

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

MINUTES

April 8, 2019
3600 Union Drive
Lincoln, NE
10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Janak, Butler County; Dennis Byars, Gage County; Gale Pohlmann, Jefferson County; Jim Erickson, Johnson County; Jennifer Brinkman, Lancaster County; Dean Speth, Otoe County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Janet Henning, Saline County; Ken Schmieding, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County; Bill Bamesberger, York County

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Larry Holtzman, Nemaha County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; Doris Karloff, Saunders County

OTHERS PRESENT: C.J. Johnson, Tami DeShon, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Gretchen Mills, Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Paul Van De Water, and Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Byars noted the Open Meetings Act information is posted in the meeting room. Notification of this meeting and information regarding availability of the agenda was provided through a legal notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Byars at 10:35, followed by roll call.

Roll Call: Present: Butler County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Fillmore County, Nemaha County, Polk County, Saunders County

Johnson pointed out that revised agendas were provided which include an additional contract with the Division of Behavioral Health for the provision of Mental Health First Aid Training. Janak made a motion, seconded by Bamesberger, to approve the revised agenda.

Roll Call: Yes: Butler County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Fillmore County, Nemaha County, Polk County, Saunders County

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Election – BHAC Representative: Janak agreed to serve as the Board representative for the BHAC for 2019. Krueger made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve Janak for that position.

Roll Call: Yes: Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Fillmore County, Nemaha County, Polk County, Saunders County

Abstain: Butler County

Motion carried.

Regional Governing Board Minutes: Henning, made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to approve the Minutes of the March 11, 2019, meeting. There was no discussion.

Roll Call: Yes: Butler County, Gage County, Johnson County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Fillmore County, Nemaha County, Polk County, Saunders County

Abstain: Jefferson County, Lancaster County

Motion carried.

Fiscal/Financial Report: Van De Water presented the financial report through February reviewing revenue and expenditures and providing rationale for areas where spending exceeds budget expectations. In most cases the expenditures that are over-budget are one-time expenses or are incurred early in the fiscal year. With 66.7 percent of the fiscal year completed, the Regional budget stood at 60.82 percent, approximately 5.8 percent under budget. Van De Water noted that May is a three-payroll month which will result in increased expenditures for the month. Pohlman made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the Financial Report as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Butler County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Fillmore County, Nemaha County, Polk County, Saunders County

Motion carried.

Regional Budget Plan: Johnson presented the Regional Budget Plan that will be submitted to the Division of Behavioral Health. The document (attached) includes a summary as well as a list of each provider agency and their anticipated state allocation. Johnson drew the Board's attention to the following:

- Bridge Behavioral Health (BBH): BBH has experienced a decrease in usage for its intermediate residential program with a projected \$100,000 that will not be drawn down. The Region will recommend that \$60,000 be placed in an unallocated line item to be used to purchase over-produced units.
- Blue Valley Behavioral Health (BVBH) receives \$58,000 to provide mental health services in schools in a program known as intensive youth treatment services (IYTS). In the past several years, few youth eligible for Region funding were served; thus the majority of funds are paid through Capacity Access Guarantee (CAG) and make the cost per unit excessive. These dollars will be pulled out of BVBH's contract and placed in an unallocated line item for children's outpatient services. Tyerman-Harper will work with Day, the Executive Director of BVBH, to determine if the program can be reconfigured to draw these funds down differently. Efforts will be made to keep these funds in the rural area and in children's services. Johnson may bring this item back to the Board in June for further consideration.
- The State's cost model study revealed that the Region has been paying \$94.35 per unit while the actual cost of providing outpatient services is \$123.79. Prior to the cost model study there had not been a statewide

established rate for outpatient services. Starting in FY20, Regions are required to use the State's identified rates for outpatient services. Unfortunately, no new funds were allocated to the Region so that capacity could be maintained at the new rates. The following strategies for maintaining as much capacity as possible have been implemented:

- The Region looked at capacity utilization and is electing to purchase only the original capacity if an agency overproduced, and to purchase a lower capacity if an agency underproduced.
- BVBH and HopeSpoke receive CAG funding for outpatient services. Capacity at these agencies will remain the same but the funds will be realigned between FFS/CAG; FFS will increase and CAG will decrease.
- Lincoln Medical Education Partnership (LMEP) is no longer going to contract with Region V for funding for outpatient services. The \$90,000 that had been allocated to LMEP will be used to help offset the impact of the DBH's rate increases.

Other considerations:

- The system impact is that approximately \$50,000 or 530 of outpatient hourly units between CenterPointe and LFS will be lost in addition to the capacity provided by LMEP which included outpatient and approximately 130 substance use assessments.
- The Division has proposed a rate of \$245 for Mental Health Assessments but has delayed implementation. Additional outpatient capacity will be lost if DBH moves to this rate for MH Assessment as it will be a change of \$94.35 per hour to \$245 per hour with no additional funding to the Region to provide for the rate increase.

Henning, made a motion, seconded by Pohlman, to approve the Regional Budget Plan as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Butler County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Fillmore County, Nemaha County, Polk County, Saunders County

Motion carried.

County Contributions: Johnson reported that the State's initial appropriations bill included an additional 2.8 million to offset costs of the rate increases. Also, on the assumption that Medicaid expansion would take place, the Allocations Committee assumed a cost savings of 1.8 million for the upcoming fiscal year and 4.2 million for the next fiscal year. Medicaid expansion is now scheduled to be implemented no sooner than October 2020. Johnson and other Regional Administrators testified at the Appropriations Committee asking them to not cut funds until it is clear what the impact of Medicaid expansion will be. The request for County Contributions is based on the "worst case scenario." Johnson wanted County representatives to be able to take this information to their Counties as they will soon be involved in budget planning. This would be an increase of 7.56 percent; however there has not been an increase in County Contributions for the past three years. Bamesberger made a motion, seconded by Henning to approve County Contributions as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Butler County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

No: Lancaster County

Absent: Fillmore County, Nemaha County, Polk County, Saunders County

Motion carried.

Contracts/ Contract Amendments:

April Contract Shifts: Johnson reminded the Board that the Division has allowed limited ability to do contract shifts. The April shifts are due to the State April 20, so were not available for this April meeting. Johnson asked for a motion giving Region V administration approval to make Region V recommended and provider requested shifts. These shifts will be on the May agenda for Board ratification. Janak made a motion, seconded by Pohlman, to provide the Region with authority to make any network provider requested or Region recommended contract shifts in April as necessary.

Roll Call: Yes: Butler County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Fillmore County, Nemaha County, Polk County, Saunders County

Motion carried.

Educational Service Unit (ESU) Contract: This contract in the amount of \$56,773 to ESU 6 will provide funding for a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner to work with students diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance. The System of Care grant is the source of funding for this contract. ESU 6 further agrees to work with ESU 4 to provide the same services in their service area. Caverzagie made a motion, seconded by Erickson, to approve the contract with ESU 6 as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Butler County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Fillmore County, Nemaha County, Polk County, Saunders County

Motion carried.

Mental Health First Aid: This contract, in the amount of \$22,183 to Region V Systems will provide adult and youth Mental Health First Aid Training in the community. Regarding this contract, Johnson explained that the Division sent the contract for signature months before it was due, requesting Johnson's signature via the DocuSign process. The Board has approved Johnson's signature using this methodology and has approved allowing him to sign contracts under \$10,000 without Board approval. Ordinarily this contract would have been on the June agenda; however, the fact that the State required the return of the contract early created a problem. At the May Board meeting Johnson will ask for a motion that will allow him to DocuSign contracts that are recurring; contracts will then come to the Board for ratification. Lang made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to ratify the Mental Health First Aid Contract as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Butler County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Fillmore County, Nemaha County, Polk County, Saunders County

Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Behavioral Health / Legislation Updates: Johnson provided the following updates:

- Johnson urged Board members to contact their Senator and ask that 1.8 million dollars not be removed from Program 38 funding based on supposed cost savings from Medicaid expansion. Behavioral Health Regions

operate under a capitated system, so if these funds were embargoed the Regions would not be able to approach the Legislature for increased spending authority.

- Johnson expressed concerns about the mental health and substance use concerns that will have an impact on those who have been affected by flooding. Traumatic experiences like those experienced by our state do not produce an immediate impact but may take months to manifest. Rather than cutting funding, these future concerns should be driving an increase in funding for behavioral health.
- Currently four Counties have received an individual declaration of disaster by FEMA. Those Counties are Butler, Saunders, Nemaha and Richardson. For those Counties the Region's disaster response will be sending teams of individuals out to meet with those who experienced loss due to the flooding and provide resources and support. Although FEMA refers to this service as crisis counseling, it is not therapy and not provided by licensed therapists.

Emergency System: Kreifels reported that since its inception the Youth Mobile Crisis Response has served 168 youth. Approximately 90 percent of these youth are "diverted" meaning that they are not taken to the hospital but are provided adequate resources by the Crisis Response Team responding.

Continuous Quality Improvement: Kreifels presented the following data reports (see attachments for details):

- Compass: Compass is Region V's data system and is interfaced with DBH's Central Data System. Having readily available access to this data has allowed Region V to make data driven decisions and produce reports that would not be available otherwise. Consumer recovery rates and System of Care data are just a few of the reports that are available to the Region and to providers.
- 2018 DBH Consumer Survey Report: This report, in draft at this time, was emailed out to RGB members. Hard copies were available. The Survey measures consumer satisfaction, effectiveness, and efficiencies and provides a consumer perspective on such things as whether or not they feel they are getting better and if they have access to needed services.
- 2018 DBH Consumer Survey Report Specific Comparisons (Youth & Adult): This report summarized observations, data and graphs specific to youth and adult survey questions. The data shows Region V in comparison to other Regions.
- Perception of Care: Each agency answers the same two questions. The questions are: "Would you return to the provider if needed in the future?" and "Would you recommend the provider to a friends or family member." Ninety-two percent of respondents provided a positive response for both questions.
- Consumer Recovery Outcomes Report FY19 Q1: Each provider the Region contracts with has chosen a tool to measure the rate of change consumers experience. The data allows comparison among previous years. In general individuals treated for substance use disorders show a higher proportion of persons improving.
- National Outcome Measures (NOMS) FY19 Q1: Regions are required to report these NOMS to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Data is available which compares Regional data to statewide and national data. Outcomes are measured for employment / education; housing / living arrangement; criminal justice involvement; alcohol abstinence and drug abstinence.
- Complaints, Appeals, Critical Incidents: Providers are required to report on these events on a quarterly basis and to establish an appeal process. There were no appeals in the reporting period, which indicates that complaints were satisfactorily resolved by the provider. Collecting this type of data has led to provider quality improvement action steps to reduce the number of these types of events.
- Cluster Based Planning (CBP): The CBP initiative was implemented in 2010. "Clustering" means identifying which type of subgroup a consumer may fall into through the assessment process. Cluster assignments are made based on the consumer's individual problems and strengths. Expectations for recovery are different based on the subgroup cluster assigned. This type of information allows providers to adjust their service delivery to affect change for consumers who face more challenges.

FY 18-19 Capacity Utilization Summary Report: Johnson reviewed the form briefly and explained how the Region uses it to monitor capacity utilization and make shifts throughout the year. These reports allow projections through year end and measure where the provider is in relation to the fiscal year's anticipated expenditures.

FY 18-19 Compliance Management Report: Provided for informational purposes.

RGB Annual Acknowledgement Form: The Acknowledgement Report is attached for informational purposes.

Training Schedule: Provided for informational purposes.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Copies of the “Impact of Budget Cuts Related to Medicaid Expansion on Nebraska’s Behavioral Health System” are available for anyone interested.
- For the third time in four years Region V has placed in the top five “Best Places to Work” for organizations of similar size. An award banquet, at which winners will be announced, is scheduled for April 25. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to contact Michael today. The number of organizations competing this year is higher than ever in the past.
- Sarpy County has announced the decision to develop a crisis center. The center will not operate in a similar way to the Mental Health Crisis Center and will only serve Region 6 consumers.
- Lancaster County was commended for the Stepping Up initiative. In general Nebraska is behind in funding for behavioral health issues, and rural areas in particular struggle to provide services.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 15 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- May 1 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
- May 13 – RGB Meeting – 10:30 a.m.