

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

June 23, 2025

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

In Person: 2001 28th Street- 1st Floor, Training Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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

Maria Gonzalez – BHB Coordinator - *Excused*

OTHERS PRESENT: Katrina Martinez

KERNBHRS STAFF: Belinda Vieyra (BH Recovery System Administrator), Heather Hornibrook (BHRS Deputy Director), Jessica Armstrong (BHRS Deputy Director) Robin Taylor (BHRS Deputy Director), Alison Burrowes (BHRS Director), Jazmin Solorio (BHRS Sr. Office Services Specialist)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Michael Bryant, Chair, welcomed everyone; each board member present introduced themselves.
2. **Establish Quorum:** 6 present, 1 excused, 8 absent. Quorum was not established.
3. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft) for May 19, 2025, Regular Meeting:** Deferred to August 25, 2025, regular meeting for approval due to no quorum established.
4. **Presentation(s):** PowerPoint Presentation, “Clinical Plan Services: Contracts Overview” provided by Belinda Vieyra. *Time Allowed for Questions and Answers.*
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Unfinished Business:** Announcements
 - Strategic Planning Meeting will be on Monday 7/14 from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM.
 - Networking & Introductions: Meet team members across departments and subcommittees.
 - Team Building: Strengthen interdepartmental relationships with the full management team.
 - Strategic Plan Review: Discuss current goals, progress, and the annual planning process.
 - Additional Topics: Attendees can suggest topics or training ideas by emailing Jazmin Solorio or Maria Gonzalez

May 19, 2025

7. New Business:**Attendance Reminder-Review bylaws**

- Members must follow attendance rules in bylaws (pgs. 3–4).
- Notify Maria Gonzalez or Jazmin Solorio if you can't attend.
- Three unexcused absences may lead to a referral for replacement.
- The Executive Committee may recommend removal due to poor attendance or performance.
- Members may request up to a 6-month leave in writing to the Chair.

Current Follow-Up:

- Attendance is being tracked; letters will be sent to members with ongoing issues.
- District offices may be contacted to help reach unresponsive members.

Meeting Format Update (Brown Act Compliance)

- All board and subcommittee meetings must now return to in-person attendance.
- Virtual attendance may be allowed for listening only official participation requires being present.

COVID-related virtual meeting allowances have ended.

8. Chair Report – Michael Bryant:**CalBHBC Meeting**

- Attended statewide meeting; key topic: Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs).
- Similar to medical directives, but for mental health crises.
- Not widely known or used but valuable for patient guidance.

Ethics Training

- Held June 20, 2025 (virtual).
- All members must complete ethics training within one year of starting service.
- Renew every two years thereafter.
- Jazmin and Maria will send dates for future training for those who were unable to attend the previous one.

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

- PCIT: Twelve families are participating in the program; 3 families are nearing graduation.

Department Supports

- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Transition.
- Preparing for Prop 1 and future system changes.
- FY 2026–29 Integrated Plan in development.
- FSP and Housing Workgroups formed.
- Initiatives include cross-training, surveys, and housing coordination with managed care plans.

Finance

- Upcoming Board of Supervisors budget meeting: Monday, July 28.
- New financial management system (Oracle-based, part of Workday integration) is being rolled out.
- Will handle claims, billing, timecards, and more.
- Staff training and process development are ongoing.

QID

- Currently undergoing a 10-day audit by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).
- Audit includes both mental health and substance use programs.
- Topics reviewed: Network adequacy, quality improvement, program integrity, and more.
- Over 100 BHRS staff and 30+ DHCS staff involved.

Training and Compliance

- Consumer Family Learning Center (CFLC) transitioning to Clarvida approved by Board of Supervisors on June 17.
- Transition will occur gradually over 2-3 months.
- Emphasis in cross-training and minimizing disruption to the community.
- Grand reopening planned.

May 19, 2025

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

- Business as usual.

Kern Linkage

- City Serve Elevate Project is now open with 125 units, including 39 funded by a bridge housing grant for care participants and those in need. BHRS joined late but look forward to providing client services. Ribbon cutting is on July 8, and some units may still be available for viewing.
- No Place Like Home Facility is nearing groundbreaking for an 84-unit project, with 41 units reserved for individuals with behavioral health disabilities. BHRS will provide supportive services and assessments; this will be the largest facility we've managed to date.

Substance Use Division

- Contracts are on track to be completed by fiscal year-end—thanks to the Contracts team and leadership.
- A major RFP for adult and adolescent outpatient services is in development—the largest in 5–7 years—aimed at expanding adolescent capacity and preparing for SB 43. It will be posted on Kern County's purchasing site.
- Prop 47 grant was submitted to support Prop 36 initiative, which has seen 190 referrals in 6 months. The grant would enhance case management and extend housing support post-treatment to aid community reintegration.

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

- Welfare & Institutions Code 5270 (30-day hold) implementation is moving forward in Kern County, with Board approval set for July 15. It complements SB 43 by allowing extended inpatient treatment without conservatorship.
- BCHIP grant-funded construction is progressing, with 95% design plans under review and a late summer start date. This includes expanding youth crisis stabilization beds at Mary K. Shell CSU from 4 to 16.
- Crisis response updates: MET has added a second supervisor, Gabby Rodriguez.
- ARPA-funded Sheriff units have ended their dedicated roles; they'll remain integrated with street and mobile crisis teams.

Disaster Response

- The Critical Incident Stress Management team responded at a cooling center during recent power shutoffs in the Lake Isabella area related to wildfire prevention.
- Provided support to affected community members during multiple incidents.

Technology & Infrastructure

- New Prescriber module launched in SmartCare, enhancing e-prescribing and provider satisfaction.
- Electronic incident reporting system piloted at an inpatient hospital for crisis providers; system-wide rollout planned to streamline reporting.

Children's System of Care

- Youth Bridge Rapid Response pilot ends July 1 due to funding loss, but referrals for youth suicide and self-harm will continue through Public Health EMS and Kern Medical emergency department partnerships.
- The Treatment Foster Care Program serves six high-needs youth in family-like settings.
- Thirty youth graduated this year from the Blanch and Blanton Education Center, a partnership supporting justice-involved youth.

12. KernBHRS Department Report – Alison Burrowes, Director:**Regional Focus Collaborative**

- BHRS leadership remains active in the Regional Homeless Collaborative.
- Jessica Armstrong serves on the Governing Board, and Alison Burrowes serves on the Executive Board.
- Christopher Vargas has been appointed the Executive Director.

Homeless Services & Collaboration

- The Point-in-Time Count showed a slight decrease in homelessness. Alison Burrowes will review behavioral health data to identify service trends.
- HHAP funding is open to public input, with community members encouraged to help shape spending priorities.
- Please share this opportunity with any local stakeholders interested.

County Budget & Board Engagement

- A budget presentation by the County CEO's Office is set for June 24, featuring former director Stacy Kuwahara highlighting homelessness efforts, with BHRS programs prominently included.
- BHRS leadership recently met with all Board of Supervisors members to give quarterly updates on key initiatives like SB 43, W&I Code 5270, and Prop 1, receiving positive feedback.

Community Engagement

- Last week's Juneteenth Celebration, hosted in the courtyard by the Cultural Competency Subcommittee, was a success with great entertainment and strong staff participation.
- More cultural event invites will be shared soon.

Media Training for Leadership

- BHRS leadership will participate in media training, led by an external consultant, to improve communication around complex or sensitive topics.

13. Board Member Item: None

14. Committee Reports:

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

- Next meeting will be held on August 13, 2025.

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 on July 28, 2025.

15. Announcements to the Public: None

16. Adjourn: Adjourned at 6:55pm to the next regular meeting in person on August 25, 2025,

Items Distributed via Meeting Invite

BHB 2025 Schedule

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