

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

MINUTES

February 8, 2021
Region V Services
3600 Union Drive
Lincoln, NE
and
Via Zoom
10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Gale Pohlmann, Jefferson County; Jim Erickson, Johnson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Janet Henning, Saline County; Doris; Ken Schmieding, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Svoboda, Butler County; Dennis Byars, Gage County; Larry Holtzman, Nemaha County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; John Smaus, Saunders County

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

OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Johnson noted the Open Meetings Act information is posted in the meeting room and reminded Board members that the meetings are open to the public and are audiotaped. The agenda is posted for public viewing. Notification of this meeting and information regarding availability of the agenda was provided through a legal notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

The numeration in the packet is off by two digits, Johnson will help facilitate page numbering throughout the meeting. In Byars absence, the meeting will be facilitated by Yoakum. Voting will be by consensus to simplify the process on the Zoom call. The third bullet point under item A of Other Updates/Information, "February Executive Committee Meeting," will be moved to Other Business.

Harre made a motion, seconded by Lang, to move the Executive Committee Meeting agenda item to Other Business.

Motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / AGENDA

Yoakum called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. followed by roll call.

Harre made a motion, seconded by Lang to approve the February 8, 2021 (revised) agenda.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Election of Officers: Johnson asked if Region V Services had delayed the elections of officers. Yoakum reported that they had; there was discussion regarding Region V Systems delaying elections of officers until March.

Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to delay the election of officers until the March 8 meeting.

Motion carried.

Regional Governing Board Minutes, November 9, 2020: Jefferson County was listed present and was in attendance, but was not listed as voting. Minutes will be amended to accurately reflect voting records.

Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the November 9th (amended) minutes.

Financial Report: DeShon reviewed the financial reports that were emailed on February 8, 2021. The reports encompass the first six months (50% of fiscal year) through December 31, 2020. The balance sheet reflected the current cash position at \$519,519.99, with the CD at \$250,000. The year-to-date payments of Substance Abuse is \$3,374,100.70. The year-to-date payments of Mental Health is \$3,361,868.09. The Other Payments, including grants and one-time-funding year-to-date payments are at \$906,339. Administration and Program Expenses are at a year-to-date payment of \$3,300,637.31. DeShon covered some of the administrative costs that were over budget and it is anticipated that every line item will balance throughout the year. Overall the Region is slightly under the Administrative budget at 48.95%. A discussion on travel budget ensued. DeShon reported that while some of the travel budget is for conferences and other meetings, most of it is for mileage.

Henning made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the Financial Report as presented.

Motion carried.

January Budget Shifts: The first shift is from the Acute line item into the Secure Residential Room/Board line item that was overproducing. The second shift is from the Acute line item to the EPC line item to help with out-of-network private hospital billing. The last shifts are Prevention dollars that are being shifted. There is no change to the overall budget amount. Prevention dollars are being shifted within their strategies.

Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Henning to approve the January Budget Shifts.

Motion carried.

Contracts/Amendments: Johnson presented a grouping of four (4) contracts in relation to a State Suicide Prevention Grant: **Schmeekle Research, Inc.** will contract for the required evaluation in the amount of \$20,000, **Lincoln Medical Education Partnership** will contract to provide community training on substance abuse/internet risk factors/parenting risk factors in the amount of \$600.00, **Laura Osborne**, with a 50% increase in her contract in the amount of \$1,000 to provide TIPS Training for establishments, and a contract with **Jennifer Thompson**, with a 25% decrease, for administrative support to Faith Partners.

Johnson discussed three additional miscellaneous contracts: Petrzilka Coding, LLC, to help the Region evaluate needs in the IT department. **Francisca Peterson and Jill Kuzelka** both will have contracts in the amount of \$400 for an eight (8) hour training to facilitate adult and youth Mental Health First Aid. Johnson mentioned that the monies for the Mental Health First Aid trainings come through the legislature.

Lang made a motion, seconded by Harre, to approve entering into the contracts as presented.

Motion carried.

Legislative Bill 464: Johnson explained that it is on very rare occasions that the Region puts forth bills for the Regional Governing Board's approval; however, this is a bill specifically requested by the Regional Administrators across the state. LB464 would grant more flexibility to the Regions to shift dollars within the system. Due to the Appropriations Committee earmarking money, the Division of Behavioral Health offers very little flexibility with their Electronic Billing System to shift the dollars that are left over at the end of the fiscal year. This bill asks for intent language that says that if there are changes in the system, money can be shifted to be utilized in other areas of the system, ultimately giving Regions more flexibility.

Krueger made a motion, seconded by Erickson, to approve and support LB464.

Motion carried.

Legislative Bill 465: Johnson reported that this bill would create legislation which would allow Stamp Tax dollars, which promote affordable housing in our state, to be used to mitigate landlord liability for damages. In the past the Region's Rental Assistance Program, which helps individuals with severe mental illness with their rent, was able to pay for excessive damages to mitigate liability for the contracted landlords. In a 2017 audit at the Division of Behavioral Health, it was found that legislation did not support the use of the Stamp Tax to pay for these types of damages. Region V had a pool of money they could use towards damages, but other Regions did not. When the Regions cannot provide this type of assurance for landlords, there is a decline in available units and participating landlords. Many states already have this expenditure in legislation. Federal grants through HUD also allow for mitigation of landlord liability.

Henning made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve support for LB465.

Motion carried.

FY 19-20 Management Report: Kreifels explained that this report acts as a sort of report card for Region V Systems business activities and to conform to accreditation standards with CARF International. The report includes the summary of the Organizational Performance Improvement Plans, and Network objectives (waitlist/critical incidents/ineligibles/denials) which show the best management practices.

Caverzagie made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve and finalize the report.

Motion carried.

Professional Partner Program – DHHS Unit Audit Verification Report: The Professional Partner Program is a wraparound service provided by Region V Systems and is a contract with the State. As with all contracts, the Professional Partner Program gets audited. This audit report shows that 100% of units were consistent with billing and service provision.

Lang made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to accept the Unit Audit Report as presented.

Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates: Johnson discussed one additional bill being introduced by NABHO that includes a 3% increase for Medicaid service rates specific for behavioral health. There are executive orders that have impacted state revenue and these factors are being monitored.

Covid 19 Impact: Johnson explained how the Covid-Gap funding has helped providers cover their reduced capacity throughout the pandemic. The Region is in negotiations with the Division to determine if this gap funding will continue and what it will look like for providers. Providers have found this funding helpful, and they have provided many services with alternative methods such as telehealth. Johnson noted that within Outpatient Services, there has been a 50% decrease in no-show rates. Providers have been able to reach out to consumers using the phone and other telehealth options, which resulted in better contact with people. Residential Programs have struggled some due to the lowering of capacity.

Medicaid Implementation Impact: Approximately 3,000 consumers have switched over to Medicaid. Medicaid rates for behavioral health services are lower than the Region rates. Providers support the expansion, but they are seeing impacts due to this lower Medicaid rate. This situation is being monitored.

Emergency Systems: Johnson mentioned that the Lincoln Regional Center is currently undergoing construction, limiting bed availability for Mental Health Board Commitments. This has been a challenging time; however, providers have stepped up to support individuals to circumvent a stay in a hospital setting.

Prevention: Morrissey reported that there has been an uptick in requests for Narcan and Deterra Envelopes (<https://deterrasystem.com>). Deterra envelopes are used for the disposal and deactivation of prescribed medication. Every county will receive the Deterra envelopes for distribution at no cost. Prevention may go through Meals on Wheels for a larger distribution audience for the envelopes. They have developed a System of Excellence for the Zero Suicide grant. The Mental Health First Aid Trainings will continue virtually. Due to the pandemic there has been a decrease of evidence-based programming and partnership with the schools and youth; however, this is expected to start growing again. The Youth Action Board (YAB) has met via Zoom the entire year and the annual Red/White Tailgate has been canceled. Morrissey is hopeful that YAB will be able to hold June Jam at Southeast Community College this summer.

Annual Opinions Survey: Michael stated that the surveys will be sent out to stakeholders, employees, and the Board on February 22, 2021 via email. Contact her with any questions or if an alternative to a digital survey (*a Survey Monkey email link*) is requested.

Continuous Quality Improvement: Kreifels described the following reports that are included in the packets for informational purposes:

- **Multi-Year Ineligibles and Denials Report:** This report shows the flow within the system to monitor people who were denied services or were ineligible for services. The report is part of best practices to conform with CARF accreditation.
- **FY21Q1 Region V CACI Report:** This report tracks critical incident reports, appeals, complaints over the past quarters. Kreifels noted that through RQIT, these types of incidents are discussed and analyzed, and innovative ideas have come out of RQIT meetings.
- **FY 20-21 Consumer Recovery Outcomes Report:** This report tracks the gains made by consumers who have utilized services.

Annual Conflict of Interest/Code of Ethics Acknowledgement Statement: Rabe included stamped-return envelopes with the Board packets to return the forms to Region V Systems.

FY 20-21 Capacity Utilization Summary Reports: Johnson reminded the Board that this report shows what contracts we have with providers and the percentage of drawdown for each service. These reports are used to make contract shifts. An updated Capacity Utilization report for St. Monica's was sent out via email

FY 20-21 Network Provider Management Report: Johnson mentioned that this report is provided for informational purposes and that its purpose is to monitor network provider compliance.

Training Schedule: Included for informational purposes. BETA (Behavioral Threat Assessment Training for Law Enforcement) training will be held later this spring with an in-person and distance learning option.

OTHER BUSINESS

As the motion reflects, the election of officers is being postponed and the remaining Executive Committee can review documents to move things along.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 22 – Network Provider Meeting – via Zoom
February 24 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. – via Zoom
March 8 – RGB Meeting – 10:30 a.m. - TBD

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Krueger made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.