

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES Hybrid Meeting

October 27, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Region V Systems, 1645 N Street

MEMBERS PRESENT: Irene Duncan, Corrine Jarecke, Corrie Kielty, Stephanie Knight, Jill Kuzelka, Rebecca Meinders, Linda Mesteth, Barbara Murphy, Laura Osborne, Gale Pohlmann, Darla Winslow

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christine Cooney, Karen Helmberger, Greg Janak

OTHERS PRESENT: C.J. Johnson, Tami DeShon, Sandy Morrissey, Joe Pastuszak, Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

HOUSEKEEPING AND INTRODUCTIONS

Osborne called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. followed by rollcall.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

OPEN MEETING ACT INFORMATION

Osborne 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, published October 13, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Osborne asked the committee for permission to vote by voice vote rather than rollcall to expedite the meeting format. There was no dissent. Knight made a motion, seconded by Duncan, to approve the Consent Agenda (Minutes – September 1, 2021, FY 21-22 Compliance Management Report, RGB Report) as presented. Motioned carried.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Contracts / Contract Amendments:

- October Contract Shifts: DeShon reviewed shift requests for October noting that some shifts apply to Region V reinvestment and others are provider related. Unallocated funding includes funds that were not drawn down due to Medicaid implementation as providers were not using their budgeted capacity. These shifts include an attempt to right-size the system after a rate increase led to a reduction of capacity because there was no accompanying increase in funding. DeShon then reviewed each of the contract shift requests. Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Kuzelka, to recommend the Board approve the October Contract Shifts as presented. Motion carried.
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT): Johnson explained the Region can provide funding for DBT training, an evidence-based practice, due to Medicaid expansion and One-Time-Only Federal Block Grant funding. This funding will reimburse participants for lost billing time as the training requires 15 days of involvement. Funding is available to all Region V providers; however, Integrated Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) and Telecare are the only agencies where this additional funding is 15% or more of their contract and thus need BHAC and Board approval. Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) will work with Region V to implement DBT with attention to confidentiality concerns though there is no reimbursement available for LRC. Duncan made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve these contracts related to DBT training. Motion carried.
- Motivational Interviewing (MI): Region V will be able to provide participant fees for attendees; however, the funding does not equal more than 15% of the contracts for any network provider agency. Additionally, the Region is developing an agreement with LRC to implement MI to include multiple layers of agency staff.

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Training requires two to four days to complete, and no reimbursement is available under this Executive Summary for LRC. Duncan made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to recommend the Board approve this contract with LRC for Motivational Interviewing training. Motion carried.

FY 19-20 Annual Report (draft): Johnson explained that the Region had been unable to finalize the FY 19-20 Annual Report until now because the annual CPA audit was delayed due to Covid concerns. Johnson briefly reviewed main areas covered by the report including structure, governance, funding and expenditures, network administration, demographics of persons served, quality improvement activities, system coordination, children and family services (FYI), partnerships and collaborations, and employees. Johnson noted that the FY 20-21 Annual Report will be on the January BHAC agenda. Meinders made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve the updated draft of the FY 19-20 Annual Report as presented. Motion carried.

Prevention Mini-Grant Award Recommendations: Morrissey reviewed the four applications for mini-grant funding for the winter cycle. Applicants include Crete Community Assistance Office (\$1,499); Saunders County ACT / Youth Services (\$500); Southeast Nebraska (\$1,600); and Falls City FCA, Hope Squads (\$2,000). Kuzelka made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to recommend the Board approve the committee recommendations totaling \$5,599 as presented. Motion carried.

Prevention Mini-Grant Review Standards (revised): Morrissey asked that anyone interested in becoming a member of the mini-grant review committee contact her. Morrissey then reviewed revisions to the mini-grant review standards. Changes were made in the areas of priorities, the timing of the grant cycle, inclusion of the maximum request amount, and emphasis on evidence-based programing. Jarecke made a motion, seconded by Meinders, to recommend the Board approve the revised Mini-Grant Review Standards as presented. Motion carried.

FY 20-21 CLAS Coalition Fund Report / FY 21-22 CLAS Award Summary: Morrissey reported that a total of \$8,428 in CLAS funds was approved in FY 20-21. The amount includes the purchase of 36 Travis Touch Go Translators at a cost of \$7,164. Morrissey also briefly reviewed the FY 21-22 CLAS Award Summary. St. Monica's, Lincoln Medical Education Partnership (LMEP) and School Community Intervention and Prevention (SCIP) submitted requests totaling \$2,600. Duncan made a motion, seconded by Knight, to recommend the Board approve the FY 20-21 CLAS Coalition Fund Report and the FY 21-22 CLAS Award Summary as presented.

OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION

Behavioral Health/Legislative Updates:

- 988 Call Number: There has been approval to begin 988 implementation which is designed to replace the National Suicide Hotline. The intention is to support law enforcement, and implementation is moving forward in Nebraska with the intent to activate the 988 hotline by June 30 of 2022. This change in structure will cause Region V to look at current crisis response activities. The call center will continue to be housed at Boys Town.
- A number of Legislative Reviews are in place to examine the behavioral health system. Due to Medicaid expansion, providers are not pulling down their NBHS capacity leaving funds available for reinvestment. Priority areas will be those identified service gaps that are not eligible for Medicaid or insurance funding, expansion of rural services, and other services that would have a positive impact on the emergency system and may include existing or new services. Proposals that have been approved include:
 - Expansion of services in rural areas including 988 initiative
 - Expansion of supported housing including an additional housing specialist and 20 more vouchers, mental health funds for some consumers served through the RPH program
 - Expanded Professional Partner services to include the hiring of four new professional partners. This expansion will have a positive impact on the wait list for this service.
 - Purchase 10 iPads for Crisis Response
 - RFP for Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal – Bridge Behavioral Health (BBH) responded to the RFP and submitted a proposal. Currently, due to a nursing shortage, BBH will temporarily not be able to fully implement this service.

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- Move away from having Voc Rehab as the gatekeeper for Supported Employment. Also, funds have been shifted allowing Mental Health Association (MHA) to work with consumers with substance use disorders.
- Increased programing at the Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC), the addition of recovery support services for clients in the rural areas who are unable to bridge to Community Support, and peer support for law enforcement using the REAL model in rural areas are currently pending approval
- Johnson commented that Medicaid expansion has led to unique opportunities. Federal funding due to the pandemic (American Rescue Act) has pushed dollars down to counties. These funds are flexible and can be used for capital constructions costs which will enable providers to carry out projects that have been on hold. Lancaster County is currently reviewing approximately 30 applications for a variety of behavioral health supports in local areas which could include transportation needs, basic needs, and capital construction costs.

Emergency System:

- Behavioral Health Threat Assessment (BETA) for Lincoln Fire & Rescue (LFR) Course Evaluations: LFR had approached Region V requesting BETA training for all LFR personnel. A total of 15 trainings were held, 264 members of LFR were trained, and survey results were excellent indicating that previous knowledge on the subject was expanded.
- BETA four-day trainings are scheduled for January and July and are geared toward law enforcement. Mini-BETA (1 day) trainings for rural areas are scheduled for February and March and a 1-day training is scheduled for youth.
- Johnson spoke briefly to the statewide challenge regarding access to Lincoln Regional Center (LRC). LRC has had challenges getting appropriate nursing staff and techs, which has created reductions in the ability of LRC to accept individuals. In addition, the Joint Commission accreditation site visit identified some ligature concerns (aspects of buildings that present a suicide risk) and LRC is working to mitigate those concerns.
- These limitations present a challenge for the emergency system and for law enforcement as there may not be available space in hospitals or MHCC and officers must then transport individuals out-of-Region. Ongoing meetings with hospital administrators, Crisis Center personnel, DBH, DHHS Director Smith and other concerned parties are looking at recommendations to help alleviate these challenges in the short and long term.

Prevention:

- Morrissey explained that Prevention is working with KidGlov to use opioid grant funding to do campaigns focused on overdoses. A series of webinars targeting stimulants is another focus with the goal of increasing awareness of stimulant use and other changes regarding drug of choice in our communities.
- Planning is ongoing to use suicide funding to increase means restrictions. Several entities including the NE Gun Association, Veterans Administration, Bryan Hospital, County Extension, and others are partnering in this planning.
- Coalitions are looking at a campaign focused on underage drinking, possibly targeting parents.
- Plans are being made to use reinvestment dollars to help educate the community at large on the effects of trauma. Initial plans call for a video series of 12 webinars. The content of these webinars would be available ongoing and could be shared statewide.

BHAC Membership Recruiting: Tyerman-Harper explained that during orientation, Lexee Alexander mentioned that she was a part time employee at HopeSpoke, one of Region V's funded providers, which would make her ineligible under BHAC bylaws. Her removal brings the number of current BHAC members to 14, which is out of compliance with BHAC bylaws. Region V will be recruiting for this vacancy.

Executive Order 14042: Johnson discussed the Federal Mandate that impacts entities that have 100 or more employees and mandates full vaccination for all employees. There are two exceptions under that order – medical and religious. A component affects entities that receive Federal funding. Region V has sought legal advice to clarify how encompassing this rule is. Region V is implementing the mandate within our agency and is reviewing how that may trickle down to providers who receive or could receive Federal funding.

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Region V Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) Accreditation: Johnson reported that Region V recently had its national survey through CARF. Region V is accredited for FYI, Prevention, and Network Management programs. There are over 2,000 standards that an agency had to meet and there were no recommendations. One of the surveyors stated that she has done hundreds of CARF surveys and Region V is now her #1 agency for its performance.

2021 Region V Network Compliance Review: Region V was found to be in substantial compliance with its FY 21 contract. *Audio lost here . . . recording contained this remark.*

Network Continuous Quality Improvement: Pastuszek gave a brief overview of the following reports:

- 2021 Compass-EZ Region V Network & State Biennial Comparisons: This assessment is completed every two years. This year the Region V Network, on average, scored 4 or above, on the 5-point scale for every domain of the assessment.
- 2021 Trauma Informed Care (TIC) Region V Network and State Biennial Comparisons: The TIC self-assessment is also completed every two years and monitors agencies' use of trauma informed services. The areas where the Network, on average, scored below 4 on the 5-point scale were "Admin Support for TI Services" and "Human Resources Practices."
- FY 20-21 Perception of Care: Persons served by Network Providers continue to report high levels of satisfaction with their care. At the last RQIT meeting providers shared strategies they have in place to impact participants' feeling better able to handle crisis and having the support they need from family and friends, two areas the Network has performed lower on.
- FY 20-21 Stable Living and Employment at Discharge: 86% of persons discharging from services are in stable living, up from 82% last year. Of those persons in the labor force, 56% are employed at discharge, down slightly from last year.
- FY 20-21 Consumer Recovery Outcomes: 52% of persons in the Network showed significant improvement in their functioning for FY 20-21. Most services are meeting the thresholds established by RQIT.
- FY 20-21 National Outcome Measures: An uptick in the proportion of persons using substances at discharge was noted with other measures remaining stable.
- FY 2021 Region V CACI Report: Critical incidents were highest in residential and emergency services. SUD categories had a slight decrease though the number remains high, deaths increased for the second year and medication errors were down.
- FY 21 Q3 Quality File Review Aggregate Report: All agencies were above the 80 percent threshold.
- FY 21 Ineligibles and Denials: Social detox and short term residential had the highest number of ineligible consumers; short term residential and hospital diversion had the highest number of denials largely due to being at capacity.

Wellness Initiative Quarterly Report: This report is attached for your information, as Wellness Initiative is the Region V Services contracted peer run organization. Chris Allende is the agency representative.

Capacity Utilization Summaries (CAP): CAP summaries through August were provided for informational purposes. Johnson briefly explained how the spreadsheets function and how they are used by Region V.

Training: A list was provided for informational purposes.

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 8 – 10:30 a.m. – RGB Meeting – at Region V Services
- November 15 – 9:00 a.m. – Network Providers Meeting
- December 9 – 9:00 a.m. – Regional Prevention Coalition
- January 26 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.