

# **Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Roles & Responsibilities**

**Region V Systems is a political subdivision of the state of Nebraska, as identified in the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act, Nebraska Rev. Statutes 71-801 to 71-820. Region V shall establish and utilize a regional advisory committee to carry out its duties as identified in state statutes. For Region V, this advisory committee has been named the “Behavioral Health Advisory Committee.”**

**Since 1974, the mission of Region V Systems is to encourage and support the provision of a full range of mental health, alcoholism, and drug abuse programs and services to the youth and adults in southeast Nebraska. Specifically, Region V monitors services and provides program, fiscal, and technical assistance to certified and licensed public and private service providers. The planning for and provision of services by Region V and its affiliate providers will be “client-centered” and keep as its focus the provision of services which are community-based and individualized to meet the needs of the client and his or her family.**

## **Who is the BHAC?**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) is comprised of 15-20 members; at least 50 percent of the members represent the rural counties of southeast Nebraska (the remainder represent Lancaster County). The rural counties include: Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, and York. Consideration for membership is given to geographic location, direct and indirect consumers, cultural diversification, and the community at large. Persons who receive remuneration from a Region V-funded agency are not eligible to serve on this committee.

## **What are the BHAC’s roles and responsibilities?**

The BHAC is responsible for advising the Regional Governing Board on behavioral health issues (mental health and substance abuse) and funding allocations, which total approximately \$23 million annually. The BHAC:

- Is responsible for the development of goals and objectives, which set the direction of the Region.
- Reviews agency budget requests pertaining to the delivery of mental health and substance abuse services.
- Is involved in studies regarding present services or the need for behavioral health services.
- Provides the Regional Governing Board information regarding the needs of the programs in their individual county.
- Is an advocate for behavioral health services in Region V and the state.
- Is a conduit for information from the community to the Regional Governing Board.

## **How often does the BHAC meet?**

A calendar of scheduled meetings is set for the year, with meetings held on Wednesdays (9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) in Lincoln, approximately seven times per year. Members must attend at least one-half of the regular and special meetings held by the BHAC during any one-year period. Committee members may also be asked to serve on various subcommittees throughout the year.

## **How long is a term of service?**

A term of service is three years. Members shall not serve more than three consecutive, three-year terms.