

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

REGION V SYSTEMS MINUTES

March 13, 2023

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Emily Haxby, Gage County; Les Agena, Johnson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County, Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County); Janet Henning, Saline County; Bill Reece, Saunders County; Ken Schmieding, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Svoboda, Butler County; Gale Pohlmann, Jefferson County; Michael Weiss, Nemaha County; Stan Boehr, York County

OTHERS PRESENT: Tami DeShon, Renee' Dozier, Teri Effle, Wade Fruhling, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Jon Kruse, Kayla Lathrop, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

HOUSEKEEPING

OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Vice Chair Caverzagie chaired the meeting in Pohlmann's absence. Caverzagie 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 March 5, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / AGENDA

Caverzagie called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. followed by roll call. A quorum was present.

Present: Fillmore County, Gage County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County

Absent: Butler County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, York County

Agenda made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the March 13, 2023, agenda. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

STAFF RECOGNITION

- Kreifels recognized the Regional Prevention Coordination Team, Sandy Morrissey, Teri Effle and Kayla Lathrop, for winning three awards based on marketing results and strategy related to their collaboration with KidGlov. A recent UNL survey confirmed that most Nebraskans do not have knowledge of the opioid epidemic and / or the efforts undertaken to reduce harm through education and awareness. The Regional Prevention Coalition has been working hard to change that through messaging on social media. The awards were:

March 13, 2023

Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Page 2 of 5

1. AMA Lincoln Prism Award – for paid digital advertising and the search engine campaign in the Social Media category.
 2. AMA Omaha Pinnacle Award – These awards are a yearly showcase of the areas’ outstanding marketing talent and successful campaigns that are a result. This award was for the mental health campaign in 2020.
 3. PRSA Paper Anvil Awards – Prevention won two awards in this category, both for the opioid “stop and think” campaign.
- The prevention team spoke of the growing number of engagements that are taking place on Facebook, Instagram, and other social media as well as other prevention activities / trainings that are occurring regularly.
 - Kreifels also commended Wade Fruhling for the instrumental part he played in making Homeless Connect a success.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Regional Governing Board Minutes:

- February 13, 2023: Lang made a motion, seconded by Reece, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2023, meeting as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.
- February 13, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes: No action was required regarding the minutes of the executive committee meeting.

Financial Report:

- DeShon presented the fiscal report through January 2023, briefly reviewing income and expenditures. With 58.33 percent of the fiscal year completed, total expenditures stand at 54.53 percent and are approximately 3.8 percent under budget.
- The highlighted areas where expenditures were over 58.33 percent were the same as the last monthly report, and as reported last month, these line items will be operating within the budget by the end of the fiscal year.

Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Agena, to approve the Financial Report as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

Contracts - State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant: Morrissey reviewed the following contractual agreements:

- Marcus Media Group: This contract, in the amount of \$35,530, is to provide movie trailers to increase awareness of the opioid crisis. These movie trailers include information about Narcan, risks related to overdose, how to use Narcan, and pharmacies where Narcan is available. These trailers will run before every movie in 32 venues until September 29 when the grant ends.
- KidGlov: This contract, in the amount of \$20,500 will allow for management and upkeep of the opioid page on the [talkheart2heart](#) webpage and will create a digital ad campaign promoting free Narcan and other prevention information about opioid use disorder and other stimulant misuse and use disorders.

Henning made a motion, seconded by Lang, to ratify the State Opioid Response Grant contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

County Matching Funds (NRS 71-808):

- Kreifels reviewed county matching funds which were established via Revised Statute 71-808. These numbers are provided to allow counties to plan based on the match required. For this year the match is based on an additional 10.3 million dollars statewide that had been included in the Regions’ contract. Former DBH Director Dawson’s budget included the 10.3 million dollars which was designed to cover the 15 percent rate increase for agency providers.
- When Governor Pilleen subsequently released his budget, he removed that line item making the claim that the Regions had enough money to cover the rate increases. Kreifels noted that the Governor’s claim would

appear to be correct at first glance; however, Kreifels articulated several reasons why the Regions have not been able to pull down the funds in their allocations. Challenges include:

- When the Region was allowed to react quickly to shift funding, dollars could be directed to the areas that needed additional dollars without delay. Dollars left on the table increased in correlation to the loss of flexibility, moving from one percent in FY 2019 to 37 percent in FY 2022. Currently the Regions are only allowed to shift funds on a quarterly basis. The fact that dollars are being left on the table does not indicate that there is not a need for these behavioral health dollars but that the funds could not be shifted quickly.
- As a result of Medicaid expansion fewer individuals are using Region funding to provide for their behavioral health services. It was difficult to prepare for the initial impact, and in a similar way it is unknown how many and how quickly some of these individuals will return to Region V funding when the pandemic emergency ends.
- The pandemic exacerbated the Medicaid challenge as the poverty level was raised and while the emergency was in force, individuals could not be removed from Medicaid. Residential capacity was particularly impacted by the requirements to isolate persons served. There was a lack of workforce as well as lack of access to supplies due to supply chain issues.
- A significant barrier to pulling down funds has been the Division's tardiness in approving proposals. The Region has submitted over 30 proposals in the last 18 months, and it has required an average of 78 days to get approval, with one delay being 288 days. In the meantime, these dollars are committed, but not yet drawn down, one example being Adult Voluntary Crisis Response / Mental Health Respite.
- Additionally, the 15 percent rate increase contract amendment was not issued until the second quarter allowing a short period of time for Regions to redirect the funds into services as compared to ARPA funds where recipients have up to five years to allocate those dollars.
- The Regions are meeting with senators and working with the Division requesting that these funds be added back into the Region's allocation and several Regional Administrators will likely be testifying at the hearing scheduled for March 22, 2023. Meanwhile, statistics are indicating an increase in the number of adults and youth who are experiencing behavioral health challenges including suicidal ideation. Kreifels will email a list of talking points in greater detail to the Governing Board and invited those who were interested to contact their Senator and share their concerns.

Lang made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve the County Matching Funds as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried. Should any changes take place to this document, it will be brought to the Governing Board for approval.

FY 21-22 Annual Report:

- Kreifels reviewed the various components of the annual report, noting that the report includes information regarding structure and governance, funding and expenditures, network administration, children and family services, partnerships and collaborations and Region V staff among others. The fiscal transparency page has not been updated, as the Regional audit has not been completed. This information will be presented to the RGB when it is available.
- After reviewing additional data, Kreifels commented that he is proud of the work that Region V does that is reflected by this document noting that all the departments contribute to this effort while Rourke is responsible for the publication of the Annual Report.

Yoakum, made a motion, seconded by Schmieding, to approve the FY 21-22 Annual Report. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

Site Visit Report (Blue Valley Behavioral Health): Tyerman-Harper presented BVBH's audit summary noting that no services fell below the 95% threshold for the unit audit, and a program fidelity audit was not required this year. Expense based services are audited by the fiscal department and are scheduled for a later date. BVBH demonstrates substantial compliance with Minimum Standards and contractual requirements. Harre made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the Blue Valley Behavioral Health Site Visit Report as presented.

Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates:

- LB433 – Senator Jacobsen presented this bill on behalf of the Behavioral Health Regions. The bill is requesting flexibility from DHHS to allow Regions to move funds up to 20 percent within their approved budget, receive a response within 30 days, and be able to appeal to a neutral party if a request is denied. Several Regional Administrators have testified regarding this bill, and Yoakum and Pohlmann have met with the Appropriations Committee to express concerns. The bill is currently in committee, and it is unsure if it will advance during this session.
- Although it is anticipated that some persons served will return to Region V funding as they lose their Medicaid status, Tyerman-Harper commented that it may be time to look at a different target population, focusing on the underinsured, providing a safety net for individuals who aren't able to pay a co-pay or meet a deductible, even if they are insured.
- DHHS / DBH Biennium Budget – No additional discussion.
- LB921 – Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) – This bill was introduced in relationship to earlier legislation which was to provide Region V with additional access to LRC beds. It is the Regions' belief that the bill was not interpreted correctly as DHHS is interpreting it to mean that the priority population for LRC is those who are in jail waiting for restoration of competency. The Region maintains that the priority should be for those individuals who are on a Mental Health Board Commitment, and that admissions should be based on acuity. A letter signifying these concerns has been drafted and will be shared with the Governing Board at the April meeting.
- Per legislation passed last year, the Region should have access to 40 beds; currently 18 Region V individuals are at LRC. This has created a backlog of individuals waiting at the Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC), with mentally ill consumers being taken to jail and hospitals.
- LRC is maintaining that the Region is not helping to discharge clients. Kreifels explained that is not the case as Plans for One have been put in place for some discharges. Additionally, the Region has been providing Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) for staff and outcomes are reflecting that DBT has been instrumental in helping to discharge 2 women, and that there has been less seclusion and restraint required, as well as better medication compliance.
- DBH / CFS Organizational Assessment: DHHS has contracted with a private firm to conduct an organizational assessment for DHHS and for Children and Family Services. The assessment is primarily in relationship to what DHHS should be focusing on and whether to fill the position left vacant by Dawson or merge that division with Interim Director Green's current duties.

Lancaster County ARPA Collaborative Projects:

- Voluntary Crisis Response / Mental Health Respite: Tyerman-Harper stated that a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued for this service and a bidders conference was held with three interested providers. Two Letters of Intent were subsequently submitted. Proposals are due April 7 and will be reviewed by a diverse committee with representatives from Lancaster County, law enforcement, BHAC members, and Region V staff. The group will meet on April 17 and make recommendations prior to the April 26 BHAC and the May 8 RGB meeting.
- Family Resource Center: Dozier met with the Division to refine the service definition for this service with more clarity. An intention paper will be created as part of the service definition and will describe the interventions that would be provided. Services to be provided tentatively include crisis counseling, emergency community support, mental health respite and mental health psychotherapy.
- Lancaster County has recommended that a political subdivision for the governance of the resource center to be created. The structure would include Lancaster County, Region V, probation, law enforcement, public schools, and DHHS / CFS. This proposal was first submitted December 7, and final approval has not yet been given.

Opioid Settlement Funds: Kreifels stated it is anticipated Nebraska will receive \$100 million dollars over eighteen years based on the opioid manufacturers' lawsuit. Fifteen percent of those funds will be disbursed to counties. Half of the remaining eighty-five percent will go to the Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory

Committee, and the other half will be disbursed to the Regions based on their Regional percentage. At this time decisions made by the Committee may be rescinded, as the Committee did not adhere to requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

Change of Legal Counsel: Michael explained that David Buntain, who has provided legal counsel for Region V for literally decades, is retiring. Region V's legal counsel will be Susan Sapp, also with Cline Williams.

Emergency System: No additional information was shared.

Prevention System Coordination: Morrissey commented that some of the challenges mentioned in behavioral health are also causing an impact on prevention. Faith Partners has been piloted with 12 churches being involved. These partners are helping to expand prevention efforts in their congregation and into the community.

Network Continuous Quality (CQI) Improvement:

- Regional Data Overview Report 2/15/2023: This report contains information about Region V's performance in relation to statewide and nationwide outcomes in the areas of employment and housing, among others.

FY 22-23 Capacity Utilization Summaries: These documents are provided for informational purposes and are an indications of provider drawdown for each agency and for each service. Tyerman-Harper commented that current providers, who provide services not traditionally paid for by Region V, will have their contracts amended and be able to provide these services to Region V clients. It is anticipated that this will allow agencies to draw down more funding as well as increase access, provide consumers with more choice and reduce wait lists.

FY 22-23 Compliance Management Report: Provided for informational purposes. This report measures Network Providers' compliance with various contract deliverables.

FY 22-23 Training Plan: Provided for informational purposes. To build confidence and competence to serve the people in our continuum of care;

Other Business: None.

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 13 – Executive Committee Meeting
- March 20 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- March 29 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
- April 10 – RGB Meeting – 10:30 a.m.

ADJOURN

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