

Prop 47 Cohort 5 Local Advisory Committee Meeting**March 6th, 2026****10:00am-11:00am via Microsoft Teams****Minutes**

Present: Amber Lopez, Ana Olvera, Bianca Barron, Diahna James, Elida Guzman, Jessica Armstrong, Joseph Denoyer. Kathy Gildez-notetaker, Michelle Culy.

- 1. Welcome & Introductions:** Ana welcomed everyone and explained that the Prop 47 Cohort 5 grant was awarded in 10/2025. She asked everyone to introduce themselves and reviewed what would be covered in this meeting.
- 2. Prop 47 Grant Overview:** Kern New Beginnings is the program's name. Its intent is to help expand Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health treatment for Justice-Involved individuals. This program is a great opportunity to support Prop 36 Treatment Court. That proposition, a ballot measure passed in 11/2024, changed the Health and Safety code to allow certain nonviolent offenses to be treatment-mandated felonies. Kern BHRS has been doing Prop 36 for a little over a year in collaboration with the Courts, Public Defender, D.A., and Probation, starting the program with no funding. Obtaining this grant will help support and further enhance Prop 36 efforts.
- 3. Local Advisory Committee Purpose:**
 - The Prop 47 grant requires the program to have a local advisory committee-stakeholders that will support, guide, provide feedback-to ensure Kern New Beginnings is successful. The goal is to have a variety of stakeholders with various perspectives in their feedback. Committee members must sign an agreement to attend meetings and provide feedback. Committee members will receive updates as the program develops and progresses.
 - A small team will be built which will include Elida Guzman as supervisor, a Planning Analyst, and two Substance Use Disorder Specialists.
 - Housing Support has been built into the grant. Counselors will work with JI folks to connect them to housing.
 - An incentive program will be built into the grant to encourage participants to stay in the program. The incentive program is not established yet. Consultation with the department's partners at UCLA will take place to create that program.
- 4. Frequency of Meetings:**



- The grant requires regular meetings with the local advisory committee. After discussion it was decided that initial meetings will be monthly. Once the program is established meetings may change to quarterly meetings.
- One of the tasks that needs to be accomplished is to develop the incentive program, ensuring that it is in place when JI folks start in treatment. The goal is to finalize this program's details within the next 3 months. As a county agency providing incentives, permission from the Board of Supervisors. Once the program is developed Ana will request that permission, which will depend on Board date times and availability.

5. Proxy Members:

- Bianca will send an e-mail to Advisory Committee members requesting the name of their proxy. This would be somebody who can be sent invitations to this meeting and can attend in place of the committee member to maintain the conversation and feedback loop.
- Posting the meeting schedule and agenda is a grant requirement since the meetings are open to the public. They will be posted on the KernBHRS public website. Ana asked the committee members to make this information available to people. Committee members are welcome to bring individuals to the meetings. Committee members will let Ana know if they have questions about meeting dates/times, how to access them, as well as if they would like meetings to be held in different places to make them more accessible.

6. Questions: The best way to reach Ana is via email (AOLvera@kernbhhs.org.) for questions or feedback.

Final comments: The program will include contracting evaluation services with EvalCorp. EvalCorp will help submit one of the programs first deliverables by the end of March. The grant requires submission of a local evaluation plan. This plan will tell the Board of State and Community Corrections how program components will be tracked and how objectives and goals will be achieved. An update will be given at the next meeting where opportunity for feedback can be given.