

Good afternoon,

The Kern County Board of Supervisors met today as scheduled for Tuesday's April 27, 2021 Board Meeting. Chairman Phillip Peters (District 1), Supervisor Zack Scrivner (District 2), Supervisor Mike Maggard (District 3), Supervisor David Couch (District 4), and Supervisor Leticia Perez (District 5) attended in-person. Each member followed all COVID-19 safety protocols, including social distancing and the wearing of face coverings.

Meeting Highlights:

- **Item No. 5 AM session:**
 - The Board proclaimed May 2021 as Mental Health Awareness Month.
- **Item No. 6 AM session:**
 - The Board proclaimed May 10 – 14, 2021 as Peace Officer Memorial Week.
 - Flags are requested to fly at half-staff during this week in Kern County.
- **Item No. 7 AM session:**
 - The Board proclaimed May 2021 as BBQ Tour Month in Kern County.
- **Item No. 12 AM session:**
 - Public Health Director Brynn Carrigan updated the Board on Kern County's current standing regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic and local vaccination distribution.
 - Kern County will remain in the Orange Tier for the following week.
 - Watch the announcement here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alCHTEESVdc>
- Chairman Phillip Peters asked for the County Administrative Office to draft a proclamation for a local drought emergency to be considered at the next Board meeting, May 11, 2021.
- **Item No. 22 AM session:**
 - Kern County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services gave a presentation on initiatives to combat local homelessness.
 - BHRS has a long history of working with individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders who are homeless in Kern County.
 - BHRS is piloting the following initiative:
 - The Kern Relational Outreach and Engagement Model (ROEM) Pilot with modifications to existing homeless outreach through Flood Ministries, and expansion of involuntary treatment options and evaluations in the community.
 - Kern ROEM is a pilot program that started in February of 2021. BHRS focuses on the most mentally ill individuals that need intensive engagement and specialized behavioral health services.
 - The ROEM team is an inter-disciplinary team that includes a therapist, peers with lived experience and a psychiatrist.
 - ROEM also includes street psychiatry, dedicating a psychiatrist to building relationships with the homeless, completing psychiatric evaluations on the street, and addressing medication needs.
- **Item No. 23 AM session:**
 - The Board dedicated \$4.5 million to be used over the next three years (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024) to Food Bakersfield Ministries to provide outreach, engagement, housing case management and linkage to behavioral health services for Kern County's homeless population.

- The Board continues to dedicate funding to services that help mitigate homelessness in Kern County.
- **Item No. 24 AM session:**
 - The Board approved the request to secure financing for Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to construct two Psychiatric Health Facilities to accommodate the growth in Kern County's population and need for more locations dedicated to the treatment of mental health.
- **Item No. 38 AM session:**
 - The Board approved a retroactive agreement with West Kern Community College/Taft College for occupational job training in over 50 programs, further dedicating resources to stimulating our local workforce, and pumping qualified job seekers into Kern County's economy.
- **Item No. 49 AM session:**
 - The Board dedicated \$665,000 to Flood Bakersfield Ministries for the provision of the Housing and Disability program, which will assist members of Kern County's homeless population through helping disabled individuals apply for disability benefit programs, while also providing housing support.
- **Item No. 51 AM session:**
 - The Board approved the Juvenile Justice Realignment Annual Plan which based upon the passing of California Senate Bill 823, reconfigures the responsibilities and duties related to the custody and rehabilitation of youthful offenders currently held by the Division of Juvenile Justice from the state to the counties.
- **Item No. 75 AM session:**
 - The Board approved a Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act resolution of \$6.5 million in rental housing revenue bonds by the Housing Authority for the Benton Park Cottages Project.
 - This will consist of 25 multifamily units of adorable housing located at 2341 Terrace Way, Bakersfield, California, 93304.
- **Item No. 9 PM session:**
 - The Board approved \$31,069.89 in Emergency Solutions Grants to the Women's Center High Desert, Inc. to provide services to homeless individuals and families.
- **Item No. 35 PM session:**
 - The Board adopted a position of support for Assembly Bill 3, enhanced penalties of street racing.
- **Item No. 40 PM session:**
 - The Board adopted a position of support for Senate Bill 525, the establishment of state policy related to mental health effects of school closures on K-12 students due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.