

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

May 27, 2020  
10:00 a.m.  
Teleconference  
1645 'N' Street  
Lincoln, NE

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christine Cooney, Irene Duncan, Karen Helmberger, Greg Janak, J. Rock Johnson, Corrie Kielty, Stephanie Knight, Jill Kuzelka, Rebecca Meinders, Barbara Murphy, Laura Osborne, Tracy Pella, Darla Winslow, Constance Zimmer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Corrine Jarecke, Lucinda Mesteth, Richard Pethoud

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

### HOUSEKEEPING AND INTRODUCTIONS

Knight called the virtual meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. followed by rollcall. Knight asked permission to vote by voice vote rather than rollcall to facilitate the lengthy agenda. There was consensus agreement.

### ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA

BHAC Members were provided with a revised agenda via email with action item L added. Johnson noted that several additional contracts will be reviewed under Action/Priority Item C.

### OPEN MEETING ACT INFORMATION

Knight referenced that Open Meeting Act information is posted as required by the Open Meetings Act at Region V Systems. Because we are currently meeting under the Governor's declaration regarding public meetings, this information is not applicable to this forum. Notification of this meeting and information regarding availability of the agenda was provided through a legal notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Zimmer made a motion, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda (April 29, 2020 minutes, FY 19-20 Compliance Management Report and RGB Report) as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

### ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

**Election of Officers for FY 20-21:** Following discussion, C.J. Johnson recommended the following slate of candidates:

- Knight – Chair – Knight indicated willingness to serve another term.
- Winslow – Vice Chair – Osborne nominated Winslow, seconded by Pella. There were no other nominations and Winslow indicated willingness to serve as vice chair.
- Cooney – Member at Large – Cooney indicated willingness to serve another term.

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- Zimmer – Member at Large – Zimmer volunteered to serve as Member at Large, seconded by Winslow. There were no other nominations.

Duncan made a motion, seconded by Johnson, to accept the slate of candidates as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

**April Contract Shifts:** Johnson reviewed the various contract shifts that were proposed for the third quarter. When initial shifts were submitted, the Region was making decisions based on significant overproduction of service units. The Region has since learned that DHHS is allowing the use of funding to offset under-produced units related to the COVID pandemic. When the Division identified additional dollars within Program 38 that would be available to fund these overproduced units, the Region asked that earlier requests be rescinded. A total of \$116,529 was shifted from Region V line items that were underproducing to offset overproduced units for psych res rehab at CenterPointe and Supported Housing at Region V. \$481,330 was projected to be available from areas that are underproducing leaving a deficit of \$780,659.29 which will be covered by additional funds from Program 38. Kielty made a motion, seconded by Duncan, to recommend the Board approve the April contract shifts as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

**Contractual Agreements for Region V:** Johnson reviewed the following categories of contracts and stated that he would ask for a single motion after review:

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
  - Regional Contract with the Division: This contract in the amount of \$19,751,726 is for services, prevention, rental assistance, transition voucher program, behavioral health coordination and network management activities.
  - Mental Health First Aid (MHFA): This contract in the amount of \$22,183 provides for the coordination and provision of MHFA trainings.
  - Prevention Activities: This contract, in the amount of \$326,190, is for the purpose of carrying out various prevention activities relating to binge and underage drinking, increase capacity for prevention efforts and target increased use of marijuana.
  - Opioid Contract: This contract, in the amount of \$167,609, is for the purpose of funding activities to reduce opioid overdoses and abuse as well as provide prevention, treatment and recovery activities for opioid and stimulant use disorders.
  - Children and Family Services: This contract, in the amount of \$150,320, is to provide assessments for Qualified Residential Treatment in accordance with the Family First Prevention Services Act.
  - Projects for Assistance in Transition for Homelessness (PATH): PATH grant dollars (\$65,000) from the State are passed through to CenterPointe to provide PATH services.
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD):
  - Host Homes: This grant, in the amount of \$315,898, is for the provision of host homes for transition age youth to provide supported housing in rural areas.
  - Housing: This contract, in the amount of \$346,130, is to address homelessness and develop a continuum of care in the Region V service area.

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- Network Providers: Region V contracts with 14 providers and / or collaborations for the provision of mental health and substance use disorder services. Johnson reviewed each contract entity and the amount of funding provided for those services.
- Emergency Protective Custody (EPC): Region V enters into EPC contracts with each of the 15 rural counties. In addition, the Region contracts with The Bridge Behavioral Health (BBH) and the Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC) to provide emergency protective custody services as well as a collaborative, non-monetary contract among Region V, MHCC and BBH to facilitate transition from one facility to another.
- CenterPointe - Projects for Assistance in Transition for Homelessness (PATH): DHHS PATH grant dollars (\$65,000) are passed through to CenterPointe to provide PATH services.
- Southeast Nebraska Disaster Volunteer Database: These contracts with Public Health Solutions, SE District Health Department and Four Corners Health Department are for the purpose to creating and maintaining a volunteer database to be used in the event of a disaster.
- Mental Health First Aid: These five contracts provide for individual trainers, St. Monica's and Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to provide MHFA trainings as requested.
- Cluster-based Planning: These contracts with various individuals and entities are for providing cluster-based planning training to network provider staff and coordination of cluster-based planning implementation. In addition to contracting for training, the Region contracts with Synthesis Inc. for training, training of trainers, data analysis, technology sharing, outcomes data reporting and analysis of the cluster-based planning project.
- Miscellaneous:
  - UNL Public Policy Center: This contract, in the amount of \$150,000 to Region V, is for the implementation of the Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention project.
  - H4Technology: This contract, in the amount of \$168,000, provides for a centralized data repository for Region V.
  - Families Inspiring Families (FIF): The contract with FIF allows Johnson to provide clinical supervision for the FIF navigator project in exchange for FIF serving up to two FYI families.
  - UNL – Medical Center (UNMC): The collaborative contract with BHECN is to provide maintenance for the Nebraska behavioral health recruitment website.
- Prevention Federal Block Grant Recipients: Johnson presented the Federal Block Grant Recipients reviewing each recipient and the amount of funding. Johnson explained that a survey is conducted every two years to determine risk factors, and these grant recipients must use a percentage of their funding to target the identified concerns using evidence-based practices.
- Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnership for Success Subcontracts: These twelve subcontracts support various prevention activities relating to substance abuse and mental health concerns. Johnson reviewed each entity and the amount of funding received.
- SAMHSA Disaster Response Grant Program: These five contracts to are the purpose of providing crisis counseling, MHFA, and other prevention activities related to individuals who were impacted by last spring's flooding. This grant is a continuation of the flood crisis counseling grant and is includes collaboration with Regions 3 and 4.
- Disproportionate Share Hospital Contracts: These contract with Mary Lanning Hospital and DHHS allow for the transfer of funds designated for public assistance to be used by the State of Nebraska's share in claiming the federal match pursuant to 42 CFR §433.51.

Johnson presented the three additional contracts the Region anticipates receiving in the next month all related to the COVID pandemic:

- DHHS / SAMHSA: Region V will receive \$308,000 to provide behavioral health support for individuals impacted by the COVID pandemic. Services will include outpatient, medication management and peer support and will be provided by contracting with Region V Network Providers. Vouchers will be available for persons who are seeing a provider who is not in the Region V network of providers.
- SAMHSA: This grant in the amount of approximately \$270,000 will run for 60 days and will allow the Region to prepare for the second contract (following).
- SAMHSA #2: This grant is for a nine-month contract in the amount of approximately \$1,200,000 to provide outreach to individuals impacted by the COVID pandemic.

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Cotter made a motion, seconded by Winslow, to recommend the Board approve all these contracts as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Abstain: Osborne

Motion carried.

**One-Time-Only (OTO) Fund Report:** The Region has been managing these funds since 2008, beginning with 4.2 million dollars, and the funds have been used for a large range of activities. The remaining balance is currently \$250,321. Two line-items remain: \$223,583 to expand provider network service capacity and \$26,739 to provide cluster-based planning. Johnson is planning to ask Board approval to move \$168,000 from the first line item and shift it to the data system to support next year's costs related to data collection. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Duncan, to recommend the Board approve the OTO Fund Report and proposed shift as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

**Regional Budget Plan (RBP):** DeShon presented the RBP which was submitted to DHHS April 1. Documents include a budget summary and a breakdown of funding by provider by service. A decrease in funding is related to Medicaid expansion. The impact of that reduction was spread among all Medicaid eligible services by the same percentage. The Division has approved the RBP except for service enhancements, the Region's restructured housing program and the youth assessment program. The Division is requesting data to support the use of service enhancements and has denied all requests statewide. Regarding the housing program, the Region has been asked for assurances that contract deliverables will continue to be met under the restructured program. A service definition for youth assessment will be submitted which will clarify the structure of those programs. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Johnson, to ratify the Regional Budget Plan as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

**FY 20-21 Prevention Mini-Grant Recommendations:** Johnson presented the 2020 summer cycle for Prevention Mini-Grants reviewing each of the grant applications and the purpose for which funds were being requested. A total of \$6,469.29 was requested and \$3,969.29 was recommended by the mini-grant subcommittee. Rationale was provided for the partial denial of one request. Duncan made a motion, seconded by Johnson, to recommend the Board approve the FY 20-21 Prevention Mini-Grant Recommendations as recommended by the BHAC.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

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**FY 20-21 Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Grants:** Johnson reviewed the two grants received, both with LMEP. The grants were reviewed by the CLAS Review Committee and a total of \$2,019 was requested and \$2,019 was approved. Winslow made a motion, seconded by Janak, to recommend the Board approve the CLAS Grants as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

**Annual Survey Results:** Johnson presented the Annual Surveys and discussed the comments and suggestions noted:

- Network Provider Executive Director: Two areas fell under the 80 percent threshold and have been discussed with network provider executive directors. One concern was that a provider did not feel that network providers were involved in the decision-making process to the extent they would prefer. The second area relates to what is perceived as a slow response time to provider inquiries. In response the Region has made an effort to let providers know if it will take some time to process a question or concern and provide a reply.
- Behavioral Health Advisory Committee: While no areas fell below 80 percent; comments about how electronic transmission of agenda materials could be used were noted. The Region will investigate possible ways in which this could be implemented and still meet Open Meetings Act requirements.

Johnson made a motion, by seconded by Cotter, to accept the survey results and responses as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

**FY 20-21 Network Provider Performance Improvement Plan (PIP):** Kreifels presented the PIP explaining that various service areas are selected for monitoring with the goal of improving services and outcomes. Focus areas include access, effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction with services. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Winslow, to recommend the Board approve the FY 20-21 Network Provider Performance Improvement Plan.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

**Effectiveness and Access Measures for Regional Data Overview (RDO) Report:** Kreifels briefly presented the RDO. Priorities identified include housing, employment, emergency assistance, and service enhancements. Action plans are created based on observations with the goal of improving performance to meet thresholds. Winslow made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to recommend the Board approve the Effectiveness and Access Measure Report RDO Report as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

**FY 20-21 Draft Meeting Schedule:** There was no discussion regarding the meeting schedule. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve the schedule of meetings for FY 20-21 as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

**Request for Proposals (RFP) Recommendations:** A statewide RFP was issued by Region 3 for additional secure residential services. There were two applicants, and the review committee is recommending Integrated Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) as the strongest applicant. IBHS is not currently a Region V provider but has been used for plans-for-one at various times. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve IBHS to provide secure residential services, which would be open to other Regions.

Roll Call: Yes: Cooney, Cotter, Duncan, Helmberger, Janak, Johnson, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Murphy, Osborne, Pella, Winslow, Zimmer

Absent: Jarecke, Mesteth, Pethoud

Motion carried.

#### **OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION**

##### **Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates:**

- Medicaid Implementation Impact: Johnson reported that the Legislature will not convene until July 20. It is anticipated that a projection report on the impact of the COVID virus will be available by July 1. At this time, it does not appear the increase in Medicaid rates will be rescinded. This is significant because Medicaid rates have been traditionally lower than Region V rates which will impact providers when Medicaid expansion is implemented.
- COVID 19 Impact: Some services have seen a decrease in utilization due to the pandemic. The Division has agreed to allow the Region to shift available funds to offset these decreases. Federal emergency funding will be available to support additional costs related to providing services safely as well as dips in service utilization.

**FY 20-21 Strategic Plan:** Johnson explained that the strategic plan has not changed much from previously presented plans largely because activities have been consistent from year to year. DHHS had initiated a strategic planning process, and the Region will want to align the Region's plan with DHHS. Due to the pandemic, there will be changes incorporated into the plan that reflect current adjustments and other long-term changes.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

J. Rock Johnson thanked the Region for their efforts during the pandemic to continue and maintain services.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- June 8 – 10:30 a.m. – RGB Meeting
- Weekly – 9:00 a.m. – Network Provider Meeting
- September 2 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.