



Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

In-Person Community Forum

February 22, 2024

Westchester Training Room

**FOCUS: MHSA Reform Updates, Severe Eating Disorders, and KernBHRS
Employee Wellness Initiative**

TOTAL MEETING ATTENDANCE:	TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES:	TOTAL COMPLETION RATE:
22	19	86% <i>(percentage of attendees who submitted a survey)</i>



COMMUNITY FORUM

February 22, 2024 – In-person Community Forum
Total Attendance: 22 / Total Surveys Collected: 19
(Note: participants may select more than 1 answer)

Age Group:		Sexual Orientation:	
0-15	0	Straight/Heterosexual	12
16-25	2	Gay or Lesbian	0
26-59	12	Questioning or Unsure	0
60 or Older	4	Queer	1
Declined/Did not submit a survey	4	Asexual	1
Gender assigned at birth:		Bisexual	4
Male	8	Pansexual	1
Female	11	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)	7	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
Female (Cis Female)	9	Black/African American	1
Transgender/other	2	Latino/Hispanic	4
Genderqueer	0	Tribal/Native American	1
Non-binary	0	White/Caucasian	10
Genderfluid	0	Two or More Races:	3
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	4	Cambodian	0
Hearing, or difficulty understanding	0	Chinese	0
Mental/Cognitive (excludes behavioral)	1	Eastern European	1
Mobility/Physical	0	Korean	0
Chronic Medical Illness	0	Middle Eastern	0
None	9	Vietnamese	0
Declined/Did not submit a survey	8	European	2
Veteran Status:		Filipino	0
Yes, I am a veteran	0	Japanese	0
No, I am not a veteran	16	Caribbean	0
Declined/Did not submit a survey	6	Central American	0
Primary Language:		Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano	2
Only English	18	Puerto Rican	0
Only Spanish	0	South American	0
Both English and Spanish	1	Two or More Ethnicities (see below)	5
Another language	0	Declined/Did not submit a survey	12
Declined/Did not submit a survey	3	<i>Two or More: not disclosed</i>	

Group/Category		Population you feel is most unserved/underserved in the above-mentioned community	
Client/Consumer/Person with Mental Illness	4	Children/Families	3
Family Member of a Client or Person with Mental Illness	3	Transitional Aged Youth (16-25)	5
KernBHRS Staff	7	Older Adults	5
Law Enforcement	0	Homeless or at risk of Homelessness	6
Veteran Services	0	Those in rural Kern areas	2
Senior Services	0	Veterans	2
Education/Schools	0	Those with Substance Use Disorders	3
Community Member	5	Latino/Hispanic	1
County Agency Staff (Not KernBHRS Staff)	0	Asian/Pacific Islander	2
Behavioral Health Provider (Not KernBHRS Staff)	1	Black/African American	0
Medical Care Provider	1	American Indian / Alaska Native	3
Other	1	LGBTQ+	9
Declined/Did not submit a survey	4	Other	0
<i>Describe other: Mission at Kern</i>		Declined/Did not submit a survey	8
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	9
Bakersfield	19	Early Intervention	9
Delano/McFarland	0	Outreach for Recognizing the Early Signs of Mental Illness	7
California City/Mojave/Rosamond	0	Stigma and Discrimination Reduction	9
Wasco/Shafter	1	Access and Linkage to Care	8
Buttonwillow/Lost Hills	0	Peer-based services	7
Oildale	1	Intensive Outpatient Treatment	5
Kern River Valley	1	Declined/Did not submit a survey	5
Tehachapi	0		
Ridgecrest	0		
Taft	0		
Frazier Park/Mountain Communities	0		
Declined/Did not submit a survey	3		

Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns?	
Declined/Did not submit a survey	20
Answered	2
<p>1. Is CFLC going to close?</p> <p>2. It is important for queer clients to be able to find affirming mental health care providers.</p>	
Announcements	
Supporting our Bearsley Junior High Students Shoes for students in need	4th Annual Spring Gathering Saturday, March 23, 2024 501 40 th Street 11:00 AM – 5:30 PM
CSUB Black History Month Calendar February 2024 Refer to calendar for dates and times	KernBHRS Volunteer Recruitment On-going For more information, contact Cassie at (661) 868-6727 or email CDeras-Coker@KernBHRS.org
Black History Month Parade Saturday, February 24, 2024 It starts at 10:00 AM (21 st & V Street)	PHF Update Address: 702 Workman Street
Black Family Wellness Expo Saturday, March 16, 2024 Lowell Park (800 4 th Street) 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	

PROGRAM & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Program Presentation #1

Presentation: Severe Eating Disorder Monitoring and Consultations Transition to Specialty Service Team (SST)

Presenter: Alissa Lopez, M.A. LPCC

Alissa Lopez gave a detailed presentation about eating disorder services provided by KernBHRS.

Questions from the Audience after the presentation:

1. **Q:** So right now, the program for eating disorders is not funded by MHSA?

A: Correct.

2. **Q:** What would be the plan if MHSA would fund the program?

A: That is a great question. Hopefully we will find out shortly in the next couple of weeks. Realistically, if we cannot fund it with MHSA funds, we will take it back. This is purely an administrative function that my team and I have created because we saw a need.

3. **Q:** So, the program can function without being funded by MHSA?

A: Yes, it can be sustained by the Care Coordination Unit (CCU). However, the state has mandated that anyone who steps in and out of care must pass through the CCU; this can be done on paper, phone call or face-to-face connection. We have experienced a 100% increase in the number of contacts since January 1st. We anticipate another 100% to 200% increase for the next year. This is the reason why it is imperative to have this important piece in the proper place.

Eating Disorder - VOTING ITEM:

<i>Are you in favor of Eating Disorder Program being transitioned to Specialty Service Team (SST)?</i>	
Yes	15 (88%)
No	2 (12 %)
Declined to Answer	0 (0 %)
Total	17 (100%)

Program Presentation #2

Presentation: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Education

Presenter: Camden Trapp, MHSA Program Specialist

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:

- Q:** I heard that the governor is taking away the mental health funding and putting it towards homelessness housing?
A: With the reform that is being proposed, there is a large component that could be redistributed to housing.

Program Presentation #3

Presentation: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Reform

Presenter: Tia Flores, MHSA Program Specialist

Tia Flores presented an update on Governor Newsom's proposed MHSA Reform.

Questions from the Audience after the presentation:

- Q:** Will all prevention funding be cut?
A: In the PEI category, there are 12 different PEI programs that fall under this funding. It is not specific to homeless, but it is our youth and addressing our mental health programs. It will no longer be a funding category. Under the proposed (MHSA – name to be changed to BHSA) category it's 35%, we are trying to see how we can fit those programs under that funding.
- Q:** What does PEI stand for?
A: Prevention and Early Intervention
- Q:** What is the 12,000 beds that's being proposed?
A: That is part of Proposition 1. The focus is on housing.
- Q:** Ok so they still get the money, but the voting will be collected?
A: We will not know all the details until it passes.

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5. **Q:** Will the monies be mostly given to the counties with the most population? Like LA county and San Bernadino? Or will it go by homelessness percentages?
A: It will go by population percentages.
6. **Q:** So, from what I understand, if voted into legislature, it would take effect in 2026? Is there a process to evaluate the current programs in our targeted areas?
A: Correct. They are working on that right now. We have been doing some proactive stuff as well as moving contracts around just in case we know that funding is going to be cut somewhere. If this will pass.
7. **Q/C:** I work for the Senior programs. It is a preventive program which falls under one of the buckets that we still have. With the new reform I'm trying to figure out what's going to happen to them. Many of them, in the little rural pockets, can't take themselves to their appointments that have a lot of medical issues. I am noticing that for the last few years I've worked on this program every single year, there's been something cut.
A: The timeline shows when it will be ready to make changes after the bill passes.
8. **Q:** Can you email this Power point?
A: Yes, please leave your emails on the sign out sheet at the front.
9. **Q:** How much of a piece of permanent housing is going to be the case? Is case management mental health portion of that? Usually when I understand permanent supportive housing includes some kind of case management or and or mental health. And so, I was wondering, since we're taking money and bringing it there, how much of?
A: As of right now, we are not sure what will be included but most of the focus is going to be housing and not preventative services.
10. **Q:** What about the removal of children from their homes due to untreated mental illness? They are already stressed about the foster care system, are the kids going to be put in foster care? Is there going to be a new facility built or are they going to the Shalimar facility?
A: No that was what we did prior trying to prevent that from happening to keep them in the home and not take them out.
11. **Q:** Is the intention for you guys to house all the public support in house through your Program or to contract it out?
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A: That just depends on if the funding allows us to either build new facilities or revamp old motels or exiting buildings.

12.Q: So potentially you guys can take bids to contract that out and then ask questions about your program then and then award out to those who have the best plan for visualizing?

A: Yeah, I don't know. I'm not sure how they're going to work that out.

13.Q: Are LA county, Orange County, San Diego County, or larger counties getting most of the money? So, kern county won't get as much?

A: It will be based on population and not homelessness. It will still be the 1%. There's going to be that \$6 billion bond that will go be allocated for housing as well, but that will be dispersed throughout the counties, and then our portion will still be based on our population. I know that you're going to start our census too, I think next week through the week after because they're going to be doing the homeless.

14.C: Right. The bond may do that. I'm not exactly sure how the state's going to divvy up the bond money as far as for the housing. But I know for our money from the if it changes to BSA, we'll be population.

Program Presentation #4

Presentation: KernBHRS Employee Wellness Initiative

Presenter: Tia Flores, MHSA Program Specialist

Tia Flores provided information about the KernBHRS Employee Wellness Initiative.

Questions from the Audience after the presentation:

No questions from the audience were recorded.

Employee Wellness Initiative - VOTING ITEM:

<i>Are you in favor of spending (MHSA) funds for the Employee Wellness Initiative?</i>	
Yes	14 (74%)
No	3 (16 %)
Declined to Answer	2 (10 %)
Total	17 (100%)

LISTENING SESSION

Presentation: Listening Session

Presenter: Tia Flores, MHSA Program Specialist

Tia Flores opened the floor to facilitate the listening session.

Questions from the Audience after the presentation:

- 1. Q: Correct, right. We don't know anything. We'll know as soon as it passes or doesn't pass, and then we'll have two years to get everything implemented and started.**
- A: I do know that there have been some stuff that has moved contracts like the CFLC, and they have done some preventative. I just know that they are meeting and discussing that.**

MHSA Stakeholder Feedback Forms Received

- 1. Great presentation! I would appreciate greater clarity on how the County will evaluate and determine which programs will stay.**
- 2. Thank you for all the important information I received today. Please email me the address of the 2 new Psych Facilities being built. Thank you.**
- 3. Great work. Difficult questions and heightened emotions but you guys did well.**

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.

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 and updates on legislative and policy changes 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 clients/ family, and public participation during stakeholder meetings.

No further action steps.