

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

April 27th, 2026

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

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

Chris Parlier (Dist. 2)- BOS Member

Michael Bryant (Dist. 3) – Chair

Bryson Gholston (Dist. 3) – 2nd Vice ChairBreAnne Patterson (Dist. 4)- Parliamentarian - *Absent*Sonia Silva (Dist. 2) - *Excused*Ishmeet Singh (Dist. 2) - *Excused*Lashawna Stowe (Dist. 4) - *Excused*

Michael Herrera (Dist. 1)

Priscilla Sanchez (Dist. 5)

Matthew Harkey (Dist. 5) - *Absent*

Maria Gonzalez – BHB Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:**KERNBHRS STAFF:** Ana Olvera (BHRS Administrator SUD), Heather Hornibrook (BHRS Deputy Director), & Valeria Martinez (BHRS Unit Supervisor)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Michael Bryant, Chair, welcomed everyone; each board member introduced themselves.
Establish Quorum: Present (5) *Quorum was not established.*
2. **Approval of Draft Minutes:** An emergency action was called to approve the previous meeting minutes.
3. **Presentation(s):** Prevention Team – Valeria Martinez & Ana Olvera
4. **Public Comment:** None
5. **Unfinished Business**
 - **Meeting Minutes Approval:** January 26, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes: *MOTION by Bryson Gholston, SECONED by Michael Herrera.* February 23, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes: *MOTION by Priscilla Sanchez, SECONED by Michael Herrera.* March 23, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes: *MOTION by Michael Herrera, SECONED by Bryson Gholston.*
6. **New Business** – Michael Byant

- **Annual Report Draft Review**

- The document is a draft and requires review for accuracy, corrections, and suggested revisions.
- Feedback should be submitted via email or phone to Maria Gonzalez prior to finalization. The document is scheduled for approval at the next board meeting.

1. Chair Report – Michael Bryant

- CalBHB/C provides quarterly training and statewide updates. Training focuses on board effectiveness and leadership development.
- Sessions are available live via Zoom and as recordings. Members are encouraged to attend or review past trainings, with details distributed in advance.

2. KernBHRS Administrative Services – Heather Hornibrook, Deputy Director

- **Clinical Plan Services**

- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) implementation is complete and compliant, with all therapists certified and confirmed by PCIT International for high performance; expansion to additional regions is planned.
- Ten families have graduated and six are currently enrolled; the grant concludes June 30, 2026, with no cost extension.

- **Behavioral Health Transformation (BHSA)**

- Transition of adult outpatient services to contracted providers is in progress, with a July 1 go-live date.
- Coordination, leasing, and staffing efforts are ongoing, with continuity of care maintained.

- **Mental Health Month**

- May activities include a proclamation with the Board of Supervisors and events throughout the community with materials distributed.

- **Integrated Plan**

- The plan is under state review, with responses to feedback in progress.
- Final approval will proceed to the Board of Supervisors.

- **Quality Improvement**

- Review by Health Services Advisory Group resulted in no preliminary findings. Additional review is scheduled.

- **Finance and Training**

- No updates reported.

3. KernBHRS Clinical Services Report – Ana Olvera on behalf of Jessica Armstrong, Deputy Director

- **Adult System of Care – Clinic Transitions**

- Client transition notifications are in progress, with continuity of care maintained.

- **Kern Linkage**

- The ROEM Team participated in a community resource fair, providing behavioral health, substance use, and supportive services.

- **Psychology Internship Program**

- Recruitment in progress for July start. Program supports psychological testing, court evaluations, and workforce development.

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- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services**
 - RFP awards finalized; contract negotiations in progress.
 - Contracts extended to ensure continuity; new cycle will span 18 months.
- **Compliance and Audit**
 - Upcoming audit by the California Department of Health Care Services will review SUD programs and federal funding from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
 - Grant submission due May 20; funding is state determined.

4. KernBHRS Specialty Clinical Services Report – Heather Hornibrook on behalf of Robin Taylor, Deputy Director

- **Crisis Services Division**
 - Development of the Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit and Family Resource Center is on schedule, with construction anticipated for Fall 2026 and operations projected for early 2027 pending California Department of Health Care Services certification; services will be operated by Telecare Corporation.
 - The facility will include 16 youth crisis stabilization beds and is expected to expand behavioral health services and improve access for children and families.
- **Information Technology (IT)**
 - An RFP is in development for a document management system to reduce paper use and improve management of medical records, HR documentation, and contracts/financial records.
 - An RFP is also in progress for a staff alert system to replace the outdated panic button system, enhancing staff safety and operational efficiency across facilities.

5. KernBHRS Department Report – Heather Hornibrook on behalf of Alison Burrowes, Director

- May is Mental Health Month video was presented.

6. Board Member Item: No comments were presented.

7. Committee Reports:

- **Adult Treatment and Recovery Services:** Members were unable to attend. Jeff Burdick has resigned. LaShawna Stowe will be taking over. Next meeting will be held on July 9th, 2026.
- **Child Treatment and Recovery Services:** No update.
- **System Quality Improvement Committee:** Meeting held; Report was given. Next meeting will be May 18, 2026, member participation is encouraged.

8. Announcements to the Public: None

9. Adjourn: *MOTION by Michael Bryant and SECONED by Priscilla Sanchez* to adjourn to the next regular meeting in person on May 18, 2026, Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 PM.

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