

**KERN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**April 28, 2025
5:30 p.m.

Approved 5/19/25

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

Michael Bryant (Dist. 3) – Chair
Bryson Gholston (Dist. 3) – 2nd Vice Chair – *Excused*
Flossie White (Dist. 4)
Sonia Silva (Dist. 1)
BreAnne Patterson (Dist. 4) Parliamentarian – *Excused*
Tiara King (Dist. 2)
Jackeline Cortes (Dist. 5)
Connie Perez-Andreesen (Dist. 5) – *Absent*

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

Maria Gonzalez – BHB Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniela Hernandez- Maxim Healthcare Services

KERNBHRS STAFF: Emily Lyles (Administrator for KernBHRS Adult System of Care), Michelle Culy (Administrator for KernBHRS Kern Linkage Division), Mark Kimmel (MHSA Coordinator), Candee Del Rio (BHRS Finance Director), Heather Hornibrook (BHRS Deputy Director), Jessica Armstrong (BHRS Deputy Director), Robin Taylor (KernBHRS Deputy Director)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Michael Bryant, Chair, welcomed everyone; each board member present introduced themselves.
2. **Establish Quorum:** 8 present, 3 excused, 4 absent. Quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft) for March 24, 2025, Regular Meeting:** MOTION by Sonia Silva SECONDED by Jeff Burdick ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED.
4. **Presentation(s):** PowerPoint Presentation, "Full-Service Partnerships-Specialty Adult Services" by Emily Lyles and Michelle Culy. *Time Allowed for Questions & Answers.*
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Unfinished Business: Maria Gonzalez, Administrative Coordinator**
 - The final draft of the Annual Report was provided to BHB members. Board members were asked to review the report and contact Maria Gonzalez at MaGonzalez@kernbhhs.org and/or Isabel Sickler at ISickler@kernbhhs.org via email if they wish to request any changes, removals, or additions.

Date

7. New Business:

- **MHSA Annual Update: Mark Kimmel, MHSA Coordinator**

- Public comments on the MHSA Annual Update Plan will be accepted from March 31 to April 30, 2025. The draft for FY 2025-2026 is available for review, and feedback can be submitted at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MHSA-AnnualReportFY25-26>
- Key Program Updates
 - **FSP:** ACT team started a new contract with Telecare (July 2024).
 - **Youth MIST:** Certified on Treatment Foster Care-Oregon model (May 2024).
 - **TAY:** Partnered with new housing providers (EA Family Services & Covenant Community Services).

System Development (SD)

- Access & Assessment has begun utilizing the Mental Health Non-Psychiatric Timeliness Record

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)

- **Healing Project:** Transitioned from INN to PEI funding (June 2024).

Innovation (INN)

- **Learning Healthcare Network:** Developing a sustainability plan.
- **Mobile Clinic:** Launched with Street Psychiatry (March 2023).

Workforce Education and Training (WET)

- **Psychology Internship:** 56 post-docs licensed out of 105 interns since 2000.
- **Employee Wellness:** Partnered with Blue Zones Project (Oct 2023).

CFTN Projects: Plans for building renovations and furnishing projects for key facilities.

NPLH: Opened College Heights Cottages, expanding to five locations.

- EPI Plus: Integrated Medi-Cal billing.

- **MHSA Annual Plan – Candee Del Rio, BHRS Finance Director**

- A breakdown of Total Costs and Medical Earned was provided to board members. It was noted that the department is required to report annually to the state on how funds are spent.
- Interest
 - Funds received from the state are first deposited into the MHSA Trust Fund, where they accrue interest through the County Treasury. These funds are only moved into the operating system once spent. Interest earned is allocated across Support and Services, Prevention and Early Intervention, and Innovation components.
- Revenue
 - Functions as a restricted savings account, requiring a defined plan for how the funds will be used.
- Transfers
 - There were no transfers this year. However, the department is planning to develop an annual transfer plan for the upcoming year.

MOTION by Jeff Burdick SECONDED by Flossie White ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED.

Date

8. Chair Report – Michael Bryant:

- CalBHBC Training
 - Day 1: Chair Report on Prop 1 Requirements and state-level legislation. - More to come.
 - Day 2: Chair training session held to focus on leadership and responsibilities.

9. KernBHRS Administrative Services – Heather Hornibrook, Deputy Director:**• Clinical Plan Services**

- Contracts
 - The Contracts Team is currently processing 82 contracts for fiscal year 2025-2026.
 - Four Board of Supervisors submission dates remain for the fiscal year.
- DHCS Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
 - Since August 2024, 26 families have enrolled in PCIT; 14 families remain active.
 - Six families are currently participating in Phase II of the Program.
- Employer's Training Resource
 - An MOU is being developed to offer individual and group therapy services to displaced oilfield workers.
 - Planning and implementation are currently underway.

• Department Supports

- MHSAA
 - May is Mental Health Month. This year's theme is "Be Kind to Your Mind." Awareness calendars are now available.
 - A Mental Health Awareness Proclamation is scheduled for April 29 at 9:00 AM at the CAO.
 - CALM Event: Scheduled for May 3, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, with participation from approximately 15 community vendors focused on mental health awareness and stigma reduction.
 - Inspiration Awards: Will be held on May 8, 9:30 AM, at the Westchester Courtyard. This event honors employees and clients who have supported or experienced recovery.
- Psychology Internship Program
 - Five psychology interns have been matched and will begin their internship in Fall 2025.

• 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

- Kern BHRS recently completed its annual external quality review, mandated by DHCS.
- The review was conducted by Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) and focused on data accuracy and validation.
- A findings report is expected in the fall.

• Finance

- The department's budget was submitted to the CAO on April 17 and is currently under review.

10. KernBHRS Clinical Services Report – Jessica Armstrong, Deputy Director:**• Adult System of Care**

- 6-month Care Court Data Presentation
- Full-Service Partnership Presentation

Date

- **Kern Linkage**
 - Full-Service Partnership Presentation
 - Valerie Rojas has been appointed as the new interim supervisor for Long Term Care
- **Substance Use Division**
 - The Recovery Incentives Program continues to perform well, with six active sites across Kern County. Clinica Sierra Vista in Bakersfield is scheduled to launch as the next site in May.
 - The SUD Division is in the process of finalizing agreements for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
 - A potential collaboration with the Public Health Department has arisen, as they plan to apply for a grant aimed at increasing Hepatitis B screening and vaccinations. If the grant is awarded, the SUD Division will work alongside Public Health to provide engagement opportunities for individuals in SUD treatment.

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

- **Crisis Services Division**
 - The remodel and construction project for MKS, including improvements to the PEC/CSU, has been completed, and operations in the PEC CSU have resumed.
 - Kern County's implementation of Welfare and Institutions Code 5270 (30-day hold) is anticipated for July 2025, as part of the SB 43 implementation plan.
 - The Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) funded construction project for a new Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit and Family Resource Center is progressing as planned. The General Contractor RFP has been awarded, and the contract has been finalized. Plans are 50% complete and expected to reach 90% completion by June. KernBHRS anticipates construction to begin in late summer.
- **Disaster Response**
 - Critical Incident Stress Management training is taking place this week for team members needing recertification or certification as new members.
- **Infrastructure and Technology Services**
 - The Electronic Health Record Support Team has been conducting training sessions with internal teams and contractors for HCAI reporting. Additionally, they are testing a tracking protocol to flag items that need to be completed in the new enrollment/intake process.
 - The Software Development Team has developed a new Crisis Services UOR reporting system, which will be used by Crisis Services Contractors. The tool is currently under review and will be rolled out to contractors soon.
 - The Facilities Team has been working closely with property management across multiple buildings to address repairs and any ongoing issues.

12. KernBHRS Department Report – Alison Burrowes, KernBHRS Director:

- "Having worked with the department for 20 years, I have witnessed significant growth over time. I want to express my sincerest thanks and appreciation to the BHRS staff and BHB members for their ongoing hard work and dedication". - AB
- Board of Supervisors Tour
 - Invited members to provide any feedback they would like passed along to the Board of Supervisors.

13. Board Member Item: None**14. Committee Reports:****Adult Treatment & Recovery Services** (quarterly): Bryson Gholston:

- Last meeting was held on April 09, 2025

Date

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

- Last meeting was held on April 10, 2025

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

- Next Meeting will be held on May 19, 2025

15. Announcements to the Public: None

16. Adjourn: MOTION by Tiara King to adjourn to the next regular meeting in person on May 19, 2025, and SECONDED by Jackeline Cortes. ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED. Adjourned at 6:55pm

Items Distributed via Meeting Invite

BHB 2025 Schedule

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