

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

August 25, 2025

5:30 p.m.

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

Michael Bryant (Dist. 3) – Chair

Bryson Gholston (Dist. 3) – 2nd Vice ChairFlossie White (Dist. 4) - *Excused*

Sonia Silva (Dist. 1)

BreAnne Patterson (Dist. 4) Parliamentarian - *Excused*Tiara King (Dist. 2) - *Absent*Connie Perez-Andreesen (Dist. 5) - *Excused*Jeff Burdick (Dist. 1) – 1st Vice Chair

David Kessler (Dist. 4)

Michael Herrera (Dist. 1) - *Excused*

Ishmeet Singh (Dist. 2)

LaShawna Stowe (Dist. 3) - *Absent*

Genora McClanahan (Dist. 5)

Priscilla Sanchez (Dist. 5) – BOS Appointée

Maria Gonzalez – BHB Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Marissa Trebizo, Dr. Hanna (audience).**KERNBHRS STAFF:** Jessica Armstrong (Deputy Director), Louis Groce (Department PIO), Sara Palmer (Office Services Technician), Jazmin Solorio (Senior Office Services Specialist), Lesleigh Davis (BHRS Administrator), Rachelle Hunt (BHRS Resource Operations Manager)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Michael Bryant, Chair, welcomed everyone; each board member introduced themselves.
2. **Establish Quorum:** Present (8), Excused (4), Absent (2). Quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft)**
 - May 19, 2025, Regular Meeting: MOTION by Sonia Silva and SECONDED by Jeff Burdick ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED
 - June 23, 2025, Regular Meeting: MOTION by Bryson Gholston and SECONDED by Jeff Burdick ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED.
4. **Presentation(s):** None
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Unfinished Business:** None

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7. New Business –

- Jessica Armstrong, Deputy Director on behalf of Alison Burrowes, BHRS Director-
 - Changes to bylaws and Board Member participation. Working with Chair Michael Bryant to implement a new requirement for board members to serve on the Behavioral Health Board. Change is expected to start with the new year, aligning with Board of Supervisors' committee assignments. Logistics, including member term length, are being discussed with CAO and County Counsel.
- Louis Groce, Departments PIO
 - Suicide Prevention Awareness and Recovery Month Events
 - Two proclamations for Suicide Awareness Month and Recovery Month will be presented at the Board of Supervisors on Sept. 9 at 9 AM; all invited to attend.
 - Salt Walk Fundraiser – Riverwalk Park, all board members invited, info at saltkc.com.
 - Cal State Men's Soccer Game (Sept. 17) – Free admission, includes prevention and recovery messaging.
 - Recovery Resource Fair (late Sept.) – Central Park at Mill Creek, 40–60 vendors, speakers include Alison and Supervisor Perez.
 - Contact the department for flyers or more details.

8. Chair Report – Michael Bryant:

- **Attendance Reminder:**
 - A reminder email about attendance requirements will be sent out to all members. It is important to note that three unexcused absences may lead to a recommendation for replacement. Currently, some members have unexcused absences, so follow-up may be needed to address this issue. Members who are unable to attend should notify either Maria Gonzalez or Alison Burrowes as soon as possible.
- **Replacement Process:**
 - The process to appoint replacement representatives can take time due to the need for Board approval. However, efforts are ongoing to fill the vacant positions as quickly as possible.
- **State Officers for Next Year:**
 - Nominations for Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair open next month; members should review bylaws and notify Maria or Alison if interested.
 - Ad hoc members and Marketing Chair will compile a slate for a November vote; new officers begin Jan. 1.

9. KernBHRS Administrative Services – Lesleigh Davis, KernBHRS Administrator on behalf of Heather Hornibrook, Deputy Director:

- **Clinical Plan Services:**
 - Parent-Child Interaction Therapy – Four families have successfully graduated, and two therapists are in the final stages of their certification. As part of the certification requirements, each therapist must guide two families through the graduation process.
- **Department Supports**
 - Cultural Competency Plan – Working on Cultural Competence Plan which is due on 12/31.
 - BHSA (Behavioral Health Services Act) Integrated Plan – MHSA teams preparing new required plan.
- **Finance**
 - Finance – County budget is going for approval on 8/26.
- **Training and Compliance**
 - CFLC – Clarvida is now fully operating the Bakersfield Consumer Family Learning Center.
 - Data Notebook – Annual survey supporting advocacy; timeline: Sept. review, Oct. vote, Nov. 1 submission.

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

- **Adult System of Care:**
 - New Day Treatment Services – Contracted program for individuals transitioning from acute units; offers skill-building and recovery support.
 - Decentralized Assessment Centers – Moving assessments to multiple locations for improved access and convenience.
 - Care Court Referrals – 113 referrals since October; 22 petitions filed, 7 care agreements; participation remains voluntary.
- **Kern Linkage:**
 - Pet Program at In Street Navigation Center – Supports clients with pets via doggy daycare and partnerships with Animal Control for care and vaccinations, reducing barriers to services.
- **Substance Use Disorder Division:**
 - Recovery Month Event – Recovery Fair will be held at Mill Creek Park on 9/27 from 9AM to 1PM.
 - Residential Provider Contracts – Negotiating with two providers to expand services in Bakersfield and Ridgecrest; Hope to start services in November.

11. KernBHRS Specialty Clinical Services Report – Rachelle Hunt, BHRS Resource Operation Manager on behalf of Robin Taylor, Deputy Director:

- **Medical Services**
 - Call Center Improvement – Developing a universal scheduling system to streamline operations.
 - Psychiatric Fellowship Program – Interviewing candidates to strengthen psychiatric care support.
- **Infrastructure & Technology**
 - Electronic Health Record (EHR) -Cal Mesa Partnership- Two years from full go-live; site visits addressed scheduling, reporting, scanning, and client record issues. Updates are expected in October.
 - Managed Care Data Exchange – Weekly coordination with Kern Health Systems; MOU with Anthem in implementation, Kaiser pending.
 - Microsoft Copilot – Countywide adoption with 40 licenses; training required; not for PHI or core business functions.

12. KernBHRS Department Report – Jessica Armstrong, Deputy Director on behalf of Alison Burrowes, Director:

- **Revenue Optimization**
 - Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Partnership – Collaborating with BCG and DHCS to optimize Medi-Cal revenue collection and identify reimbursement opportunities.
- **Strategic Planning Day**
 - Scheduled for October to review and act on input from the summer Behavioral Health Board session; updates to follow.

13. Board Member Item – Michael Bryant, Chair

- Strategic Planning Session Recap:
 - The chair expressed appreciation for the Board members and BHRS staff who were able to attend the Strategic Planning Session in July. The session was very productive, and it was especially valuable for BHRS staff to gather input directly from the Board members.

14. Committee Reports:**Adult Treatment & Recovery Services** (quarterly): Bryson Gholston:

- Next meeting will be held on November 12th. Will report at November Meeting.

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

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- Next meeting will be held on October 9th. Made report at October meeting.
System Quality Improvement Committee (bi-monthly): David Kessler:
- Next meeting will be held on September 22nd. Will report at September meeting.

15. Announcements to the Public: None.

16. Adjourn: MOTION by Jeff Burdick to adjourn to the next regular meeting in person on September 22 and
SECONDED by Bryson Gholston. ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED. Adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Items Distributed via Meeting Invite

BHB 2025 Schedule

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