

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

October 27, 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 Chair
Sonia Silva (Dist. 1)
BreAnne Patterson (Dist. 4) Parliamentarian
Tiara King (Dist. 2) - *Absent*

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

Maria Gonzalez – BHB Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: None

KERNBHRS STAFF: Lesleigh Davis (BHRS Deputy Administrator), Michelle Culy (BHRS Administrator), Robin Taylor (BHRS Deputy Director), Alison Burrowes (BHRS Director).

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Michael Bryant, Chair, welcomed everyone; each board member introduced themselves.
2. **Establish Quorum:** Present (7), Excused (0), Absent (4). Quorum was not established.
3. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft) for September 22, 2025:**
 - Regular Meeting: Deferred to November 17, 2025, regular meeting for approval due to no quorum established.
4. **Presentation(s):** None
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Unfinished Business** – Michael Bryant
 - **Election of Officers – Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair**
 - The election for new officers will be held next month. No nominations were submitted by the deadline. Michael Bryant has offered to serve as Chair if no other candidates emerge. The Board continues to seek nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair; current officers will remain if none are received

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- **Members to review changes to bylaws**

- Board members received the proposed Bylaws revisions. A vote was not held due to lack of quorum, but time was provided for questions and discussion. Once approved by the Board, revisions will go to the Board of Supervisors for final approval, anticipated at next month's meeting.
- The board discussed Section 5.2 regarding member qualifications and the rotation of the Board of Supervisors' representative. It was noted the member would not serve as an officer, and staff will confirm procedures with the Clerk of the Board. Each supervisor will have an alternate to assist with attendance. The board also confirmed that reducing membership will adjust the quorum requirement.

7. New Business: None

8. Chair Report – Michael Bryant:

- **Attendance Reminder and Acknowledgment of Board Member Passing**

- Board members received an email reminder about attendance requirements and consistent participation. The Chair announced the passing of Board member Genora McCalahan, honoring her dedication and service.

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

- **Clinical Plan Services:**

- Eight families completed all program goals and graduated from PCIT. Two therapists are pursuing certification, which involves completing training competencies, facilitating two family graduations, submitting an application, and passing the certification exam.

- **Behavioral Health Services Administration (BHSA) Updates:**

- Proposals were submitted for two RFPs for Outpatient Specialty Mental Health Services, one for Metro Bakersfield and one for Kern County's Outlying Areas. Both are under review by their evaluation committees.

- **QID:**

- Data Notebook – Last month, the Behavioral Health Board voted to approve the proposed changes to the Data Notebook. The draft will be submitted this week for final approval. Copies will be provided to any Board member upon request.

10. KernBHRS Clinical Services Report – Michelle Culy on behalf of Jessica Armstrong, Deputy Director:

- **Adult System of Care:**

- Access and Assessment Services are now being offered at designated geographical provider sites, allowing clients the option to initiate services directly at their treatment location rather than traveling to the Mental Health Access (MKS) site for assessment.

- **Kern Linkage:**

- Kern County Animal Services hosted the first PET Program event on October 20, achieving significant community impact. During the event, 52 pets—45 dogs and 7 cats—were successfully spayed and neutered, supporting ongoing efforts to promote animal health and welfare within Kern County.

- **Substance Use Disorder Division:**

- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services: Action Family Counseling will begin residential treatment by November 15, 2025. The SUD Outpatient RFP closed October 23, with awards to be finalized for FY 2026–2027 contracts. KernBHRS will also begin negotiations to establish Bakersfield's first inpatient withdrawal management services, expanding critical care access for Medi-Cal members.

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

- **Infrastructure & Technology:**

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- Facilities: The Resource Operations and Facilities Managers have identified facility improvement projects for the next three years based on onsite inspections. The list will be reviewed and prioritized by Executive Management.
- Information Technology: The Windows 11 upgrade for all staff computers is complete. Bowman Technology Group is conducting a network security penetration test to assess vulnerabilities; results will be shared upon completion.
- **Crisis Services**
 - The Mobile Evaluation Team (MET) welcomes Yessenia Nunez-Gonzalez as Co-Supervisor, bringing seven years of Crisis Division experience. MET expanded field response with three new vehicles, and the 988 Hotline received Vibrant funding to enhance its workspace while maintaining top statewide response rates and supporting other counties.
- **Children's System of Care**
 - A fidelity review for Treatment Foster Care Oregon is underway with the Youth MIST team. The division is partnering with DHS and Probation on the One County Plan for High Fidelity Wraparound (Prop 1, effective July 2026), focusing on funding alignment, training, quality improvement, and measurable outcomes.

12. KernBHRS Department Report – Alison Burrowes, Director:

- **Boston Consultant Group**
 - BCG is reviewing Medi-Cal revenue, data, and finances. Deputies and administrator staff are collaborating for a quick turnaround; updates will be shared next month.
- **Strategic Planning**
 - Thanks to BHB members who joined the July session. Input will guide the Leadership Strategic Planning on Nov. 7, focusing on organizational alignment.
- **CBHDA Conference**
 - Kern County was recognized for its forensic services supporting clients found incompetent to stand trial. Appreciation to Michelle Culy for her leadership.
- **DHCS Visit**
 - DHCS will visit Dec. 19 to review funding, grants, and programs. Board members will be invited; highlights include the new hospital, CSU, and Care Court.
- **In Memoriam**
 - Honoring Genora McCalahan, member since 2023, for her dedicated service and community contributions. Meeting adjourned in her memory.

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

- Next meeting will be November 12, 2025. Will report at the November Meeting.

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

- Meeting was held on October 9, 2025. Could not attend meeting.

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

- Meeting was held on September 22, 2025. Could not attend meeting.

15. Announcements to the Public: None

16. Adjourn: MOTION by Jeff Burdick to adjourn to the next regular meeting in person on November 17, 2025, and SECONDED by David Kessler. ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED. Adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Behavioral Health Board

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Items Distributed via Meeting Invite

BHB 2025 Schedule

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

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