

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

May 31, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Region V Systems, 1645 N Street

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Greg Janak, Corrie Kielty, Stephanie Knight, Sarah McEntarffer, Rebecca Meinders, Rachel Mulcahy, Laura Osborne, Gale Pohlmann, Kim Schroeder, Kelsey Schwab, Michele Vana, Evette Watts

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Renee Duffek, Jill Kuzelka

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tami DeShon, Renee' Dozier, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Erin Rourke, Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

### **HOUSEKEEPING / ANNOUNCEMENTS / INTRODUCTIONS**

Osborne called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. followed by announcements, introductions, and rollcall. A quorum was present.

### **OPEN MEETING ACT INFORMATION**

Osborne noted that Open Meeting Act information is posted at Region V Systems as required by the Open Meetings Act. Notification of this meeting and information regarding availability of the agenda was provided through a legal notice in the Lincoln Journal Star, published May 17, 2023.

### **ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Mulcahy made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Pohlmann then provided a correction regarding the number of beds that will be available at the Voluntary Crisis Response Center. The minutes will be amended to reflect that there will be four beds available for crisis stabilization and twelve beds for mental health respite. Mulcahy then made an amended motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as corrected, seconded by Knight (Minutes – April 26, 2023, FY 22-23 Compliance Management Report, RGB Report). There was no further discussion. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

### **ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS**

#### **Election of Officers for FY 23-24:**

- Chair: Knight nominated Kuzelka, the current Vice Chair, seconded by Kielty, to serve as Chair. There were no other nominations. Kuzelka was absent but had indicated she was willing to serve if nominated. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Nomination approved.
- Vice Chair: Osborne nominated Janak, seconded by Kielty, to serve as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations, and Janak agreed to serve. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Nomination approved.
- Member at Large: Janak nominated Schroeder, seconded by Pohlmann to serve as Member at Large. There were no other nominations and Schroeder agreed to serve. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Nomination approved.

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**FY 22-23 Contractual Agreements:** Henning presented these contracts relating to the current fiscal year:

- State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant:
  - This contract in the amount of \$8,800 to J. Chad Professional Training, is for the purpose of providing four webinar training series on substance abuse prevention.

Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by McEntarffer, to recommend the Board approve this SOR contract. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and Motivational Interviewing (MI):
  - The contract with UNL Public Policy Center (\$50,000) is for the purpose of evaluating whether the implementation of evidence-based projects is effective and efficient.
  - The contract with H4T (\$18,750) is for the purpose of creating an import process within Compass to allow providers to upload DBT-specific data for persons served.

Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve these two contracts. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

**FY 23-24 Contractual Agreements:** Henning presented contracts in the following categories:

- DHHS, Division of Behavioral Health: There were four DHHS contracts for various purposes.
- \$20,429.409 is for the purpose of providing prevention, rental assistance, the transition voucher program, behavioral health coordination, and network management services.
- \$22,183 is for the purpose of coordinating and providing Mental Health First Aid Training in the community.
- \$197,655 is for the purpose of funding activities that reduce opioid overdose related deaths and abuse of prescription and illicit opioid and stimulants through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities.
- \$65,000 is for the purpose of providing Projects for Assistance in Transition for Homelessness (PATH) services.

Janak made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve these contracts with the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

- Projects for Assistance in Transition for Homelessness (PATH): This contract, in the amount of \$65,000, provides a mechanism to deliver PATH services through CenterPointe.

Schroeder made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve this contract for PATH services with CenterPointe as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

- Emergency Protective Custody (EPC): The first contract, billed by consumer day, is for the provision of crisis stabilization services (EPC) to individuals in the 15 rural counties. The second contract, with Lancaster County Community Mental Health Crisis Center, is also for the provision of crisis stabilization services to individuals in the 16 counties of Region V Systems. It is also billed per consumer day.

Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve the EPC contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

- Network Provider: These contracts with 13 Network Providers are for the purpose of providing substance abuse and / or mental health services for adults and / or children in Region V Systems' geographical area. Some of the contracts include funding for DBT and MI. The individual providers and contract amounts are below:
  - Associates in Counseling and Treatment: \$93,945
  - Blue Valley Behavioral Health: \$1,430,619
  - The Bridge Behavioral Health: \$961,012
  - CenterPointe: \$1,425,467. This contract includes PIER (ACT Team) funding.
  - Goodwill Industries: \$174,400

- HopeSpoke: \$800,381
- Houses of Hope: \$2,384,418. This contract includes TASC and Touchstone.
- Integrated Behavioral Health Services: \$189,669
- Lutheran Family Services: \$919,056
- Mental Health Association of Nebraska: \$1,003,403
- Mental Health Crisis Center: \$1,425,801
- St. Monica's: \$707,449
- TeleCare: \$76,133

There was discussion regarding the allocations and whether there were reductions based on utilization. DeShon stated that there is not a substantial difference in the amount of the allocations as the Region is anticipating that more individuals will return to NBHS funding as Medicaid unwinds. She also noted that, because the rate increases provided by the Legislature were not funded, providers will be getting the rate increases, but capacity will be reduced as a result. Kielty made a motion, seconded by McEntarffer, to recommend the Board approve the Network Provider contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

- Prevention Federal Block Grant Recipients: These contracts with Community Coalitions are for the purpose of utilizing the SAMHSA strategic prevention framework to address substance abuse prevention, related risk factors, and mental health promotion. The contracting entities and amounts are below:
  - Butler Believes in Youth: \$6,500
  - Fillmore County Coalition: \$6,500
  - Four County Collaborative: \$36,021
  - Gage County MAPS Coalition: \$6,500
  - Jefferson County Prevention Coalition: \$6,500
  - Laura Osborne: \$5,000
  - LMEP – SCIP: \$50,000
  - Polk Substance Abuse Coalition: \$6,500
  - Saline County Prevention Coalition: \$6,500
  - Saunders County Prevention Coalition: \$6,500
  - Seward County Prevention Coalition: \$6,500
  - Thayer County Healthy Community Coalition: \$6,500
  - York County Prevention Network / York County Drug Task Force: \$6,500

Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Knight, to recommend the Board approve the Prevention Federal Block Grant Recipient contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; abstention by Osborne; nays none. Motion carried.

- Mental Health First Aid: These four contracts, with Janelle Moore, Jeri George, Jill Kuzelka, and Maria Elena Villasante, in the amount of \$400 per 8-hour training, are to provide Adult and / or Youth Mental Health First Aid training in the community.

Janak made a motion, seconded by McEntarffer, to recommend the Board approve the Mental Health First Aid contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

- Southeast Nebraska Disaster Volunteer Database: These three contracts, with Four Corners Health Department, Public Health Solutions, and Southeast District Health Department, each in the amount of \$4,500 to Region V, are for the purpose of creating an effective and efficient volunteer database to call on in the event of a disaster.

Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve these contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; abstention by Knight; nays none. Motion carried.

- Evidence-based Practice Contracts: These contracts are for the purpose of implementing various evidence-based practices in Region V. The contracting entity, amount, and purpose are below:

- Intuitive Mind Training and Consulting: \$42,055, for the implementation of DBT.
- Motivate 2 Communicate: \$30,055.50 for the implementation of MI.
- Dr. Lucas Zullo: \$32,000, to implement Safe Alternatives for Teens and Youths-Acute (SAFETY-A), a brief therapeutic assessment for youth suicide prevention.
- Lincoln Region Center (LRC): Two contracts with zero dollars; these contracts are for the purposes of implementing both DBT and MI at LRC.

Knight made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve the Evidence-based Practice Contracts with an amended time period. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

- Housing and Urban Development (HUD): The three HUD contracts, amount, and purpose are below:
  - \$159,670 to Region V for the provision of Host Homes for transition age youth in rural Region V.
  - \$365,388 to Region V for the provision of Rural Permanent Supportive Housing in rural Region V.
  - \$224,040 to Region V for the provision of the Lincoln Permanent Supportive Housing program.

Schroeder made a motion, seconded by Mulcahy, to recommend the Board approve these three contracts with HUD. There was brief discussion regarding how rural counties can access these programs. Dozier explained the coordinated entry process and will provide additional information about the process to BHAC members. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

- Building Partners: Henning noted that these contracts are for the purpose of providing facilities usage, office space, phone, and information technology support. Kreifels commented that the Region values the presence of these peer-run, recovery-oriented service providers as they complement and enhance the efforts of the Region. The Building Partners and their contract amounts are:
  - Cause Collective: \$3,289.82
  - Families Inspiring Families: \$21,623.69
  - Mental Health Association of Nebraska: \$94,452.62

Kielty made a motion, seconded by McEntarffer, to recommend the Board approve the Building Partner contracts with a correction regarding the timeline. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

- Miscellaneous: The following Miscellaneous contracts were presented by Henning:
  - City of Lincoln: up to \$36,000 to Region V to provide funding for BETA and Youth BETA training within the city of Lincoln.
  - Families Inspiring Families (FIF): \$200 an hour to Region V to provide clinical supervision to FIF.
  - University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC): Up to \$35,807.32 to Region V to provide collaboration with BHECN for maintaining and promoting the recruitment website for Nebraska behavioral health employers / applicants.
  - University of Nebraska Public Policy Center: \$749,955.23 to Region V for the implementation of the Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention project.
  - Wellbeing Initiative, Inc: Up to \$80,000 to Wellbeing Initiative to provide consumer coordination activities and promote consumer involvement within Region V Systems.

Kielty made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve the Miscellaneous contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; abstention by Knight; nays none. Motion carried.

**Regional Budget Plan:**

- Kreifels reiterated that the allocation was reduced due to the Governor's veto of the 10.3 million dollars that DHHS had recommended for inclusion in the budget. Based on the smaller allocation, there was also a reduction in county match dollars for a total impact of 2.7 million dollars for Region V.
- DeShon then noted the various funding sources, state, federal, county, and other for a grand total of \$21,635,992. For Network Provider contracts the total was \$11,440,599 and commented that these contracts are areas where the

Region is allowed to shift funds. Other areas funded include Region V Coordination, Pooled Services, Other Services, MI and DBT Training, Emergency EPC, CLAS Services, Initiatives, Legislative Guidance, Special Populations, Recovery / Consumer Voice, Trauma Informed Care, Behavioral Health Integration, CQI Coordination / Training, Plans for One and others to be determined.

- Because a cumulative 20 percent rate increase will need to be funded with existing dollars, there were a lot of changes to various projects that were being discussed. The Region intends to move forward with the Voluntary Crisis Response Center and the Family Resource Center. Kreifels discussed the very significant efforts that had taken place to educate and inform members of the Legislature about the need for the additional funding. Meetings were held with various Senators, bullet points were provided addressing these needs, a number of staff and others participated in Lobby Day, and various people including BHAC members reached out to Senators.
- There was discussion about the unprecedented level of mental health concerns within schools and in the community. While there are a number of grants available to address some of these needs, they are often time-limited and not necessarily sustainable.
- The Region is planning an environmental scan to provide input from constituents as the Strategic Plan is revised and focus areas are identified.
- There was discussion regarding forming a rural focus subgroup to process methods to increase awareness of available resources and gaps/needs in the rural counties. Kreifels will consider options and is committed to developing a formal structure / plan to bring to the BHAC members at a future meeting.

Knight made a motion, seconded by Schwab, to recommend the Board approve the Regional Budget Plan as presented. Janak, Kielty, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none. Motion carried.

**Summer 2023 Prevention Mini-Grant Summary:** Kreifels reviewed the Mini-grant awardees and the amounts and projects that the subcommittee recommended for funding. Rationale was provided for amounts eligible for funding. A total of \$18,942.50 was recommended. The entities, amounts and projects were:

- Four Corners Health Department: \$2,150; Hope Champion Community and Parent Education Support
- Jefferson County Diversion & Pretrial Services: \$1,752.50; Peer Support Training
- Karen Society of Nebraska: \$2,920; Promote Health and Wellbeing among Karen Population
- Polk County PSAC: \$1,800; Nalox Boxes
- Saunders County ACT / Youth Services: \$1,320; Sticker Shock Campaign and Community Response Resource Cards, Just Look Up Book
- Southeast Nebraska CASA: \$3,000; Just Look Up Book Club
- Seward County Attorney / Prevention Coalition: \$3,000; Poster Contest, SafeRX locking pill bottlers, movie event with Sticker Shock and speaker.
- Beatrice Public Schools: \$3,000; Youth Frontiers

Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to recommend the Board approve the Mini-grant awardees as presented. Janak, Knight, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; abstention by Kielty; nays none. Motion carried.

#### **OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION:**

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

- Kreifels reminded the BHAC members about the 10.3 million dollars that was pulled out of the budget by Governor Pillen. The Governor also vetoed a rate increase for hospitals. It was noted that hospitals are the main supports for rural counties. There is an attempt in the Legislature this morning to override/ veto the Governor's veto of the rate increase for hospitals. (Later in the meeting it was revealed that the override failed to receive enough votes.)
- There was discussion regarding the increasing number of individuals with mental health concerns who are incarcerated. Currently there are 21 individuals in Lancaster County jail waiting for a restoration of competency hearing. There is concern individuals are not being served at Lincoln Regional Center or hospitals and may result with the individual in a mental health crisis being charged criminally. In addition, there has been a reduction in the number of acute care beds hospital beds available statewide and LRC was required to renovate areas of the campus, further eroding capacity. Kreifels stated that Senator Hansen had introduced a bill to do an interim study to determine the number of beds the Regions should have available at LRC. The interim study got missed in the last session, but a bill was introduced to extend the deadline for study. Pohlmann commented that lack of access is a concern in rural counties as Jefferson County has two individuals waiting for inpatient commitment.

- Other reasons for these challenges include workforce shortages, unintended consequences from Medicaid expansion, and related to that, the MCOs are providing short term authorizations for acute stays for hospitalizations with the result that individuals are being discharged before they are stabilized and ready to transition to the community successfully. Hospitals are hesitant to admit a person on a Mental Health Board Commitment because of the shorter authorizations. On a positive note, LRC is planning to open an additional 20 beds in August 2023.
- A meeting is scheduled for next week where the Regions will seek clarification on bed allocation. These concerns will be raised for the next legislative session.

**One-Time Behavioral Health Provider Payments:** DHHS has notified the Regions that 15 million dollars is available due to low utilization and will be shifted to providers and Regions for the purpose of stabilizing the behavioral health workforce. Kreifels commented that the information received through a call with Director Smith and the memo are materially different. A call is scheduled to seek clarification about the metrics and formula for allocating the funds. Questions include specifics regarding how the funds can be used, the timeline to use them, and whether or not payback will be required for funds that were not used within the timeframe. Concerns regarding sustainability were also noted.

**Emergency System Update – Voluntary Crisis Response Center:**

- Kreifels reminded the BHAC that the review committee had selected Bridge Behavioral Health (BBH) as their recommendation from the Request for Proposals submitted and the BHAC recommendation was taken to the Board in May where it was tabled. As a reminder this is a collaborative venture with Lancaster County investing 2.3 million in ARPA funds for construction / renovation and the Region providing 1.3 million in mental health services. Lancaster County voted not to move forward with funding this project at BBH with the ARPA funds.
- If BBH does not have another funding stream to provide the construction, the committee will have to change direction and move to the second applicant. The building under consideration by the second applicant has been put to other uses, and it is not clear whether they would still be interested in this project. While the scoring was close, BBH appeared to be able to move forward with the most efficiencies as they would have been renovating the first floor of their existing building and staff could be shared.
- Although this has been frustrating and once again creates delays moving forward with this project, Kreifels commented that the Region does value its relationship with Lancaster County and will pivot to the second candidate if possible.

**Regional Prevention Coalition:** Prevention is working to submit a Partnership for Success grant in conjunction with the Regional Coalitions in the 16 counties of Region V. The application is due June 5, 2023. If successful a total of \$375,000 will be available to be used in support of evidence based practices.

**Opioid Settlement Funds:**

- The Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee met and approved moving forward with the disbursement of ten million dollars by the end of the fiscal year. Another meeting is scheduled for June and additional funds may be approved at that meeting.
- These funds are to be used strictly for treatment and abatement of opioid use. The payments are scheduled to continue annually for 18 years. Patti Jurjevich, Regional Administrator for Region 6, is taking the lead and communicating with the Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Subcommittee and collaborating with the Regional Administrators, to develop outcomes and reporting metrics to the committee. The first report is due in October.

**Lancaster County ARPA Collaborative Project – Family Resource Center:**

- Dozier stated that a meeting with the legal representation for each entity was held to explore the possibility of creating a political oversight committee for this project. The committee will consist of individuals from Region V, Lancaster County, and the City of Lincoln. The language related to the oversight will need to be included in the RFP which has delayed submission. It is hoped that the RFP can be submitted to the Division for approval by the end of June.
- Lancaster County has indicated that they would like to have the provider for this service co-locate in a building of Lancaster County's choice. One suggestion would be to renovate the campus near Bryan West, which would also be near CenterPointe and other resources. Concerns about incentivizing a provider to co-locate were noted.
- Dozier commented that the name for the collaborative project may be changed to Family Crisis Center to reflect that the primary function is that of a behavioral health crisis center rather than a family resource center where the emphasis would be on basic needs rather than crisis care.

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**Network Continuous Quality Improvement:** Rourke provided brief comments related to some of the following documents. The Regional Overview was not included in this agenda packet and will be emailed to BHAC members.

- FY 22-23 Q3 Stable Living and Employment at Discharge: There was brief discussion about the difference between consumers and encounters. While the consumers are unique, they may have had more than one encounter during the point-in-time period.
- FY 22-23 Q3 Complaints, Appeals and Critical Incidents
- FY 22-23 Q3 Waitlist Report: Overall there has been a decrease in numbers of individuals on wait lists for residential services; however, the same has not been true for outpatient services. HopeSpoke at one time had over 100 individuals on their wait list and has simply stopped adding them to their wait list.
- FY 22-23 Q3 Ineligibles and Denials
- FY 22-23 Q3 Zero Suicide Report

**Capacity Utilization Summaries:** Kreifels briefly explained the difference between fee for service (FFS) and non-fee for service (NFFS) services. Most NFFS services are at capacity as their expenses are fixed and are drawn down.

**FY 22-23 Training Plan:** Osborne noted several trainings to take note of and reminded BHAC members to share these trainings / opportunities with their coalitions and communities. There was brief discussion about additional ways / venues to advertise these trainings.

**Other Business:** None

**ADJOURN**

- There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:06: a.m.

**Important Dates**

- June 8 – 9:00 a.m. – Regional Prevention Coalition
- June 12 – 10:15 a.m. – RGB Meeting at Region V Services
- June 26 – Network Provider Meeting / Teams
- August 30 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting