



A NETWORK OF CARE AND COMPASSION

Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Behavioral Health Board Annual Report 2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



It has been my honor and pleasure to have been selected to serve for another year as the Chair of the Kern County Behavioral Health Board and to have the Board advocate for individuals and families living with mental and/or addiction issues. The Board also welcomed new members this year and said goodbye to members who had distinguished themselves by serving on the Board for several years. The Board would like to congratulate the staff of Kern County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) on their accomplishments this past year. Some of which included continuing to serve individuals in CARE Court and partnering with Good Samaritan Hospital to provide detoxification services. The Board looks forward to working with KernBHRS staff in the coming year as they continue to navigate the implementation of SB 43, Proposition 1, and Proposition 36. Thank you to all the BHB Members, KernBHRS staff, community partners, and our clients for making this a transformative year.

-Michael Bryant

Behavioral Health Board Chair

COMMITTEES

Adult Treatment & Recovery Services

Chair: Bryson Gholston

Children's Treatment & Recovery Services

Chair: Jeff Burdick

System Quality Improvement

Chair: David Kessler

Board Mission Statement

The Mission of the Kern County Behavioral Health Board is to advocate for individuals and families living with mental illness and/or addiction by support and oversight of Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

About the Board

Each member of the Board of Supervisors appoints three county residents to represent their District and the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Supervisors are asked to appoint members in three category types: consumer or family member, professional, and public interest and attempt to make appointments that reflect the diverse ethnic and cultural background of their District.

The Behavioral Health Board must comply with Welfare & Institutes Code Section 5604(a), which requires:

- Minimum of 50% (8 members) of the total membership shall be consumers, parents, spouses, siblings, or children of consumers who are receiving or have received behavioral health services.
- Minimum of 20% (3 members) shall be consumers.
- Minimum of 20% (3 members) shall be family members of consumers.
- One member of the Board of Supervisors.
- One member shall be between the ages of 16 and 25.
- One member shall be a veteran
- One member must be an employee of a local education agency.
- The remaining members should include individuals who have experience and knowledge of the behavioral health and substance use disorder system to provide a balance of health professionals and public interest members.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



*District 1
Phillip Peters*



*District 2
Chris Parlier*



*District 3
Jeff Flores*



*District 4
David Couch*



*District 5
Leticia Perez*

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

**Priscilla Sanchez – BOS Liaison
At-large BOS Representative
Appointed 2025**

Alison Burrowes – Liaison

**Jeffrey Burdick – 1st Vice Chair
District 1 - Appointed 2021**

**Sonia Silva - Member
District 1 - Appointed 2019**

**Michael Herrera – Member
District 1 - Appointed 2024**

**Ishmeet Singh – Member
District 2 - Appointed 2025**

**Tiara King- Member
District 2 - Appointed 2023**

**Second District
(1 Vacancy)**

**LaShawna Stowe – Member
District 3 - Appointed 2023**

**Michael Bryant – Chair
District 3 - Appointed 2023**

**Bryson Gholston – 2nd Vice Chair
District 3 - Appointed 2021**

**BreAnne Patterson – Parliamentarian
District 4 - Appointed 2023**

**Flossie White – Member
District 4 - Appointed 2021**

**David Kessler – Member
District 4 - Appointed 2021**

**Connie Perez-Andreesen – Member
District 5 - Appointed 2024**

**Genora McClanahan – Member
District 5 - Appointed 2023**

**Jackeline Cortes – Member
District 5 - Appointed 2024**



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) is pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report, developed in partnership with the Kern County Behavioral Health Board. Centered on the theme, “A Network of Care and Compassion,” this report reflects our collective commitment to strengthening behavioral health services through connection, collaboration, and community partnership. It highlights the department’s ongoing efforts to build a more responsive and integrated system of care while providing the Board of Supervisors and community stakeholders with a summary of key accomplishments and system improvements over the past year.

In 2025, KernBHRS advanced a more accessible and coordinated system of care for both adults and youth. A decentralized access model for adult services improved connections to care by enabling individuals to seek treatment directly at conveniently located clinics. Across the Adult System of Care, expanded crisis and specialty programs have strengthened our ability to meet individuals where they are. Programs such as Assertive Community Treatment, CARE Court, and supportive housing initiatives continue to promote recovery, reduce hospitalizations, and support long term stability.

During this period, the Children’s System of Care expanded services for high-risk youth through a broader range of evidence-based practices and deepened collaboration with child welfare, education, and community partners, ensuring coordinated, developmentally appropriate care. The Substance Use Disorder Division also expanded system capacity, including the addition of inpatient detoxification services and increased residential treatment options. These efforts, combined with stronger coordination and culturally responsive, evidence-based approaches, support more comprehensive and effective care.

KernBHRS advanced facility and technology enhancements while leveraging grants to support justice involved individuals, including those impacted by Proposition 47 and Proposition 36. Additional funding supports individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity through outreach, interim housing, and connections to ongoing treatment and supportive services. Together, these efforts strengthen diversion and reentry programs, enhance cross system collaboration, and promote long term stability.

The Kern County Behavioral Health Board continues to play a vital role through advocacy, partnership, and community insight. We value their leadership and ongoing collaboration in strengthening a responsive, integrated behavioral health system.

KernBHRS remains committed to improving access, advancing equity, and delivering high quality care to support the health and wellbeing of all residents in Kern County.



EXECUTIVE TEAM



Robin Taylor, LCSW, is the Deputy Director of Specialty Clinical Services at KernBHRS, with over 20 years of experience in Behavioral Health. She has worked with adults and minors in outpatient, crisis, and inpatient settings since 2008. Robin has held leadership roles in both private behavioral health organizations and KernBHRS, including serving as Crisis Services Administrator. She has played a key role in securing funding for Kern County's infrastructure expansion and brings expertise in leadership, licensing, new operations, and large-scale project management.



Jessica Armstrong, LMFT, is the Deputy Director of Clinical Services at KernBHRS, with nearly 20 years of experience in behavioral health. She joined KernBHRS in 2005 as a therapist and later led the Contracts Division, improving contracting practices and oversight. Jessica has worked with children and adults in various settings, including outpatient clinics, homeless services, and criminal justice environments, and contributed to the development of homeless service programs. A Taft native, she has been instrumental in enhancing mental health services in rural Kern County.



Heather Hornibrook, LMFT LPCC, is the Deputy Director of Administrative Services at KernBHRS, with over 20 years of experience in behavioral health. She started with KernBHRS in 2005 as a BH Therapist on the Foster Care Team and has since supervised the Foster Care and JPPS teams. Heather has also served as administrator for the Kern Linkage Division, Adult System of Care, and Clinical Plan Services Division. She played a key role in the System of Care Redesign, which standardized care practices across outpatient teams.

KERNBHRS AT A GLANCE

22,229



Mental Health
Clients Served

16,502



Substance Use
Disorder Clients Served

38,731



Total Clients Served

30,371



Calls to the 988
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

7,513



Texts & Chats to the 988
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

1,405



Children
Served at PEC*

3,640



Adults
Served at PEC*

895



KernBHRS Staff

68

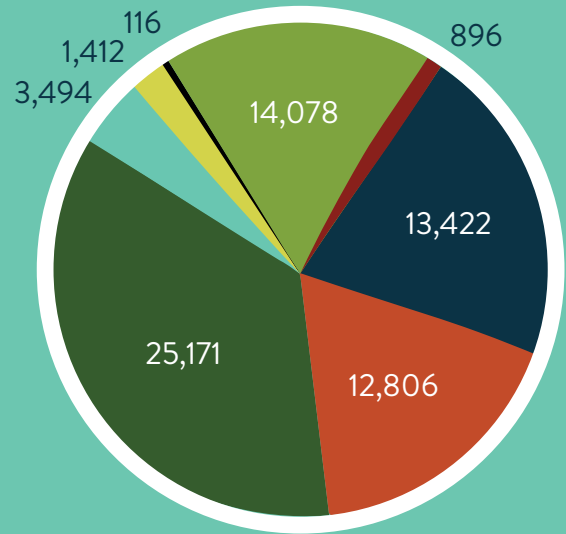


Contractors

*PEC- Psychiatric Evaluation Center
**SUD- Substance Use Disorder

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE OF CLIENTS SERVED



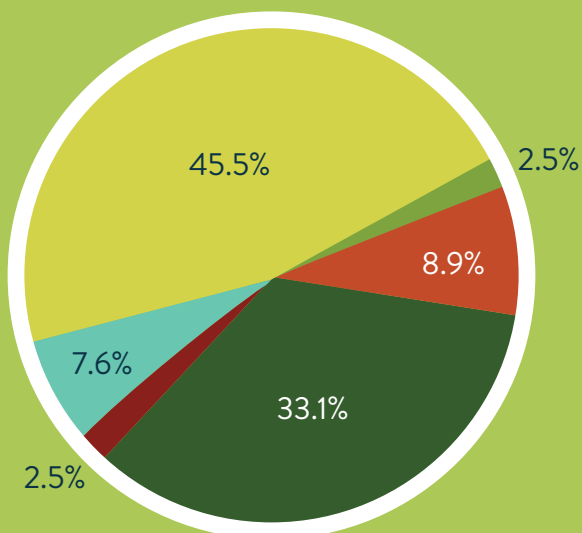
Mental Health (MH)

- Age Group 0-15
- Age Group 26-60
- Age Group 16-25
- Age Group 61+

Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

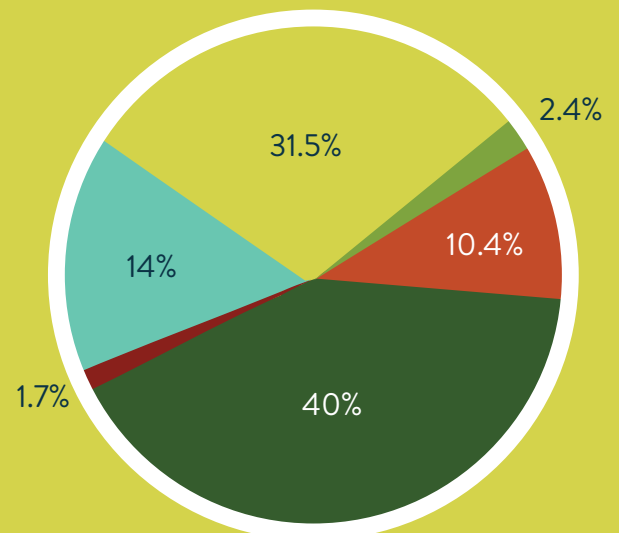
- Age Group 0-15
- Age Group 26-60
- Age Group 16-25
- Age Group 61+

ETHNICITY OF CLIENTS SERVED (SUD)



- Asian
- Hispanic
- Other
- Black
- Native American
- White

ETHNICITY OF CLIENTS SERVED (MH)



- Asian
- Hispanic
- Other
- Black
- Native American
- White

ADULT SERVICES

The Adult System of Care continues to provide comprehensive services to individuals with serious and persistent mental illness, supporting recovery and long-term stability. The transition to a decentralized access model allowing geographic providers to serve as access points that has improved timely access to care across the community.

Recovery and Wellness Centers served an average of over 1,200 clients, offering case management, therapy, and psychiatric services. Specialty programs such as Assisted Outpatient Treatment, Assertive Community Treatment, Adult Wraparound, and Wellness Independence Senior Enrichment demonstrated positive outcomes, including reduced incarceration and inpatient admissions, and successful transitions to lower levels of care. Additionally, programs such as Assisted Outpatient Treatment and Assertive Community Treatment play a key role in preventing crises through intensive, community-based support.

The CARE Court Program, operated in partnership with Telecare, successfully connected 49.7% of referrals to voluntary outpatient services without requiring formal court intervention.

Housing initiatives continue to support stability, including the Transitional Rent program in collaboration with Managed Care Partners, and the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing-funded Pet Assistance Program, which removes barriers to housing for individuals with pets.

The Kern Transitions Program, funded through Proposition 47, provides forensic supportive services to individuals with complex needs, including co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. The program emphasizes employment, housing, and recovery support through multidisciplinary teams and peer mentorship.

***KernBHRS
connected 49.7%
of CARE Court
referrals to
voluntary
outpatient
services without
requiring
formal court
intervention.***



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Children's System of Care remains deeply committed to supporting youth and families through trauma-informed, coordinated services. Teams collaborate closely with child welfare, probation, education, and community partners to promote safety, stability, and resilience. Specialty teams, including Juvenile Justice Psychiatric Services, Crossroads, Futures, Foster Care, Wraparound, Early Psychosis, Transitional-Age Youth, and others continue to deliver comprehensive and compassionate care to high-risk youth populations.

In 2025, several key initiatives strengthened the system of care. These efforts included the expansion of the Justice-Involved Futures Team, further enhancing support for youth involved in the justice system. The division also advanced the implementation of evidence-based practices such as Treatment Foster Care (Oregon Model), Early Psychosis Intervention, and the Transition to Independence Process, ensuring youth receive proven, effective interventions. A continued focus on universal assessment and individualized treatment planning supported youth entering foster care, promoting more tailored and responsive services. Additionally, the system expanded support for Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs, including the opening of a new girls' STRTP, and enhanced rapid response services for youth entering Psychiatric Evaluation Center (PEC), ensuring timely stabilization and support.

The East Bakersfield Children's Outpatient Teams continue to provide targeted outpatient services designed to meet the needs of children and families in their community. Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), an evidence-based model for children ages 2–7, has served 24 families since its launch in late 2024, demonstrating strong early outcomes and continued progress in strengthening family relationships and child behavioral health.

**Parent-Child
Interaction
Therapy (PCIT),
an evidence-based
model for children
ages 2–7, has
served 24 families
since its launch in
late 2024**



**CHILDREN'S
OUTPATIENT SERVICES**



**TRANSITION
AGE YOUTH**

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT

The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Division made significant advancements in 2025, particularly in preparation for SB43 implementation and the continued expansion of the DMC-ODS network. Key accomplishments included the delivery of DMC-ODS training to mental health teams and providers, strengthening access to and coordination of SUD services across systems. The Division also expanded Contingency Management programs are an evidence-based approach that supports recovery from stimulant use disorders and developed partnerships with Indian Health Care Providers, including the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project, to deliver culturally responsive Traditional Health Care Practices.

System expansion efforts further strengthened the continuum of care. These included awarding inpatient detoxification services to Good Samaritan Hospital, with services anticipated to launch in 2026, and onboarding Action Family Counseling to increase residential treatment capacity. The Division also applied for Proposition 47 grant funding to enhance Prop 36 court-related treatment services and expand case management support. In addition, collaboration with Probation advanced efforts under the CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative, improving linkage to care for youth with substance use disorders upon release.

Medical Services continues to support SUD care through the provision of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and active participation in Addiction Medicine Fellowship training programs, helping to build workforce capacity and improve quality of care.

TRAINING, COMPLIANCE & OVERSIGHT

The Training Services team ensures compliance with all mandated training requirements, supporting staff in meeting regulatory and professional standards. Credentialing oversees staff credentialing and recredentialing processes to ensure qualifications remain current and compliant. Fiscal Compliance monitors contract providers for adherence to regulatory and contractual requirements, promoting accountability and integrity. The Closed Medical Records team ensures the timely and HIPAA-compliant processing of records requests, safeguarding patient information while maintaining efficient access to clinical documentation.

INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY

Significant advancements in Infrastructure and Technology have strengthened system reliability and modernized operations. Enhancements to the SmartCare Electronic Health Record system have improved prescribing workflows, clinical documentation, and interoperability. Progress toward statewide initiatives includes the implementation of Closed Loop Referrals and standardized assessments to support better care coordination. Software modernization efforts have replaced legacy systems, improving internal workflows and long-term sustainability. In addition, a comprehensive Document Management initiative is underway to digitize records and reduce reliance on paper systems.

CRISIS & EMERGENT SERVICES

The Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit/Family Resource Center (CSU/FRC), anticipated to open in early 2027, will provide a seamless pathway from acute intervention to ongoing support. The CSU will offer short-term, intensive psychiatric services for youth, including assessment, crisis intervention, care coordination, and linkage to higher or lower levels of care within a safe, calming, clinically staffed environment. Complementing this, the FRC will serve as a client-centered hub for youth and families seeking support outside of a locked setting, providing psychoeducation, navigation assistance, family support, and connections to community-based services.

The expansion of decentralized access points enhances this system by allowing individuals to connect directly with providers at multiple entry points, reducing delays associated with centralized assessments. In crisis situations, this immediacy supports earlier de-escalation, more accurate risk assessment, and timely initiation of appropriate interventions—often preventing escalation to higher levels of care. It also strengthens continuity and engagement by establishing rapport early, increasing trust and follow-through with services. Operationally, decentralized access distributes demand across the system, reducing bottlenecks in emergency departments and crisis centers while improving triage and resource allocation. Collectively, these efforts create a more responsive, efficient, and person-centered crisis care system that ensures individuals receive the right care, at the right time, in the right setting.

YOUTH CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



anticipated to open in early 2027

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**TOTAL BUDGET:
\$472.6M**



**MHSA* BUDGET:
\$61.7M**



*Mental Health Services Act

**KERNBHS
MANAGES OVER 200
CONTRACTS, WITH
68 OF THOSE BEING
PROVIDERS
COORDINATING
DIRECT CLIENT CARE**

Medical Services Administration has focused on strengthening care coordination and clinical quality through the development of Memorandums of Understanding with Managed Care Plans, improving transitions of care across systems. Efforts also include the implementation of data sharing and referral pathways with community partners, enhancing continuity of care. There is a continued emphasis on serving high-risk populations, including interdisciplinary approaches to treating individuals with eating disorders. Additionally, the division supports workforce development through the ongoing training of psychiatric residents and fellows across multiple specialties in partnership with Kern Medical.

The Quality Improvement Division (QID), in partnership with Boston Consulting Group, has enhanced Federal Financial Participation revenue and expanded access to performance data, supporting more informed decision-making. Ongoing efforts focus on maintaining compliance with evolving state and federal regulations while strengthening program integrity and accountability across the system.

The Contracts and Contract Monitoring Teams continue to streamline procurement processes, improve accountability, and reduce processing timelines. Division Administration provides oversight of outpatient contracts and maintains strong provider partnerships with organizations.



**RECOVERY
RESOURCE FAIR**



FREE DAY AT CALM

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EQUITY

Over the past year, Kern BHRS has focused on addressing systemwide service gaps identified through community input and evolving statewide requirements. This work aligns with a broader Behavioral Health Transformation (BHT) taking place across California, driven by the transition from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). This shift will realign programs, funding structures, reporting expectations, and community engagement processes while strengthening accountability, transparency, and measurable outcomes.

Community engagement and equity remain central priorities. MHSA-funded programs continue to support critical community-based services, with active planning underway to address upcoming changes associated with Proposition 1 and are being assessed to align with BHSA legislation, with stakeholders engaged through the Community Program Planning Process (CPPP). Under BHSA, funding categories will include Full Service Partnerships (FSP) which integrate mental health and substance use disorder services for individuals with the highest and most complex needs, Housing initiatives focused on serving chronically homeless individuals, and Behavioral Health Supportive Services (BHSS) which emphasize early intervention, workforce development, and broader system enhancements. The Cultural Competence Team continues to advance equitable and culturally responsive practices through partnerships such as the Kern Health Equity Partnership, working to address disparities and improve access to care across diverse populations.



**KICKIN' IT WITH
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
AT CSUB SOCCER**



**INSPIRATION
AWARDS**

DEPARTMENT

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

The Employee Wellness Program offered a diverse and engaging series of activities designed to promote physical health, connection, and overall well-being among staff. Throughout the year, employees participated in three walking challenges, with over 300 staff joining in to increase daily movement and build healthy habits. Additional wellness events included a cooking demonstration focused on nutritious meal preparation, line dancing sessions that encouraged fun and physical activity, guided meditation for stress reduction, plant exchanges to promote mindfulness and workspace wellness, and a pet adoption event supporting both employee engagement and community partnership.

A highlight of the year was the Bring Your Kid to Work Day, which welcomed approximately 200 staff and their children. The event featured a variety of interactive activities that allowed employees to share their workplace with their families while fostering connection and engagement. Together, these events contributed to a positive workplace culture by supporting employee wellness, strengthening relationships, and encouraging work-life balance.

The department has proudly maintained its Blue Zones certification by aligning wellness initiatives with the Power 9® principles, emphasizing natural movement, stress reduction, social connection, and a sense of purpose. These efforts reflect an ongoing commitment to creating a healthier, more supportive work environment for all staff.



HIGHLIGHTS

CSAC AWARD

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) earned a 2025 Challenge Award from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) for its Mobile Evaluation Team (MET) Communications Center Program that embeds behavioral health staff directly in 911 dispatch centers across Kern County.

The MET Communications Center Program was created collaboratively with behavioral health, dispatch, and law enforcement leadership to assist with behavioral health-related emergency calls to 911. With KernBHRS staff in these dispatch centers, over 6,500 calls over a four-year period were transferred to the Mobile Evaluation Team and 75 percent of those calls did not require a traditional response from law enforcement. This not only improved access to care in emergency situations, but it reduced unnecessary responses, leading to cost-savings for the community.



DETOX PARTNERSHIP

Through the Kern Fentanyl Task Force, spearheaded by Assemblywoman Dr. Jasmeet Bains, KernBHRS has partnered with Kern Health Systems (KHS) and Good Samaritan Hospital to create a continuum of care pilot program focused on those in need of medical detoxification services. The pilot program began February 5, 2025 and will be complete on 04/30/2026, already serving more than 315 clients. Good Samaritan Hospital provided medically managed detoxification services for Medi-Cal clients in need of this services in 5 designated beds. KHS provided housing resources (short-term post-hospitalization housing and recuperative care) and Enhanced Care Management services, supported by Medi-Cal billing. KernBHRS placed two care coordinators/case managers within the hospital detoxification unit in the hospital to engage clients and help them transition to the next level of care, secure housing, and access other community services/supports in the KernBHRS network once they have finished detox; also supported by Medi-Cal billing.



UCLA KERN PSYCHIATRY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

In collaboration with Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, the Department of Psychiatry at Kern Medical in Bakersfield provides comprehensive training in psychiatric care. The program has long supported the delivery of mental health services throughout Kern County, maintaining accredited training status and strong community partnerships. This four-year psychiatry residency has been accredited since 2002, with its first cohort graduating in 2004. Upon completion, residents receive certificates from both Kern Medical and UCLA, preparing them to pursue board certification through the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. We had a total of 5 graduates in 2025.



CONTRACT PROVIDERS

PROVIDER	SERVICES PROVIDED	ADULT MENTAL HEALTH	CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS
ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN POTENTIAL INC.	<i>Behavioral HealthMobile Crisis and Non-Crisis Services</i>			
AEGIS TREATMENT CENTER	<i>Narcotic Treatment Plan</i>			
AMERICAN HEALTH SERVICES, LLC	<i>Substance use services</i>			
AMERICAN HEALTH SYSTEMS	<i>Narcotic Treatment Program</i>			
BAKERSFIELD AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT	<i>Support services</i>			
BAKERSFIELD BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE HOSPITAL, LLC	<i>Inpatient Hospitalization</i>			
BAKERSFIELD CITY SCHOOL	<i>Prepare U Curriculum</i>			
BAKERSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT	<i>Crisis</i>			
BAKERSFIELD RECOVERY SERVICES	<i>Detox, outpatient, residential, perinatal</i>			
BAKERSFIELD-KERN REGIONAL HOMELESS COLLABORATIVE	<i>Housing</i>			
BETHANY SERVICES, INC.	<i>Supportive Services</i>			
CAMERON YOUTH HOME FACILITIES	<i>Short-term residential</i>			
CENTRAL STAR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INC,	<i>Crisis</i>			
CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTER PROTOCOL	<i>Investigation & Prevention</i>			
CITY OF BAKERSFIELD	<i>Housing</i>			
CITY SERVE	<i>Housing</i>			
CLARVIDA	<i>Outpatient, drug diversion, prevention</i>			
CLARVIDA FORMALLY COLLEGE COMMUNITY SERVICES	<i>Outpatient</i>			
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA	<i>Outpatient</i>			

PROVIDER	SERVICES PROVIDED	ADULT MENTAL HEALTH	CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS
COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN	Advisory			
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF KERN	Crisis			
COMMUNITY SERVICES ORGANIZATION KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS, INC	Outpatient, drug diversion			
COTTAGE OF HOPE & GRATITUDE	Housing			
CRESTWOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INC.	Long-term inpatient, psychiatric health facilities, crisis residential			
FLOOD MINISTRIES	Outreach			
FREEDOM HOUSE	Housing			
FREISE HOPE HOUSING	Housing			
GOLDEN EMPIRE AFFORDABLE HOUSING INC	Housing			
GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL	Geropsychiatric inpatient hospitalization			
GREEN GARDENS	Housing			
HEALTH NET COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS, INC.	Health & Wellness			
HENRIETTA WEILL CHILD GUIDANCE & ADULT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, INC.	Outpatient services			
HERITAGE LIVING INC.	Housing			
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF KERN	Housing			
INYO COUNTY OF KERN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Crisis			
KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES	Housing			
KERN COUNTY HISPANIC COMMISSION ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE, INC.	Housing			
KERN COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY	Crisis			

CONTRACT PROVIDERS

PROVIDER	SERVICES PROVIDED	ADULT MENTAL HEALTH	CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS
KERN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	Prevention & Education			
KERN HEALTH CARE NETWORK	Health & Wellness			
KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS	Health & Wellness			
KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	Prevention & Education			
KERN MEDICAL HOSPITAL	Inpatient Hospitalization			
LOST HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT	Prepare U			
MARLEY'S MUTTS	Therapy			
MERCY HOUSE LIVING CENTERS	Housing			
NEW START YOUTH FACILITY, INC.	Short-term residential			
NORTH CHESTER PHARMACY	Prescription services			
S.T.E.P.S	Drinking driver program, outpatient			
SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	Care coordination for high risk students			
STEWARDS, INC.	Representative Payee			
STOCKDALE BOYS CENTER	Short-term residential			
SYCAMORE HEALTHCARE, INC.				
TAFT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	Prepare U			
TARZANA TREATMENT CENTER, INC.	Residential treatment			
TELECARE COPORATION	Crisis stabilization, sobering station			
TFC CONSULTANTS, INC	Training			

PROVIDER	SERVICES PROVIDED	ADULT MENTAL HEALTH	CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS
THE CENTER FOR SEXUALITY & GENDER DIVERSITY	LGBTQ+ Counseling and supportive service			
THE LIVE NETWORK PBC	Prevention			
THE OPEN DOOR NETWORK	Housing			
THIRD TRADITION SOBER LIVING	Housing			
TULARE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	Prevention & Education			
UNICORN GARDENS	Short-term residential			
WASCO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	SUD Services for High Risk Youth			
WESTCARE CALIFORNIA, INC.	Short-term residential			
YOUR DRUG STORE, INC.	Prescription services			
YOUTH QUEST GUIDANCE CENTER, INC.	Short-term residential			

To Our Valued Community Partners,

Gratitude is extended for the essential role contract providers hold in delivering behavioral health services throughout Kern County.

Through dedication, expertise, and compassion, services are provided to individuals and families during some of the most critical moments in their lives. These efforts extend beyond contractual responsibilities, representing a shared commitment to care, dignity, and improved well-being for the community.

The collective work of contracted partners strengthens the overall system of care, expands access to essential services, and brings innovation and specialized knowledge that help meet the diverse needs of those served. The impact is seen every day in lives supported, in recovery journeys advanced, and in hope restored.

The ongoing collaboration and commitment demonstrated by contract providers are deeply valued. The strength of Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services is directly connected to these partnerships and the shared mission of improving the health and well-being of the community.

With sincere appreciation,

Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

CONTRACT PROVIDER



HENRIETTA WEILL MEMORIAL CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

The Henrietta Weill Memorial Child Guidance Clinic is a private non-profit, outpatient mental health center serving adults, children, and families since 1946. The Clinic uses evidenced based practices and treatment theories to provide a variety of mental health and substance abuse services to empower parents with the tools and techniques needed to guide their children through emotional and behavior difficulties. Families who reside in Delano/McFarland, North Bakersfield, and West Bakersfield may receive a full array of services including individual, family, and group therapy, Therapeutic Behavioral Services, and crisis intervention. Services are provided in the client's home, at school, in the community or wherever the family feels the most comfortable. Clinics also serve children and adolescents who have experienced various forms of abuse, neglect, or other traumatic events. A psychiatrist and psychiatric nurse practitioners are available to provide medication support services, as needed. All services are provided in a bilingual, culturally appropriate environment.

HIGHLIGHTS

CLARVIDA

Clarvida operates an extensive network of programs serving communities throughout Kern County, including Bakersfield, Wasco, Taft, Lake Isabella, Ridgecrest, Tehachapi, Mojave, and nearby rural areas. Its service array includes:

- Seven outpatient adult mental health programs
- Six outpatient children's mental health programs
- Six outpatient substance use disorder (SUD) programs, including specialized adolescent services
- A dedicated mental health program at Camp Erwin Owens
- Three Consumer Family Learning Centers in Bakersfield, Ridgecrest, and Tehachapi

Clarvida's treatment practices highlight a consistent emphasis on trauma-informed care, recovery-focused methods, and culturally responsive service delivery. The organization employs a multidisciplinary team model integrating clinicians, case managers, peer specialists, and care coordinators. Programs incorporate evidence-based and co-occurring capable interventions, mobile and field-based service delivery, and strong partnerships with schools, justice entities, healthcare providers, and community organizations.

CLINICA SIERRA VISTA

Clinica Sierra Vista continues to work toward the seamless integration of mental health services, substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, healthcare for individuals experiencing homelessness. We utilize a collaborative care model at many of our community health center sites in Kern and Fresno counties. At each site, the Behavioral Health Provider (BHP) partners with the Primary Care Provider (PCP) to provide early intervention for patients experiencing mental health symptoms. These symptoms are identified through screening tools such as a PHQ-9 score greater than 10 or a risk score on the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS). This model allows for early intervention within the primary healthcare setting, helping prevent the need for more intensive services while also reducing barriers to behavioral health treatment, such as stigma.

In addition, we continue to provide Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services at our Central Community Health Center. The program now includes a supportive SUD counselor who assists individuals struggling with opioid addiction, complementing the whole-person care model that Clinica Sierra Vista offers throughout our community health centers.



Hope, Healing, Recovery.

Mission

Working together to support hope, healing, and recovery.

Vision

Delivering excellent behavioral health care to support the well-being of our community.

Values

Healing, service excellence, community, innovation.