



**Hybrid Community Forum**  
**March 26, 2025**  
**In-Person at Westchester Training Room (English and Spanish)**  
**& Virtual (Teams)**



Focus: MHSA Reform and Updates

Total Meeting Attendance (7 in-person & 2 Virtual)	9
Total Survey Responses (7 hard copies & 0 Online)	7
Total Completion Rate	78%



Age Group:		Sexual Orientation:	
0-15	0	Straight/Heterosexual	5
16-25	0	Gay or Lesbian	1
26-59	6	Questioning or Unsure	0
60 or Older	1	Queer	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	2	Asexual	0
Gender assigned at birth:		Bisexual	0
Male	1	Pansexual	0
Female	6	Another Sexual Orientation	0
Intersex	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	3
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	2	Race:	
Gender Currently Identified with:		Asian	0
Male (Cis Male)	1	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
Female (Cis Female)	4	Black/African American	1
Transgender/other	0	Latino/Hispanic	0
Genderqueer	0	Tribal/Native American	0
Non-Binary	0	White/Caucasian	5
Genderfluid	0	Two or More Races: Indian & Hispanic (2)	0
Questioning or Unsure	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	3
Other Gender Identity	0	Ethnicity:	
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	4	African	0
Disability:		Asian Indian/South Asian	0
Vision	0	Cambodian	0
Hearing, or Difficulty Understanding	0	Chinese	0
Mental/Cognitive (excludes behavioral)	1	Eastern European	0
Mobility/Physical	0	Korean	0
Chronic Medical Illness	0	Middle Eastern	0
None	3	Vietnamese	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	5	European	0
Veteran Status:		Filipino	0
Yes, I Am a Veteran	1	Japanese	0
No, I Am Not a Veteran	6	Caribbean	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	2	Central American	0
Primary Language:		Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano	1
Only English	7	Puerto Rican	0
Only Spanish	0	South American	0
Both English and Spanish	0	Other: Native American	1
Another Language (Hindi)	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	7
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	2	<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>	
Client/Consumer/Person with Mental Illness	<b>3</b>	Children/Families	<b>0</b>
Family Member of a Client or Person with Mental Illness	<b>0</b>	Transitional Aged Youth (16-25)	<b>0</b>
KernBHRS Staff	<b>1</b>	Older Adults	<b>1</b>
Law Enforcement	<b>0</b>	Homeless or At Risk of Homelessness	<b>1</b>
Veteran Services	<b>0</b>	Those in Rural Kern Areas	<b>0</b>
Senior Services	<b>0</b>	Veterans	<b>0</b>
Education/Schools	<b>0</b>	Those with Substance Use Disorders	<b>1</b>
Community Member	<b>0</b>	Latino/Hispanic	<b>0</b>
County Agency Staff (Not KernBHRS Staff)	<b>0</b>	Asian/Pacific Islander	<b>0</b>
Behavioral Health Provider (Not KernBHRS Staff)	<b>1</b>	Black/African American	<b>0</b>
Medical Care Provider	<b>1</b>	American Indian / Alaska Native	<b>0</b>
Other	<b>0</b>	LGBTQ+	<b>1</b>
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	<b>4</b>	Other	<b>0</b>
<i>Describe others: n/a</i>		Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	<b>6</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>0</b>	Prevention	<b>2</b>
Bakersfield	<b>6</b>	Early Intervention	<b>1</b>
Delano/McFarland	<b>0</b>	Outreach for Recognizing the Early Signs of Mental Illness	<b>2</b>
California City/Mojave/Rosamond	<b>0</b>	Stigma and Discrimination Reduction	<b>2</b>
Wasco/Shafter	<b>0</b>	Access and Linkage to Care	<b>1</b>
Buttonwillow/Lost Hills	<b>0</b>	Peer-Based Services	<b>0</b>
Oildale	<b>0</b>	Intensive Outpatient Treatment	<b>0</b>
Kern River Valley	<b>0</b>	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	<b>4</b>
Tehachapi	<b>0</b>	<b>How did you learn about this public forum?</b>	
Ridgecrest	<b>0</b>	Flyer	<b>1</b>
Taft	<b>0</b>	From a friend or family member	<b>0</b>
Frazier Park/Mountain Communities	<b>0</b>	From a co-worker/colleague	<b>2</b>
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	<b>3</b>	Social media	<b>0</b>
*Participants may select more than one answer to survey questions.		Email/Text invitation	<b>1</b>
		Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	<b>5</b>

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

Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey

7

Answered

2

1. Outpatient support center for those with mental health disorders. Why is CFLC funding being cut and staffing to be contracted out?
2. Not at this time!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BAIHP Sponsored Event – 2025 Calendar

For any questions, please send a message to [BAIHPcommunity@BakersfieldAIHP.org](mailto:BAIHPcommunity@BakersfieldAIHP.org)

### Help those in Crisis – Volunteer Recruitment

For more information, contact Cassie Deras-Coker at (661)332-7479 or [CDeras-Coker@kernbhhs.org](mailto:CDeras-Coker@kernbhhs.org)

### Would you like to participate in our Cultural Competence Resource Committee?

For more information, please contact [CulturalCompetence@KernBHRS.org](mailto:CulturalCompetence@KernBHRS.org)

### Prepare U

Contact the MHSa Team at [MHSATeam@kernbhhs.org](mailto:MHSATeam@kernbhhs.org) for more information

## 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

**Description:** Flores provided an update on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Transition/Behavioral Health Transition (BHT) /Prop 1 Update.

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

1. **(Q):** Is there recovery from mental health disorders on there as well?

2. **(A):** We already do include that demographic that you mentioned, and the state is just requiring that we add these as well, in addition. So yes, that was and still is a focus. Thank you.

## Program Presentations

**Presentation #1:** MHSA Performance Review

**Presenter:** Mark Kimmel, MHSA Coordinator

**Description:** Kimmel provided an overview of the DHCS Performance Review of the Kern County MHSA.

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

1. **(Q):** You mentioned you have submitted your corrections, do you know how long it will take to hear back from them about those?

**(A):** (Kimmel) We don't know the exact time, but last time it took about a month.

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**Presentation # 2:** Innovation Projects

**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:**

1. **(Q):** Comment from the audience: There is also electricity and other things to worry about as well.

**(A):** Mark: Absolutely, all of those things are aspects of that.

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**Presentation # 3:** CFTN Projects (Voting)

**Presenter:** Mark Kimmel, MHSA Coordinator

**Description:** Kimmel provided an overview of 3 CFTN projects for stakeholders' consideration and voting.

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

1. **(Q):** Is the "PHF" (Kern Psychiatric Health Facility) Unit on Workman Street?

**(A):** (Kimmel) Yes, that's it.

2. **(C):** Been over there in the past, and everyone was so nice and attentive. I also heard the food was good!  
**(A):** (Kimmel) Good! Glad to hear that. That’s what we hope to mimic at this other location.
  
3. **(Q):** My only problem with CFLC is getting the Uber to this location. Is it okay to put this location in to go there?  
**(A):** (Kimmel) No, it’s not a problem at all. We are all at the same address. Just a different Tower. That is the South Tower, and we are in the North Tower right now.
  
4. **(Q):** Do you happen to know why CFLC is being contracted out?  
**(A):** (Kimmel) That is proactive work to begin the changing of the funding bucket.
  
5. **(Q):** How does that save money?  
**(A):** (Kimmel) The Department wanted to get experts involved on how to meet those new expectations.
  
6. **(Q):** Will there still be 2 Stakeholders a month?  
**(A):** (Kimmel) Yes, maybe more, but we don’t know yet. As far as we know, just the 2. English and Spanish.
  
7. **(Q):** How big is Clarvida?  
**(A):** (Kimmel) They are Statewide.
  
8. **(Q):** How do we get notified about Stakeholders?  
**(A):** (Kimmel) We will add you to our email list after this session.

**VOTING ITEM #1:**

**Are you in favor of using \$100,000 of MHSA CFTN funds on a new roof for Ridgecrest Crisis Stabilization Unit?**

Answers	In-person # of Votes	Virtual # of Votes	Total Votes
<b>Yes</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5 (71%)</b>
No	0	0	0 (0%)
Decline	2	0	2 (29%)

**VOTING ITEM #2:**

**Are you in favor of making \$1 million of MHSA CFTN funds available for building improvements?**

Answers	In-person # of Votes	Virtual # of Votes	Total Votes
Yes	5	0	5 (63%)
No	1	0	1 (12%)
Decline	1	1	2 (25%)

**VOTING ITEM #3:**

**Are you in favor of using \$1 million of MHSA CFTN funds on furniture for the YCSU/FRC?**

Answers	In-person # of Votes	Virtual # of Votes	Total Votes
Yes	6	0	6 (86%)
No	0	0	0 (0%)
Decline	1	0	1 (14%)

**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**

- “No questions.
- “When Clarvida takes over the CFLC, will we be able to use our Medi-Cal Uber to come to the CFLC? Currently, people have to say they’re coming to this building to get our rides paid for.”
- “The presentation was informative and well presented. The plans for funding were executed clearly. I appreciated how the second speaker was engaging and actively listening”.

**CPPP Incentive Program**

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

To qualify for the MHSA/CPPP Incentive Program, interested consumers/clients, family members, and other MHSA program participants must pre-register to attend the MHSA Community Forum. Upon pre-registration,

MHSA 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 MHSA Community Forum, MHSA 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.

The CPPP Incentive Program was discontinued on 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 MHSA-funded programs and services in partnership with community organizations and contract service providers throughout Kern County.

MHSA recorded a total of **9** attendees during this presentation: 7 in-person and 2 virtual. The total excludes MHSA Coordination team members and presenters.

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

During the Stakeholder meeting, we had 3 voting items:

**VOTING ITEM #1:** Are you in favor of using \$100,000 of MHSA CFTN funds on a new roof for Ridgecrest Crisis Stabilization Unit? **Results: YES - 86% of stakeholders approved (in-person and virtual were combined)**

**VOTING ITEM #2:** Are you in favor of making \$1 million of MHSA CFTN funds available for building improvements? **Results: YES - 63% of stakeholders approved (in-person and virtual were combined)**

**VOTING ITEM #3:** Are you in favor of using \$1 million of MHSA CFTN funds on furniture for the YCSU/FRC? **Results: YES - 86% of stakeholders approved (in-person and virtual were combined)**

## MHSA ACTION STEPS

MHSA will:

### General

We will continue to provide education and updates on legislative and policy changes regarding MHSA 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.