

TBS Decision-Maker Meeting  
Administrators Technical Assistance Committee  
Kern County Network for Children  
June 25, 2009

**Attendees:** Bethany Christman, Assistant Director, Kern County Department of Human Services; Deanna Cloud, Children's System of Care Administrator, Kern County Mental Health; Tom Corson, Executive Director, Kern County Network for Children; Bill Dickinson, Kern County Probation Department; Sarah Gutierrez, Mental Health Recovery Specialist, Kern County Mental Health; Pam Holiwell, Kern County Department of Human Services; Susan Lerude, Kern County Probation Department; John Lindsey, Assistant Superintendent, Kern County Superintendent of Schools; Pat Perales, Kern County Department of Human Services; Steve Sanders, Division Administrator, Kern County Superintendent of Schools; Judge Jon Stuebbe, Juvenile Court.

**Overview of TBS: presented by Jana Todd, JDT Consultants, Inc.**

**Who is eligible for TBS under the Emily Q settlement?**

- Emily Q class members: Children and youth under the age of 21 with full-scope Medi-Cal benefits and receiving Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis Treatment (EPSDT) mental health services who:
  1. are placed in *or* being considered for Rate Classification Level (RCL) 12 or higher, or
  2. have received a psychiatric hospitalization in the past 24 months, or
  3. are being considered for a psychiatric hospitalization.

**Dashboard data: reach 4% benchmark by December 2010**

- Sanctions and penalties against state and county will ensue if goal is not met.

**Discussion**

- Are the children and youth in Kern County who are Emily Q class members and who would benefit from TBS, receiving TBS?  
Some are receiving TBS but other youth could benefit from TBS as well.
- Are the children and youth who get TBS experiencing the intended benefits?  
The majority of youth who receive TBS have benefited from the services. In few cases, some families have found this service intrusive and prefer alternative services that the Children's System of Care of the Department of Human Services offers.
- What alternatives to TBS are being provided in the county.  
Stakeholders noted several alternatives that have been successful:
  - a. MHSA Wraparound services
  - b. Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC)
  - c. Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

- d. Wraparound 163
- e. Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
- f. Multi-agency Integrates Services Team (MIST)
- g. Other intensive one-on-one services

It was also noted that the Children's System of Care provides intensified mental health services that are successful such as increasing rehabilitation/counseling services to youth.

- **What can be done to improve the use of TBS and/or alternative behavioral support services in the county?**
  1. In some cases, the intensified mental health services may be replaced by TBS.
  2. Increase training for mental health providers regarding TBS assessments, treatment plans, and appropriate interventions
  3. Monitor high risk youth to ensure appropriate services are being offered/provided.