

Hybrid Community Forum
June 11, 2025
In-Person at Westchester Training Room & Virtual (Teams)



Focus: MHSA Reform, Updates, and INN Projects

Total Meeting Attendance (4 in-person & 9 Virtual)	13
Total Survey Responses (3 hard copies & 1 Online)	4
Total Completion Rate	31%

Age Group:		Sexual Orientation:	
0-15	0	Straight/Heterosexual	4
16-25	0	Gay or Lesbian	0
26-59	2	Questioning or Unsure	0
60 or Older	2	Queer	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	9	Asexual	0
Gender assigned at birth:		Bisexual	0
Male	1	Pansexual	0
Female	3	Another Sexual Orientation	0
Intersex	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	9
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	9	Race:	
Gender Currently Identified with:		Asian	0
Male (Cis Male)	1	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
Female (Cis Female)	2	Black/African American	0
Transgender/other	0	Latino/Hispanic	0
Genderqueer	0	Tribal/Native American	0
Non-Binary	0	White/Caucasian	2
Genderfluid	0	Two or More Races: (did not specify)	1
Questioning or Unsure	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	10
Other Gender Identity	0	Ethnicity:	
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	10	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	10	European	1
Veteran Status:		Filipino	0
Yes, I Am a Veteran	1	Japanese	0
No, I Am Not a Veteran	3	Caribbean	0
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	9	Central American	0
Primary Language:		Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano	0
Only English	4	Puerto Rican	0
Only Spanish	0	South American	0
Both English and Spanish	0	Two of More: (did not specify)	1
Another Language	0	Other:	1
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	9	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	10

*Group/Category		*Population you feel is most unserved/underserved in the above-mentioned community	
Client/Consumer/Person with Mental Illness	1	Children/Families	2
Family Member of a Client or Person with Mental Illness	0	Transitional Aged Youth (16-25)	0
KernBHRS Staff	2	Older Adults	2
Law Enforcement	0	Homeless or At Risk of Homelessness	1
Veteran Services	0	Those in Rural Kern Areas	0
Senior Services	1	Veterans	2
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	0
Other (<i>other services</i>)	1	LGBTQ+	1
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	9	Other	0
<i>Describe others: n/a</i>		Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	9
*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	0
Bakersfield	4	Early Intervention	1
Delano/McFarland	1	Outreach for Recognizing the Early Signs of Mental Illness	1
California City/Mojave/Rosamond	0	Stigma and Discrimination Reduction	0
Wasco/Shafter	1	Access and Linkage to Care	0
Buttonwillow/Lost Hills	0	Peer-Based Services	2
Oildale	1	Intensive Outpatient Treatment	0
Kern River Valley	0	Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	10
Tehachapi	0	How did you learn about this public forum?	
Ridgecrest	0	Flyer	0
Taft	0	From a friend or family member	1
Frazier Park/Mountain Communities	0	From a co-worker/colleague	2
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	9	Social media	0
*Participants may select more than one answer to survey questions.		Email/Text invitation	1
		Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	9

Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns?	
Declined/Did Not Submit a Survey	13
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	13
Answered	0
N/A	

ANNOUNCEMENTS	
KRV Bridge Connection & CAPK 6069 Lake Isabella Blvd. Wednesday, June 18th, from 10:30 AM to 1 PM	Help those in Crisis – Volunteer Recruitment For more information, contact Cassie Deras-Coker at (661)332-7479 or CDeras-Coker@kernbhrs.org
2nd Annual Sexuality & Gender Identity Healthcare Symposium 1801 Panorama Dr. Friday, June 20th, from 9 AM to 3 PM	Prepare U Contact the MHSa Team at MHSATeam@kernbhrs.org for more information
Would you like to participate in our Cultural Competence Resource Committee? For more information, please contact CulturalCompetence@KernBHRs.org	

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.

- Kern County Semi-Statewide EHR Project – The 30-Day Circulation and Public Comment ended June 4th. Project on track for BOS approval on July 15th.
- Population Health Management – The team is still doing research and gathering feedback.

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

Presentation #2: Housing

Presenter: Mark Kimmel, MHSA Coordinator, and Michele Timmerman

Description: Kimmel and Timmerman provided an update on the BHSA Housing interventions and planning.

- Housing Allocation
- Funds committed to future housing
- Capital Development Projects
- Home Key Plus
 - Applicants will have funding committed, in addition to what was discussed before
 - Grants will transfer to BHSA
 - Benefits will go towards those who are already in the system of care and who are eligible

Questions & Comments from the Audience after the presentation:

1. (Q): (Virtual attendee) “Just to make sure I am hearing this right, the housing trio through MCP is good for a 6-month option, and for those who qualify, you will have an additional funding source to potentially help with housing? What will the process be for that, and is there going to be a quick guide for this?”
(A): (Mark) “So, yeah. After the 6-month time period for housing, we will be looking at the BHSA housing bucket to then fund those who qualify for continued rent.”
2. (Q): (Audience) “In terms of reimbursement, are the MCP’s billing you guys for the first 6-months or are they billing that somewhere else?”
(A): (Michele) “So the way it’s going to work is, agencies can contract with the MCP’s, and were looking into being able to do that, and to be able to provide the housing trio. We will coordinate with them and contract with them so our clients can receive those services, and we can be reimbursed from the managed care.”
3. (Q): (Audience) “You said in the 7th month, the BHSA money can kick in. Is there a term limit on how long that will be covered?”
(A): (Michele) “No, that’s kind of infinite, according to the funding, of course.”
4. (Q): (Audience) “For the BHS funding, does it allow support for specific populations in terms of the funding? Are you guys going to review special programs?”
(A): (Mark) “I haven’t heard anything about there being limits of how that is to be or a direction it’s pushing us in. “
5. (Q): (Audience) “In terms of flex pools, do you currently have flex pools in place or are you working on establishing one right now?”
(A): (Michele) “We are working on establishing one. The closest thing we have right now would be the housing authority. It’s a similar model.”
6. (Q): (Audience) “Are you guys bringing that to any specialty committees like this?”
(A): (Michele) “So we did introduce that we have a housing symposium, last December. We introduced the model and shared it. The state is encouraging this model, so our director initially liked the idea of that anyway, but the state wants counties to use that, and that’s why they’re sponsoring this academy.”
7. (Q): (Audience) “And you guys are going after the funding to support that?”
(A): (Michele) “So we applied for funding under paths sites that would help set that up, and also the flex pool academy is just, it’s not funding, there is a planning grant attached to it of 150,000.00. But that’s really to support the travel, local meetings, and outreach that we would do here. So yes, there will be more information as that gets granted, and actually, we plan to do that anyway. “
8. (Q): (Virtual Attendee) “How is this accessible to the rural communities?”

(A): (Mark) “If we're talking about rent, that’s going to be through the MCPs, if we're talking about BHSA funding, as we set up the flex pool, they will receive those applications and process them.”

Presentation #3: Population Health Management (PHM)

Presenter: Mark Kimmel, MHSA Coordinator

Description: Kimmel provided an update on the BHSA Innovation project titled Population Health Management (PHM).

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

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):** A member of the CFLC group announced that they are hosting a 4th of July event on July 3rd. Everyone is welcome!
2. **(C):** Johnny from BAIHP, announced they have a back-to-school event on August 2nd. Looking for partners and potential vendors to help pass out backpacks and school supplies.

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 thirteen (13) attendees: four (4) in-person and nine (9) 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.