






Kern County Behavioral Health Board

Annual Report 2022



**BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH & RECOVERY**
SERVICES

Director Stacy Kuwahara, LMFT
PO Box 1000, Bakersfield, CA 93302
www.KernBHRS.org • @KernBHRS at   

Contents

KERN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD	4
Chair's Foreword	4
2022 Executive Committee	4
2022 Member and District Representation	5
Mission Statement	6
2022 Committees	6
KERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES	7
Director's Report	7



Organizational Chart	12
KernBHRS Mission, Vision, & Values Statement	13
Division Reports	14
Provider Network	24
Contract Providers Fiscal Year 2022-2023	25
Data & Reports	27
Program Highlights	32



Chair's Foreword

“My final message as Board Chair will be characterized, I hope, by a spirit of thankfulness. First, let us be thankful for our clients—they give us inspiration, joy, and education. Second, let us be thankful for our colleagues—they, too, share our mission of service to the community. Third, let us be thankful to our community—their encouragement and support make our work possible. In the end, if you remember anything: Be thankful.”

Charles D. Collom, JD, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
Director, Bakersfield College Student Health and Wellness Center



Kern County BHB Executive Committee

- Charles Collom
Chair
- David Kessler
Parliamentarian
- Sonia Silva
First Vice Chair
- Stacy Kuwahara
BHRS Director
- Stephanie Hermeston
Second Vice Chair
- Tracy Lynch
Department Liaison

Member Representation by District & Supervisor



District 1 - Phillip Peters
Jeff Burdick
Stephanie Hermeston
Sonia Silva



District 2 - Zack Scrivner
John Antonaros - BOS Rep.
Deborah Fabos
Lorre Webb
Dian Schneider



District 3 - Mike Maggard
Charles Collom
Bryson Gholston



District 4 - David Couch
Traco Matthews
Flossie White
David Kessler



District 5 - Leticia Perez
Rachelle Classen
Nancy Solis

Kern County Behavioral Health Board

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 Members

Each member of the Board of Supervisors appoints three county residents to represent their District and the Chair of the Board of Supervisors also appoints a staff representative from their office. 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:

1. One staff member of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors.
2. 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.
3. Minimum of 20% (3 members) shall be consumers.
4. Minimum of 20% (3 members) shall be family members of consumers.
5. The remaining members should include individuals who have experience and knowledge of the behavioral health system and provide a balance of health professionals and public interest members. Additionally, members can include youth (minimum age 16 up until the age of 25) or culturally significant representatives from underserved communities of Kern.

Adult Treatment & Recovery Services

Co-Chair: Lorre Webb

Liaison: Lynn Corse

Support: Tamara Brown

Children's Treatment & Recovery Services

Co-Chairs: Dian Schneider & Jeff Burdick

Liaison: Jennie Sill

Support: Jessica Torres

System Quality Improvement Committee "SQIC"

Co-Chair: David Kessler

Liaison: Lesleigh Davis

Support Cynthia Jackson

2022 Board Committees

Director's Report

Looking back at 2022, I would say the defining theme for this year was BUILDING. Our focus was beyond “getting back to normal,” but instead took shape around building a new behavioral health future for Kern County.

Change initiatives impacted all areas of service, the people we serve, how we care for our staff and how our programs are funded driving opportunities to create a better behavior health system. 2022 brought forward opportunities to build infrastructure, to build out and expand the workforce, and to establish services in new, innovative, or reimagined ways. The actions and initiatives that emerged in 2022 are the foundations of what will hopefully be a better, more comprehensive and healing mental health and substance use system.

Throughout the year when discussing behavioral health, I shared how much the field of mental health has grown and changed within the past few generations. I get asked repeatedly, “Is mental health getting worse? It wasn’t like this before...” The answer is both yes and no. Our world is different and just as our physical health issues and treatment is changing, as is our mental health. We live differently than our grandparents did, but we are also becoming more comfortable acknowledging the impact of mental health, the value of self-care, and the integration between all aspects of our health and wellbeing. I’m incredibly proud that our youth are growing up with less stigma and more awareness of the importance of their mental health needs.

So, BUILDING a better behavioral health future is building the foundation for a healthier community. I’m excited by what is happening in KernBHRS and what is happening in Kern County!

The following represents a brief snapshot of significant accomplishments of 2022.



Stacy Kuwahara
Director of Behavioral
Health and Recovery
Services

Homeless Initiatives

The department continues to work closely with homelessness collaborative member agencies and local partners to build needed resources to support those living unsheltered on the street and experiencing homelessness.

KernBHRS was granted Mental Health Services Act innovation funding to expand and enhance existing street outreach services. This funding will support the department building two mobile units to be used during outreach activities. Funding will also expand the homeless outreach program, bringing more medical professionals to our unhoused clients. Street medication has been a key intervention supporting efforts to work with those living with mental illness on the street. The Department was also awarded funding through the Housing and Homeless Incentive Program and American Rescue Plan Act to support expansion of rural behavioral health homelessness outreach in the coming year.

Additional Permanent Supported Housing for individuals with behavioral health challenges came online, with the opening of the first of several No Place Like Home funded locations. The department collaborated with the Housing Authority on several successful applications, expanding housing opportunities for Kern County's homeless.

Substance Use Disorder Services

Kern's opioid epidemic continues to be a high priority. Fentanyl has been a deadly and especially dangerous substance infiltrating throughout the county. Unfortunately, fentanyl exposures and overdoses continue to increase in Kern year over year and 2022 saw concerning incidents of exposure of fentanyl in our youth – an especially vulnerable population.

KernBHRS took quick action to increase fentanyl awareness and Naloxone distribution in 2022:

74 trainings held by KernBHRS on Naloxone.

2,380 people trained to distribute Naloxone.

3,506 Naloxone kits distributed for outreach.

These trainings and Naloxone distribution resulted in 95 overdose reversals being reported back by various people trained through KernBHRS.

Youth Mental Health

Youth mental health needs remain a high priority throughout 2022 as we see increasing demands for services for youth, with a higher level of acuity presenting for services and more opportunities to collaborate with key partners supporting youth behavioral health needs.

Opportunities to partner with schools, managed care plans and key providers to increase accessibility was the theme of 2022. In addition, Department of Human Services, Probation and KernBHRS collaborated to develop strategies to address youth who have complex needs that may not respond to traditional supports.

Crisis Response Partnerships in Kern – Building a Better Continuum

With the increase in demand for behavioral health services and the increased acuity at intake, crisis response needs in 2022 were a high priority. Actions taken in the last year included work with hospital partners to address impacts of behavioral health needs in the emergency departments. Ensuring we have adequate crisis stabilization beds for adults and children remain a top priority going forward, but infrastructure needs are long term planning items. Working with our health care partners to address the behavioral impacts they manage is a high priority to ensure comprehensive care for our Kern County residents.

Other areas of expansion this year included several additions within the Mobile Evaluation Team (MET) providing crisis response in the community. Designated MET staff were funded to support Kern County Sheriff's Office for behavioral health requests. Behavioral Health staff were added as co-response teams for Bakersfield Police Department. Bakersfield Police Department also initiated funding and support for behavioral health staff to work directly in the 911 Communication Center, providing an innovative opportunity to ensure behavioral health requests going through the 911 system related to behavioral health services.

In addition, our crisis hotline officially transitioned to a 988 crisis hotline in 2022. This nationwide shift to the suicide prevention lifelines makes it easier for people to remember and access the suicide prevention and crisis hotline when needed.

Psychiatric Health Facilities Groundbreaking

Spring of 2022 held a long awaited and exciting celebration as we broke ground on two new psychiatric health facilities! Two 16-bed Psychiatric Health Facilities for adults and children will be opening in 2023 after years of planning. These facilities promise to create expanded opportunities for providing intensive care for adults and children.

APA Accreditation for Psychology Internship Program

In November 2022, the American Psychological Association (APA) Commission on Accreditation governing body granted approval for Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Psychology Internship Program the “APA Accreditation” status. This recent “golden standard” APA Accreditation for the KernBHRS Psychology Internship program is a tremendous accomplishment for our agency.

The KernBHRS Psychology Internship Program has been in existence since 1999, has trained and graduated 94 psychology interns since inception, and has assisted interns in achieving their State Board licensure as Psychologists. This accomplishment in attaining APA Accreditation status demonstrates the high caliber of the KernBHRS Psychology Internships training program and what it contributes to our department and services to the community.

Leadership Organization

Finally, the department returned to the previous three deputy model of leadership at the end of 2022. Restructuring responsibilities and divisions was essential given the number of projects and current anticipated change initiatives happening at present. Jessica Armstrong, the newest deputy director started at the end of 2022 and is a welcome addition to the executive team!

Challenges and concerns in 2022 and Beyond

KernBHRS saw an increased impact in sustaining our workforce in 2022. Higher rates of turnover and fewer applicants for vacancies across professional and non-professional job classifications plagued the department. KernBHRS is using this opportunity to find innovative ways to highlight the benefits of working in a highly rewarding and meaningful profession, both addressing recruitment and supporting retention for the existing workforce.

Next year we will see several new programs and funding opportunities come forward to address homeless needs. Care Court is an important program in the effort to address the behavioral health needs of those living unsheltered on the street. Working together to build supportive housing will also remain a significant focus for the department as we seek to ensure those we are serving also have safe places to live.

2023 promises to be a big year as multiple initiatives and changes in the behavioral health field come together to shape services and provision of care.

Areas of focused change initiatives include:

- Homeless work, including Care Court, housing resources and more homeless outreach needs.
- Justice involved individuals is another population of priority. Several initiatives will present in 2023 around creating more efficient and expanded diversion programs and jail in-reach (providing services to incarcerated individuals prior to their release). These initiatives promise to support those with mental health needs moving through our justice systems.
- 988 is another initiative with a wide reach, promising to impact our behavioral health hotline and our mobile crisis response system.
- KernBHRS and our providers will be making the transition to a new electronic health record system in 2023.

These significant change initiatives promise to create better opportunities for service. Our focus will be supporting our staff and systems during such significant areas of change.

New mechanisms for payment will be operational in 2023. KernBHRS and our providers will transition to a rate-based payment system in the year ahead. This transition will provide opportunities to evaluate performance, quality and the efficiency of our system and provider network.



Behavioral Health Board

HUMAN RESOURCES
Sarah Gutierrez
Sr. HR Manager
(661) 868-6724

Board of Supervisors

**Stacy Kuwahara, LMFT
Director
(661) 868-6609**

Stakeholders

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION
Department PIO
Privacy & Corporate Compliance

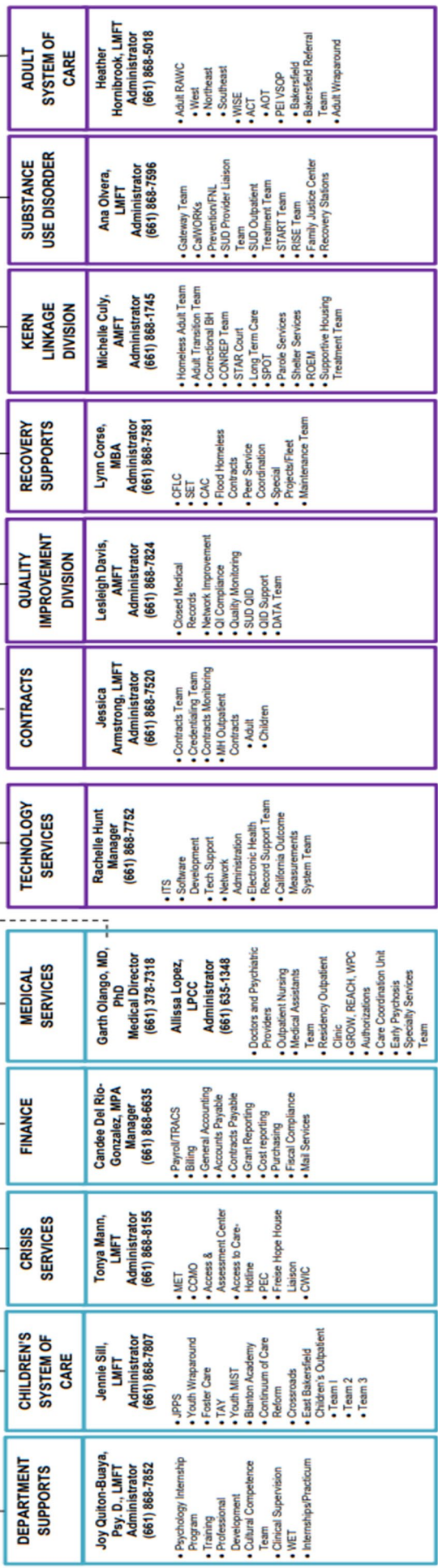
**JOINT CHAIR OF
PSYCHIATRY**
Mohammed Molla, M.D.
(661) 868-8013/868-8033

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Specialty Clinical Services
Robin Taylor, LCSW
(661) 868-7362

MHSA
Patient Rights
Disaster Coordination

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Adult Clinical Services
Alison Burrowes, LCSW
(661) 868-7564

Housing and Homeless Coordination
Special Projects-Clinical Services



- Legend:**
- ACT—Assertive Community Treatment
 - AOT—Assisted Outpatient Treatment
 - AMFT—Associate Marriage & Family Therapist
 - BH—Behavioral Health
 - CFLC—Consumer Family Learning Center
 - CCMO—Crisis Case Management Outreach
 - CAC—Crisis Addiction Counseling
 - CalWORKS—California Work Opportunity & Responsibility to Kids
 - CONREP—Conditional Release Program
 - CWIC—Crisis Walk-in Clinic
 - DATA—Determining Actions Through Analytics
 - FNL—Friday Night Live
 - GROW—Getting connected to Recovery Oriented Whole person care
 - ITS—Information Technology Services
 - JPPS—Juvenile Probation Psychiatric Services
 - LCSW—Licensed Clinical Social Worker
 - LMFT—Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
 - MBA—Master's in Business Administration
 - MH—Mental Health
 - MPA—Master's in Public Administration
 - MD—Medical Doctor
 - MET—Mobile Evaluation Team
 - MHSA—Mental Health Services Act
 - MIST—Misdemeanor Incompetent Stand Trial
 - MIST—Multi-Agency Integrated Services Team
 - PEC—Psychiatric Evaluation Center
 - PEI—Prevention & Early Intervention
 - PHD—Doctor of Philosophy
 - PsyD—Doctor of Psychology
 - PIO—Public Information Officer
 - QI—Quality Improvement
 - QID—Quality Improvement Division
 - RAWC—Recovery and Wellness Center
 - RISE—Recover, Inspire, Support & Empower
 - ROEM—Relational Outreach Engagement Model
 - RIS—Recover, Inspire, Support and Empower
 - SET—Self-Employment Team STAR-Sustained Treatment And Recovery
 - SPOT—Supportive Pathways Opportunities Team
 - START—Substance Use Treatment & Recovery Team
 - SUD—Substance Use Disorder
 - TAY—Transition Age Youth
 - TRACS—Time, Reporting, and Account Costing System
 - VSOP—Volunteer Senior Outreach Program
 - WISE—Wellness, Independence & Senior Enrichment
 - WPC—Whole Person Care
 - WET—Workforce Education Training



KernBHRS Mission Statement

Working together to achieve hope, healing, and a meaningful life in the community.

KernBHRS Vision Statement

People with mental illness and addictions recover to achieve their hopes and dreams, enjoy opportunities to learn, work, and contribute to their community.

KernBHRS Values Statement

- Hope, Healing, Community, Authority
- We honor the potential in everyone.
- We value the whole person - mind, body, and spirit.
- We focus on the person, not the illness.
 - We embrace diversity and cultural competence.
 - We acknowledge that relapse is not a personal failure.
- We recognize that authority over our lives empowers us to make choices, solve problems and plan for the future.



Division Reports

Executive Administration – Stacy Kuwahara, Director

Human Resources

KernBHRS HR remained busy during 2022 and experienced many exciting changes! Our team hosted two Career Expos and participated in an additional five Career Fairs. We have faced challenges with hiring but continue to cast a wide recruitment net in hopes to bring candidates to Kern County. We also continue to work closely with local schools, colleges, and universities to grow local talent.

In 2022, the KernBHRS Public Information Office Team continued the work on developing original content for social media and continued to work with local media to highlight the innovative work being done by the department. The team also helped execute the launch of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in Kern County, promoting this essential service to inform the public. The team has continued to grow communication methods to improve reach on social media, outreach materials, and implemented innovated media campaigns to connect Kern County residents with KernBHRS resources in rural and hard-to-reach populations.

Public Information Officer

Technology Services

Technology services has remained busy bringing our facilities up to date with current equipment and resources needed, supporting moves, equipment upgrades and new technology.

KernBHRS joined California Mental Health Services Authority in building a semi-statewide Enterprise Electronic Health Record that meets the needs of the California Public Behavioral Health System. The transition to a new electronic health record is a large task that draws on the expertise of the entire department. We look forward to a new system that will streamline work being done by direct service providers, helping them record their work more efficiently ultimately to better serve our clients.

Adult System of Care

The Adult System of Care continues to grow and strengthen to ensure quality care for our adult clients. In the last year, the Specialty Services team moved under the Medical Services division.

We launched the Early Psychosis team in early 2022, after being awarded the Early Psychosis Intervention Plus Grant (EPI-Plus) to create a Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) model for those experiencing early psychosis between the ages of 16-25. This program, funded by MHSA Innovation Funds and an EPI-Plus Grant supports individuals with some of the highest needs and provide outreach to the community in educating the general public on identifying the early signs of psychosis.

As part of the Adult Redesign/Adult Enrichment project, a Graduation Checklist was created and implemented to assist the adult outpatient teams with transitioning clients, who no longer are in need of specialty mental health services, to lower level of care with our community clinics. The goal is to monitor the timelessness of graduating clients being linked to the new provider and to problem-solve any barriers that may arise with linkage.

Our Assistant Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program, also known as “Laura’s Law”, continues to grow and during this past fiscal year 21-22, the team received 237 referrals, an increase from the previous fiscal year. We have also seen a rising number of petitions and individuals being linked to behavioral health services.

Contracts Division

During this year, the Contracts team has been busy focusing on improving contracting efforts through improving customer service with both our internal customers, as well as our contract providers. The desire to provide excellent customer service has resulted in increasing trainings, improving communication with the department, and hiring additional staff to ensure the team is well prepared to meet the contracting needs of the department. Data is also being utilized to make programmatic decisions, as well as identify needs and gaps with current service provisions. The increased communication with KernBHRS and our contractors has resulted in better outcomes and performance by our contractors and thereby improving the quality of care provided to our clients living in our communities.

In partnership with the Housing Authority of County of Kern, Clinica Sierra Vista, and California Department of Housing and Community Development, multiple projects were funded by the No Place Like Home program. This program provides funding for the development of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units for formerly homeless individuals. Pioneer Cottage is the first No Place Like Home facility to open, offering housing to 18 clients. Three more facilities will be opening next year, providing much needed permanent supportive housing.

During the 2022 Calendar year, KernBHRS Housing Services placed a total of 560 unduplicated individuals into housing with a combined total of \$1,467,510.10 in monthly assistance.

To ensure the continued health and safety of clients and providers, the Housing Services Team has continued to conduct weekly COVID-19 monitoring to identify and report exposures to department operations and treatment teams. Through the Budget Act of 2021, the Housing Services Team accepted Community Care Expansion Preservation Funds for Operating Subsidies and Capital Facility improvement projects. In December 2022, the Implementation Plan was submitted and is awaiting approval. In 2023, the Housing Services team will work alongside the California Department of Social Services and Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. to award these funds to eligible residential adult and senior care facilities to promote their sustainability.

Kern Linkage
Division

Correctional Behavioral Health (CBH)

The CBH Team is housed within the Kern County Sheriff's Office's three jail facilities. This team provides in-custody supportive behavioral health and substance use services to incarcerated individuals, to proactively assist with reintegration back into the community productively and successfully, to reduce recidivism. Individual, group and crisis services are provided as well as collaboration with the outpatient teams for discharge, and to link individuals' post-incarceration.

Conditional Release Program (CONREP)

The CONREP had a successful year providing liaison evaluations to judicially committed Kern County residents (60 individuals on average evaluated twice yearly) sentenced to the various California Department of State Hospitals. CONREP also provided forensically focused supervision and services to 13 judicially committed individuals on an outpatient status at Kern Linkage. One CONREP client who was successfully discharged from their judicial commitment is now employed with CONREP's housing partner.

Adult Transition Team (ATT)

The ATT works with individuals who are coming out of a correctional setting to provide intensive services and assist in integrating them back into the community. The ATT expanded its Diversion Program this year, providing court ordered mental health services to individuals who have been charged with a felony that is somehow related to their mental health condition. The ATT has had several clients graduate this program which resulted in the dismissal of their charges. These services not only focus on coping with mental health symptoms, but also how to change old behaviors and thinking patterns to prevent future incarcerations.

Homeless Adult Team (HAT)

The HAT has designated staff on-site at the Brundage Lane and M Street Navigation Centers to provide daily intensive services and linkage to the system of care. The HAT provides weekly on-site services at community homeless shelters to assist clients with obtaining services and linkage to appropriate levels of care. The HAT continues to coordinate daily with Flood outreach services, participating in weekly outreach and engagement services to assist individuals in the community with obtaining housing and mental health services.

Supportive Housing Treatment Team

The Supportive Housing Treatment Team works alongside community partners with the overall goal of providing available and accessible housing as well as supportive services to individuals living with a serious behavioral health condition and who are at risk of homelessness. This team provides direct services and support to the No Place Like Home facilities, starting with the clients now placed at Pioneer Cottages.

Relational Outreach and Engagement Model (ROEM) Homeless Outreach

The ROEM Team provides daily and intensive services to homeless individuals with highly acute behavioral health needs, who are highly visible in the community, who have a history of refusal of services and/or a history of lack of engagement in treatment. We spend as much time as is needed on ensuring rapport and a trusting relationship is built. We work closely with partner agencies such as Flood, Housing Authority, and the Shelters to assist individuals into placement when they are ready. The ROEM team consists of therapists, recovery specialists, substance abuse specialist, recovery specialist aide, program technician, a psychiatrist, and a deputy conservator. All services are provided in the field and the team has been operational since February 16, 2021.

Quality Improvement Division (QID)

The QID helped implement several necessary policy changes expanding the access to services for clients in our community. We also ensured the department successfully fulfilled all network adequacy requirements for mental health and substance use programs.

The research section of the QID partnered with the system to implement four performance improvement projects to reduce no show rates and relapse and increase access to services and length of stay in treatment. Also, working together with Information Technology, Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) providers to plan and implement the three performance projects required by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). These projects will be establishing healthcare information exchange between the mental health plan and the managed care plans, follow up care after emergency department visit for mental health and substance use diagnosed clients and access to medication assisted treatment. In addition, the research team developed Key Performance Indicator Dashboards to allow the system to better monitor performance metrics.

The policy branch of the QID ensured the implementation of 71 Information Notices published by the DHCS. Our SUD Monitoring Team completed over 16 program reviews and our Documentation Compliance team completed over 262 documentation reviews for MH team and 95 for SUD team this past year.

Lastly, our QID department trained and prepared our system of care and providers in implementing the changes with DHCS California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) related to Access to Care, Documentation Reform, removal of treatment plans and introduction of problem list to not only improve the timeliness of entry to services but also focus on quality of care rather than documenting lengthy forms.

Recovery Supports Administration

The peer-led Bakersfield Consumer Family Learning Center (CFLC), the Ridgecrest HOPE Center, and the Tehachapi Learning Center provided in person and virtual groups and individual services to consumers. The Bakersfield CFLC provides services in both English and Spanish.

The Department opted in for the statewide Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Training and Certification to support services throughout our mental health and substance use service teams. Some KernBHRS staff participated as early test takers and have achieved their peer certification.

Substance Use Disorder Division (SUD)

The KernBHRS SUD division worked hard in 2022 to improve access to the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) system of care by fully operating the SUD Access Line 24/7. Since implementation of DMC-ODS, the mental health crisis hotline covered the substance use access calls during after hour periods. Shifting the substance use access line for full 24/7 coverage allowed for smoother operations for both services and provided resources for the Mental Health Crisis Hotline staff to focus on launching 988.

SUD Administration and the Gateway team re-established collaboration with the Department of Human Services to assist callers to the SUD Access line ensure that their Medi-Cal was fully established as they were referred for SUD services. This process has assisted clients to complete their insurance coverage and allow them to access needed healthcare services, including treatment for substance use disorders.

In May 2022, SUD clients were eligible to access housing assistance as they began SUD services or as they transitioned out of residential services. Substance Abuse Block Grant funds were added to a housing contract to pay for up to 90 days of sober living environment rent payments to assist clients to establish their abstinence in a safe and supportive environment.

Children's System of Care

In 2022 the Children's System of Care has continued to work with families, Department of Human Services, Probation, and other community partners to form Child and Family Teams. This best practice of "Teaming" circles around families and children and calls together the richness of our community to help build resiliency and connection. During this last year, our Children's System of Care has continued to support efforts that build resiliency and bring about healing to our children and families.

Children's System of Care has been a participant in the Youth Homeless collaborative. We are working as a collaborative to identify solutions for systemic problems including lack of transportation for employment, preparing youth before they enter transitional housing programs, creating more linkage to housing resources, addressing mental health and substance use problems, and creating solutions and resources to support youth including a resource guide, participating in awareness activities.

The division continues to ensure good service provision to youth by maintaining ongoing Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model trainings to the community, facilitating multiple trainings per year. The department continues to use the Evidenced Based Program, Individual Placement and Support, to support transitional age youth as they launch into employment. In 2022, KernBHRS assisted in obtaining 27 jobs for youth in competitive employment, enrolled 13 youths in education/training opportunities, with 9 more youths currently in evaluation process for the Kern Community Foundation's internship program.

Crisis Services Division

For 2022, the Crisis Services Division continued to be at the forefront of providing acute interventions to clients in need. After several years of varying regulations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 was the year of establishing a "new normal."

During 2022, the Crisis Services saw notable growth in many crisis services initiatives including the launch of 988, a nationally accessible number which is easier to remember than the various local nine-digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline numbers.

The Mobile Evaluation Team expanded partnership with Bakersfield Police Department in two programs—the Communication Center Pilot and a Homeless Co-Response Team. Each initiative was launched and established with the goal of connecting clients to the most appropriate treatment in order to meet their current needs.

KernBHRS continues to utilize web-based, virtual and in-person blended learning capabilities to over 800 KernBHRS internal staff and approximately 900 provider staff. Incorporation web-based presentation methods into training platforms allowed maximum flexibility to offer facilitator-led trainings such as Crisis Intervention, Suicide Prevention, Narcan, and various Evidence-Based Practices trainings that incorporate culturally responsive care skills and interventions.

Department
Supports

In November 2022, the KernBHRS Psychology Internship Program has been granted American Psychological Association Accreditation status, which is the golden standard accreditation for the best quality of internship education and training in clinical psychology.

KernBHRS and our Cultural Competence team continue to strengthen partnership and collaboration to address gaps and needs to develop health equity improvement strategies related to diversity, equity, and culturally and linguistic appropriate care services to serve Kern County's diverse community.



Finance
Division

The Finance Division continues to prepare for the CalAIM fiscal transitions with fiscal planning, modeling, and education. During 2022, Finance provided input on the development of the fiscal aspects of the new electronic health record, SmartCare, which will be launched during 2023. Finance supported planning and implementation for new programs resulting from one-time funding or special funding, including the 988 Crisis Hotline, and programs to serve homeless individuals with high behavioral health needs. Finance participated in and completed required Finance functions, including supporting budgets, audits, purchasing processes, accounts payable and receivable, grant submissions, and more.

Zero Suicide

KernBHRS continues to focus on the Zero Suicide Initiative, seeking to make suicide a never event. Through training and ongoing implementation, KernBHRS is focused on ensuring a comprehensive treatment model that mitigates risk of suicide for all clients served.



Medical Services
Division

Early Psychosis Program

The Early Psychosis Program is in its initial implementation stages, currently providing outreach and education. The Early Psychosis Program is currently taking client referrals and ready to begin providing client care using a coordinated specialty care model approach.



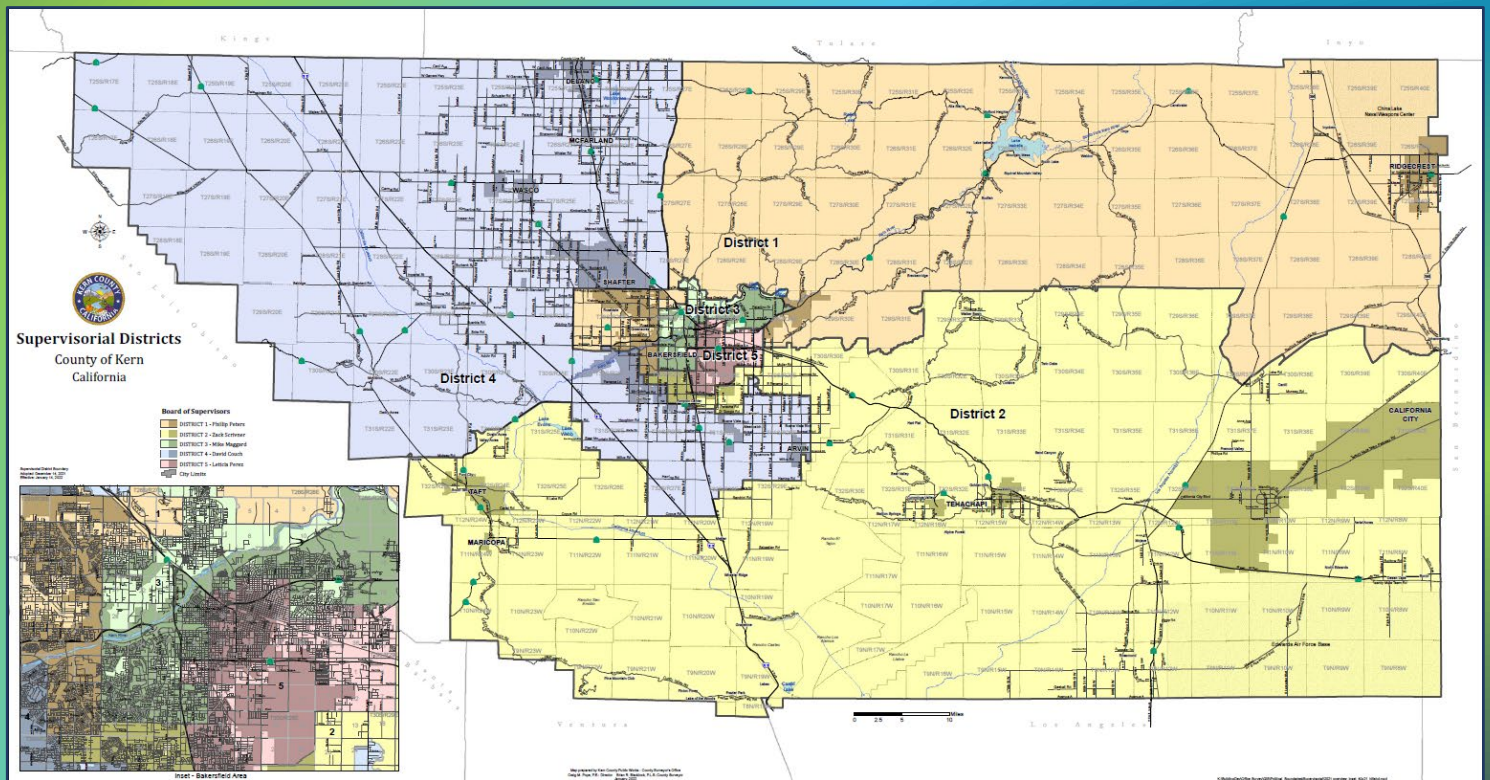
Mental Health Services Act

KernBHRS continues to utilize Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding to support valuable services for our community. Our MHSA Annual Plan was submitted to DHCS and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission highlighting 44 programs that provide services and support to adults and children throughout our community. KernBHRS held 23 total public stakeholder meetings in 2022. The stakeholder process is provided as a means for the Kern County community to give input and have their voice heard on the behavioral health needs of the community.

In 2022 the MHSA Team continued dealing with the challenges of “the new normal of living with COVID-19”. The MHSA Coordination team adapted to conduct virtual stakeholder meetings, in-person stakeholder meetings and hybrid stakeholder meetings. 15 meetings occurred virtually, 1 hybrid meeting, and 7 in person meetings were held in 2022. A total of 731 individuals participated in the stakeholder process.

Provider Network

KernBHRS has a robust network of contracted providers that are committed to providing outstanding services throughout the county. The following pages show a map of Supervisorial Districts, a list of the Department's contracted service providers, and the corresponding district where services are provided throughout the county. Areas are color coded by Supervisorial Districts to identify areas served by specific providers. KernBHRS values and appreciates our provider network, recognizing the quality work they provide. A brief orientation to their programs and services are included below.



District 1 - Supervisor Phillip Peters

District 2 - Supervisor Zack Scrivner

District 3 - Supervisor Mike Maggard

District 4 - Supervisor David Couch

District 5 - Supervisor Leticia Perez

CONTRACT PROVIDERS – Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Provider	Services Provided	Adult Mental Health	Children's Mental Health	Substance Use Disorders	Supervisor District By Location of Services				
					1	2	3	4	5
AEGIS TREATMENT CENTER	Narcotic Treatment Program			X	X		X		X
AMERICAN HEALTH SYSTEMS	Narcotic Treatment Program			X					X
BAKERSFIELD BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE HOSPITAL	Inpatient Hospitalization	X	X			X			
BAKERSFIELD CITY SCHOOL	Prepare U Curriculum		X						
BAKERSFIELD RECOVERY SERVICES	Detox, outpatient, residential, perinatal			X					X
BETHANY SERVICES, INC	Supportive Services	X							X
CAMERON YOUTH HOME FACILITIES	Short-term residential		X					X	
CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC	Outpatient		X		X		X	X	
CHILDNET YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES	Short-term residential		X		X	X	X	X	X
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA	Outpatient	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
COLLEGE COMMUNITY SERVICES	Outpatient, drug diversion, prevention	X	X	X	X	X			
COMMUNITY SERVICES ORGANIZATION	Outpatient, drug diversion			X					X
CORNERSTONE	SUD Services in Tehachapi			X		X			
COTTAGE OF HOPE & GRATITUDE	Housing	X							X
CRESTWOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Long-term inpatient, psychiatric health facilities, crisis residential	X					X		X
FREISE HOPE HOUSE	Housing	X							X
EXPRESS PHARMACY	Prescription services	X	X	X	X				
FIRST 5 KERN	Help Me Grow Kern County		X		X	X	X	X	X
FLOOD MINISTRIES	Outreach, engagement & linkage to Homeless	X			X	X	X	X	X
FREEDOM HOUSE	Housing	X				X			X
GLOBAL FAMILY CARE NETWORK	Short-term residential		X				X		
GOLDEN EMPIRE AFFORDABLE HOUSING	Housing	X	X				X		
GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL	Geropsychiatric inpatient hospitalization	X					X		
GREEN GARDENS	Housing	X							X
HENRIETTA WEILL CHILD GUIDNANCE CLINIC, INC	Outpatient services		X		X		X	X	X
HERITAGE LIVING INC	Housing	X						X	

CONTRACT PROVIDERS - Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Provider	Services Provided	Adult Mental Health	Children's Mental Health	Substance Use Disorders	Supervisor District By Location of Services				
					1	2	3	4	5
KernBHRS (shown for demonstrated purposes-not contracted)	Outpatient, crisis, prevention, drug diversion	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES	Housing		X			X			
KERN COUNTY HISPANIC COMMISSION	Housing			X			X		
KERN MEDICAL HOSPITAL	Inpatient Hospitalization	X					X		
KOINONIA FAMILY SERVICES	Foster Youth		X		X	X	X	X	X
LA PAZ	Residential Housing for treatment			X					
LOST HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT	Prepare U		X					X	
MEDICAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.	Outpatient	X					X		
MERCY HOUSE LIVING CENTERS	Housing	X							X
NEW START YOUTH FACILITY	Short-term residential		X				X		
NORTH CHESTER PHARMACHY	Prescription services	X	X	X			X		
S.T.E.P.S	Drinking driver program, outpatient			X			X		
SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	CARE COORDINATION FOR HIGH-RISK STUDENTS		X		X				
STEWARDS, Inc.	Representative Payee	X							X
STOCKDALE BOYS CENTER	Short-term residential		X		X				
SYCAMORE HEALTHCARE	Residential	X						X	X
TAFT UNION HIGH SCHOOL	Prepare U Program		X				X		
TELECARE CORPORATION	Crisis stabilization, sobering station	X	X	X					X
THE CENTER FOR SEXUALITY & GENDER DIVERSITY	LGBTQ+ counseling and supportive services	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
THIRD TRADITION SOBER LIVING	Housing		X			X			
UNICORN GARDENS	Short-term residential		X						X
WASCO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	SUD Services for High Risk Youth		X	X				X	
WESTCARE CALIFORNIA	Short-term residential			X			X		
YOUR DRUG STORE, INC.	Prescription services	X	X	X			X		
YOUTH QUEST GUIDANCE CENTER	Short-term residential		X			X			

Data and Reports

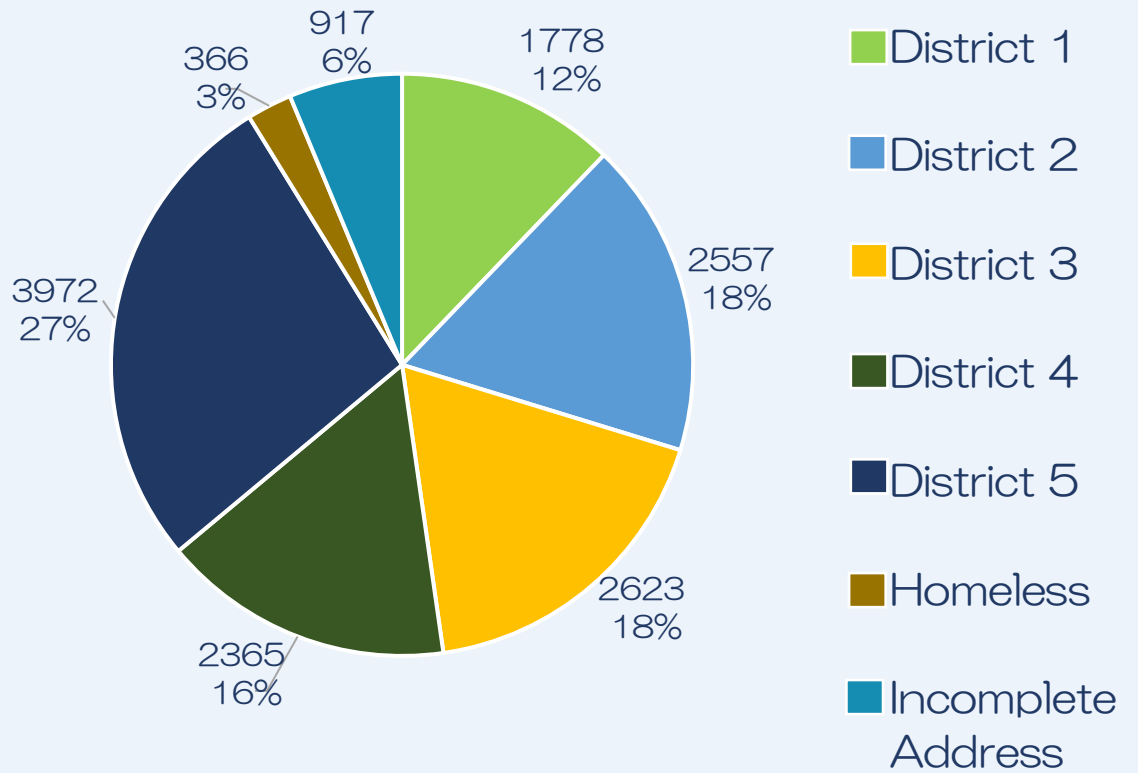
Consumer Demographics

The following is information about mental health (MH) and substance use disorder (SUD) consumers, including graphs of the district in which they live, where they receive services, and the ethnicity of individuals served. While the Supervisorial

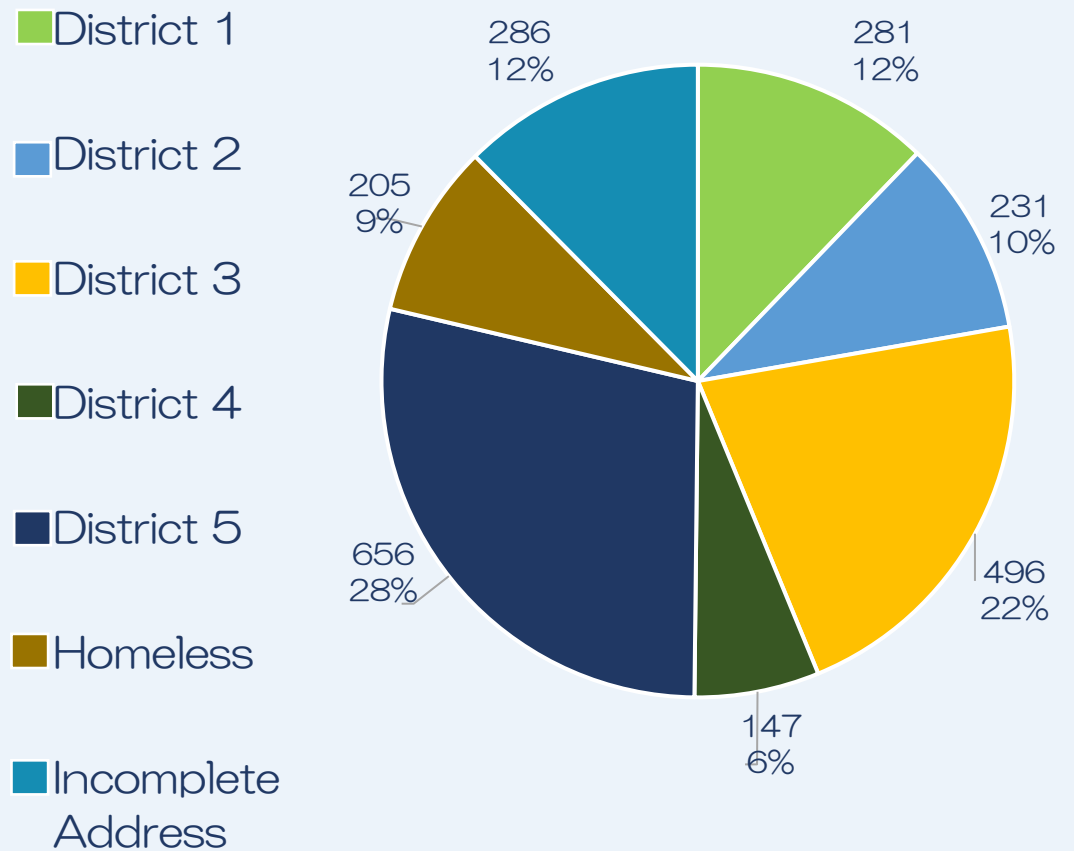
Districts have approximately equal populations, District 5 has the largest number of persons served with centralized services in Bakersfield such as Kern Medical, the Mary K. Shell Mental Health Clinic, and substance use programs. It is important to note that the services provided in any one of the districts are available to all county residents.



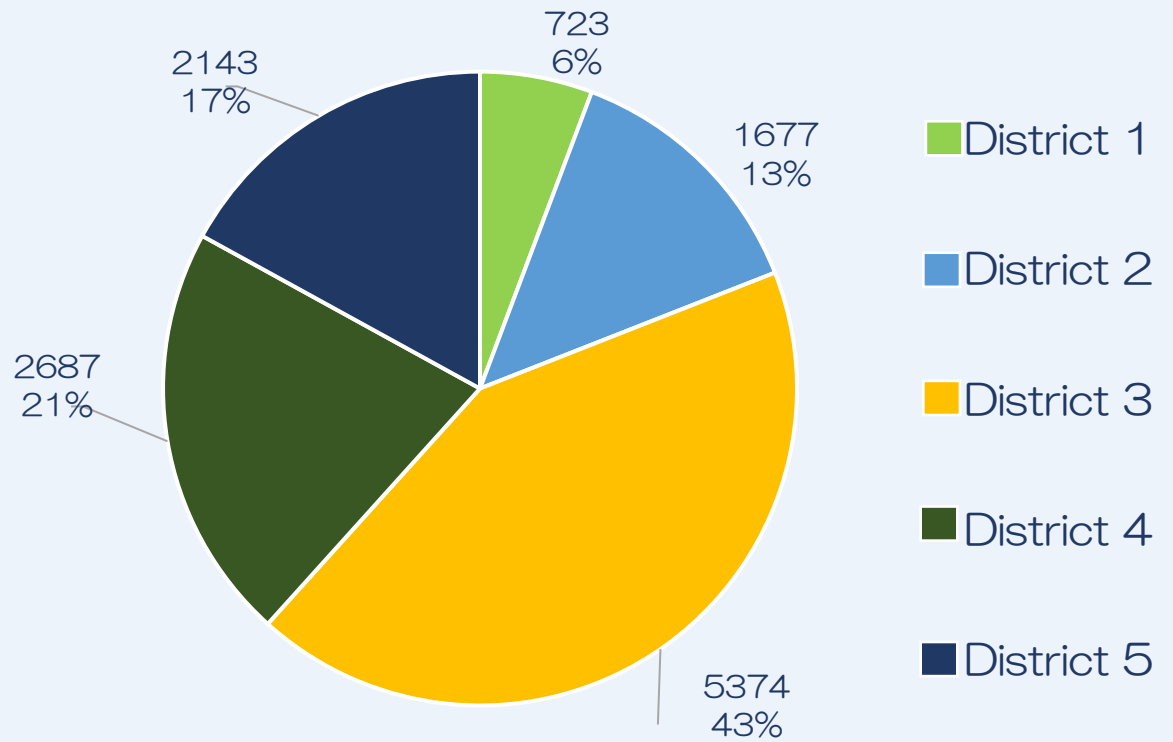
Mental Health Clients Residence



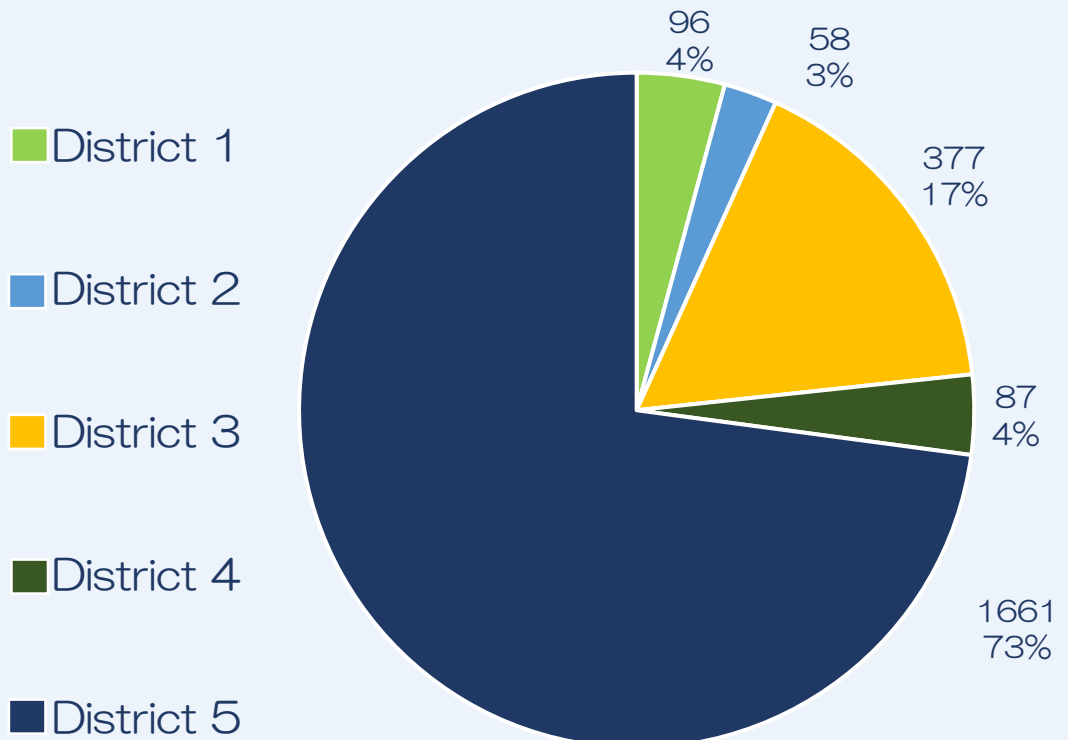
SUD Clients Residence



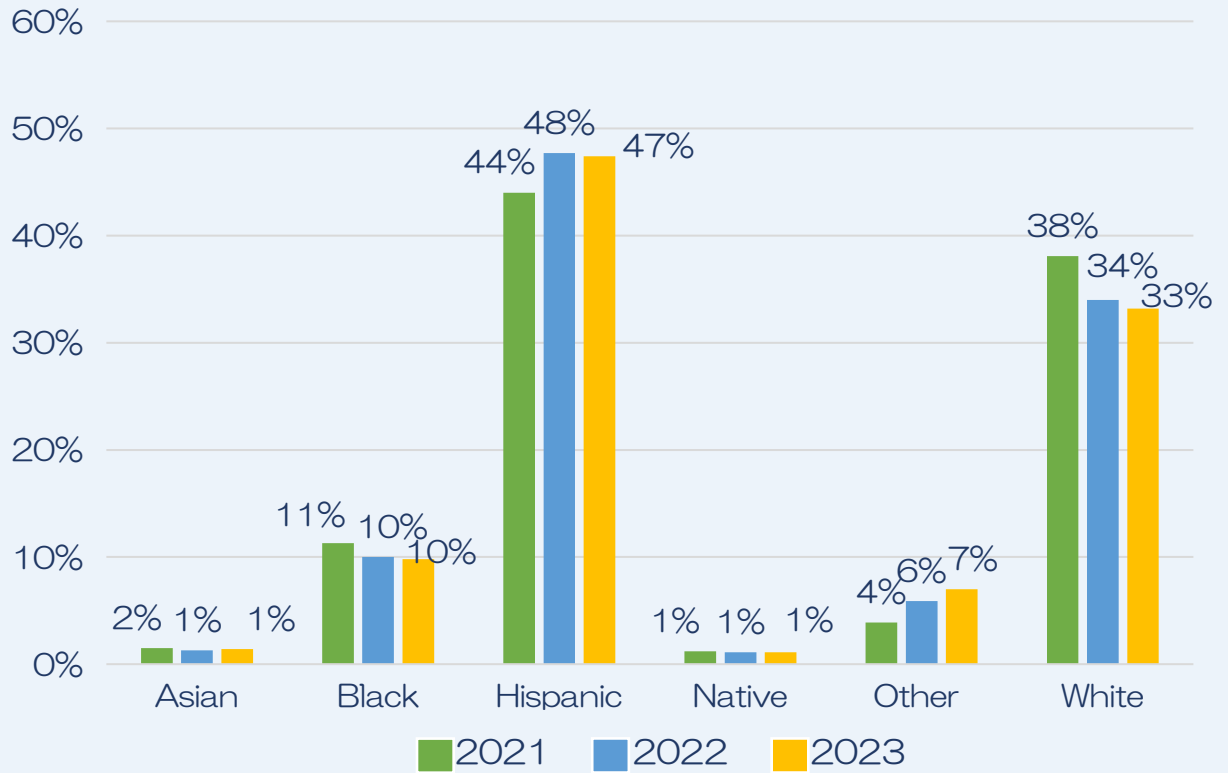
Mental Health Clients Location of Services Received



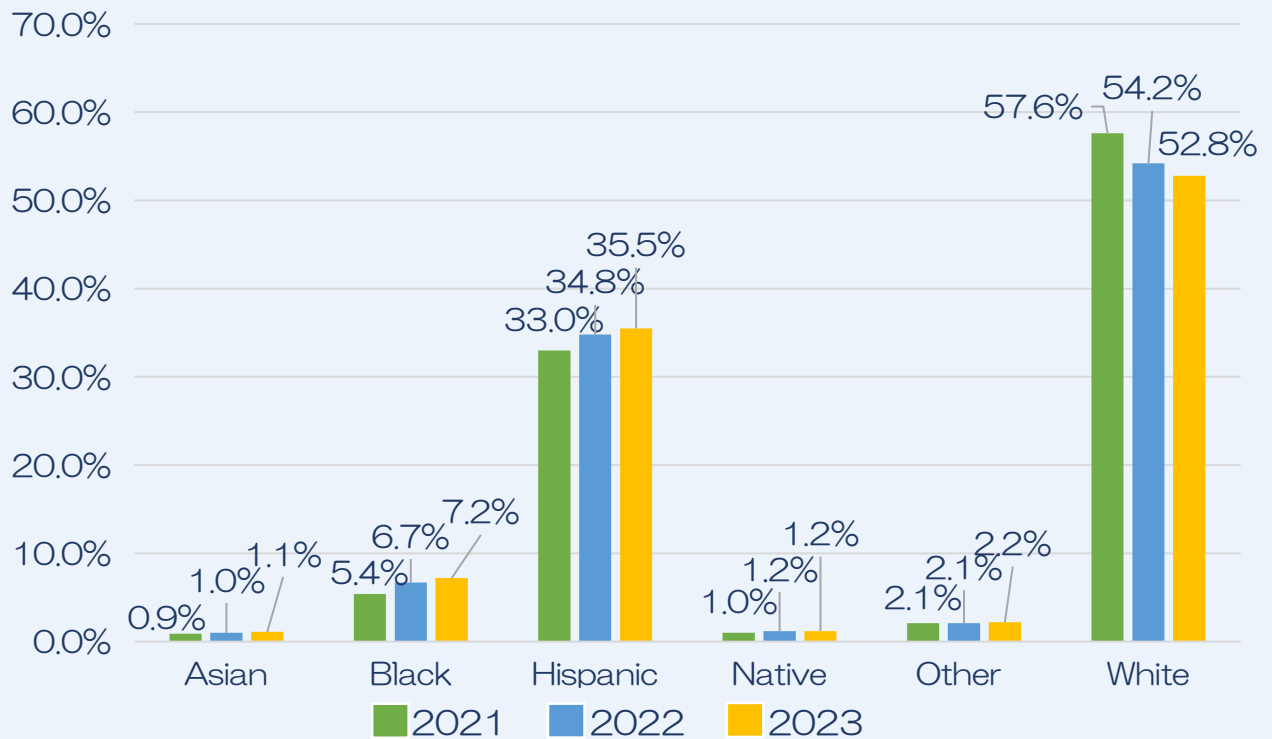
SUD Clients Location of Services Received



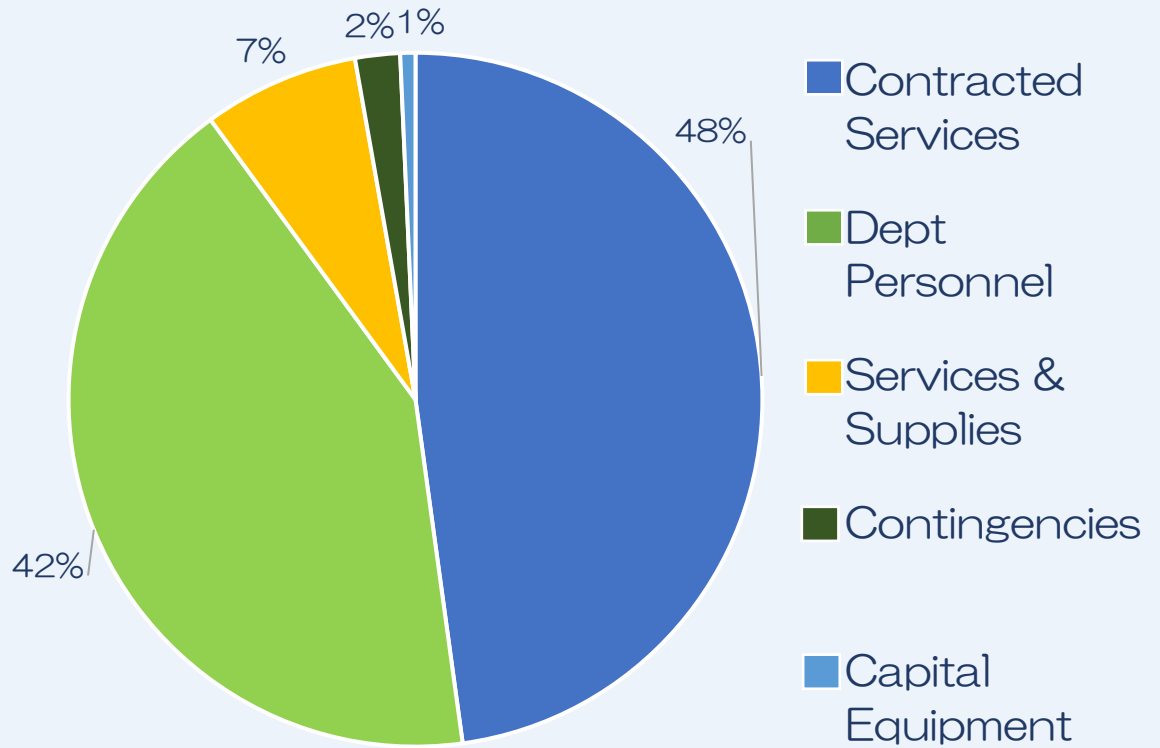
Ethnicity of Individuals Served - Mental Health



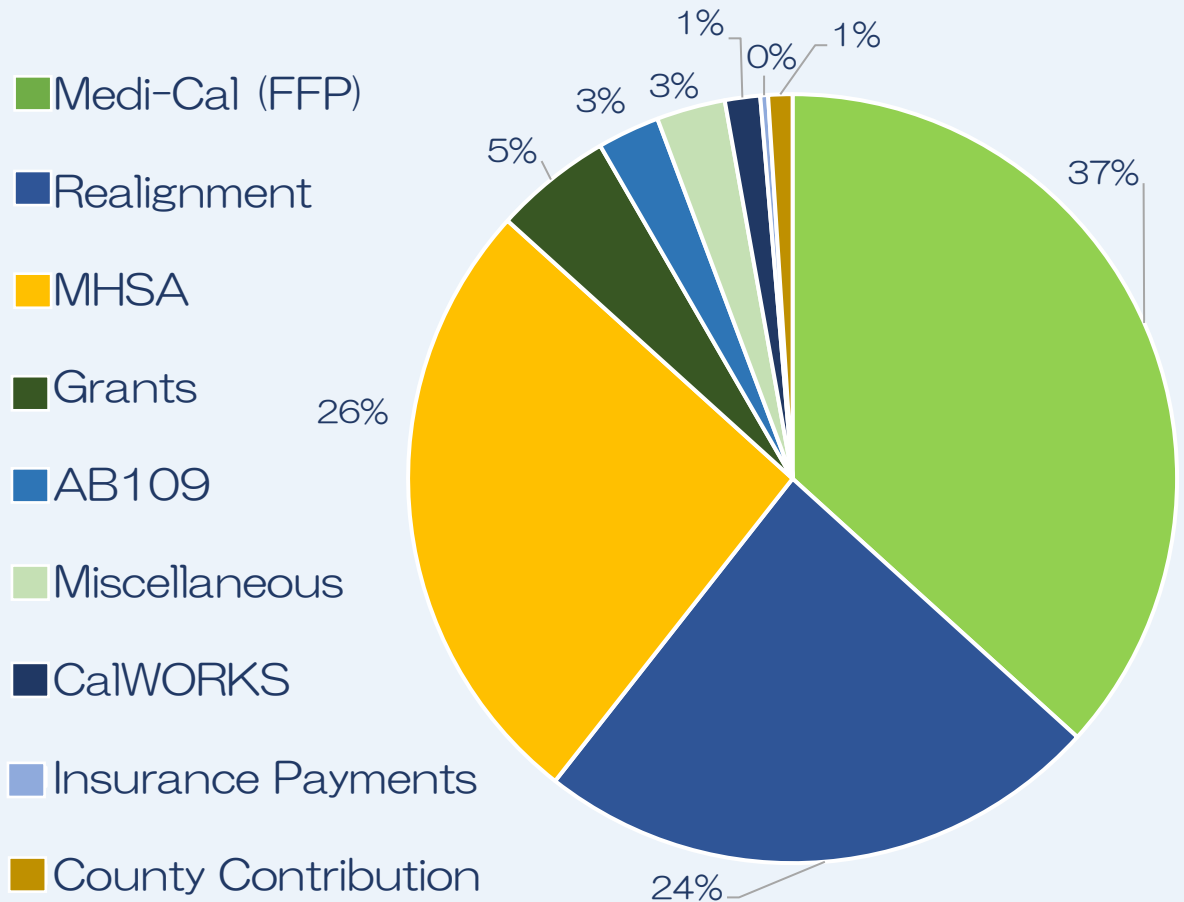
Ethnicity of Individuals Served - SUD



KernBHRS Budgeted Expenses FY 2022 - 2023



KernBHRS Budgeted Revenue FY 2022 - 2023



Program Highlights

TAY Dyads

As part of the KernBHRS Adult Enrichment Program, we established a workgroup to review and identify the needs of specific populations within our System of Care and Bakersfield communities. As a result, we discovered our Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) population (ages 18-24) within our Adult Teams did not have consistently favorable outcomes in response to mental health treatment modalities traditionally delivered to adults. Therefore, in order to better meet the needs of this population, more appropriately assist in their recovery, and decrease the overwhelmingly high rate of recidivism, planning for implementation of "Specialty TAY Dyads" (consisting of a Therapist and Case Manager) within each Adult Outpatient Team at our Metro Bakersfield clinics commenced.



Knowing that not all our Adult Direct Service Staff were knowledgeable of TAY resources and treatment techniques, we collaborated with the KernBHRS Children's System of Care TAY Team and our local Dream Center to identify appropriate training and resources that would be necessary for staff working with this population. We also developed pre-training surveys for the purpose of measuring staffs' current knowledge of treating TAY clients. Clinic Supervisors selected the two staff from their teams who would comprise the TAY Dyad; they received Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Training and were introduced to community resources including a tour of the Dream Center.



TAY Dyads have been implemented within four of our six Metro Bakersfield Adult Outpatient Teams – KernBHRS Northeast Recovery & Wellness Center, KernBHRS Southeast Recovery & Wellness Center, Child Guidance Clinic North Bakersfield, College Community Services Central Bakersfield. TAY-aged clients already opened to these clinics were introduced to their new Dyads and slowly transitioned; going forward, new TAY clients referred to these clinics will be opened to the TAY Dyad. The combined TAY caseload as of February 2023 is 183.



Additionally, monthly meetings are held, allowing for opportunities for TAY Dyad staff and their supervisors to share successes, discuss barriers, collaborate regarding challenges being experienced in service delivery to this population, and offer suggestions for program improvement. Feedback from staff and clients have been positive. We are encouraged and hopeful for our TAY-aged clients. As they continue to be referred for specialty mental health services, there will always be staff trained in this specialized area available and eager to provide the services they need.

Pioneer Cottage Facilities

Supportive Housing Treatment Team

The Supportive Housing Treatment Team has been collaborating and working alongside with community partners, including but not limited to, housing partners, healthcare agencies, mental health providers and social service agencies

with the overall goal of providing available and accessible housing as well as supportive services to individuals living with a serious behavioral health condition and who are at risk of homelessness. Aug 2022 was the first NPLH home grand opening, providing 18 tenants at Pioneer Cottages with permanent housing and supportive services.

Glenwood street Apartments grand opening was in December 2022 with the goal of housing 4 in the Delano area. As of this moment, 149 individuals have been screened for supportive services and housing, and 28 have been placed into permanent supportive housing through No Place Like Home.



Crossroads Team



KernBHRS and Kern County Probation Department (KCPD) have a long-standing relationship of serving our Juvenile Justice Youth in Kern County. For over 20 years KernBHRS has been co-located at the Youth Detention Center (YDC) providing Behavioral Health services to youth and their families. Often this population has not sought services prior to detention, historically this is an underserved population.



Though we never want to see our youth become involved with the Juvenile Justice System, KernBHRS understands that this is a unique opportunity to engage these families and youth. In July of 2022, we partnered with probation extending our services and forming a new team to serve youth committed to Kern Crossroad Facility (KCF) Programming. KCF houses two populations assigned to separate programming: Crossroads Program and the Achievement, Perseverance, Excellence Academy (APEX), which began in July 2021 as a result of Juvenile Justice Realignment SB823.

Our team's mission is to assist juvenile justice involved youth with recovery. Our services include full-scope mental health treatment, which includes assessments, case management, collateral services, individual skill building, individual therapy, family services, skills groups, and psychiatric medication services to treat a wide range of mental health and substance use disorders. Models we include are Trauma-informed approach, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectic Behavioral Therapy, Seeking Safety, Aggression Replacement Training, and Forward-Thinking Training series. We continuously monitor and assess to ensure youth are receiving treatment aligned with current behavioral health needs, intensifying services, and connecting youth with adjunct services as appropriate.



We understand the importance of youth transition home on their reintegration back into the community. We support their successful return to the community through a focus on building protective factors during their stay. We work closely with probation, parents, and guardians to help identify and bridge meaningful connections to their supports and community. We do this through ongoing discussion with youth regarding their discharge plan, providing family sessions with their pro-social supports to strengthen relationships, and completing targeted case management services to connect youth with organizations in the community that align with their vision of a meaningful life prior to their release. We gather with Probation and Education teams on-site at KCF to collaborate on youth care and generate discharge planning steps to support their rehabilitation and return to the community. KernBHRS has contracted mental health providers located throughout Kern County, where youth can continue their mental health treatment closest to home. Our team stays connected with youth and families after release to support and facilitate their connection to outpatient mental health treatment.



**Kern Behavioral Health
and Recovery Services**

*Kern BHS
Crisis Team*



Mobile Evaluation Team





Mental Health Awareness



Beautiful
BAKERSFIELD
AWARDS

JIM BURKE LINCOLN

Beautiful
BAKERSFIELD
AWARDS

JIM BURKE LINCOLN

VALLEY STRONG

GREATER
BAKERSFIELD
CHAMBER

VALLEY STRONG

GREATER
BAKERSFIELD
CHAMBER



*Congratulations Ellen Eggert for receiving the
Harvey Hall Lifetime Achievement Award*



*BOS proclaims September as Suicide Prevention
and Recovery Month*