



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

Monday, June 26, 2023
5:30 p.m.

In Person: 2001 28th Street, 1st Floor Training Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonia Silva (Dist. 1) – Chair

Stephanie Hermeston (Dist. 1) – 1st Vice Chair - *Excused*

David Kessler (Dist. 3) – Parliamentarian

Michael Herrera – Board of Supervisors Appointee

Deborah Fabos (Dist. 2)

Bryson Gholston (Dist. 3) – *Excused*

Destiny Adams (Dist. 5)

Dian Schneider (Dist. 2) – 2nd Vice Chair

Flossie White (Dist. 4)

Michael Bryant (Dist. 3)

Jeff Burdick (Dist. 1) - *Excused*

LaShawna Lee (Dist. 3) - *Excused*

BreAnne Patterson (Dist. 5)

Lucille Holt (Dist. 2) - *Excused*

Tracy Lynch – BHB Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ines Del Alto, Clinica Sierra Vista

KERNBHRS STAFF:

Stacy Kuwahara

Robin Taylor

Jessica Armstrong

Michelle Culy

Lourdes Torres

Buddy Downs

Cassandra Thompson

Melissa Olsen

Tammy Cates

Maysee Spain

Adisen Daniels

1. Welcome and Introductions: Sonia Silva, Chair, welcomed everyone; each board member introduced themselves.

2. Establish Quorum: 9 present, 4 excused, 1 absent. Quorum was established.

3. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft) for May 22, 2023, Regular Meeting:
MOTION by David Kessler to approve minutes and seconded by Dian Schneider; Motion Passed.

4. Presentation(s):

- **“KernBHRS Homeless Work Update” – Michelle Culy:** Shared a presentation on How our teams are doing with Global Homeless Efforts. Addressed services offered, outreach and engagement efforts, average timeline of success, goals and outcomes, grants, and future planning. Time allowed for *Questions and Answers*.



5. **Public Comment:** None.
6. **Unfinished Business:** None.
7. **New Business:**
 - A. **Adult Treatment and Recovery Services Committee:** Moving the committee meeting to a quarterly meeting, next meeting is August 28, 2023
 - B. **Strategic Planning Training:** July 17, 2023, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM
8. **Chair Report – Sonia Silva:** Attended California Association of local Behavioral Health Board and Commissions. Listened to various counties success stories, different challenges other counties face, overall, Kern County is on par with other counties, and discussed possibility of future training sessions.
9. **KernBHRS Clinical Services Report –Jessica Armstrong, Deputy Director:**
 - **Kern Linkage Division:**
 - Completed annual AB109 report for Probation and Community Corrections Partnership (CCP).
 - Haven Cottages Supportive Housing has moved from the Homeless Adult Team (HAT) to the Supportive Housing Treatment Team.
 - **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Division:**
 - Access team has changed the name from Gateway to the SUD Access Line.
 - Preparing for the first EQRO review that will simultaneously review the Mental Health Plan along with DMC-ODS.
 - New BH Program Supervisor hired to help support the network of contracted providers and develop programs to assist with new initiatives.
 - **Adult System of Care:**
 - No major updates, winding down from May is Mental Health month.
 - **Childrens System of Care:**
 - Submitting proposal to develop a children’s crisis residential program to increase crisis care for youth in a home environment setting.
 - Partnering with Public Health to implement a suicide rapid reporting and response program to add to our ability to provide timely access to youths at risk.
 - Bridge Housing funds awarded. Plans to use funds for several programs. Will have reports once plans are finalized.
10. **KernBHRS Specialty Clinical Services Report – Robin Taylor, Deputy Director:**
 - **Crisis Services:**
 - **BHCIP:** Grant awarded for Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit and Family Resource Center Building. New facilities expected to be operational January 2024.
 - **Measure K:** Funds for East Kern mobile crisis response team. Team will operate 24/7 in our underserved areas and East Kern County. Anticipate being operational in school year 24-25.
 - **Emergency Department Response Team:** Crisis Services expanding coverages to support fulltime supervisor and staff to help with the individuals in hospital EDs.

- **Department Supports:**
 - **Juneteenth:** Successful event. Celebrated with food, music, and people.
 - **Prevention Team:** Safe syringe program is up and running.
 - **MHSA:** Submitted 3-year Plan to the Department of Health Care Services and Mental Health Services Oversight Accountability Commission.

11. KernBHRS Administrative Services Report – Alison Burrowes, Deputy Director:

- No Report.

12. KernBHRS Department Report – Stacy Kuwahara, Director:

- **EHR Implementation:** New EHR system going LIVE this Saturday.
- **Care Court in Kern County:** Planning on going LIVE with care court December 2024. Will be watching how other counties do with the pilot program. Compiling data with select teams to estimate possible clients who fit the care court criteria.
- **Mental Health Services Act:** Governor announced his plans for the Mental Health Services Act. Proposing significant changes in funding categories. KernBHRS teams are working together to research affects of these changes to the services we offer.

13. Board Member Item:

- **Deborah Fabos:** Thanks to Stacy, Heather, Lynn, and KernBHRS staff for going above and beyond to secure care for clients.
- **David Kessler:** Jeff Burdick, self, & the MET team are attending an International Conference in Chicago this August.

14. Committee Reports:

- A. Adult Treatment & Recovery Services** (monthly): Bryson Gholston: No Report.
- B. Children’s Treatment & Recovery Services** (quarterly): Dian Schneider and Jeff Burdick: No Report.
- C. System Quality Improvement Committee** (monthly): David Kessler: No Report, next meeting is in August.

15. Announcements to the Public:

- Michael Herrera to provide comment: Congratulations to KernBHRS staff for procuring grants. Wanted to commend everyone on their hard work and diligence.

16. Adjourn: MOTION by BreAnne Patterson to adjourn to the next regular meeting In Person on August 28, 2023, and seconded by Flossie White, ALL AYES; Motion passed. Adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Items Distributed via Meeting Invite

BHB Agenda for June 26, 2023

BHB May 22, 2023, Meeting Minutes DRAFT

KernBHRS Homeless Work Update presentation

<https://www.kernbhhs.org/behavioral-health-board>