

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

February 24, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christine Cooney, Gene Cotter, Irene Duncan, Karen Helmberger, Greg Janak, Corrine Jarecke, Stephanie Knight, Jill Kuzelka, Rebecca Meinders, Lucinda Mesteth, Barbara Murphy, Laura Osborne, Darla Winslow

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** J. Rock Johnson, Corrie Kielty, Richard Pethoud

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nick Flewelling, Integrated Behavioral Health Services; Tami DeShon, C.J. Johnson, Patrick Kreifels, Sandy Morrissey, Gretchen Mills, and Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

### HOUSEKEEPING AND INTRODUCTIONS

Knight called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. followed by rollcall. Knight asked the committee for permission to vote by voice vote rather than rollcall to facilitate the meeting format. There was no dissent.

### ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

### OPEN MEETING ACT INFORMATION

Knight referenced that Open Meeting Act information is posted as required by the Open Meetings Act at Region V Systems. Notification of this meeting and information regarding availability of the agenda was provided through a legal notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Nick Flewelling from Integrated Behavioral Health Services (IBHS), a new secure residential program located in Lincoln, Nebraska, presented an update about the facility and fielded questions of the committee. He reported that they opened in December 2020 and currently are at a capacity of 12 beds (with one available.) until some window issues are addressed. Upon completion, IBHS will have a 16-bed capacity. IBHS works with all Regions to get individuals in with Medicaid. Healthy Blue has been approved and they are looking forward to Total Care and United's approval as well. He stated that IBHS houses adults with severe and persistent mental illnesses, and the Region funding must be approved through the Regions with emergency service coordinators and the like. Johnson added that this is a nice addition to the service array we offer as a need was previously identified to increase programming for step down services.

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Janak made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to approve the Consent Agenda (January 27, 2021 minutes, FY 20-21 Compliance Management Report and RGB Report) as presented.

Motion carried.

### ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

#### **Contracts:**

- 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. Kreifels clarified that several documents and signatures can be contained in one envelope. This contract will be paid for with State funding. Osborne

mentioned that DocuSign has worked very well for grants and gathering signatures when people are spread out across the state. Johnson discussed how DocuSign is very similar to what is utilized by DHHS and the Region will use it for contracts, HR, consumer consent, consumer releases of information, and to help providers comply with social distancing measures.

Duncan made a motion, seconded by Janak, to recommend the Board approve the contract as presented.

Motion carried.

- **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. Provider staff gets access to trainings and the national conference, which has been held twice in Omaha, Nebraska, allowing local providers to participate at a national level. The Region will no longer provide administrative services to NACM. A contract commitment of the co-sponsorship of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual NACM conference in the amount of \$5,000 carried over this year, as the conference was cancelled last year due to the pandemic.

Jarecke made a motion, seconded by Duncan, to recommend the Board approve the contract as presented.

Motion carried.

**Conflict of Interest Summary Report:** Johnson stated that this report shows the committee members who have submitted a Conflict of Interest form and assured that if abstaining from voting needs to happen in the future, those individuals will be assisted with that decision.

Helmberger made a motion, seconded by Janak, to recommend the Board accept the Conflict of Interest Summary Report.

Motion carried.

**FY 20 Network Compliance Review:** Johnson explained that the Region is audited by the State, much like we audit providers. This audit showed Region V to be substantially in compliance with the FY20 contract.

Osborne made a motion, seconded by Duncan, to recommend the Board approve the FY 20 Network Compliance Review.

Motion carried.

**Site Visit Reports:** Johnson stated that Blue Valley Behavioral Health and The Bridge Behavioral Health had 100% of their units verified and accounted for. The fiscal audits are pending due to the pandemic. Region V has had the opportunity to audit providers remotely through access to their EHR and in person. Amanda Tyerman-Harper oversees audits. Marti Rabe and Joe Pastuszak, Region V staff, complete the audits by choosing the files, and letting providers know that day which records will be reviewed for the randomized file audits.

Janak made a motion, seconded by Jarecke, to recommend the Board approve the Site Visit Reports as presented.

Motion carried.

### **OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION**

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

- **Covid 19/Medicaid Implementation Impact:** The Division is currently testifying in front of the Appropriation Committee. Attendance is limited for these hearings. There are several bills of importance Johnson described to the committee. LB462 is requesting a three (3) percent increase for behavioral health services because

Medicaid rates are lower than Region rates, providers are taking a cut in revenue post Medicaid expansion. LB 464 is a bill that would allow moving traditionally earmarked funds to other aspects of our system to reinvest those dollars with additional services such as supported housing and supported employment. LB 465 would add funding available for landlord mitigation when a consumer of the program(s) causes large damages, so the landlord won't have full liability. This funding is a very common component across the nation, HUD allows it in many of their grants.

**Emergency Systems:** Johnson reported that the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) has experienced a decrease in admissions due to the pandemic and an 8-million-dollar capital construction plan, suggested by JAYCO to make LRC safer for consumers, with modifications. They started this process right away, as there were several ligature issues to address and construction efforts will continue at LRC.

**Prevention:** Morrissey discussed current Prevention training strategies which include Mental Health First Aid, QPR, and the Zero Suicide Academy. The Zero Suicide Academy aims to normalize and do a cultural shift around mental health to make it no different than physical health. Coalitions are building their plans for next year. There is funding for NARCAN and Deterra envelopes, which deactivate medications. The Deterra envelopes will be distributed with Meals on Wheels.

**Network Continuous Quality Improvement:** Kreifels gave a brief overview of the attached reports.

- Ineligibles and Denials FY20 Q1-2: This report follows CARF International accreditation and discusses observations about why people may be ineligible or denied services from providers.
- National Outcome Measures (NOMS) FY 21 Q1-2: This reporting is required to SAMSHA. The Region reports data to the State of Nebraska and providers can compare to state and national numbers. This report is broken down by agencies, by services.
- Provider Quality File Review Aggregate Report for FY 20: This report is following CARF accreditation, with the agreement that accredited providers will participate in self-audits. If a providers score goes lower than 85%, actions plans are immediately put in place.
- Stable Living and Employment Status for FY 21 Discharges: The State of Nebraska has determined that they want to focus on stable living and employment statuses for all discharges. This report looks at all individuals upon discharge of programming.

**BHAC Attendance Report:** Included for informational purposes.

**Training:** Provided for informational purposes.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- March 8 – 10:30 a.m. – RGB Meeting – via Zoom / with optional in-person attendance
- March 11 – 9:00 a.m. – Regional Prevention Coalition – via Zoom
- March 15 – 9:00 a.m. – Network Providers Meeting – via Zoom
- March 17 – 1:00 p.m. – Level of Care (LOC) – via Zoom
- March 31 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting – via Zoom

If you would like to join the Zoom meeting for LOC, contact Gretchen or Marti to get you on the distribution list for the meetings. LOC meetings focus on provider-focused problem solving, concerns, and policy development.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11: 06 a.m.