch and Flores); Southern California Water Coalition (Supervisors Couch and Flores); Tobacco Funding Corporation, Kern County (Supervisors Couch and Perez); Kern County Foundation, Inc. (Supervisor Perez); and Kern Medical Center Foundation (Supervisors Couch and Flores).

BOARD RECONVENED

Supervisors: Peters, Parlier, Flores, Couch, Perez
ROLL CALL: 4 Present; 1 Absent - Flores

SALUTE TO FLAG - Led by Jonathan Bong, U.S. Navy veteran

NOTE: The vote is displayed in bold below each item. For example, Flores-Perez denotes Supervisor Flores made the motion and Supervisor Perez seconded the motion.

NOTE: Prior to approval of the consent agenda, Supervisors Peters and Couch provided comments on Item No. 31; Lito Morillo, Director, Department of Human Services, responded

CONSENT AGENDA/OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: ALL ITEMS LISTED WITH A "CA" OR "C" WERE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE AND APPROVED BY ONE MOTION.

BOARD ACTION SHOWN IN CAPS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - PET OF THE WEEK

NICHOLAS CULLEN, DIRECTOR, ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, INTRODUCED NATASHA, A FEMALE CHIHUAHUA MIX, AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION AT THE KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

CA-1) Resolution honoring Probation Division Director Ryan Wegis, upon his retirement with 27 years of dedicated service to the County of Kern - ADOPTED RESOLUTION

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-2) Resolution honoring Probation Supervisor Sonya Mitchell-McCall, upon her retirement with 35 years of dedicated service to the County of Kern - ADOPTED RESOLUTION

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

3) Proclaim July 20 - 26, 2025 as Probation Services Week in Kern County - PROCLAIMED; MADE PRESENTATION TO CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER WILLIAM DICKINSON; CHIEF DICKINSON HEARD

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

APPOINTMENTS

CA-4) Reappointment of Michael Bowers as Third District Member to the Civil Service Commission, term to expire July 9, 2029 - MADE REAPPOINTMENT

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-5) Appointment of Sabrina Runnels as First District Child Care Provider Member, and reappointment of Alesha Brown as Third District Discretionary Member, to the Early Childhood Council of Kern, terms to expire June 30, 2028 - MADE APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

6) This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Board on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Board. Board members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Board at a later meeting. Also, the Board may take action to direct the staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE AND SPELL YOUR NAME BEFORE MAKING YOUR PRESENTATION. THANK YOU!

ANDY HENSEL, JES SANDERS, RON BARGER, CHARLES SHINN, DENNIS MCLEAN AND PAMELA REECE, HEARD REGARDING ELECTION CONCERNS

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

7) On their own initiative, Board members may make an announcement or a report on their own activities. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Gov. Code Sec. 54954.2[a][2])

NO ONE HEARD

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

CA-8) Proposed retroactive payroll correction for Program Technician Theresa Martinez in the amount of $850 for bilingual pay earned but not paid, from February 12, 2024 through May 30, 2025 (Fiscal Impact: $850; State/Federal; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED AUDITOR-CONTROLLER TO PAY

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK

CA-9) Resolutions from the City of Delano requesting the Elections Official to conduct their Special Municipal Measure Election to be held November 4, 2025 (Fiscal Impact: None) - AUTHORIZED ELECTIONS DIVISION TO CONDUCT THE ELECTION AS REQUESTED

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

10) Proposed Amendment No. 5 to Agreement 101-2016 with Dominion Voting System, Inc., providing Democracy Suite Voting System, to extend the term from December 31, 2025 through December 31, 2027 to maintain compliance with State law until a Request for Proposal (RFP) is finalized and to upgrade system to current certified version, in an amount not to exceed $583,812 (Fiscal Impact: $583,812; Not Budgeted; Discretionary) - RON BARGER, JES SANDERS, CHARLES SHINN AND PAMELA REECE, HEARD; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 357-2025

Couch-Parlier: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

CA-11) Proposed Resolution authorizing Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to execute an additional thirty-day involuntary psychiatric hold as allowed under Welfare and Institutions Code 5270.10 - 5270.65 (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2025-139

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-12) Proposed retroactive Agreement with Telecare Corporation to provide therapeutic and rehabilitative inpatient psychiatric services for adult clients placed at the Kern Psychiatric Health Facility in Bakersfield from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $7,500,000 (Fiscal Impact: $7,500,000; State/Federal; Budgeted; Mandated) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 358-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-13) Proposed retroactive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kern County Sheriff's Office to provide assistance with behavioral health calls in the Sheriff's 911 Communications Center from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $270,000 (Fiscal Impact: $270,000 Revenue; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 359-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-14) Proposed retroactive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bakersfield Police Department to accept funding for the provision of services for the Bakersfield Police Department's communication center and homeless co-response programs from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $405,000 (Fiscal Impact: $405,000 Revenue; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 360-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-15) Proposed request authorizing Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to request Mental Health Services Act Innovation funding from the California Department of Health Care Services for the Semi-Statewide Enterprise Health Record (EHR) Project, in a total amount not to exceed $688,000 (Fiscal Impact: $688,000; State/Federal; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED DIRECTOR TO REQUEST FUNDING

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-16) Proposed retroactive Amendment No. 2 to Agreement 359-2024 with Life Generations, LLC, providing specialized skilled nursing services in a supervised residential facility for severely mentally ill conserved clients, to increase compensation by $160,000 for a new total amount not to exceed $617,375, effective May 1, 2025 (Fiscal Impact: $160,000; State/Federal; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 361-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-17) Proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Blue Cross of California Partnership Plan, Inc., to provide coordinated care and oversight for managed care services under the Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Plans and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System for substance use disorder services (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 362-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-18) Unusual travel request for Senior Human Resources Specialist Jennifer Baker to attend the 2025 Association of Workplace Investigators Training in Nashville, Tennessee, from August 3 - 8, 2025, in an amount not to exceed $6,806 (Fiscal Impact: $6,806; State/Federal; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-19) Proposed authorization to send notice of termination and request to terminate Personal/Professional Agreement 2296271 with Waystar, Inc., for electronic billing services, effective July 15, 2025 (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES DIRECTOR TO SIGN NOTICE OF EARLY TERMINATION

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-20) Proposed retroactive sole source Agreement with Good Samaritan Hospital to provide inpatient psychiatric hospital services for adult mental health clients who reside in Kern County from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $3,500,000 (Fiscal Impact: $3,500,000; State/Federal; Budgeted; Mandated) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 363-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-21) Unusual travel request for Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Staff Development Specialist Carneysha Wofford, Behavioral Health Staff Development Specialist Anaiah Alfred, and Behavioral Health Program Support Supervisor Lizzie Collins to attend the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) in Sacramento, California, from August 10 - 15, 2025, in an amount not to exceed $16,928 (Fiscal Impact $16,928; State/Federal: Budgeted: Discretionary) - APPROVED

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

COUNTY COUNSEL

CA-22) Proposed Ordinance adding subsection 256 to Section 10.16.041 of the Kern County Ordinance Code establishing a no-stopping zone along the south side of Casa Loma Drive beginning 30 feet west of the centerline of South Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, then west six hundred twenty-five feet, in Bakersfield (Fiscal Impact: None) - WAIVED READING; INTRODUCED ORDINANCE

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CA-23) Proposed Resolution retroactively authorizing District Attorney to submit grant application to the California Department of Insurance for 2025-2026 Automobile Insurance Fraud Program from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 (Fiscal Impact: $458,021; State Grant; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2025-140; AUTHORIZED DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE ALL GRANT DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AS TO FORM BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-24) Request for Board approval of expenditure of funds for employee recognition and related activities in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (Fiscal Impact: $3,500; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE

CA-25) Proposed retroactive Agreement with the State of California Employment Development Department (EDD) for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Farmworkers Advancement Program to provide employment and training services from April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2027, in the amount of $985,200 (Fiscal Impact: $985,200 Revenue; State Grant; Not Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TO SIGN AGREEMENT AND EXECUTE ALL GRANT DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AS TO FORM BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-26) Proposed retroactive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TalentBase LLC for the High Road Training Partnerships 2025 Grant Program from June 30, 2025 through June 29, 2027 (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TO SIGN

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-27) Proposed retroactive approval to apply for High Road Training Partnerships 2025 Grant Program funding and proposed retroactive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pacific Steel Group as a partner agency to provide on-the-job training from July 8, 2025 through December 31, 2028 (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TO SIGN MOU, GRANT APPLICATION AND RELATED DOCUMENTS, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AS TO FORM BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-28) Request for approval to purchase American Express gift cards to support transportation needs for participants enrolled in the Displaced Oil and Gas Workers Program, in an amount not to exceed $73,200 (Fiscal Impact: $73,200; State Funding; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

FIRE DEPARTMENT

CA-29) Request to donate surplus 1999 GMC Savana 3500 Cargo Van valued at $2,500 to Keepers Transformation House in Bakersfield, to be used for transportation of individuals impacted by addiction (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

HUMAN SERVICES

CA-30) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 495-2024 with Victory Family Services providing court-ordered supervised visitation services to families involved in the Child Welfare Services system, to modify visitation protocols and increase pay rates (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 364-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-31) Request to approve non-standard terms and conditions with Pitney Bowes Inc., for a 48-month lease of one Omation 200 letter opener machine, in an amount not to exceed $8,928 (Fiscal Impact: $8,928; $8,392 Federal/State/Realignment; $536 General Fund; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

PROBATION

CA-32) Proposed Resolution for retroactive authorization to submit grant application and accept grant funding from California Highway Patrol for Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the amount of $336,000 (Fiscal Impact: $336,000 Revenue; State Grant; Not Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2025-141; AUTHORIZED CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER TO EXECUTE ALL GRANT DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AS TO FORM BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-33) Request to approve non-standard terms and conditions with Absolute Software Corporation for Absolute Mobility Software to provide virtual private network (VPN) software from August 31, 2025 through August 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $42,920 (Fiscal Impact: $42,920; General Fund; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDER

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-34) Proposed sole source Subscription Agreement, containing non-standard terms and conditions, with Evident Change for web-based data monitoring and reporting services from August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026, in an estimated amount of $7,973 (Fiscal Impact: $7,973; Grant; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED PURCHASING AGENT TO SIGN AND ISSUE PURCHASE ORDER

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

CA-35) Proposed retroactive Amendment No. 3 to Agreement 757-2021 with Unilab Corporation dba Quest Diagnostics, providing laboratory testing services, to extend the term from July 1, 2025 through July 1, 2027, amend Attachment 1 updating fee schedule and increase the maximum compensation by $100,000, for a new total amount not to exceed $200,000 (Fiscal Impact: $100,000; Fees; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 365-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-36) Request for continuation of local health emergency declared due to potentially hazardous conditions that exist from the Borel Fire (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-37) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 460-2020 with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, dba Liberty Ambulance, providing ground ambulance services in geographic area known as Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) "7", to extend the term from July 29, 2025 through July 28, 2030 (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 366-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-38) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 461-2020 with Hall Ambulance Service, Inc., providing ground ambulance services in geographic area known as Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) "1", to extend the term from July 29, 2025 through July 28, 2030 (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 367-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-39) Proposed retroactive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with California State University Bakersfield, College of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering, for the Public Heath Internship Program from February 11, 2025 through June 30, 2026 (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 368-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-40) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 523-2024 with San Joaquin Community Hospital, dba Adventist Health Bakersfield, for data sharing, to add Adventist Health Specialty Bakersfield to the agreement, effective July 15, 2025 (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 369-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-41) Proposed retroactive Amendment No. 3 to Agreement 1128-2016 with Adventist Health Delano, Level IV Pediatric Receiving Center designation, to extend the term through December 6, 2028, in an estimated amount of $66,420 (Fiscal Impact: $66,420 Estimated Revenue; Fees; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 370-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

SHERIFF

CA-42) Proposed retroactive Agreement with Kern County Hospital Authority to provide transportation of and morgue facility storage for in-patient decedents of Kern Medical from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028, in an estimated amount of $30,000 (Fiscal Impact: $30,000 Estimated Annual Revenue; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 371-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-43) Proposed retroactive Agreement with the City of Maricopa for law enforcement services within the City of Maricopa from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030, in an amount not to exceed $867,570 (Fiscal Impact: $867,570 Revenue; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 372-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-44) Proposed Agreement with Mojave Air and Space Port for supplemental law enforcement services from July 15, 2025 through June 30, 2028, in an estimated amount of $10,000 (Fiscal Impact: $10,000 Estimated Revenue; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 373-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-45) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 325-2023 with Kern County Forensic Services, LLC, providing forensic evidence collection and examination for victims of sexual assault, to increase maximum compensation by $197,000, for a new total amount not to exceed $497,000 (Fiscal Impact: $197,000; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 374-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-46) Proposed retroactive Personal Professional Services Agreement (PPSA) with National Medical Services, Inc., (NMS) for forensic toxicology and analysis of unknown substances from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030, in an amount not to exceed $1,600,000 (Fiscal Impact: $1,600,000 [$320,000 FY 2025-2026]; Budgeted; Mandated) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 375-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-47) Request to approve non-standard terms and conditions with Cellebrite Inc., for sole source procurement of forensic data extraction subscription, in an amount not to exceed $159,360 (Fiscal Impact: $159,360; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

48) Proposed Ordinance adding Chapter 9.46 to Title 9 of the Kern County Ordinance Code relating to unlawful possession of a catalytic converter (Fiscal Impact: None) - JES SANDERS AND DARYL TERRELL, HEARD; MADE FINDING THAT THE ORDINANCE IS NOT A PROJECT SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA); WAIVED READING AND INTRODUCED ORDINANCE; DESIGNATED COUNTY COUNSEL THE OFFICIAL TO PREPARE A FAIR AND ADEQUATE SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE; DIRECTED CLERK OF THE BOARD TO PUBLISH SUMMARY PER GOVERNMENT CODE 25124(b)(1)

Parlier-Couch: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-49) Proposed retroactive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kern County District Attorney's Office to provide dispatch services from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $25,000 (Fiscal Impact: $25,000 Revenue; Budgeted; Discretionary) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 376-2025

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-50) Update on emergency project for replacement of the Automatic Transfer Switch at the Lerdo Pretrial Facility (Fiscal Impact: None) - RECEIVED AND FILED

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-51) Request authorization for Sheriff's Office to sell duty weapon and optic pistol sight valued at less than $500 each (Fiscal Impact: $510 Revenue; Not Budgeted; Discretionary) - MADE FINDING THAT DUTY WEAPON AND OPTIC PISTOL SIGHT LISTED ARE VALUED AT LESS THAN $500 EACH; AUTHORIZED SALE

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

CA-52) Request authorization for Sheriff's Office to sell duty weapon and optic pistol sight valued at less than $500 each (Fiscal Impact: $510 Revenue; Not Budgeted; Discretionary) - MADE FINDING THAT DUTY WEAPON AND OPTIC PISTOL SIGHT LISTED ARE VALUED AT LESS THAN $500 EACH; AUTHORIZED SALE

Couch-Peters: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Flores

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION

Couch

CLOSED SESSION

(If public reporting is required by Government Code Section 54957.1 relating to the following matter(s), the public reporting of any action taken in closed session will be made at the beginning of the next session of the Board of Supervisors.)

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

53) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT/RECRUITMENT - Title: Director of Planning and Natural Resources (Government Code Section 54957) - NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

54) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - Title: Director of Planning and Natural Resources (Government Code Section 54957) - NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

55) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - Agency designated representatives: County Administrative Officer Nancy Anderson, and designated staff - Employee organizations: Kern County Firefighters Union, IAFF Local 1301 and Kern County Prosecutors Association (Government Code Section 54957.6) - NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

COUNTY COUNSEL

56) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) and (g)) Name of case: Alain Deveroux, et al. v. County of Kern, Detention Deputy Austin McRoberts, et al., United States District Court, Eastern District of California Case Number 1:23-cv-00239-JLT-CDB - NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

57) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) and (g)) Name of case: Julie Meek, et al. v. DOD Construction, et al., Kern County Superior Court Case Number BCV-24-102318-BCB - NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

58) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) and (g)) Name of case: Sara Miller v. County of Kern, et al., Kern County Superior Court Case Number BCV-24-101899 - NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

59) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) and (g)) Name of case: Hilda Rivera v. County of Kern, et al., Kern County Superior Court Case Number BCV-23-100517-TMS - NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

60) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) and (g)) Name of case: Nishi Dayal v. County of Kern, et al., United States District Court Number 1:24-CV-00039-JLT-CDB - NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

61) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) and (g)) Name of case: Lewis, Mickel, et al. v. County of Kern, et al., United States District Court Case Number 1:21-CV-00378-KES-CDB, Consolidated with Case Number: 1:21-CV-01352-DAD-JLT - NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION; RECESSED TO 2:00 P.M.

/s/ Kathleen Krause
Chief Clerk of the Board

/s/ Leticia Perez
Chairman, Board of Supervisors