

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

January 26, 2026

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

Jeff Burdick (Dist. 1) – 1st Vice ChairTiara King (Dist. 2) - *Absent*

Michael Herrera (Dist. 1)

Ishmeet Singh (Dist. 2)

LaShawna Stowe (Dist. 3)

Maria Gonzalez – BHB Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: 4 Public Attendees – Catlin Payne, Johnny Delgado, Carlos Herrera, Sindhua Payulu**KERNBHRS STAFF:** Mark Kimmel (Behavioral Health Program Supervisor), Jessica Armstrong (BHRS Deputy Director), Robin Taylor (BHRS Deputy Director), Heather Hornibrook (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 (6).
3. **Approval of Draft Minutes:**
 - November 17, 2025 Regular Meeting MOTION by Bryson Gholston and SECONDED by Sonia Silva. ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED.
4. **Presentation(s):** None
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Unfinished Business**
 - Bylaws approved by BOS January 6, 2026
 - Brown Act Law changes effective January 2026
 - Subcommittee Co Chairs and Frequency of Meetings

7. New Business – Michael Byant

- **Election of Officer** – Parliamentary MOTION by Bryson Gholston and SECONDED by Jeff Burdick. ALL AYES. MOTION PASSED.
- **MHSA Annual Plan** – Mark Kimmel MOTION by Sonia Silva and SECONDED by BreAnne Patterson. ALL AYES. MOTION PASSED.
- **BHSA Integrated Plan**
 - PowerPoint Presentation, “BHSA Integrated Plan” by Mark Kimmel. *Time allowed for Questions & Answers.* (Mark Kimmel is requesting feedback).
- **Learning Healthcare Network Innovation Change** – Mark Kimmel MOTION by Michael Bryant and SECONDED by Bryson Gholston. ALL AYES. MOTION PASSED.

8. Chair Report – Michael Bryant

- **CalBHBC Meeting/ Training Update**
 - First session held via Zoom, covering advanced directives for mental health and effective board participation, including Brown Act updates. Next session for new members is February 2, 2026, from 5:00 PM–6:30 PM. Training materials and Zoom links will be shared in advance.
- **Ad Hoc Committee for Annual Report**
 - Volunteers needed for the annual report Ad HOC Committee; Jeff and the Chair volunteered. Additional details to be shared via email.

9. KernBHRS Administrative Services – Heather Hornibrook, Deputy Director

- **Clinical Plan Services**
 - Partnering with Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to improve service capture and documentation. Pilot launches in February with QID support.
 - Four PCIT clinicians certified; eight families graduated; caseloads being coordinated with PCIT International.
 - Cultural Competence: African American/Black Subcommittee planning Black History Month events.
 - BHSA: 30-day review underway for Integrated Plan, Annual Plan, and INN Project change request (Early Psychosis LHN).
 - Clinical Plan Services Administration: Prop 47 Cohort 3 programming ends 3/1/26; referrals accepted through 1/31/26 for final client support and data submission.
- **Finance**
 - Medi-Cal rates published on January 14, 2026, reflect a 3.08% increase.
- **QID**
 - External Quality Review (EQR) for 2026 will include combined Performance Measure Validation (PMV) and Network Adequacy Validation (NAV), conducted by HSAG for MHP and DMC-ODS. Virtual review scheduled for April 6, 2026.
 - DHCS FY 2024–25 review will focus on DMC-ODS and SUBG services. Audit period is July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025. Virtual compliance review on May 5, 2026, with a brief closing session on May 6, 2026.

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

- **Adult System of Care**
 - Two Day Treatment Intensive vendors awarded via RFQ: Charlie Health (adult/children) and Kern Medical (adult). Charlie Health contract nearing completion; anticipated start July 1, 2026.
- **Kern Linkage**
 - Point-in-Time Count was held January 28, 2026.
 - Transitional Rent launched January 1, 2026, offering up to six months of Medi-Cal housing support for eligible members; must be used before other KBHRS housing funds.
- **Substance Use Disorder Division**
 - Prop 47 Cohort 5 contract executed; implementation begins next month to expand participant support, housing, and treatment services.

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- Clarvida Tehachapi approved to launch Contingency Management services, becoming the 9th program in Kern County.
- Outpatient SUD RFP is under evaluation, with awards anticipated for a July service start.

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

• **Infrastructure and Technology**

- Document Management System RFP in development.
- Collaborating with CalMHSA on State-required enhancements (Close Loop Referral, Prior Authorization Modules).
- Recent network penetration test rated security as average; recommended improvements are in progress.

• **Crisis Services**

- Mobile Evaluation Team Communication Center with BPD and KCSO received a Challenge Award from the California State Association of Counties for innovative services.
- SB 43 went live January 1, 2026, expanding involuntary holds/conservatorships for severe SUD or co-occurring MH/SUD. Kern has had 3 SUD-only 5150 holds (all discontinued) and 1 dual MH/SUD Temporary Conservatorship.
- Ongoing enhancements to SUD assessment and treatment within Crisis Services.

• **Children's System of Care**

- Youth MIST team recertified for Treatment Foster Care Oregon.
- First Episode Psychosis Program expanding outreach and referrals.
- Developing the One County Plan for High Fidelity Wrap with DHS and Probation; effective July 1, 2026, with UC Davis training in progress.
- Focus on braided funding, quality improvement, and data/outcome measurement.

12. KernBHRS Department Report – Alison Burrowes, Director

• **Department Initiatives**

- Implementing the BHSA integrated plan while expanding evidence-based practices, SUD services, day/residential treatment, and staff training.

• **Financial & Community Considerations**

- High costs for new services; tracking funding, H1 medical changes, and client impact with managed care and CAO.

• **Board Presentations & Planning**

- Ongoing staff/provider presentations. Open to topic feedback. Summer planning in progress.

13. Board Member Item: None

14. Committee Reports:

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

- Next meeting will be held on February 11, 2026.

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

- Last meeting was held on January 8, 2026. (Unable to attend).

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

- Last meeting was held on January 26, 2026.

15. Announcements to the Public: None

16. Adjourn: MOTION by BreAnne Patterson to adjourn to the next regular meeting in person on February 23, 2026, and SECONDED by Michael Herrera. ALL AYES: MOTION PASSED. Adjourned at 7:00 PM.