

MISSION Statement

Working together to achieve hope, healing and a meaningful life in the community.

VISION Statement

People with mental illness and addictions recover to achieve their hopes and dreams, enjoy opportunities to learn, work, and contribute to their community.

VALUES Statements

Hope, Healing, Community, Authority

We honor the potential in everyone

We value the whole person – mind, body and spirit

We focus on the person, not the illness

We embrace diversity

We acknowledge that relapse is not a personal failure

We recognize authority over our lives empowers us to make choices, solve problems and plan for the future



FAMILY ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Leslie Rich, BSP
KCMH Family Advocate
661-635-2990

P.O. Box 1000
Bakersfield, CA 93302

FAX 661-635-2980

Crisis Hotline 1-800-991-5272
<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/KCMH>



Commission on Accreditation
of Rehabilitation Facilities

Kern County Mental Health has been accredited by CARF for the following programs: Mental Health Programs- Case Management; Children and Adolescents-Case Management & Crisis Stabilization; Integrated Alcohol & Other Drugs-Case Management & Children & Adolescents-Case Management; Employment Services-Community employment Services

The logo for the Kern County Mental Health Department, featuring a stylized sun and two figures holding hands, set against a background of a grassy hill with orange flowers under a blue sky with white clouds. The logo is enclosed in a white circle with a yellow border, which is itself set within a larger blue circle with a yellow border.

Kern County Mental Health Department
*Working together toward
Hope, Recovery and Independence*

FAMILY ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Outreach Services



Kern County Mental Health provides outreach services to individuals who are either unable or unwilling to ask for help for themselves.

These individuals often live with family members who serve as the primary care providers for most of their lives. Numerous situations arise when caregivers can no longer meet the needs for their family member and require assistance getting appropriate care.

Many of these individuals may be at risk of dangerousness to themselves or their family members, but do not meet the legal criteria for involuntary treatment, and therefore remain in the home and at risk.

Outreach efforts can

- ◆ Reduce the inappropriate and/or over-utilization of law enforcement services during non-crisis situations
- ◆ Help reduce involuntary hospitalizations
- ◆ Assist with gaining access to mental health services and/or other resources.

If you have a family member or know someone who needs help, please call the Family Advocate at

661-635-2990

If your family member is experiencing a crisis, please call the 24 hour Crisis Hotline at

1-800-991-5272



Family Advocacy

The Kern County Family Advocate provides assistance to family members of individuals with mental illness, and/or substance abuse.

The Family Advocate serves as a liaison between service providers and the family or support persons.

Our focus is to empower the family members through advocacy, education, and linkage to family centered resources. Family involvement and partnership of client and mental health services facilitates the pursuit of wellness, recovery, and resilience.

The Family Advocate can:

- ◆ Encourage family participation in treatment direction or discussion.
- ◆ Help families navigate the Mental Health System of Care.
- ◆ Identify safety concerns posed by belonging to a family affected by mental illness.
- ◆ Receive and resolve family complaints and concerns regarding mental health services in Kern County.
- ◆ Encourage families to join the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).
- ◆ Assist families in searching for appropriate services for themselves as supporters.
- ◆ Advocate for families as a group and facilitate improved communication with service providers
- ◆ Provide written resources and referral to community resources available to help family members to cope and gain helpful information.



OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES



National Alliance on Mental Illness
Kern County Chapter Telephone:
(661) 868-5061 Message Line