



CHILDREN'S TREATMENT & RECOVERY SERVICES COMMITTEE April 10, 2025

Attendees: Jennie Sill – KernBHRS, Cristina Castro – KernBHRS, Susie Baker – KernBHRS, Jeff Burdick – BPD, Maria Aleman – KernBHRS, Kassandra Austin – KernBHRS, Ashley Vorhees – CASA, Stuart Shevchenko – KernBHRS, Brenda Story – KernBHRS, Brad Davis – KernBHRS, Rebecca Banke – KHSD, Belinda Vieyra – KernBHRS, Erika Rosales – KernBHRS, Michelle Doucette – Clarvida, Jason Giffard – KernBHRS

Recorder: Jessica Torres

1. Welcome and Introductions

Accomplished.

2. Approval of January 9, 2025, Minutes

Susie Baker

Cristina Castro

3. Public Comment

April is Child Abuse Prevention and Autism Awareness Month

4. CASA Services – Ashley Vorhees

- Ashley is the Executive Director with CASA.
- CASA is a Court Appointed Special Advocate that utilizes volunteers for appointment by the court to help determine the best interest of the youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. This helps support youth who are dependent and delinquent.
- CASA is a nonprofit organization that began operations in 1994.
- To qualify to be a CASA volunteer the individual must be 21 years of age, have a clean driving record, and a clean criminal history, have no conflict of interest and complete an in-depth background check.
- Once CASA volunteers clear the screening process, they must complete a 35-hour training course which will allow them to be assigned to a case under the supervision of CASA.
 - The volunteer training will include:
 - Child Welfare System and Permanency
 - Child Abuse and Neglect
 - Domestic violence, Substance Use and Mental Health
 - Childhood Trauma, Resilience and ACE's
 - Poverty
 - Educational advocacy



- LBGQTQ+ and Cultural Competency
 - Court Report Writing
- The goal of the CASA volunteer is to advocate on the youth's behalf to be reunified with family or permanency.
- Youth who have CASAs are 4 times more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to find a safe, permanent home, less likely to spend three or more years in care, and 50% less likely to re-enter the foster care system.
- CASA is working to expand their services in the outlying areas of Kern County and with language barriers.

5. Department Reports

Children's System of Care (CSOC) Report

- Cassandra Austin is the new supervisor overseeing the Youth Bridge Team.
 - The grant will be sunsetting, and Youth Bridge will be continuing the work.
- Stuart Shevchenko has now moved and supervising the TAY Team.
- CSOC continues to work on the 90-day pre-release which will facilitate warm handoffs of youth to mental health providers. It will also enable mental health services to be billed while the youth are incarcerated.
- Children's System of Care has several evidence-based models:
 - TAY has received fidelity certification for the TIP Model.
 - TFCO was recently recertified.
 - The Parent Child Interactive Therapy and Evidence Based Model is provided by the outpatient team and is starting to accept referrals.
- JPPS will be getting a new trailer provided by probation.
- AB1051 continues, to provide services to youth who are placed in out-of-county STRTPs.

Substance Use Disorder System Report

- Medication assisted treatment is available for youth ages 16 or older with opioid use disorders at the L St location.
- Contingency Management Services are available for youth ages 12-17 with substance use disorders.
- There is residential treatment available for minors who need a higher level of care that is located at Tarzana Treatment Center. Referrals will be submitted to the access line.

6. Items to be brought to the Board

Jeff will share Autism Awareness Month at the next Board meeting.

7. Provider Issues

None Reported.

8. Future Presentations

9. Other

None.

10. Next regular meeting:

July 10, 2025, via TEAMS at 3:30 pm. Meeting adjourned.

Items Distributed:

Minutes for January 9, 2025, regular meeting.