

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Dennis Byars, Gage County; Jim Erickson, Johnson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Ken Schmieding, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County; Bill Barnesberger, York County

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Svoboda, Butler County; Jim Erickson, Johnson County; Larry Holtzman, Nemaha County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; Janet Henning, Saline County; John Smaus, Saunders County

OTHERS PRESENT: Aaron Adams, Tamara Gavin, and Linda Wittmuss, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health; Tami DeShon, C.J. Johnson, Tami DeShon, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Gretchen Mills, Sandy Morrissey, Marti Rabe, and Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Region V

OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Byars 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

Johnson noted that Action Item E (Retirement Plan) will not be addressed at today's meeting and he will discuss county visits during the Other Business segment of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / AGENDA

Byars called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m. followed by roll call.

Present: Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Polk county, Saline County, Saunders County

Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the revised March 8, 2021 agenda.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DEPARTMENT OF HEATH AND HUMAN SERVICES - DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRESENTATION

Tamara Gavin and Linda Wittmuss from the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) presented a PowerPoint highlighting the past and current DBH goals, outcomes, pandemic response, prioritized needs, and the Nebraska Planning Landscape. Looking forward with planning, DBH will focus on **5 Pillars** based off a needs assessment and gap analysis:

- **Pillar 1: Enhance Behavioral Health Influence** by increasing activities to reduce behavioral health stigma, improve integration, and align system partners and agencies.
- **Pillar 2: Implement an Integration Strategy** by increasing behavioral health service in primary care settings, increase integration of behavioral and physical health crisis services, increase integration between substance use treatment providers and mental health treatment providers.
- **Pillar 3: Promote Stakeholder Inclusion** by improving engagement between NDHHS, DBH, and Justice Partners, improving consumer and family input, improving engagement between behavioral health system stakeholders in planning, increasing health equity.
- **Pillar 4: Drive Innovation and Better Outcomes** by improving competencies of behavioral health providers through partnership with academic institutions, expanding the use of technology, expanding evidence-based practices.
- **Pillar 5: Demonstrate and Drive Value** by improving interagency data sharing, establishing system-wide behavioral health outcomes, comparing Nebraska behavioral health outcomes data to national benchmarks.

The Nebraska Planning Landscape will continue to be inclusive of Medicaid expansion, the 988 planning grant and suicide prevention (this is a 911 type number for mental health crises), Opioid Settlement opportunities, continuation of best practices supported by fidelity and outcome data, exploring the role of the Lincoln Regional Center and the behavioral health service system continuum, the Justice population in relation to competency restoration and diversion, data driven planning and decision making, and Regional Budget planning.

There was brief discussion regarding Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) during the pandemic and Gavin stated the trends were headed in the right direction. Kreifels mentioned the success that Kristin Nelson has with the High Utilizer Review Team (HURT) coordinating specific plans and care for consumers who are regularly accessing emergency services, thus reducing the times consumers are accessing emergency care.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Election of Officers: The slate for officers was nominated (Dennis Byars, Chair; Gale Pohlmann, Vice Chair; Christa Youkum, Secretary; Jan Lang, Treasurer). The BHAC representative nominations will take place at a later date. Greg Janak, former board member and BHAC representative is going through the process to become a member of BHAC.

Byars made a motion, seconded by Bamesberger, to elect the slate of officers for the Regional Governing Board as nominated.

Motion carried.

Regional Governing Board Minutes: Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021, meeting. Motion carried. There was no discussion. No action was required regarding the Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Financial Report: DeShon reviewed the financial reports that were emailed on March 5, 2021. The reports encompass 58.33% of the fiscal year, through January 2021. The balance sheet reflected the current cash position at \$585,023.27, with the CD at \$250,000. The year-to-date payments of Substance Abuse is \$3,894,966.38. The year-to-date payments of Mental Health is \$3,792,438.54. The Other Payments,

including grants and one-time-funding year-to-date payments are at \$1,063,951.25. Administration and Program Expenses are at a year-to-date payment of \$3,747,246.05. DeShon covered some of the administrative costs that were over budget and it is anticipated that every line item will balance throughout the year. Even though the pandemic caused many unexpected administrative expenditures, the Region is 2.67% underbudget. Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the Financial Report as presented.

Motion carried.

Contracts/Amendments:

- **Emergency Shifts Request:** The first shift of \$71,445.00 from unallocated funds to Blue Valley Behavioral Health for outpatient services, as they were over producing. An additional line item of unallocated funds for outpatient services in the amount of \$61,916.00 was moved to Blue Valley Behavioral Health for outpatient services. A shift of funds that were for Integrated Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) for Secure Residential-Capacity Development (cover costs pre-full capacity) was shifted into IBHS service delivery for Secure Residential in the amount of \$80,413.4. The Prevention shifts are from Environmental to Education in the amount of \$15,600.00.
- **DocuSign:** Johnson announced the contract with DocuSign, which will give the ability through the contract management software to utilize DocuSign with the Region's contract needs. The contract is in the amount of \$3, 812 and was a very successful negotiation, as the Region was granted access to 1,000 envelopes with the ability to buy more, if needed, at the same initial negotiated rate.
- **National Association of Case Management (NACM):** Johnson provided a brief history of the Regions' administrative and management contractual involvement with NACM and stated that all the Regions are charter members, meaning that all providers are members as well. The Region will no longer provide administrative services to NACM. A contract commitment of the co-sponsorship of the 26th Annual NACM conference in the amount of \$5,000 carried over this year, as the conference was cancelled last year due to the pandemic.

Lang made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to move forward with all three contract amendments as presented.

Motion carried.

New/Revised Personnel Policies:

- Michael discussed the new Employer-Provided Benefits Policy that states that a returning employee doesn't have to wait out the new hire six-month waiting period for benefits.
- Michael explained the name change of Columbus Day to "Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day" to follow suite with the State of Nebraska's holiday name change.
- Michael explained the new Teleworking Policy developed to define what it means to work off site, how to request for teleworking hours, and the suitability of employees for teleworking.

Bamesberger made a motion, seconded by Harre, to accept, and move forward with the new/revised Personnel Policies as presented.

Motion carried.

FY 20 Network Compliance Review: Johnson reported that Mikayla Johnson and Aaron Adams found Region V Systems substantially in compliance with the FY 20 contract.

Krueger made a motion, seconded by Lang, to accept the FY 20 Compliance Review as presented.

Motion carried.

Site Visit Reports (Blue Valley Behavioral Health & The Bridge Behavioral Health): Tyerman-Harper discussed the process of Marti Rabe and Joe Pastuszak completing these unit audits, including looking at a minimum of five (5) records per services. Both sites demonstrated substantial compliance with Minimum Standards and contractual requirements.

Krueger made a motion, seconded by Harre, to approve the Site Visit Reports as presented.

Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates: As much of the updates were provided via DHHS, Johnson briefly discussed waiting upon the Appropriation Committee response to LB464 and LB465. It has been an odd legislative session due to the pandemic.

Covid 19 Impact: Johnson reported that the gap-funding for providers will end April 20, 2021.

Medicaid Implementation Impact: Johnson stated that the Regions are looking at how to reinvest dollars that are not being drawn down from the system due to the expansion.

Prevention: Morrissey reported that much of her data to report was given by DHHS. State Game and Parks called about NARCAN renewal. She also mentioned NARCAN being used in an incident in Seward, it is coming in handy.

Annual Opinions Survey: Michael thanked the Board for their participation and will follow up with survey results at a future meeting.

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

- Ineligibles and Denials FY20 – Q 1-2
- National Outcome Measures (NOMS) FY21 – Q 1-2
- Provider Quality File Review Aggregate Report – FY 20
- Stable Living and Employment Status – FY21 Discharges

FY 20-21 Capacity Utilization Summary Reports: Johnson explained that these reports tell us the size of the contracts, services, and drawdowns that we have with each provider. A question was asked about the Mental Health Crisis Center and Johnson stated that they only look like they have no more money for the rest of the year due to their system of drawing down all the Region's allocations and then turning to Lancaster County funds.

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.

OTHER BUSINESS

Johnson consulted with the board about yearly county visits. The pandemic had interfered with these visits; Johnson was able to plan a few but they all got canceled. If counties feel a strong need for county visits, Johnson is more than happy to visit in person. He will be available by phone and/or Zoom and can participate this way. It was agreeable to use these alternate methods this year and county visits can be revisited later.

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 15 – Network Provider Meeting – via Zoom
- March 31 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. – via Zoom
- April 12 – RGB Meeting – 10:30 a.m. – 3600 Union Drive / Zoom

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.