

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

REGION V SYSTEMS MINUTES

April 10, 2023

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Gale Pohlmann, Jefferson County; Les Agena, Johnson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Michael Weiss, Nemaha County; Dan Crownover, Jan Lang, Pawnee County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Janet Henning, Saline County; Ken Schmieding, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Svoboda, Butler County; Emily Haxby, Gage County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Bill Reece, Saunders County; Stan Boehr, York County

OTHERS PRESENT: Tami DeShon, Renee' Dozier, Theresa Henning, 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 April 2, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / AGENDA

Pohlmann called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. followed by roll call. A quorum was present.

Present: Fillmore County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County, Thayer County

Absent: Butler County, Gage County, Otoe County, Saunders County, York County

Lang made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve the April 10, 2023, agenda. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

STAFF RECOGNITION

- Pohlmann recognized Erin Rourke for 15 years of service to Region V. Rourke's current position is CQI Director. Pohlmann highlighted Rourke's responsibilities, recognized her many strengths, and thanked her for her invaluable service to Region V Systems.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Regional Governing Board Minutes:

- March 13, 2023: Lang made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023, meeting as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

- March 13, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes: No action was required regarding the minutes of the executive committee meeting of the same date.

FY 20-21 Financial Audit – Dana Cole: This document was provided at the meeting.

Bryan Swartz with Dana Cole presented the FY 20-21 audit report for Region V and briefly outlined the financial statements, supplementary information, the reports that are required by Government Auditing Standards and the Uniform Guidance, and the schedule of findings/recommendations. The audit confirms that, in the opinion of Dana Cole, Region V Systems complied in all material respects with the compliance requirements referred in the audit document. Henning made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the 2021 Financial Audit as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

FY 21-22 Financial Audit – Dana Cole: This document was provided at the meeting.

Swartz with Dana Cole also presented the FY 21-22 audit report for Region V and briefly outlined the financial statements, supplementary information, the reports that are required by Government Auditing Standards and the Uniform Guidance, and the schedule of findings/recommendations. The audit confirms that, in the opinion of Dana Cole, Region V Systems complied in all material respects with the compliance requirements referred in the audit document. Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Agena, to approve the 2022 Financial Audit as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

- DeShon presented the financial report through February 2023, briefly reviewing income and expenditures. With 66.67 percent of the fiscal year completed, total expenditures stand at 61.35 percent and are approximately five percent under budget.
- The highlighted areas where expenditures were over 67 percent were the same as the last monthly report, and as reported last month, these line items are anticipated to be operating within the budget by the end of the fiscal year.

Schmieding made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the Financial Report as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

FY 21-22 Annual Report – Funding & Expenditures Page: Kreifels confirmed that the Funding and Expenditures page in the Annual Report was updated to reflect the findings of the CPA audit that was just completed. That revised document was available Monday morning. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the finalized funding and expenditures data as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

Contracts / Amendments:

- Network Provider Contract - Service Expansion Amendments: Theresa Henning presented the following contracts, commenting that this strategy applies only to current Network Providers and only to the services they are already offering via other payor sources. Tyerman-Harper clarified that shifts would take place not only between services but also between service providers.
 - Associates in Counseling and Treatment: The contract with ACT was increased by \$40,000.
 - The Bridge Behavioral Health: BBH will see an increase of \$20,000.
 - CenterPointe: CenterPointe will see a decrease of \$35,000.
 - HopeSpoke: HopeSpoke will see a decrease of \$35,000.
 - Integrated Behavioral Health Services: IBHS will see an increase of \$40,000.
 - Lutheran Family Services: LFS will see a decrease of \$30,000.

Henning made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to approve the Service Expansion Contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

- ARPA Contract – Contingency Management and Medication Assisted Treatment Amendment. Through this contract Houses of Hope will receive an additional \$5,000 for the purpose of providing a no-cost extension for funding of Contingency Management services.

Lang made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve this contract with Houses of Hope as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

- Training Contracts:
 - Dr. Lucas Zullo: This contract, in the amount of \$13,540 allows the Region to offer Safe Alternative for Teens and Youths-Acute (SAFETY-A).
 - University of Nebraska Medical Center: This contract in the amount of \$3,000 is to provide continuing education units (credits) for various credentialing entities.
 - VROON VDB, LLC: This contract, in the amount \$25,250, will provide for Motivational Interviewing and Motivational Interviewing Informed Wraparound and train the trainer courses.

Henning made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the Training Contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

- Disproportionate Share Hospital Contract: This contract includes no contract amount but creates a mechanism to allow intergovernmental transfers of funds designated for public assistance. When a Region V client is sent to Mary Lanning, the Region pays DHHS and DHHS is then able to pay Mary Lanning the Regional rate as well as federal matching dollars.

Agena made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the Disproportionate Share Hospital Contract. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

- National Opioid Settlement Contract: This contract allows the Region to participate in the “National Opioid Settlement” as Nebraska has elected to do so.

Caverzagie made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the National Opioid Settlement Contract. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

Annual Conflict of Interest / Code of Ethics Acknowledgement Summary: There were no conflicts reflected by the Acknowledgement Summary. Henning made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the Annual Acknowledgement Summary as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Thayer; nays none. Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates: Kreifels presented the following information:

- Letter to the Governor / Lincoln Regional Center: The letter in the agenda packet dated March 8 was sent on behalf of the Nebraska Association of Regional Administrators (NARA) and Jeremy Nordquist with the Nebraska Hospital Association. The letter outlined a number of challenges the Regions are experiencing regarding the lack of admissions / access for Mental Health Board (MHB) inpatient committed individuals at Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) and identifies the perception that DHHS is prioritizing “court cases,” i.e., individuals waiting for restoration of competency, over individuals committed to inpatient care by a MHB.
- Kreifels explained that the Region did not receive funds to bring up an acute care setting when behavioral health reform was enacted via LB1083. At that time the Region was granted an additional 18 beds to compensate. Currently the Region only has access to 18 beds total. Region V should have

access to as many as 71 beds if LRC was at full capacity. Construction, staffing and Covid have been barriers to LRC operating at full capacity. An additional 20 beds are to become available in June.

- Regular meetings with LRC are taking place in an effort to improve access and DBT has been implemented to facilitate discharges.
- Budget Issues: When DHHS submitted their budget to the Governor in December 2022 the budget included funding to support the 15 percent rate increase in the amount of 10.3 million dollars. In January the Governor announced his budget and had removed the 10.3 million dollars stating that the Regions have enough funding to pay for those increases. While it appears that the Regions have unused dollars, a significant amount of those funds is committed to bringing up additional services to fill gaps and needs in the system, an example being the Halfway House that St. Monica's is working to bring into the continuum of care.
- For a number of reasons all the Regions have been leaving increasing amounts of funds on the table each year. Kreifels pointed out some of the barriers to pulling down funds including restrictions in moving money, Medicaid expansion, the COVID-19 pandemic, rigidity of funding, lengthy delays in responses from DHHS, and a six-month delay in receiving the contract amendment for the 15% allocation. Kreifels provided a document which supplies greater detail regarding these barriers.
- Kreifels pointed out that statistics are showing an increase in behavioral health concerns among teen girls and elevated levels of anxiety and depression among adults. These concerns are reflected in an increase in the number of suicides. Data indicates a need for better access to behavioral health services.
- Impact: For Region V the impact from the loss of the additional 10.3 million statewide is approximately 2.4 million. County match in the amount of \$346,195 will also be removed if the 10.3 million is not restored. A list of projects that would be cut or reduced by this loss was provided. The loss would impact outpatient services for adult and youth, supported employment, Halfway House, Crisis Services, mental health interventions for school-aged youth, and the Family Resource Center among others. A detailed report outlining the impact was provided at the meeting.
- Timeline: A document outlining the remaining budget timeline for the Legislature was provided. The Appropriations Committee is anticipated to send the DHHS budget to the Governor by April 27. Kreifels and other Regional Administrators have met with their Senators on numerous occasions to stress the importance of the restoration of the 10.3 million dollars. Senator Dorn is taking the lead on this issue and his bill includes an additional five percent rate increase. Kreifels stressed that the days leading up to April 27 when the final budget will be submitted are crucial and urged board members to reach out to the Appropriations Committee to express their concerns. Pohlmann emphasized the critical nature of this timeline and also urged board members to reach out to the Appropriations Committee. Kreifels noted that if these dollars are removed, they will not be restored following the Biennium Budget and will remove this unique opportunity to increase services in the continuum of care.

Lancaster County ARPA Collaborative Projects:

- Family Resource Center: Dozier reported that a Request for Proposals (RFP) for this service will be issued mid-April. Lancaster County is in the process of finding a suitable location. In the meantime, there has been dialog with Bryan Health about temporarily co-locating with Bryan so services could move forward before a permanent facility is identified and is ready to serve youth and families.
- Voluntary Crisis Response Center: Two responses to the RFP for this service were received last Friday. The RFPs were forwarded to the review committee which will meet on Monday, the 17th, to prepare a recommendation to be presented at the May Board meeting.

Opioid Settlement Funds: The Region has not received any funds from the Opioid Settlement to date. The Statewide Advisory Committee has not met in some time and currently no meeting is scheduled. Kreifels reminded Board members that if their County receives funds which they do not wish to use within their County, the funds can be redirected either to the Region or back to the Committee.

Emergency System: DHHS Outpatient Competency Restoration – Slide Deck: The attachment was provided for informational purposes. Currently 38 men and 8 women are waiting in jail for inpatient competency restoration at the Lincoln Regional Center.

Flex Funds: No further information.

Regional Prevention Coordination: Morrissey reported that Regional Prevention Coordination may be applying for an additional Partnership for Success grant which would allow funds to flow to the Regional Coalitions providing additional funding for all the Counties.

Network Continuous Quality (CQI) Improvement: Rourke presented the CQI reports providing a few highlights. Rourke asked that anyone having questions about any of these documents let her know, and she will provide more information at the next meeting.

- FY 22-23 Q1-2 Complaints, Appeals, Critical Incident Report
- FY 22-23 Q1-2 Ineligibles and Denials Report: The Waitlist workgroup will be resurrected to discuss reasons for an increase in ineligibles and denials.
- FY 22-23 Q1-2 National Outcome Measures: This report measures outcomes regarding housing, employment, criminal justice involvement and alcohol and drug abstinence. Outcomes are generally above statewide levels, and an improvement in drug abstinence was noted.
- FY 22-23 Q1-2 Perception of Care: Providers are seeing all responses meeting or above the 85% threshold.
- FY 22-23 Q1 - Quality File Review Report
- FY 22-23 Q1-2 Recovery Outcomes
- FY 22-23 Q1-2 Stable Living & Employment at Discharge
- FY 22-23 Q1-2 Zero Suicide System Report

BHAC Membership / Recruiting: BHAC membership is currently at 14 while BHAC bylaws state that membership should be between 15-20 members. Board members were asked to consider if they could recommend someone who might be a good candidate to sit on the advisory committee.

FY 22-23 Capacity Utilization Summaries: The Regionwide Summary through February, which is 66.7 percent of the fiscal year, notes that the Region has drawn down approximately 41 percent of funds allocated.

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: For informational purposes. Training is offered in order to build confidence and competency in the workforce.

Other Business: None.

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 10 – Executive Committee Meeting
- April 17 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- April 26 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
- May 8 – RGB Meeting – 10:30 a.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.