

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Public Meeting Protocol and Instructions for Providing Public Comment during Board Meetings due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

On March 18, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.17.20-N-29-20-EO.pdf>), which includes a waiver of Brown Act provisions requiring physical presence of the Board members or the public to attend and participate at Board meetings in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The County of Kern hereby provides notice that as a result of the declared federal, state, and local emergencies due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in light of the Governor's order, **this Behavioral Health Board meeting will not be physically open to the public**. You may observe the meeting and address the Board via email or telephonically as outlined below. Consistent with the Executive Order, Board members may elect to attend the meeting telephonically and to participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were physically present.

For Contractors & External Users

A Zoom meeting can be joined by anyone invited, even if they do not have Zoom installed.

A very brief and helpful tutorial on how to join a Zooms Meeting without having Zoom installed can be found at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193>

If you do not have Zoom and/or the ability to join via a web browser, the invite for the Zooms Meeting also includes a call-in number with a conference code (**The call-in information is for this Behavioral Health meeting is: 1-669-900-6833 entering conference ID# 89467426710#**).

Based on guidance from the California Governor's Office and Department of Public Health, as well as the County Health Officer, in order to minimize the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus, please do the following:

1. The preferred option for commenting on a specific agenda item or for providing general public comment under Public Presentations is to submit your comment via email to tlindsey@kernbhhs.org no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the Board meeting. Please include your name and clearly indicate the agenda item you wish to address.
2. Alternatively, you may comment by calling (661) 868-6641 to leave a voicemail of no more than two minutes in length, no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the Board meeting. Please state and spell your name at the beginning of your message and clearly indicate the agenda item you wish to address.
3. Written comments may also be mailed to **Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, PO Box 1000, Bakersfield, CA 93302, ATTN: Tracy Lynch**. Please specify to which agenda item your comment relates.

All public comments received by email, written letters or voicemail are provided to all Board members and applicable staff, for review and consideration by the Board prior to taking action on any matters listed on the agenda and are incorporated into the official record of the Board meeting.