

**Hybrid Community Forum**  
**March 12, 2025**  
**In-Person at Westchester Training Room & Virtual (Teams)**



Focus: MHSA Reform and Updates

Total Meeting Attendance (10 in-person & 5 Virtual)	15
Total Survey Responses (10 hard copies & 5 Online)	15
Total Completion Rate	100%

Age Group:		Sexual Orientation:	
0-15	0	Straight/Heterosexual	12
16-25	3	Gay or Lesbian	0
26-59	8	Questioning or Unsure	0
60 or Older	4	Queer	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	0	Asexual	0
Gender assigned at birth:		Bisexual	1
Male	6	Pansexual	0
Female	8	Another Sexual Orientation	0
Intersex	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	2
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1	Race:	
Gender Currently Identified with:		Asian	0
Male (Cis Male)	5	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
Female (Cis Female)	8	Black/African American	0
Transgender/other	0	Latino/Hispanic	6
Genderqueer	0	Tribal/Native American	0
Non-Binary	0	White/Caucasian	7
Genderfluid	0	Two or More Races: Indian & Hispanic (2)	0
Questioning or Unsure	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	2
Other Gender Identity	0	Ethnicity:	
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	2	African	0
Disability:		Asian Indian/South Asian	0
Vision	1	Cambodian	0
Hearing, or Difficulty Understanding	0	Chinese	0
Mental/Cognitive (excludes behavioral)	2	Eastern European	0
Mobility/Physical	1	Korean	0
Chronic Medical Illness	1	Middle Eastern	0
None	7	Vietnamese	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	3	European	2
Veteran Status:		Filipino	0
Yes, I Am a Veteran	2	Japanese	0
No, I Am Not a Veteran	12	Caribbean	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1	Central American	1
Primary Language:		Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano	6
Only English	9	Puerto Rican	0
Only Spanish	2	South American	0
Both English and Spanish	4	Two or More Ethnicities (see below)	0
Another Language (Hindi)	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	6
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	0	<i>Two or More: Eastern European &amp; Mexican</i>	

<b>*Group/Category</b>		<b>*Population you feel is most unserved/underserved in the above-mentioned community</b>	
Client/Consumer/Person with Mental Illness	5	Children/Families	1
Family Member of a Client or Person with Mental Illness	1	Transitional Aged Youth (16-25)	2
KernBHRS Staff	4	Older Adults	5
Law Enforcement	0	Homeless or At Risk of Homelessness	2
Veteran Services	0	Those in Rural Kern Areas	1
Senior Services	0	Veterans	2
Education/Schools	0	Those with Substance Use Disorders	0
Community Member	1	Latino/Hispanic	5
County Agency Staff (Not KernBHRS Staff)	0	Asian/Pacific Islander	0
Behavioral Health Provider (Not KernBHRS Staff)	4	Black/African American	0
Medical Care Provider	0	American Indian / Alaska Native	0
Other	1	LGBTQ+	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1	Other	0
<i>Describe others: Former BHB</i>		Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	2
<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	1	Prevention	5
Bakersfield	14	Early Intervention	5
Delano/McFarland	1	Outreach for Recognizing the Early Signs of Mental Illness	8
California City/Mojave/Rosamond	1	Stigma and Discrimination Reduction	4
Wasco/Shafter	2	Access and Linkage to Care	5
Buttonwillow/Lost Hills	0	Peer-Based Services	4
Oildale	1	Intensive Outpatient Treatment	8
Kern River Valley	1	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	3
Tehachapi	1	<b>How did you learn about this public forum?</b>	
Ridgecrest	1	Flyer	3
Taft	1	From a friend or family member	0
Frazier Park/Mountain Communities	1	From a co-worker/colleague	6
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1	Social media	1
*Participants may select more than one answer to survey questions.		Email/Text invitation	4
		Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	1

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

<b>Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Answered</b>	<b>2</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pay raises for law enforcement, corrections, and probation should continue. But cuts to disability, children's programs and seniors are counter humane.</li> <li>2. I would like to say thank you for your help. I got help and now me and my doctor are on the same page.</li> </ol>	

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<p><b>Kern County Emergency Alert System – Ready Kern</b> Visit <a href="http://www.ReadyKern.com">www.ReadyKern.com</a> to sign up for emergency notification.</p>	<p><b>Help those in Crisis – Volunteer Recruitment</b> For more information contact Cassie Deras-Coker at (661)332-7479 or <a href="mailto:CDeras-Coker@kernbhrs.org">CDeras-Coker@kernbhrs.org</a></p>
<p><b>BAIHP Sponsored Event – 2025 Calendar</b> For any questions, please send a message to <a href="mailto:BAIHPcommunity@BakersfieldAIHP.org">BAIHPcommunity@BakersfieldAIHP.org</a></p>	<p><b>Prepare U</b> Contact MHSa Team at <a href="mailto:MHSATeam@kernbhrs.org">MHSATeam@kernbhrs.org</a> for more information</p>
<p><b>World Bipolar Day</b> <b>Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 11 am – 4 pm</b> <b>Downtown Wasco</b> For more information contact Veronica at (310)508-1896</p>	<p><b>MHSa Annual Report FY 2025-2026 Timeline</b> Contact MHSa Team at <a href="mailto:MHSATeam@kernbhrs.org">MHSATeam@kernbhrs.org</a> for more information</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>Navigating KernBHRs Website</b> Visit our website to see MHSa reports and provide feedback for the upcoming Annual Report. <a href="https://www.kernbhrs.org/home-bhr">https://www.kernbhrs.org/home-bhr</a></p>

**MHSa Education**

**Presenters:** Tia Flores, MHSa Program Specialist,

**Description:** Flores presented the MHSa origins and how the 5 funding streams work to improve mental health outcomes.

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

## BHSA Transition Update

**Presenters:** Tia Flores, MHSA Program Specialist  
Mark Kimmel, MHSA Coordinator  
Michelle Timmerman, Special Projects Manager

**Description:** Flores, Kimmel, and Timmerman provided an update on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Transition/Behavioral Health Transition (BHT) /Prop 1 Update. The presentation included additional information about the Housing allocation and breakdown.

### Questions from the Audience after the presentation:

- (Q):** Since transitional rent is going to be mandated by BHSA in January 2026, how are you carrying that to June?  
**(A):** The transitional rent will have to be utilized first through the managed care plan. After 6 months, we would be able to use those BHSA funds.
- (Q):** How do you pick and choose the chronically homeless and how do you convince them to go into these things?  
**(A):** We establish trust through our Outreach and Engagement efforts. We can't force them into treatment or require them to accept our services to be eligible for those benefits.
- (Q):** What is the leftover 18% being used for?  
**(A):** That hasn't yet been decided, and that number could still change. We just recently found out that we can use 7% of Housing to do Outreach and Engagement activities. We will keep you posted as soon as we find additional information.

## Program Presentations

**Presentation:** Innovation Projects (2 Voting items)

**Presenter:** Mark Kimmel, MHSA Coordinator

**Description:** Kimmel provided an overview of current Innovation (INN) projects and an update on proposed new projects the department is working on.

### Questions from the Audience after the presentation:

- (Q):** What makes these things important?  
**(A):** Because of BHSA changes, we have a timeline of when to transition and we are making sure we stick with that timeline.

2. **(Q):** Who has the responsibility to make sure it gets done? Who does it fall back on?  
**(A):** The responsibility falls back on us, MHSA and KernBHRS.

**VOTING ITEM #1:**

**Are you in favor of using MHSA funding for Enhanced Analytics PHI Dashboards?**

Answers	In-person # of Votes	Virtual # of Votes	Total Votes
<b>Yes</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10 (91%)</b>
No	0	0	0 (0%)
Decline	0	0	1 (9%)

**VOTING ITEM #2:**

**Are you in favor of using MHSA funding for Policies and Procedures Development?**

Answers	In-person # of Votes	Virtual # of Votes	Total Votes
<b>Yes</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8 (73%)</b>
No	0	0	0 (0%)
Decline	1	2	3 (27%)

**Listening Session**

**Presentation:** Listening Session

**Presenter:** Tia Flores, MHSA Program Specialist

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

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

**MHSA Stakeholder Feedback Forms Received**

- “So, every site is going to be working with mental & substance abuse, right? If so, when does that take place?”
- “It seems to me, or may have been recognized, over many years that policies are/were developed with all input – both private & public”
- “Thank you for your support. Please keep doing what you are doing.”

## CPPP Incentive Program

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

To qualify for the MHSAs/CPPP Incentive Program, interested consumers/clients, family members, and other MHSAs program participants must pre-register to attend the MHSAs Community Forum. Upon pre-registration, MHSAs 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 MHSAs Community Forum, MHSAs 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 MHSAs-funded programs and services in partnership with community organizations and contract service providers throughout Kern County.

MHSAs recorded a total of **15** attendees during this presentation: 10 in-person and 5 virtual. The total excludes MHSAs Coordination team members and presenters.

In this meeting, MHSAs provided an overview of the ongoing Behavioral Health Transformation update. This transformation is a collective effort, and MHSAs will continue to provide updates as information is received.

During the Stakeholder meeting, we had 2 voting items:

**VOTING ITEM #1: Are you in favor of using MHSAs funding for Enhanced Analytics PHI Dashboards?**

**Results: 91% of stakeholders approved (in-person and virtual were combined)**

**VOTING ITEM #2: Are you in favor of using MHSAs funding for Policies and Procedures Development?**

**Results: 79% of stakeholders approved (in-person and virtual were combined)**

## MHSAs ACTION STEPS

MHSAs will:

### General

We will continue to provide education and updates on legislative and policy changes regarding MHSAs funding and how that impacts the programs and services provided to Kern County residents.

Investigate ways of gaining stakeholder feedback and participation (giveaways, treats, etc.) during the next meetings.

Continue researching ways of gaining more clients/families and public participation during stakeholder meetings.

No further action steps.