

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

REGION V SYSTEMS MINUTES

May 9, 2022
Region V Services
3600 Union Drive / Zoom
Lincoln, NE
10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Emily Haxby, Gage County; Gale Pohlmann, Jefferson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Ken Schmieding, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County; Bill Bamesberger, York County

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Svoboda, Butler County; Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Jim Erickson, Johnson County; Larry Holtzman, Nemaha County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Janet Henning, Saline County; John Zaugg, Saunders County

OTHERS PRESENT: C.J. Johnson, Tami DeShon, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Amanda Tyerman-Harper, 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. Notification of this meeting and information regarding availability of the agenda was provided through a legal notice in the Lincoln Journal Star, published May 1, 2022.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / AGENDA

Pohlmann called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. followed by roll call.

Present: Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Johnson County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Saline County, Saunders County

Johnson asked that voting take place by voice vote to facilitate the hybrid agenda. Motion by Lang, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the May 9, 2022, agenda. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Regional Governing Board Minutes, April 11, 2022: Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Bamesberger, to approve the February 14, 2022, minutes as presented. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

Regional Governing Board Executive Committee Minutes – April 11, 2022: There was no discussion or action required concerning the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of the same date.

Election of Vice Chair: Caverzagie had accepted the position of Vice Chair for Region V Services at their earlier meeting. Krueger made a motion, seconded by Schmieding, to approve Caverzagie as Vice Chair for Region V Systems as well. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson 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 March reviewing expenditures for substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment and other administrative / program costs. With 75 percent of the fiscal year completed, total expenditures stand at 62.9 percent, approximately 12 percent below the anticipated amount. DeShon provided rationale for several highlighted areas where expenditures were over 75 percent and anticipates that most of these areas will fall within the budget by the end of the year. Krueger made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the Financial Report as presented. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

Vehicle Purchase: Johnson explained that the leases on the Region V vehicles were coming to an end. Negotiations with the dealer indicated that it might be as much as nine months before cars would be available to lease. In addition, the lease amount would go from \$250 per month to \$450 per month. All three vehicles are 2019 models and have been well maintained. Johnson asked the Board to approve purchase of the leased vehicles for a total of \$44,289.40. Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the purchase of these three leased vehicles. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

April Contract Shifts: DeShon presented contracts shift explaining that these shifts are done quarterly and are initiated by providers.

- Blue Valley Behavioral Health: Request to shift \$20,000 from Adult Mental Health / Outpatient (MH/OP) to Children's MH/OP.
- HopeSpoke: Request to move \$35,000 from Children's OP / Substance Use Disorder (SUD) to Children's Assessments and \$7,500 from Children's OP / SUD to Therapeutic Community.
- Prevention: Request to move \$3,000 from Prevention – Education to Prevention – Environmental and \$545 from Prevention – Community to Prevention – Environmental.
- Bamesberger made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the Contract Shifts as presented. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

Annual Survey Results: Johnson presented each of these surveys noting that if any result is below 80 percent or a result has declined by 10 percent or more, the issue will be addressed. Overall, there were few areas of concern.

- Network Provider Executive Director Survey Results: This survey is circulated to Network Providers and the BHAC for review. There were no significant issues. In the past there have been comments regarding the speed with which providers could receive a response to a request; however, this year's survey did not reflect that concern.
- BHAC Survey Results: There were no concerns that fell below the threshold; however, there were comments indicating that the BHAC can sometimes feel like a rubber stamp. Johnson explained that at one time the Board acted on various motions, and then the information was relayed to the BHAC and Network Providers and they were not allowed an opportunity to provide input. The current system allows the Board members to feel comfortable approving motions for areas where they may not have a great deal of experience or expertise because they are assured that knowledgeable individuals have had an opportunity to review the motion items and offer input.
- Regional Governing Board Survey Results: There were no significant issues regarding the Board survey.

- Region V Staff Survey Results: There were no significant issues for this staff survey, though concerns were expressed regarding the cleaning service. Johnson indicated that Region V will be seeking bids to upgrade the cleaning service to a more professional level. There were also concerns regarding accessibility to the building for persons having mobility concerns. The Region does have a doorbell, and assistance can be provided for anyone having difficulties getting in the building.
- Best Places to Work Survey: The Region has been notified that Region V has once again placed in the top five in the Best Places to Work Survey. Because the Region is a non-profit and is not able to offer the types of amenities some agencies have, it is impressive that the Region has qualified in the top five for the 4th time. Results will be available in June.
- Lang made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the Survey Reports as presented. Voting aye were Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none. Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates:

- There is still no clarity regarding whether the 15 percent rate increase is in addition to the 2 percent rate increase already allocated. Until that is clarified, proposed county contributions are being based on a 17 percent rate increase. The 2020 census is also being used. Counties that show significant growth will be affected regarding their county contributions to a greater degree.
- Medicaid expansion and Covid have both had a strong negative impact on some services, and in particular residential programs. The Region did ask for emergency funding for a rate increase for the current fiscal year though Johnson commented that this won't help our providers a great deal.
- The second part of that request would have allowed the Region to treat providers as if they were non-fee-for-service (NFFS) providers and cover the gap between what they were pulling down through Medicaid, insurance and the Region; however, the Division denied that part of the request. The Division is further complicating efforts to support providers by saying that some agencies are not eligible for the ER funding because they were serving only Medicaid clients. Had the NFFS portion of the request been approved, the Region could have paid for the gaps as mentioned earlier.

Emergency System:

- One requirement of LB 921, passed during the last session, is that when an individual is in jail waiting for a court hearing regarding their restoration for their court hearing, the counties of Douglas, Sarpy and Lancaster are reimbursed \$100 a day for continuing to house those people. The impetus behind this bill was an effort to push flowthrough at Lincoln Regional Center (LRC).
- The bill also provides that an identified percentage of active beds be available for certain entities. Thirty percent of active beds will be available for persons on inpatient (IP) commitment. Over the last several years individuals waiting for restoration were being prioritized over the IP committed individuals. As a result, clients have been waiting at the Crisis Center for 30-60 days.
- A series of meetings are being held with all hospitals statewide that are contracted for psychiatric care, the Lincoln Regional Center and DHHS to begin to implement this process. It was noted that a taskforce has been established to study this issue and make recommendations.

Reinvestment / ARPA Projects:

- Reinvestment funding-related projects have been put on hold for now. The Division is telling the Regions that reinvestment funds must be used to pay for the rate increase approved by the Legislature. The Legislative Fiscal Office disagrees with the Division regarding the legislative intent of the bill. The Division is also insisting that the funding be certified for encumbrances creating further delays and opportunities for denial. Certification would not take place until August. As a result, the Region will be paying for the rate increase costs out of the reinvestment dollars for those months. Johnson stated that there are no encumbrances that he is aware of, and those dollars were allocated to the Regions.
- Additionally, Regions are being told that 3.5 million dollars of the reinvestment funds must be used for implementation of 988. Regarding the rollout of 988, it appears that the system will be ready to implement in July as a process has been established between 911 and 988. Also, Boys Town has previously operated the National Suicide Hotline, will continue to be the hub for 988 and will not have to hire a significant number of new staff.

Prevention: Morrissey reported the following:

- In a recent policy shift driven by legislation, the Region will only be distributing Narcan to first responders, law enforcement and EMTs. Unfortunately, our Network Providers will have to use the pharmacies for their supply. This decision is affecting schools. Morrissey stated that School Resource Officers (SROs) would be able to get Narcan through the Regions. The Pharmacist Association is working to increase the number of pharmacies where Narcan is available.
- Morrissey noted that she has had to remind people that prevention ends when treatment / intervention begins so prevention funding isn't available for any type of treatment.
- Prevention is seeing more participation and is working to build and sustain programs such a WRAP and other evidence-based programs.

Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) Membership / Recruiting: BHAC membership currently stands at 12, with one member terming out after the June meeting. Bylaws stipulate that membership should be between 15-20 members. There is one application, which will be brought to the Board for approval in June. Anyone knowing someone who might be interested in serving on the BHAC is asked to contact the Region and / or Rabe.

Network Continuous Quality Improvement: Kreifels stated that training continues to move forward for Motivational Interviewing and Dialectal Behavior Therapy, both evidence-based practices. Fidelity and outcome reports for these trainings will be presented at the June meeting.

County Visits: County visits are being scheduled, and some have been completed. Johnson commented that he has appreciated the opportunity to join some of those meetings remotely when possible.

FY 22-23 Meeting Schedule (draft): Provided for informational purposes. Johnson noted that there is one more meeting for this fiscal year and he urged everyone to be sure and attend as there are several important motion decisions, including Region V's budget, to be made at that meeting.

FY 22-23 Site Visit Schedule (draft): Provided for informational purposes.

FY 21-22 Capacity Utilization Summary Reports: CAP reports through March were provided at the meeting. Providers and services can be reviewed to see which services have not pulled down 75% of their contracts by this time.

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

FY 21-23 Training Plan: Provided for informational purposes.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was brief discussion regarding the contract with The Bridge Behavioral Health (BBH). BBH is discontinuing provision of civil protective custody. Several rural counties, including York and Polk, have individual contracts with BBH for this service. The Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) contracts will be revised to delete any reference to BBH. BBH has been unable to accredit the program and the Division will not fund a program that is not accredited or evidence based.

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 16 – Network Provider Meeting
- June 1 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
- June 13 – RGB Meeting – 10:30 a.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m.