

About Our Members

Each member of the Board of Supervisors appoints three county residents to represent their District and the Chair of the Board of Supervisors also appoints a staff representative from their office. Supervisors are asked to appoint members in three category types: consumer or family member, professional, and public interest, and attempt to make appointments that reflect the diverse ethnic and cultural background of their District.

The Behavioral Health Board must comply with Welfare & Institutes Code Section 5604(a), which requires: 1) Membership reflect the ethnic diversity of the client population in the county; and 2) Membership of the Board must be 50% consumers or the parents, spouses, siblings, or adult children of consumers, who are receiving or have received mental health services. At least 20% of the total membership shall be consumers and at least 20% shall be a parent, spouse, sibling, or adult child of a consumer.

2003 Executive Committee

Chair

VIKKI DEL PELLEGRINO

District 5 ~ Supervisor Parra

As a Kern County Deputy District Attorney for over a decade, Ms. Del Pellegrino has focused on crimes within the family including homicide, domestic violence, and child sexual assault and abuse. Additionally, she has served as the lead attorney in cases involving mental health issues such as competency to stand trial and insanity as well as civil commitments of sexually violent predators and mentally disordered offenders. Since their inception in 1999, Ms. Del Pellegrino has served as lead prosecutor for Homeless Court and Veteran's Stand Down. Currently, Ms. Del Pellegrino is the designated prosecutor for the Bakersfield City School's Attendance Enhancement Program and is a key component in an inter-disciplinary team whose goal is truancy reduction. In addition to the Behavioral Health Board, Ms. Del Pellegrino's community commitments include the Mentally Ill Crime Reduction Project, PAC Mentor program and Teen Court. Ms. Del Pellegrino served as chair of the Criminal Justice Services and the Nominating & Recruitment committees.

Vice Chair

BILL RECTOR

District 5 ~ Supervisor Parra

Mr. Rector has been employed with the Bakersfield Police Department since 1982 and is currently the Assistant Chief. Assistant Chief Rector developed an interest in mental health issues through his work experiences at the police department and obtained a greater knowledge of mental health issues and problems through his education in family counseling; he also has a strong interest in mental health issues related to children and our aging adult population. Assistant Chief Rector serves as chair of the Children's Treatment & Recovery Services and 2003 Annual Report committees, and was also the chair of the 2000, 2001, and 2002 Annual Report committees.

Secretary

JANICE LUNDY

District 4 ~ Supervisor Watson

Ms. Lundy is currently a second grade teacher in the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District. Following the death of her son, Eric, in a collision with a drunk driver, she served as president and administrator of the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving from 1985-1990. She has also been involved with Committee Action Against Drugs and Alcohol, the Kern County Probation Department's Victim/Witness Auxiliary, and served on the Board of Directors of STEPS. Ms. Lundy has been a member of the Board for three years, having first served on the Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board, and serves as chair of the Prevention Services Committee.

Parliamentarian

JOE CIRIELLO

District 1 ~ Supervisor McQuiston

Mr. Ciriello operates a small business in Lake Isabella and became interested in behavioral health issues 13 years ago as a consumer in the system. He served on the Criminal Justice Services, Quality Management, and the 2002 Annual Report Committees. Mr. Ciriello elected to not seek reappointment when his term expired at the end of 2003, after serving the Mental Health Department on various boards since 1998, including the Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board.

JERRY WALLACE

District 1 ~ Supervisor McQuiston

Mr. Wallace is a clinical pharmacist and received his education at UC, Berkeley; the University of the Pacific; the University of California, at San Francisco Medical Center; and is an adjunct professor for the University of the Pacific School of Pharmacy. Mr. Wallace is a life-long resident of Kern County and lives in the north Bakersfield area with his wife and two children. As a member of the Board he served as chair in 2001 and 2002, was chair of the Adult Treatment & Recovery Services Committee, and served on the 2001 Annual Report Committee. Mr. Wallace elected to not seek reappointment when his term expired at the end of 2003, after serving the Mental Health Department on various boards since 1995, including the Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board.

General Members

ALISHA CASTER

District 1 ~ Supervisor McQuiston

Ms. Caster resides in Ridgecrest and has successfully facilitated an 18-month project grant for the non-profit Creating Healthy Lives. Creating Healthy Lives dealt with community education and awareness about mental health, information and referral, and to support and help build the Ridgecrest chapter of kCAN. In 2003 Creating Healthy Lives won the Kern County Mental Health Organization of the Year award at the Academy Awards celebration, held in recognition of May is Mental Health Month. Beginning in 2004 she will begin work for the non-profit Desert Area Resources and Training (DART) in Ridgecrest. She has been out of school for two years and enjoys the opportunities and personal rewards that accompany working with populations that have special needs.

EUGENE COUTURE, PHD

District 4 ~ Supervisor Watson

Dr. Couture is a Clinical Neuropsychologist in private practice in Bakersfield. He is involved in rehabilitation with head injured adults, treatment of persons with pain disorders, treatment of veterans, and forensic evaluation. With his associate, Dr. Ana Chiles, he also provides services in Spanish and Portuguese. He has been in Bakersfield for nineteen years and lives with his wife and three children. Dr. Couture served as co-chair on the Criminal Justice Services Committee.

LAURIE FLOHR

District 4 ~ Supervisor Watson

Ms. Flohr is the parent of a three-year-old special needs child and has spent considerable time working with the myriad of systems, programs, insurance companies, medical professions, vendors, and employees necessary to receive services for her daughter.

GREGORY GOLDSTEIN

District 2 ~ Supervisor Maben

Mr. Goldstein is employed with the Department of Defense and is stationed at Edwards Air Force Base. He works in the prevention arena and worked in the past with the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Mr. Goldstein is involved in community prevention and mentoring efforts in the eastern portion of Kern County. Mr. Goldstein, as a reservist, has been activated and will report to Baghdad.

JACOB HUDSON

District 2 ~ Supervisor Maben

Mr. Hudson is a ten year resident of Tehachapi and has many relatives in the area. He is one of the youngest members of the Board, enjoys horseback riding and motocross, and also volunteers with the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the Air Force. He enjoys being on the Board and expanding his knowledge of the mental health system. Mr. Hudson serves on the Housing Services and Criminal Justices Services committees.

PERCY ROBINSON

District 3 ~ Supervisor Patrick

The Board of Supervisors first appointed Mr. Robinson to the Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board. Now as a member of the Behavioral Health Board, he serves on the Children's Treatment & Recovery Services and the 2002 and 2003 Annual Report committees. Mr. Robinson has also been appointed to the Miscellaneous Departments Civil Service Board by the Bakersfield City Council and the Budget Advisory Committee for the Bakersfield City School District. Mr. Robinson is the Food Service Manager for Golden State and Central Valley MCCF in McFarland. He has been with his wife for 19 years and has two daughters.

ELIZABETH SVITENKO

District 2 ~ Supervisor Maben

Ms. Svitenko moved to Kern County from San Diego, where she worked as a marketing manager for a long-term adolescent psychiatric facility. She became personally involved with the Kern County Mental Health System of Care after her son was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder in 1994.

ETHEL NONA TOLENTINO

District 3 ~ Supervisor Patrick

Ms. Tolentino is the current director of the Long Term Care Services/Ombudsman Program under the Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance. Ms. Tolentino has long been active in services for children, adults, and aging adults in the community.

ESTHER TORRES

District 5 ~ Supervisor Parra

Mrs. Torres is Chief of Staff to Supervisor Pete Parra and is serving on the Kern County Behavioral Health Board representing the Board of Supervisors and is also a member of the Criminal Justice Services Committee. A graduate of the University of Phoenix, Mrs. Torres currently serves on the Kern County Fair Board, California State University Hispanic Excellence Scholarship Foundation, and the Farmworker Institute for Education and Leadership Development. Mrs. Torres is a lifelong resident of Bakersfield, married, and has two adult children.

FRANK WELCOME

District 3 ~ Supervisor Patrick

Mr. Welcome served on the Board since December 2001 and served as the chair of the Housing Services Committee, the co-chair of the Adult Treatment & Recovery Services Committee, and also served on the Nomination & Recruitment and 2002 and 2003 Annual Report committees. Mr. Welcome is a consumer representative and has received recognition and awards for his involvement in the rights and advancement of mental health consumers.

WALTER WILLIAMS

District 5 ~ Supervisor Parra

Mr. Williams works with the Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance and is experienced in working with persons who are homeless, substance abusers, and mentally ill. He has served in various capacities on the Homeless Collaborative, Southeast Partnership, Healthy Start, Homeless Court, and the Homeless Community Committee.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD COMMITTEE ROSTER

September 2003

COMMITTEE	BOARD MEMBERS
ADULT TREATMENT & RECOVERY SERVICES	Chair: Jerry Wallace Frank Welcome Liaison: Brad Cloud
CHILDREN'S TREATMENT & RECOVERY SERVICES	Chair: Bill Rector Percy Robinson Liaison: Deanna Cloud
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES	Chair: Vikki Del Pellegrino Eugene Couture Joe Ciriello Esther Torres Jacob Hudson Liaison: Jim Waterman
HOUSING SERVICES	Chair: Frank Welcome Jacob Hudson Liaison: Carol Bowman
LEGAL MANDATES & BOARD BY-LAWS	Chair: Jerry Wallace Liaisons: Nieves Rubio and Diane Koditek
PREVENTION SERVICES	Chair: Jan Lundy Walter Williams Liaison: Lily Alvarez
QUALITY MANAGEMENT	Chair: Alisha Caster (Vacant position) Liaison: Fred Hawley
NOMINATING & RECRUITMENT	Chair: Vikki Del Pellegrino Esther Torres Alisha Caster Frank Welcome Liaison: Cindy Coe
ANNUAL REPORT	Chair: Bill Rector Eugene Couture Percy Robinson Frank Welcome Liaisons: Cindy Coe, Kevin Beer, Randy Classen

MISSION STATEMENTS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

The mission of the Behavioral Health Board of Kern County shall be to champion the rights of individuals suffering a mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, and/or addiction. The Board shall also act in an advocacy role for individuals suffering a mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, and/or addiction in order to identify special needs, develop strategies to meet those needs, and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for action. Further, this Board shall attempt to maximize access to services and programs for all individuals suffering a mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, and/or addiction. This Board will work in concert with and support the overall mission of the Kern County Mental Health Department.

ADULT TREATMENT & RECOVERY SERVICES

The Adult Treatment & Recovery Services Committee provides a forum for study and discussion of issues related to adults seeking services. It provides analysis and feedback to the Behavioral Health Board and Mental Health Department as well as providing the Board of Supervisors with information and perspective on issues impacting mental health services.

CHILDREN'S TREATMENT & RECOVERY SERVICES

In their advocacy role for children and families the Mission of the Children's Treatment & Recovery Services Committee shall be to support the Kern County Children's System of Care as they continue to develop and implement a comprehensive, effective, community-based behavioral health service delivery system which improves the lives of children and families.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

The role of the Criminal Justice Services Committee is to examine the interaction and mutual impact between mental health and substance abuse consumers with the criminal justice system. This committee will identify both strengths and needed improvements through information exchange, discussion and analysis, and make recommendations to the Behavioral Health Board and Mental Health System of Care.

HOUSING SERVICES

The mission of the Committee on Housing and Homelessness is to assist the Behavioral Health Board in assessing and understanding all areas of housing and housing-related needs of Kern County mental health consumers; to advise the Board on actions related to housing that it may recommend on behalf of consumers; and to promote solutions to the identified housing needs.

PREVENTION SERVICES

The Prevention Services Committee will identify needed improvements in the System of Care, promote research-based practices for prevention, and propose solutions that will improve the quality and availability of primary prevention services to the residents of Kern County.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The mission of the System Quality Improvement Committee (Quality Management) is to assure the Kern County Mental Health System of Care has processes in place to provide the most effective, culturally appropriate, highest quality combination of treatment and support to persons with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, and/or addiction and to assure that expected recovery outcomes are met.

**THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD WOULD LIKE TO
ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE
FOLLOWING MENTAL HEALTH STAFF**

2003 Annual Report Committee

Pictures ~ Randy Classen

Graphs ~ Kevin Beer

Format & publication ~ Cindy Coe



Adult Treatment & Recovery Services Committee

Committee liaison ~ Dr. Brad Cloud

Committee support ~ Kathy Gilmore



Children's Treatment & Recovery Services Committee

Committee liaison ~ Deanna Cloud

Committee support ~ Lisa Shelley



Criminal Justice Services Committee

Committee liaison ~ Dr. Jim Waterman

Committee support ~ Liz Arias



Housing Services Committee

Committee consultant ~ Gene St. Amand

Committee support ~ Carol Bowman

Prevention Services Committee

Committee liaison ~ Lily Alvarez

Committee support ~ Alesha Palmer



Quality Management Committee

Committee liaison ~ Fred Hawley

Committee support ~ Monica Hall