

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 31, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Irene Duncan, Corrine Jarecke, Corrie Kielty, Stephanie Knight, Jill Kuzelka, Rebecca Meinders, Barbara Murphy, Laura Osborne

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christine Cooney, Gene Cotter, Karen Helmberger, Greg Janak, Lucinda Mesteth, J. Rock Johnson, Richard Pethoud, Darla Winslow

OTHERS PRESENT: Mikayla Johnson, DHHS; Annie Glenn, Renee Dozier, C.J. Johnson, Patrick Kreifels, Malcom Miles, Gretchen Mills, Sandy Morrissey, and Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

HOUSEKEEPING AND INTRODUCTIONS

Knight called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. followed by rollcall. Knight asked the committee for permission to vote by voice 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.

ZERO SUICIDE PRESENTATION

Malcom Miles and Annie Glenn, Region V Systems' Family & Youth Investment Program (FYI), and Sandy Morrissey, Regional Prevention Coordination, presented on the Zero Suicide Academy. Zero Suicide is an aspirational goal and foundational belief that suicide deaths are preventable. Zero Suicide is based on transformational frameworks, designed for health and mental health systems using evidence-based practices. Please visit www.zerosuicide.com for more in-depth information and resources. Morrissey discussed participation in the Academy and the Region's involvement in trainings. It has been identified that motivational interviewing is a top training need. Morrissey mentioned the success of NARCAN and Detera Drug Disposal envelopes (<https://deterasystem.com/>) being distributed in the community through the Opioid Grant. Please contact Morrissey at any time for more information on Prevention activities and how organizations can become involved.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Osborne made a motion, seconded by Duncan, to approve the Consent Agenda (Minutes – February 24, 2021, FY 20-21 Compliance Management Report, RGB Report) as presented.

Motion carried.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Alternative Compliance (Community Support and PIER): Johnson discussed the need to get Alternative Compliance approval for Community Support (provided by Blue Valley Behavioral Health, CenterPointe, and Lutheran Family Services) and PIER (a collaboration of CenterPointe and Lutheran Family Services) each year due

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to the way the original service definitions were written. Alternative Compliance for Community Support allows providers to bill in 15-minute increments and PIER is allowed to operate with an APRN rather than a psychiatrist.

Jarecke made a motion, seconded by Meinders to approve these Alternative Compliances, and move forward for approval to the Regional Governing Board (once other boards have given approval).

Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION

Behavioral Health/Legislative Updates: Johnson reported that LB465, the bill with intent language to help support landlord mitigation, has been forwarded to the Appropriations Committee, and it looks likely to go through. LB464, the bill with intent language to promote flexibility in relation to funding that is allocated to the Regions, will probably not be in the appropriations bill, but there are agreements with legislators to keep this on the radar. At this time the Regions are seeking clarity regarding what the proposed rate increases will be. BHAC members will be updated once the information is made public.

• **Covid 19 Impact:**

- Johnson reminded the committee that since March 2020, providers were given Covid gap funding to support providers throughout the pandemic when units couldn't be pulled down. This funding will no longer be available as of May 1, 2021. Providers are currently being stepped down from this funding. Providers have been very appreciative of this support throughout the pandemic due to the challenges of directive health measures.
- Alternative services such as telehealth and telephonic services are still in place through June 2021. The Division of Behavioral Health is evaluating the alternative delivery components. An interesting success story came out of alternative delivery of services, it was found that there is a lower no-show rate because consumers can keep their appointments regardless of transportation, or other issues, barring them from showing up in person.

- **Medicaid Implementation Impact:** Johnson discussed that the Region is continuing to monitor the impact, especially going into the budget planning process, the Region is seeing that in residential programs, a lot of consumers are eligible for Medicaid, and with the last figures, we are seeing approximately a million dollars of funding that is not being pulled down.

FY22 Budget Plan and Reinvestment Planning:

- Due to the possibility of having an amount of one million dollars that is not being drawn down due to the impact of Medicaid implementation, Johnson stated that the Region has solicited recommendations from providers of how to reinvest these dollars into additional support services, and other services in our system, such as supported housing and supported employment. Planning is challenging as there are unanswered questions about whether and how much funding may be available.
- The federal government has also provided additional federal block grant funding for mental health and substance abuse, as a one-time-only funding source throughout March 2021-2023. The federal block grants are not monies that can be used to invest in long term services as there is no way to sustain the services, so that is being looked at as well. Possible investments would be infrastructure, training, and best practices services that cost money to implement upfront. The Region will update BHAC over the next few months to report on the direction this funding will go.
- Johnson mentioned that the Regional Budget Plan is due April 1, 2021, and the only significant change is an unallocated line item for funding that is not being drawn down due to Medicaid expansion. Once an accurate reflection of the impact of Medicaid expansion is discovered, this line item will give the Region flexibility to adjust accordingly.

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Emergency Systems:

- Johnson reported that the Mental Health Crisis Center has seen an uptick in EPCs and has been very active with all bed space being utilized. Mary Lanning has worked with the Region for placements over the past few months.
- Kristin Nelson is working to provide Lincoln Fire and Rescue Behavioral Threat Assessment Training (BETA) to their employees (400 service members). The primary focus of this BETA will be on how firefighters and emergency responders can interact with folks struggling with mental health issues. Hopefully this training will be able to expand to all the volunteer fire departments and rural areas as well.

Prevention:

- Morrissey discussed the current Youth Action Board and how they are planning a one-day, in-person June Jam this year. Southeast Community College in Milford will host. The event is called Aloha to New Beginnings and will feature local speakers from Omaha highlighting discussions around drug use, human trafficking, and online safety.
- Morrissey reminded the committee that if your area has a need for NARCAN and Detera Drug Disposal envelopes, let her or her team know.

Network Continuous Quality Improvement: Kreifels gave a brief overview of the attached Regional Data Overview (RDO) report. The RDO is submitted quarterly to the Division of Behavioral Health and the report includes regional and statewide data, with action plans and observations in a variety of areas including employment and housing. This report touches on the areas of effectiveness, efficiency, access, and satisfaction measures. Kreifels invited the committee to contact him or his team at any time to answer any questions.

BHAC Attendance Report: Included for informational purposes.

Training: Provided for informational purposes.

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 8 – 9:00 a.m. – Regional Prevention Coalition – via Zoom
- April 12 – 10:30 a.m. – RGB Meeting – via Zoom / with optional in-person attendance
- April 19 – 9:00 a.m. – Network Providers Meeting – via Zoom
- April 21 – 1:00 p.m. – Level of Care (LOC) – via Zoom
- April 28 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting – via Zoom

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.