

# REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

## REGION V SYSTEMS MINUTES

April 11, 2022  
Region V Services  
3600 Union Drive / Zoom  
Lincoln, NE  
10:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Emily Haxby, Gage County; Gale Pohlmann, Jefferson County; Jim Erickson, Johnson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Janet Henning, Saline County; John Zaugg, Saunders County; Ken Schmieding, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County; Bill Bamesberger, York County

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ryan Svoboda, Butler County; Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Larry Holtzman, Nemaha County; Jerry Westring, Polk County

**OTHERS PRESENT:** C.J. Johnson, Tami DeShon, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

### **OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION**

Pohlmann 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 at [region5systems.net](http://region5systems.net). Notification of this meeting and information regarding availability of the agenda was provided through a legal notice in the Lincoln Journal Star, published April 3, 2022.

### **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / AGENDA**

Pohlmann called the meeting to order at 10:44 a.m. followed by roll call.

**Present:** Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

**Absent:** Butler County, Fillmore County, Polk County

Johnson asked that voting take place by voice vote to facilitate the hybrid agenda. Motion by Henning, seconded by Lang, to approve the April 11, 2022, agenda. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS**

**Regional Governing Board Minutes, February 14, 2022:** Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the February 14, 2022, minutes as presented. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Copies of the Financial Report were available this morning. DeShon presented financials through February 28 noting changes to the report which allow for comparison between the current

month and year for last year and this year-to-date. DeShon then reviewed expenditures for substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment and other administrative / program costs. With 66.67 percent of the fiscal year completed, total expenditures stand at 56.38 percent, over ten percent below the anticipated amount. DeShon provided rationale for several highlighted areas where expenditures were over 66.7 percent. Lang made a motion, seconded by. Bamesberger, to approve the financial report as presented. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

**County Contributions:**

- Johnson discussed the proposed County Contributions for FY 22-23. The Legislature had previously approved a two percent rate increase. Additionally, the Appropriations Committee included a 15 percent rate increase in the budget, which was vetoed by the Governor and approved when the veto was over-ridden. At this time it is not clear if the increase will be 15 or 17 percent. New census figures were also used in the calculation of the County Match.
- Because of significant growth in population several counties will see a similar significant increase in County Match requirements. Johnson asked for Board approval based on the 17 percent increase, noting that would be the worst case scenario. Henning made a motion, seconded by Zaugg, to approve the County Contributions as proposed. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.
- Johnson then queried Board Members to see if they would like to have him attend one of their Board meetings to present the match information. Board members indicated that they would like to have him do so; a number of counties have a Zoom option that would be acceptable.

**Contract Shifts (March Reinvestment):**

- Johnson explained that the dollars appearing in these contract shifts reflect funding available because of Medicaid expansion. The shifts include:
  1. \$75,000 from OP/MH to the Mental Health Association (MHA) to implement the REAL program in rural Nebraska. This would involve hiring two mental health peers to operate as navigators who would respond to law enforcement when an individual is experiencing a mental health crisis in rural areas. This is being piloted in four Region V counties initially.
  2. \$15,000 from OP/MH to Goodwill to implement Supported Employment in rural areas. This shift and the following one focus on rural areas and intend to operate on best practices which show that when an individual is ready to seek employment, that is the time to get them involved. The current model requires that Voc Rehab be the gatekeeper which causes significant delays.
  3. \$10,000 from OP/MH to Goodwill (SUD) also for Supported Employment in rural areas.
  4. \$40,500 from OP/MH to Region V for CQI Coordination Training for a total of \$140,500. Training will focus on instruction in American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria, a measurement used in substance abuse evaluations, and utilizing the Daily Living Activities (DLA)-20 tool.
- Krueger made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the contract shifts as presented. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.
- In addition to these services, the Region has received some ARPA block grants and is working with counties to use some of the ARPA funding, which has fewer restrictions and can be used for capital construction. Two services that are being brought forward are a walk-in center and the expansion of respite.
- Utilizing Zoom to hold Intensive Outpatient (IOP) groups which would allow persons in county jails to participate, is being piloted. This would include an option to allow them to continue to participate in the 12-week program after they are released. Chris Allende with Wellness Initiative has been identified to act as a representative of the Region and is currently promoting peer run programming in Otoe County. This platform will be expanded to all counties if buy-in from County Sheriffs can be attained.

**Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) – Janelle Moore:** This contract with Moore is for the purpose of providing MHFA training for adults and youth. Moore is compensated at \$400 per 8-hour training. Henning made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve this contract with Moore. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

**Behavioral Health Threat Assessment (BETA) LPD Funding:** This contract with the City of Lincoln will provide funding for an additional BETA and Youth BETA training within the City of Lincoln. Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Bamesberger, to ratify the Region entering this contract with the City of Lincoln. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

**Site Visit Reports:** Kreifels presented the following site visit reports noting that there are two types of audits – a unit audit, and an audit of program fidelity.

- Blue Valley Behavioral Health (BVBH): BVBH had both a program fidelity and a unit audit and was found to be in full compliance with all aspects of the audit.
- CenterPointe: CenterPointe had both a program fidelity audit and a unit audit. For several services (Dual Disorder Residential, Outpatient Substance Use Disorder (OP/SUD), and Peer Support discrepancies were found for the unit audit and the 95 percent threshold was not achieved. Payback for unverified units, a Corrective Action Plan, and a re-audit will be conducted for these programs.
- Lutheran Family Services (LFS): LFS had a unit audit only. OP/SUD and Peer Specialist MH and SUD were found to be out of compliance and did not achieve the 95% threshold. A Corrective Action Plan and a re-audit will be conducted for these programs.
- Lang made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the site visit reports as presented. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

**Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Monitoring Audit Report (Program: Rural Permanent Housing):** Johnson presented findings from the HUD Audit of the RPH program which is funded by a grant. For this service clients do not need to have a mental health diagnosis but must be homeless or at risk of homelessness to qualify. There were six Findings and two Concerns. Corrective Action Plans were required for the Findings and have been submitted. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

**Alternative Compliance – Community Support and PIER:** Johnson explained that providers must apply for Alternative Compliance annually. Alternative Compliance allows providers to bill in 15-minute increments for Community Support (CS) and PIER is allowed to operate with an APRN rather than a psychiatrist. Community Support is billed on a per diem basis, and under that standard providers were not allowed to bill for any services provided if they did not meet with an individual three times or a total of three hours a month. It has become increasingly difficult to hire a psychiatrist, which is why PIER has requested using an APRN instead. Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Schmieding, to approve the annual requests for Alternative Compliance for Community Support and PIER. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

**Annual Conflict of Interest / Code of Ethics Acknowledgement Statement:** Krueger made a motion, seconded by Bamesberger, to approve the Annual Conflict of Interest / Code of Ethics Acknowledgement Statement as presented. There were no conflicts of interest impacting Region V Systems. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County,

Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

### **OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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

- A bill (LB1223) was initiated by Lancaster County to address the issue regarding individuals in need of mental health restoration. These would be persons who have committed a crime and a judge has determined that they are not competent to stand trial. These individuals may be ordered to Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) to attempt to restore competency. Currently there is a significant backlog of persons waiting in jail for admission to Lincoln Regional Center (LRC). The bill would pay counties a daily fee of \$100 associated with those persons.
- Because of this backlog of persons waiting for restoration and evaluation, it has been increasingly difficult for consumers on Mental Health Board (MHB) commitment to be admitted to LRC. The second part of the bill would increase the number of beds available for MHB commitments from approximately 50 to 72 dedicated beds. Immediately following behavioral reform there were 90 beds available for inpatient committed individuals. DHHS currently would like to set that number at 40, which is why the bill was introduced. Johnson stated that the Regional system should know how many beds are available and be able to manage dedicated beds independent of LRC.
- The bill was not initially recognized as a priority bill due to a misunderstanding on the part of Senator Lathrop. Testimony convinced him that this issue should be a priority, and an amendment was subsequently attached to Senator Cavanaugh's bill, LB921, which is a priority. This bill would require that Medicaid get "turned on" for individuals who are inmates of a public institution at least 60 days prior to their anticipated release date.

**Emergency System:** Kreifels briefly referenced the report on Behavioral Health Threat Assessment (BETA) 2022 Evaluation Summary. Evaluations from the recent 4-day BETA training for law enforcement were provided.

**Prevention:** Morrissey reported on prevention activities including compliance checks re selling to underage individuals, trainings, evidence based practices in schools, targeting underage drinking and lethal means availability reduction.

**Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) Membership / Recruiting:** Recruitment for individuals interested in serving on the BHAC is ongoing. Any interested person can be directed to the application on the website or contact Rabe at Region V Systems. Focus areas include increasing diversity and ensuring the rural areas have a voice.

#### **Network Continuous Quality Improvement:**

- Regional Data Overview Report: This report monitors the effectiveness, access and satisfaction measures for services provided and is a standard of excellence for CARF accredited agencies. Focus areas are stable living at discharge and employment status at discharge.
- Complaints, Appeals, Critical Incident Report: Each Network Provider has a mechanism to manage and report these incidents. Ideally these complaints can be resolved between the consumer and the agency. All complaints were resolved within the agency so there were no appeals. There are 31 types of critical incidents. Several observations and quality improvement action activities were noted.
- Ineligibles and Denials: This report identifies the various reason that individuals are not getting into services and helps to identify gaps and needs in the system. A number of observations were noted.
- Recovery Outcomes: Providers administer a tool measuring consumer functioning at admission and again at discharge. Categories include significant improvement, no change or significant decline.
- National Outcome Measures: States receiving SAMHSA funding are required to submit outcomes in the areas of employment, living arrangement, criminal justice involvement, alcohol abstinence and drug abstinence.

- **Stable Living & Employment at Discharge:** This report measures the proportion of individuals in stable living and in the labor market at discharge and indicates whether or not the service has met the threshold established for this category.
- **Perception of Care:** This report measures the consumers level of satisfaction and effectiveness with services provided from their direct input.

**FY 21-22 Capacity Utilization Summary Reports:** Using CenterPointe's CAP as an example, Johnson demonstrated how the forms are used to project drawdown by the end of the year, and what funding may be available for reinvestment. These projections have been the basis for requests to implement reinvestment strategies in the behavioral health system. Johnson discussed the difference between FFS and NFFS services and the impact of Medicaid implementation on our provider network. Through February the fiscal year is at 66.7 percent and each line item shows how close the agency is to pulling down that projected contract amount. These dollars that are anticipated to be "left on the table" are being used to initiate new services, including Medicaid eligible services.

**FY 21-22 Network Provider Management Report:** Provided for informational purposes.

**FY 21-22 Training Plan:** Provided for informational purposes.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- April 18 – Network Provider Meeting
- April 27 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
- May 9 – RGB Meeting – 10:30 a.m.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.