



**In-Person Community Forum**  
**October 9, 2024**  
**Westchester Training Room**



Focus: BHSA Reform Updates,

Total Meeting Attendance	8
Total Survey Responses	7
Total Completion Rate	88%



Age Group:		Sexual Orientation:	
0-15	0	Straight/Heterosexual	7
16-25	3	Gay or Lesbian	0
26-59	2	Questioning or Unsure	0
60 or Older	2	Queer	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1	Asexual	0
<b>Gender assigned at birth:</b>		Bisexual	0
Male	2	Pansexual	0
Female	5	Another Sexual Orientation	0
Intersex	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1	<b>Race:</b>	
<b>Gender Currently Identified with:</b>		Asian	0
Male (Cis Male)	2	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
Female (Cis Female)	4	Black/African American	0
Transgender/other	0	Latino/Hispanic	4
Genderqueer	0	Tribal/Native American	0
Non-Binary	0	White/Caucasian	3
Genderfluid	0	Two or More Races:	0
Questioning or Unsure	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1
Other Gender Identity	0	<b>Ethnicity:</b>	
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	2	African	0
<b>Disability:</b>		Asian Indian/South Asian	0
Vision	0	Cambodian	0
Hearing, or Difficulty Understanding	0	Chinese	0
Mental/Cognitive (excludes behavioral)	2	Eastern European	0
Mobility/Physical	0	Korean	0
Chronic Medical Illness	0	Middle Eastern	0
None	5	Vietnamese	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1	European	1
<b>Veteran Status:</b>		Filipino	0
Yes, I Am a Veteran	0	Japanese	0
No, I Am Not a Veteran	7	Caribbean	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1	Central American	0
<b>Primary Language:</b>		Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano	3
Only English	5	Puerto Rican	0
Only Spanish	0	South American	0
Both English and Spanish	2	Two or More Ethnicities (see below)	0
Another Language (Hindi)	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	4
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1	<i>Two or More: n/a</i>	

<b>*Group/Category</b>		<b>*Population you feel is most unserved/underserved in the above-mentioned community</b>	
<i>Client/Consumer/Person with Mental Illness</i>	<b>0</b>	Children/Families	<b>2</b>
<i>Family Member of a Client or Person with Mental Illness</i>	<b>1</b>	Transitional Aged Youth (16-25)	<b>1</b>
<i>KernBHRS Staff</i>	<b>1</b>	Older Adults	<b>2</b>
<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<b>0</b>	Homeless or At Risk of Homelessness	<b>2</b>
<i>Veteran Services</i>	<b>0</b>	Those in Rural Kern Areas	<b>2</b>
<i>Senior Services</i>	<b>0</b>	Veterans	<b>1</b>
<i>Education/Schools</i>	<b>0</b>	Those with Substance Use Disorders	<b>1</b>
<i>Community Member</i>	<b>3</b>	Latino/Hispanic	<b>3</b>
<i>County Agency Staff (Not KernBHRS Staff)</i>	<b>4</b>	Asian/Pacific Islander	<b>0</b>
<i>Behavioral Health Provider (Not KernBHRS Staff)</i>	<b>3</b>	Black/African American	<b>0</b>
<i>Medical Care Provider</i>	<b>0</b>	American Indian / Alaska Native	<b>0</b>
<i>Other</i>	<b>0</b>	LGBTQ+	<b>2</b>
<i>Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey</i>	<b>1</b>	Other	<b>0</b>
<i>Describe other: N/A</i>		Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	<b>1</b>
<b>*Region of the County you are most involved</b>		<b>*Please indicate the types of services or programs that would be appropriate to service the above-mentioned population</b>	
Arvin/Lamont	<b>4</b>	Prevention	<b>3</b>
Bakersfield	<b>3</b>	Early Intervention	<b>2</b>
Delano/McFarland	<b>0</b>	Outreach for Recognizing the Early Signs of Mental Illness	<b>3</b>
California City/Mojave/Rosamond	<b>0</b>	Stigma and Discrimination Reduction	<b>4</b>
Wasco/Shafter	<b>0</b>	Access and Linkage to Care	<b>5</b>
Buttonwillow/Lost Hills	<b>0</b>	Peer-Based Services	<b>2</b>
Oildale	<b>0</b>	Intensive Outpatient Treatment	<b>1</b>
Kern River Valley	<b>0</b>	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	<b>1</b>
Tehachapi	<b>0</b>		
Ridgecrest	<b>0</b>		
Taft	<b>0</b>		
Frazier Park/Mountain Communities	<b>0</b>		
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	<b>1</b>		

\*Participants may select more than one answer to survey questions.

**Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns?**

<b>Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Answered</b>	<b>1</b>
<p>1. As a community we need more homeless beds and increased access (24/7/365) to shelters for homeless, specifically for women and children. We need a more direct path for probate conservatorship that is more timely and better meets the needs of adults who no longer have the capacity to make decisions for themselves and don't qualify for LPS conservatorship. We need a crisis center for KRC clients</p>	

**MHSA & Behavioral Health Transformation Education**

**Presenter:** Camden Trapp, Program Specialist and Tia Flores, Program Specialist

**Description:** Trapp presented the MHSA origins and how the 5 funding streams work to improve mental health outcomes. Flores provided an update on Behavioral Health Transformation / Prop 1

**Questions from the Audience after the presentation:**

- Q:** Audience Member - How are the allocations of where the money is spent being decided? What areas were looked at to come up with those numbers?

**A:** Liz Bailey, KernBHRS Administrator- After looking at the most mentally ill patients in need of service, it was determined that housing is where they are most lacking. That's why most of the funds are going toward housing.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<p><b>Allensworth Rededication</b>                  Saturday, October 12, 2024                  Contact AMTRAKSANJOAQUINS.COM for more information.</p>	<p><b>Help those in Crisis – Volunteer Recruitment</b>                  For more information contact Cassie Deras-Coker at (661)332-7479 or CDeras-Coker@kernbhirs.org</p>
<p><b>Veterans Day Parade</b>                  Monday, November 11, 2024                  The parade starts at 10:00 AM                  For more information, call (559) 284-3626</p>	<p><b>Psychiatric Health Facilities Update</b>                  New PHF for Adults and Minors located at 718 Workman Street and 702 Workman Street</p>
<p><b>Would you like to participate in our Cultural Competence Resource Committee?</b>                  For more information, please contact <a href="mailto:CulturalCompetence@KernBHRS.org">CulturalCompetence@KernBHRS.org</a></p>	<p><b>Prepare U</b>                  Contact MHSA Team at <a href="mailto:MHSATeam@kernbhirs.org">MHSATeam@kernbhirs.org</a> for more information</p>

## Program Presentations and Updates

### Presentation #1

**Presentation:** Specialty Services Team (SST)

**Presenter:** Allissa Lopez, Behavioral Health Medical Services Administrator

**Description:** Lopez presented an overview of the Specialty Service Team (SST) and upcoming changes to the different services it provides; Eating Disorder Monitoring and Consultation, Perinatal Health and Wellness Partnership with Public Health, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Independent Placement and Support (IPS), and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT).

**Questions from the Audience after the presentation:** No questions were recorded for this section.

### Presentation #2

**Presentation:** Volunteer Senior Outreach Program (VSOP)

**Presenter:** Mark Kimmel, MHSA Coordinator

**Description:** Kimmel presented an overview of the Volunteer Senior Outreach Program (VSOP) and upcoming changes to the program.

**Questions from the audience after the presentation:**

- Q:** Is WISE Team taking over?  
**A:** Liz Bailey, KernBHRS Administrator- states that yes, they will be a resource for the Seniors in need of Services.
- Q:** So, will the referrals go straight to the Manage Care Plan?  
**A:** Bailey states that no, not necessarily. Only if it's required.
- Q:** Was VSOP being under-utilized and that's why the program is going away?  
**A:** Bailey states that no, no evidence shows it was being under-utilized.

## Listening Session

**Presentation:** Listening Session

**Presenter:** Tia Flores, Program Specialist

**Description:** Flores opened the floor to facilitate the listening session

Questions from the audience after the presentation:

1. **Q:** In regard to Specialty Services, when is the change supposed to happen?

**A:** Liz Bailey, KernBHRS Administrator, stated that it is a layered question. Some changes will happen hopefully very soon within a month. Others might take a bit longer to implement.

2. **Q:** We are noticing a growing number of homeless women and children at Kern Medical Hospital with nowhere to go and therefore being checked into beds overnight. What plans are being made for them if any?

**A:** Bailey states that there is an absolute focus on people in need and they are looking into a funding structure that will work for them. It is a huge focus of Prop. 1 and the MHSA Team is working with a Housing Ambassador to find solutions.

### BHSA Stakeholder Feedback Forms Received

- “Overall attendance to a variety of behavioral health, etc. events seem to have declined measurably in post-pandemic. Is such an issue, or not?”
- “Are taxpayer dollars funding operations at the new PHFs while they wait for state approval to open?”

### CPPP Incentive Program

The BHSA/CPPP Incentive Program started on December 1, 2021. This incentive program offers a \$20 gift card for consumers/clients, their families, and other BHSA program participants.

To qualify for the BHSA/CPPP Incentive Program, interested consumers/clients, family members, and other BHSA program participants must pre-register to attend the BHSA Community Forum. Upon pre-registration, BHSA staff will ensure that those who pre-register know the location of the meeting (for In-Person meetings) or have reliable access to Zoom (for Virtual meetings).

During the BHSA Community Forum, BHSA staff will confirm attendance. Then, approximately within one business day, the \$20 gift card will be mailed to the address they provided during pre-registration.

CPPP Incentive Program will be discontinued effective August 21, 2024.

### Action Steps

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services will continue its commitment to inform, engage, take feedback, and reach out to its communities. This will be achieved through the collaborative efforts of offering BHSA-funded programs and services in partnership with community organizations and contract service providers throughout Kern County.

BHSA recorded a total of **8** attendees during this presentation; the total excludes *BHSA Coordination team members and presenters*.

In this meeting, BHSA provided an overview of the ongoing Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Transformation (formerly referred to as MHSA and Proposition 1) update. This transformation is a collective effort, and BHSA will continue to provide updates as information is received.

During the Stakeholder meeting, we had **two** presentations and **no** voting items.

**BHSA will:**

**I. General**

- a) Continue to provide education and updates on legislative and policy changes on BHSA funding and how that impacts the programs and services given to Kern County residents.
- b) Investigate ways of gaining stakeholder feedback and participation (giveaways, treats, etc.) during the next meetings.
- c) Continue researching ways of gaining a greater number of clients/families, and public participation during stakeholder meetings.

No further action steps.