



MINUTES

Date: 24 February 2022

Time: 9:30-10:30 AM

Location: Zoom ([Recording](#))

Welcome & Introductions

Several community members and agency representatives introduced themselves including:

- Jake Lopez, the new field representative from Congressman Kevin McCarthy's office
- Jan Lemucchi representing the Independent Living Center of Kern County as well as the Aging Disability Resource Connection
- Kathleen Weinstein representing Kern Fire Safe Council, Meals on Wheels, and the Mountain Communities Chamber of Commerce
- Rick of the Ridge Route Museum and the Mountain Memories Association
- Jennifer Williamson from Clinica Sierra Vista Behavioral Health Clinic

Presentation: Safe Surrender Month, Paula De La Riva

- Paula De La Riva of First 5 Kern explained the Safe Surrender program to raise awareness during Safe Surrender Month. Safe Surrender allows a safe place for a new parent to surrender their baby within 72 hours of giving birth, protecting the parent(s) from legal consequences and maintaining their confidentiality.
- A parent can call 1.877.BABYSAF for assistance or surrender the baby at any public or private hospital or city/county fire station – wherever this logo is posted:



- Matching bracelets are given to the baby and parent so that the parent may reclaim the baby within 14 days by coming back to the surrender site or calling 1.877.BABYSAF. In the meantime, the hospital/fire station staff will contact the county child welfare agency for immediate foster placement as well as medical evaluation.
- 1 baby in Kern County has already been saved in 2022 through this program.

Presentation: Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance (GBLA), Kassie Mullican

- Kassie Mullican, Marketing and Communications Coordinator (kmullican@gbla.org, 661.326.5467) gave a General Services overview including GBLA's 9 units:

1. Children and Families - Guardianship programs for caregivers and grandparents
 2. Civil Rights - April is Fair Housing Month and GBLA will be hosting their annual conference
 3. Domestic Violence - DV Reduction & Immigrant Victims projects help with restraining orders and court representation
 4. Health and Public Benefits - Kern Health Consumer Center helps with things such as Medi-Cal denials or billing issues, and the Public Benefits Unit does the same with CalFresh
 5. Homelessness - Community Homeless Law Center includes removing legal barriers and case management services to help homeless residents gain permanent housing
 6. Housing - Landlord Tenant Assistance Center & Sargent Shriver Housing Project, including eviction defense
 7. Long Term Care Ombudsman - an advocate for long-term care residents and families
 8. Mobilehome Advocacy Project - specialized legal services for mobile home residents
 9. Volunteer Attorney Program - pro bono attorneys assist with other unit issues
- All services are provided regardless of immigration status and many services are now provided remotely via Zoom, DocuSign, and other remote services.
 - County residents in need can call the main intake line at 661.325.5943.

Roundtable: Partner Updates/Events

- Pine Mountain Club mobile vaccine clinic had to be rescheduled for March 18th, 10-3pm.
- First 5 Kern is sponsoring a conference on March 30 to raise awareness about adverse childhood experiences in our communities. Registration is free and now open:
<https://www.resilientkern.org/aces-aware/aces-conference/>
- Additionally, First 5 Kern is open for Community Event Support requests. Details here:
<https://www.first5kern.org/community-event-support/>
- Kern Fire Safe Council will be rolling out an interactive program in some local schools to help kids be more fire aware. You can request more info at info@kernfiresafecouncil.org
- Adventist Health shared the Children's Mobile Immunization Clinic schedule for March 2022. Info can be requested at 661.869.6740.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 24 at 9:30 a.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87171696136?pwd=VnpaRk5iZVdsSnRmL0JoVW41Nk91UT09>

Meeting ID: 871 7169 6136 Passcode: MtnComm

One tap mobile: +17207072699,,87171696136#,,, *5940816# US (Denver)

Participating Agencies

El Tejon Unified School District

El Tejon Middle School

Clinica Sierra Vista Behavioral Health

Adventist Health - Children's Mobile Immunization Program

Kern County Veterans Department

Kern County Aging & Adult Services - HICAP

Kern County Aging & Adult Services - Health Promotion for Seniors

Kern County Public Health

Assemblyman Vince Fong's Office

Independent Living Center of Kern County

Community Connection for Child Care

Nurse-Family Partnership

Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance

California Telephone Access Program

First 5 Kern

Representative Kevin McCarthy's Office

Kern Fire Safe Council

Meals on Wheels

Mountain Communities Chamber of Commerce

Ridge Route Museum

Mountain Memories Association

Mountain Communities Family Resource Center