



BEHAVIORAL  
**HEALTH & RECOVERY**  
SERVICES



# FAMILY ADVOCACY

KERN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL **HEALTH & RECOVERY** SERVICES

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The Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services **Family Advocate** provides **assistance to family members and support persons** of individuals with mental illness, and/or substance abuse.

Our focus is to empower the family members through advocacy, education, and linkage to family centered resources.

### **The Family Advocate can:**

- Encourage family involvement and participation in treatment direction or discussion, as well as partnership of client and mental health services facilitating the pursuit of wellness, recovery, and resilience.
- Educate treatment providers and families regarding mental health law, community support and mental health resources, engagement and integration strategies for family members in the recovery process.
- Serve as a liaison between service providers and the family or support person.
- Assist families and team members with navigating the mental health system of care.
- Advocate for family as a group within the mental health system, identifying and bridging gaps in services, as well as facilitating improved communication with service providers.
- Represent family members interest on county and state-wide taskforces.
- Maintain collaborative relationships with family support groups and family resources, such as NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).
- 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).
- Provide written resources and referral to community resources available to help family members to cope and gain helpful information.

### **The Family Advocate cannot:**

- Provide therapy services needed by an individual or by family members.
- Release confidential information to family members without the client's consent
- Make decisions for family members.
- Force a family member receiving services to do anything against his or her will.



## 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 and cultural competence

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

KERN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES

Call us at **844-360-8250**

Leslie Rich, MSW  
KernBHRS Family Advocate

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 1000  
Bakersfield, CA 93312

**Crisis Hotline: 800-991-5272**

**[www.KernBHRS.org](http://www.KernBHRS.org)**

## Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

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

