

Hybrid Community Forum
May 14, 2025
In-Person at Westchester Training Room & Virtual (Teams)



Focus: MHSA Reform, Updates, and INN Projects

Total Meeting Attendance (5 in-person & 3 Virtual)	8
Total Survey Responses (5 hard copies & 0 Online)	5
Total Completion Rate	63%

Age Group:		Sexual Orientation:	
0-15	0	Straight/Heterosexual	4
16-25	0	Gay or Lesbian	1
26-59	3	Questioning or Unsure	0
60 or Older	2	Queer	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	3	Asexual	0
Gender assigned at birth:		Bisexual	0
Male	1	Pansexual	0
Female	4	Another Sexual Orientation	0
Intersex	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	3
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	3	Race:	
Gender Currently Identified with:		Asian	0
Male (Cis Male)	1	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
Female (Cis Female)	3	Black/African American	0
Transgender/other	0	Latino/Hispanic	1
Genderqueer	0	Tribal/Native American	0
Non-Binary	0	White/Caucasian	3
Genderfluid	0	Two or More Races: (did not specify)	1
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	2	Vietnamese	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	5	European	1
Veteran Status:		Filipino	0
Yes, I Am a Veteran	0	Japanese	0
No, I Am Not a Veteran	5	Caribbean	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	3	Central American	0
Primary Language:		Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano	1
Only English	5	Puerto Rican	0
Only Spanish	0	South American	0
Both English and Spanish	0	Two of More: (did not specify)	1
Another Language	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	5
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	3	<i>other: n/a</i>	

*Group/Category		*Population you feel is most unserved/underserved in the above-mentioned community	
Client/Consumer/Person with Mental Illness	1	Children/Families	0
Family Member of a Client or Person with Mental Illness	0	Transitional Aged Youth (16-25)	2
KernBHRS Staff	3	Older Adults	1
Law Enforcement	0	Homeless or At Risk of Homelessness	1
Veteran Services	0	Those in Rural Kern Areas	1
Senior Services	0	Veterans	0
Education/Schools	0	Those with Substance Use Disorders	1
Community Member	0	Latino/Hispanic	0
County Agency Staff (Not KernBHRS Staff)	0	Asian/Pacific Islander	0
Behavioral Health Provider (Not KernBHRS Staff)	0	Black/African American	0
Medical Care Provider	0	American Indian / Alaska Native	1
Other	0	LGBTQ+	1
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	4	Other	0
<i>Describe others: n/a</i>		Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	4
*Region of the County you are most involved		*Please indicate the types of services or programs that would be appropriate to service the above-mentioned population	
Arvin/Lamont	0	Prevention	1
Bakersfield	4	Early Intervention	1
Delano/McFarland	0	Outreach for Recognizing the Early Signs of Mental Illness	3
California City/Mojave/Rosamond	0	Stigma and Discrimination Reduction	2
Wasco/Shafter	0	Access and Linkage to Care	2
Buttonwillow/Lost Hills	0	Peer-Based Services	3
Oildale	0	Intensive Outpatient Treatment	1
Kern River Valley	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	4
Tehachapi	0	How did you learn about this public forum?	
Ridgecrest	0	Flyer	0
Taft	0	From a friend or family member	0
Frazier Park/Mountain Communities	0	From a co-worker/colleague	1
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	4	Social media	0
*Participants may select more than one answer to survey questions.		Email/Text invitation	0
		Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	7

Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns?	
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	8
Answered	0
n/a	

ADDITIONAL SURVEY QUESTIONS – INNOVATION PROJECTS	
Do you have any comments or additional recommendations for the proposed Mental Health Services Act Innovation Project (Multi-County EHR Project)?	
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	6
Answered	2
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Well Done 😊 2. Today's talk was very interesting, especially about "Population Health Management". 	

ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Apple Core Food Giveaway 616 Grace Street, Bakersfield, CA Wednesday, May 28, from 3 PM to 5 PM	Help those in Crisis – Volunteer Recruitment For more information, contact Cassie Deras-Coker at (661)332-7479 or CDeras-Coker@kernbhhs.org
Would you like to participate in our Cultural Competence Resource Committee? For more information, please contact CulturalCompetence@KernBHRS.org	Prepare U Contact the MHSA Team at 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: No questions were recorded for this section.

Program Presentations

Presentation #1: Innovation Projects

Presenter: Mark Kimmel, MHSA Coordinator

Description: Kimmel provided an update on the Kern County MHSA Projects KernBHRS is pursuing.

- Orange County PIVOT Project – KernBHRS decided not to continue pursuing this project.
- Kern County Semi-Statewide EHR Project – KernBHRS started the 30-Day Circulation and Public Comment (ends June 4th)
- Population Health Management – The team is still doing research and gathering feedback.

Questions & Comments from the Audience after the presentation:

1. **(Q): (Kimmel) What do you guys think about our department focusing on Population Health Management?**

(Answers from Audience):

- a. Sounds Great! We should have been doing this a long time ago!
- b. To me, that means you will be able to provide all-around care, advocacy, direction, along with medical and mental treatment.

2. **(Q): (Kimmel) What types of things should we be tracking with new data tracking tools?**

(Answers from Audience):

- a. Rates of Suicide
- b. Maintaining housing
- c. Substance abuse
- d. Service follow-ups
- e. Reminding clients about services provided
- f. Tracking side effects of medications in patients and comorbidities.

3. **(Q):** (Virtual participant) Is Kern not already utilizing or completing the TARs? (Timeliness of service reports or access and follow-up reports). I know Inyo County and Mono County utilize having an administrative analyst do these things, and it is effective when it is done. Disseminate the data of the service population. That is overall. Ideally, it is broken down to SUD, SMI. It is excellent when done consistently. How does the plan intend to include community support for all parties? Who does the plan expect to pay for the licenses? Who does the plan expect to pay for the licenses? Healthnet, United, etc.

(A): (Kimmel) Yes, we are. However, this is a chance to collect data and look at it as a whole system and community.

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:

1. **(C):** We have mental health community education services launching this month, starting today in the KRV (Kern River Valley). 6 to 8 pm - Food, psychoeducation, skills, etc. It would be nice to have rural options and considerations, especially since this is a county, not a city initiative.

MHSA Stakeholder Feedback Forms Received

- No feedback was received.

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

At Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, our commitment to community engagement is unwavering. We will continue to inform, engage, get feedback, and reach out to our 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. Our stakeholder involvement is crucial to our success.

The recent MHSA presentation was a success, with a total of eight (8) attendees, five (5) in-person and three (3) virtual. This count excludes the MHSA Coordination team members and presenters.

During the meeting, the MHSA Coordination team provided an overview of the ongoing Behavioral Health Transformation update. This transformation is not a one-time event, but a continuous, collective effort. We will continue to provide updates as information is received, ensuring our stakeholders are always in the loop.

During the stakeholder meeting, we had **zero** voting items.

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 subsequent meetings.
- Continue researching ways of gaining more clients/families and public participation during stakeholder meetings.
- No further action steps.