

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Cotter, Irene Duncan, Corrine Jarecke, Corrie Kielty, Stephanie Knight, Jill Kuzelka, Lucinda Mesteth, Laura Osborne, Darla Winslow

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christine Cooney, Karen Helmberger, Greg Janak, J. Rock Johnson, Rebecca Meinders, Barbara Murphy, Richard Pethoud, Darla

OTHERS PRESENT: Tami DeShon, C.J. Johnson, Patrick Kreifels, Gretchen Mills, Marti Rabe, Amanda Tyerman-Harper; 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.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Osborne made a motion, seconded by Duncan, to approve the Consent Agenda (Minutes – March 31, 2021, FY 20-21 Compliance Management Report, RGB Report) as presented.

Motion carried.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

April Contract Shifts: Johnson briefly explained a few of the various contract shifts that happen four times a year, and how emergency shifts can be done if needed by providers. The shift descriptions, provided in the packet, reflect the internal shifts that are requested and pending their approval. Johnson mentioned that this year has looked odd with the pandemic and covid-gap funding as well as Medicaid expansion, there hasn't been typical draw down of funds, and up to two million dollars will be reinvested into the system. The IOP Matrix funding is an evidence based practice developed for consumers with methamphetamine addictions, however there were a few bumps in the road with the implementation this in Region II and Region V and the State is looking at funding additional training that is required for IOP Matrix.

Duncan made a motion, seconded by Kielty to approve these April Contract Shifts, and move forward for approval to the Regional Governing Board.

Motion carried.

Contractual Agreements: Johnson explained that it is the time of the year to finalize contracts. The first contract is with the Region V Systems' building partners: Families Inspiring Families (in the amount of \$16,892.11), Mental Health Association (in the amount of \$56,483.95) and Cause Collective (in the amount of \$1,410). This contract is for facilities, office space, and IT support. The second contractual agreement presented is for Emergency Protective Custody billing with the 15 Rural Counties of Region V systems, The Bridge Behavioral Health, and the Lancaster County Community Mental Health Crisis Center, to provide emergency protective care services to individuals in the 16 counties of Region V Systems. The fee billed per consumer day is \$214.00.

Jarecke made a motion, seconded by Cotter to recommend the Regional Governing Board approve these contracts as presented.

Motion carried.

Site Visit Report Summaries: Tyerman-Harper discussed the following site visit reports:

- **Lutheran Family Services** demonstrated substantial compliance with Minimum Standards and contractual requirements; fiscal audit pending.
- **Mental Health Crisis Center** demonstrated substantial compliance with Minimum Standards and contractual requirements; Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) services are funded on an expense reimbursement basis and five files were reviewed and no discrepancies were noted; fiscal audit is pending.
- **St. Monica's** demonstrated substantial compliance with Minimum Standards and contractual requirements; fiscal audit pending; and the following Corrective Actions are required: payback for unverified units, submission of a Plan of Correction, and a re-audit of the programs falling below the 95% threshold within 60-90 days of receipt of the Corrective Action Plan.

Jarecke made a motion, seconded by Duncan to recommend the Regional Governing Board approve these Site Visit Reports as presented.

Motion carried.

BHAC – New Member Approval: Many accolades and thanks were given to Gene Cotter who has served nine years on BHAC. Greg Janak, who was the RGB BHAC representative has gone through the formal application process, and Cotter has recommended Alexandra Kuhlman (Lexee) and she has gone through the formal application process as well. Tyerman-Harper noted that their approval is contingent upon background checks.

Osborne made a motion, seconded by Jarecke to approve the new members, contingent on successful background checks. Cotter abstained from vote.

Motion carried.

2021 Network Provider Survey Results and Comparison: Johnson discussed survey results, and one of the common trends of the results is that executive directors tend to comment upon prompt returning of inquiries, and Johnson said he and his staff were continually working on response times and trying to let directors know when multiple people have to be consulted prior to giving an answer. Johnson responded to a comment given on the survey about executive director involvement and he took this opportunity to highlight the Region V System administrators doing an excellent job as he has been pulled away from executive director duties for issues occurring at the State and legislative level.

Duncan made a motion, seconded by Kuzelka to accept the survey results, and put them on file.

Motion carried.

2021 BHAC Survey Results and Comparison: Johnson thanked the BHAC members for filling out the survey, he has appreciated the diverse representation of the committee, appreciative of the questions, comments, and observations of the committee. BHAC is an appreciated committee, the Regional Governing Board looks to them as advisors.

Cotter made a motion, seconded by Winslow to accept the survey results, and put them on file.

Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION

Behavioral Health/Legislative Updates: Johnson reported that the Governor signed the Appropriations Bill, and there will be a two percent across the board increase for Behavioral Health providers. The landlord mitigation bill passed, helping to create standards with funding to award a landlord for excessive damages, which will enhance the ability to acquire more units for consumers with a severe and persistent mental illness and/or substance abuse issues. Historical damages are being looked at to negotiate a standard payment when excessive damages occur.

- **Covid 19 Impact:** Johnson explained that the Covid-gap funding will end in April, the funding was tapered down.
- **Medicaid Implementation Impact:** Johnson discussed the significant decline in drawdown and the reinvestment funding planned, there may need to be Requests for Proposals (RFP) sent out. Some specific areas of reinvestment include supported employment and additional housing.

Emergency Systems:

- 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. Nelson is working with the mayor's office to get additional funding for BETA training for first responders.

Prevention:

- Johnson 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.
- Johnson 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 several reports provided in attachments.

- *Complaints, Appeals, Critical Incidents* are all monitored as a CARF requirement; providers are required to have an appeals process and report any of these incidents to Region V. Observations are made and action plans are put in place to affect positive change. Providers also share their observations and plans and are able to get ideas from each other.

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- *Ineligibles and Denials* are tracked to gain an understanding as a network who is being referred for services and the exact reasons that they are ineligible and denied. Many in this report were in relation to a medical comorbidity in short-term residential services.
- *State Outcomes-Employment/Housing* are reported on for State directives to track stable housing and employment at discharge to meet the State target for stability in housing. Region V is above the state target. Employment outcomes have been affected by the pandemic and direct health measures, people were not able to go look for employment. When people leave against medical advice, employment and housing are also impacted.
- *QI Perception of Care* includes detailed survey information about the quality and effectiveness of the services consumers receive. If a network provider falls below the 85% threshold, there is an automatic requirement of an quality improvement action plan, which is shared among the providers. Johnson noted that the CQI team at Region V have developed a continuous quality improvement that is second to none, and the Stat often reaches out to Region V when looking at these type of activities, and all of the work is greatly appreciated.

BHAC Attendance Report: Included for informational purposes.

Training: Provided for informational purposes.

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 10 – 10:30 a.m. – RGB Meeting – Region V Services
- May 13 – 9:00 a.m. – Regional Prevention Coalition – via Zoom
- May – 9:00 a.m. – Network Providers Meeting – via Zoom
- May 19 – 1:00 p.m. – Level of Care (LOC) – via Zoom
- June 2 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting – TBD

ADJOURN

Knight thanked Cotter for his services and mentorship. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.