



Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

In-Person Community Forum

July 17, 2023

Westchester Training Room

FOCUS: MHSA Reform

TOTAL MEETING ATTENDANCE: 15	TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES: 14	TOTAL COMPLETION RATE: 93% <i>(percentage of attendees who submitted a survey)</i>
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COMMUNITY FORUM

July 17, 2023 – In-person Community Forum
Total Attendance: 15/ Total Surveys Collected: 14

(Note: participants may select more than 1 answer)

Age Group:		Sexual Orientation:	
0-15	0	Straight/Heterosexual	12
16-25	4	Gay or Lesbian	0
26-59	9	Questioning or Unsure	0
60 or Older	1	Queer	0
Declined/Did not submit a survey	1	Asexual	0
Gender assigned at birth:		Bisexual	1
Male	5	Pansexual	0
Female	8	Another sexual orientation	0
Intersex	0	Declined/Did not submit a survey	2
Declined/Did not submit a survey	2	Race:	
Gender Currently Identified with:		Asian	0
Male (Cis Male)	4	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
Female (Cis Female)	8	Black/African American	1
Transgender/other	0	Latino/Hispanic	5
Genderqueer	0	Tribal/Native American	0
Non-binary	0	White/Caucasian	4
Genderfluid	0	Two or More Races:	4
Questioning or Unsure	0	Declined/Did not submit a survey	1
Other Gender Identity	0	Ethnicity:	
Declined/Did not submit a survey	3	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	1	Middle Eastern	0
None	11	Vietnamese	0
Declined/Did not submit a survey	2	European	1
Veteran Status:		Filipino	0
Yes, I am a veteran	3	Japanese	0
No, I am not a veteran	8	Caribbean	0
Declined/Did not submit a survey	4	Central American	0
Primary Language:		Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano	6
Only English	10	Puerto Rican	1
Only Spanish	0	South American	1
Both English and Spanish	3	Two or More Ethnicities (see below)	0
Another language	0	Declined/Did not submit a survey	6
Declined/Did not submit a survey	2		

Group/Category		Population you feel is most unserved/underserved in the above-mentioned community	
Client/Consumer/Person with Mental Illness	1	Children/Families	4
Family Member of a Client or Person with Mental Illness	2	Transitional Aged Youth (16-25)	4
KernBHRS Staff	4	Older Adults	4
Law Enforcement	0	Homeless or at risk of Homelessness	4
Veteran Services	0	Those in rural Kern areas	1
Senior Services	0	Veterans	1
Education/Schools	1	Those with Substance Use Disorders	4
Community Member	1	Latino/Hispanic	1
County Agency Staff (Not KernBHRS Staff)	1	Asian/Pacific Islander	0
Behavioral Health Provider (Not KernBHRS Staff)	6	Black/African American	2
Medical Care Provider	1	American Indian / Alaska Native	2
Other	1	LGBTQ+	2
Declined/Did not submit a survey	1	Other	0
<i>Describe other:</i>		Declined/Did not submit a survey	1
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	2	Prevention	6
Bakersfield	14	Early Intervention	5
Delano/McFarland	1	Outreach for Recognizing the Early Signs of Mental Illness	7
California City/Mojave/Rosamond	1	Stigma and Discrimination Reduction	5
Wasco/Shafter	1	Access and Linkage to Care	8
Buttonwillow/Lost Hills	1	Peer-based services	6
Oildale	2	Intensive Outpatient Treatment	4
Kern River Valley	2	Declined/Did not submit a survey	3
Tehachapi	1		
Ridgecrest	1		
Taft	1		
Frazier Park/Mountain Communities	1		
Declined/Did not submit a survey	1		

Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns?	
Declined/Did not submit a survey	13
Answered	2
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need more mental health services to obtain stability in individuals. 2. What, if anything, is being created for adults who are unable to care for themselves but not due to a treatable mental illness i.e. dementia or traumatic brain injury? 	

Announcements	
MHSA Community Forum in Spanish July 19 th – KernBHRS Westchester Training Room Open to all Spanish Speakers	September is Suicide Prevention & Recovery from Substance Use Awareness Month September 2023 – Let us know if your agency is having any events
Kern River Valley (KRV) Bridge Connection Resource Fair July 31st – Senior Center in Lake Isabella	“Find Your Anchor” Box Distribution September 2023 – Let us know if your agency would be interested in helping distribute FYA boxes
Ready-Set Back 2 School Multiple dates – See flyer for locations	

PROGRAM & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Program Presentation #1

Presentation: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Education

Presenter: Camden Trapp, MHSA Program Specialist II

Camden Trapp 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 from the audience were recorded.

Presentation: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Reform

Presenter: Dr. Christina Rajlal, Mental Health Services Act Coordinator

Dr. Christina Rajlal presented Governor Newsom proposed MHSA Reform.

Questions from the Audience after the presentation:

1. **Q:** What is the state stating? Are they saying they are going to move this to next year for a vote? Do other counties have the same concern?
A: Every single county is looking at this with a huge question mark. This is really flipping the MHSA model at 180 degrees and how do we prepare for such a big change? A lot of the concerns I am expressing through Kern County are things we are seeing throughout the state. It is going to go to the ballot in March 2024.
2. **Q:** Have you partnered with other housing services?
A: Yes, we are partnered with the housing authority, contract providers, and faith-based organizations to provide services to everyone. We even have a mobile unit partnered with Clinica Sierra Vista that goes into the community to provide medical services to the homeless population in Kern County.
3. **Q:** What can we do to make the state and community more aware of the problem that can arise from the cuts?
A: That is a fantastic question, it is really passing on this information and inviting the community to the MHSA stakeholder meetings.
4. **Q:** What is the purposed budget? Is it going to stay the same and will there be an additional bond?
A: "There is an additional bond that is being presented in tandem with this bill, but it does not utilize or pull-down of mental health services act dollars. It is a separate entity that he [Governor Newsom] is trying to pack together as part of supporting the homeless."
5. **Q:** How can we get involved and do you talk to the governor?
A: The way it works is we have an organization that talks to the governor for us. They represent all the directors across the state of California, and they take our concerns back.

LISTENING SESSION

Presentation: Listening Session

Presenter: Dr. Christina Rajlal, Mental Health Services Act Coordinator

Dr. Christina Rajlal opened the floor to facilitate the listening session.

Questions from the Audience after the presentation:

No questions from the audience were recorded.

MHSA Stakeholder Feedback Forms Received

- 1. Has non-treatable mental illness been addressed? i.e. dementia, traumatic brain injury**
- 2. Great information. My first Stakeholder Meeting.**
- 3. I am interested in receiving Anchor Boxes. BAIHP is interested in becoming an FSP.**
- 4. Would there be a way to have the housing portion have services because otherwise what would be the point?**
- 5. Housing without services is a bad idea. There needs to be funding allocated to ensure people who get housing, stay housed.**
- 6. I am very concerned that the housing is not going to have BH and Life Skill support linked. They need to learn new ways to manage living in housing and overcome barriers.**
- 7. Very Informative (2)**

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 first 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.

ACTION STEPS

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services will continue its commitment to inform, engage, take feedback, and provide outreach to the communities it serves through the provision of MHSA-funded programs and services in collaboration with community organizations and contract service providers throughout Kern County.

In this meeting, MHSA provided an overview of SB-326 which proposes an MHSA Reform.

MHSA recorded a total of **15** attendees during this presentation; the total excludes *MHSA Coordination team members and presenters*.

During the Stakeholder meeting, we had **2** presentations and **0** voting items.

Stakeholders were asked to complete a demographic survey at the end of the presentation. We received **14** out of **15** surveys.

MHSA determined the following action steps/findings after reviewing verbal responses from stakeholders, polling questions, and surveys.

MHSA will:

I. General

- a) MHSA will continue to provide education on MHSA funding and how that impacts the programs and services given to Kern County residents.
- b) MHSA will investigate ways of gaining stakeholder feedback and participation (giveaways, treats, etc.) during the next meetings.
- c) MHSA will continue researching ways of gaining a greater number of client/family, and general public participation during stakeholder meetings.

No further action steps.