

## REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

### REGION V SYSTEMS MINUTES

September 11, 2023

Region V Services  
3600 Union Drive  
Lincoln, NE  
10:15 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Emily Haxby, Gage County; Gale Pohlmann, Jefferson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Michael Weiss, Nemaha County; Jan Lang, Pawnee 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; Les Agena, Johnson County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; Stan Boehr, York County

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Natalya Young, St. Monica's; Theresa Henning, Trina Janis, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

#### HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER

Pohlmann called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Pohlmann stated that the Region had requested a return to roll call voting. The consensus of the Board was that a roll call vote could be called for only if the agenda item might be controversial.

#### 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 September 3, 2023.

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

Roll call followed. A quorum was present.

Present: Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County; Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County

Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, Polk County, York County

Harre made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the September 11, 2023, agenda. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- Pohlmann recognized Sandy Morrissey for 20 years of service to Region V. Morrissey's current position is Prevention Director. Pohlmann highlighted Morrissey's responsibilities, recognized her many strengths, and thanked her for her invaluable service to Region V Systems.

**PROVIDER PRESENTATION – NATALYA YOUNG, EX. DIRECTOR, ST MONICA’S**

- Young distributed a brochure and a document listing the programs / services that St. Monica’s provides and briefly described those programs. A gender specific halfway house was just opened last week, a level of care that has not been unavailable for women until now.
- Trends indicate that the presence of trauma has risen significantly. The majority of clients present with alcohol and meth use though there is an uptick in heroin use.
- Young briefly described her history with behavioral health noting that she has worked in the field in various capacities for 17 years.

**ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS**

**Regional Governing Board Minutes, June 12, 2023:** Pohlmann pointed out two punctuation errors relating to dollar amounts. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2023, meeting as amended. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:**

- Kreifels presented the financial report through July 2023, briefly reviewing income and expenditures. Kreifels reported that the Region has not yet received the July payment, and subsequently Network Providers have not received their payment due to the implementation of a new contract system DHHS is using.
- A revised Summary was presented as there was an error on the document in the packets. With 8.33 percent of the fiscal year completed, total expenditures stand at 10.26 percent and are approximately two percent over budget. The highlighted areas represent one-time costs such as subscriptions, etc., and it is anticipated that they will fall in line with the budget by the end of the fiscal year.
- Henning made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the Financial Report as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

**FY 22-23 Year-end Provider Contract Amendments:**

- Kreifels presented information related to the final year-end shifts for provider contracts stating that the Region was able to cover all fee-for-service and non-fee-for-service units that were overproduced.
- Harre made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the FY 22-23 Year-end Provider Contract Amendments as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

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

- Mental Health First Aid (MHFA): This contract, in the amount of \$400 per 8-hour training will provide for adult or youth MHFA training in the community.
- Lancaster County and Don’t Panic Labs: This contract, in the amount of \$6,000 to Lancaster County will provide funding for upgrading the MyLink website.
- Committee for Children: This contract for up to \$50,000, will provide social-emotional learning skills for youth through implementation of the Second Step curriculum in area schools.
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln: This contract, in the amount of \$55,307 to UNL will provide funding for scholarships for licensed clinicians to be trained in Parent-Child Interaction Therapy.
- Motivate 2 Communicate, LLC: This contract for \$42,480.50 will provide training and consultation by Brenda Jennings to implement Motivational Interviewing.
- University of Nebraska Public Policy Center: This contract for \$125,000 will evaluate the implementation of Motivational Interviewing and Dialectic Behavior Therapy. Kreifels shared evidence that the implementation of DBT is having a positive impact at LRC.
- Lang made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve the contracts in all categories as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

**Voluntary Crisis Response Center RFP Recommendation:**

- Tyerman-Harper briefly discussed the history of this project noting that the initial vote of this body was to enter into a contract with The Bridge Behavioral Health. Lancaster County did not approve this usage of their ARPA funds for that provider, so negotiations were entered into with the second candidate, Integrated Behavioral Health Services (IBHS).
- Pohlmann commented that the initial scoring was very close, and after meeting with the Director of IBHS, the committee felt confident in IBHS's ability to implement this service.
- Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve moving forward with IBHS for approval for the Voluntary Crisis Response Center. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

**FY22-23 Site Visit Report Summaries:**

- Tyerman-Harper presented the remaining FY 22-23 site visit report summaries for The Bridge Behavioral Health (BBH), HopeSpoke, Houses of Hope / TASC / Touchstone, Integrated Behavioral Health Services, Lutheran Family Services, Mental Health Association of NE, Mental Health Crisis Center, and St. Monica's explaining that a number of the audits were delayed due to Medicaid expansion and the impact that had on capacity utilization.
- Tyerman-Harper noted agency compliance with unit audits, program fidelity audits where required, and compliance with minimum standards, contractual requirements, and block grant requirements (where needed). Corrective action was noted where applicable.
- Kreifels pointed out that providers have commented that they can count on the Region to pay them for services provided. Providers have related challenges to getting Medicaid to retroactively pay for authorizations for treatment. In the event that happens, the provider is required to pay back any Region funding, but they may have to write off the account as they may not receive Medicaid reimbursement.
- Harre made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to approve the final FY 22-23 site visit report summaries as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

**FY 23-24 Risk Management Plan – Draft:**

- Michael presented the Risk Management Plan noting the Plan identifies potential threats or losses to the Region as well as action steps to mitigate or avoid such losses. Michael drew attention to new action items. The Region continues to seek written clarification from DBH for ongoing alternative service delivery using telehealth. Another action item is to develop an action plan that addresses the areas identified from the last evaluation of the business interruption plan, relating to the pandemic.
- Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve the FY 23-24 Risk Management Plan as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

**FY 23-24 Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – Draft:**

- Kreifels explained that the PIP serves to identify program areas that the Region intends to monitor for quality assurance. All Region V staff and departments are given an opportunity to provide input regarding which areas they wish to monitor. Kreifels indicated that there were few changes to the PIPs, though there are four new / additional areas to be monitored which are related to the HUD contract.
- Lang made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the PIP as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

**FY 22-23 DHHS Audit Monitoring Reports:**

- DHHS audits the Region in the same way that Region V audits its network providers. Kreifels reported that the DHHS audits of Network Audit Monitoring, Prevention Audit Monitoring, and the Professional Partner Program were found to be in full compliance with standards and / or unit audits.

- Henning made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the FY 22-23 DHHS Audit Monitoring Reports as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County; nays none. Motion carried.

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

**June 12 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes:** These minutes are provided for informational purposes.

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

- Governor Pillen has appointed Dr. Steve Corsi as the CEO for DHHS. It is anticipated that he will move quickly to fill the vacancies for the Division of Behavioral Health and the Division of Children and Family Services. Green has been overseeing those areas in the interim.
- The Region is monitoring interim studies including LR201 and LR202, introduced by Senator Fredrickson. Hearings are scheduled in the next several weeks, and Kreifels will be meeting with Senator Fredrickson to discuss testifying at the hearings.
- The Region is also monitoring any legislation related to the Certified Community Behavior Health Clinics (CCBHC) which are designed to provide a comprehensive and integrated range of mental health, substance use, and primary care and represent substantial system change. Two CCBHCs are operational in Region V, Lutheran Family Services and CenterPointe.
- Kim Freese, SAMHSA, is working with the Regions to understand the implications of this system transformation. She will be attending the February Board meeting to present information.
- Regional Administrators, lobbyists, NABHO, etc. will be attending policy review day and will have a conversation about the differences among the various complimentary funding sources.

**Behavioral Health Stabilization Funds Update:** These funds have been issued to network providers who are using them in various ways to improve their vacancy / turnover rate and stabilize their workforce. Providers will be reporting quarterly on their outcomes, and the first report will be available for the November meeting.

**Medicaid Unwind:** Following the end of the state of emergency due to the pandemic, Medicaid is reviewing Medicaid eligibility and has completed up to 40 percent of the reviews, reviewing between 25,000 and 30,000 files each month. Approximately 18 percent of those reviews are resulting in lost eligibility and network providers are seeing a small uptick in clients returning to Region V funding. As a result, drawdown of funds is slightly ahead of this point-in-time a year ago.

**Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds:**

- Kreifels introduced Trina Janis as the newly appointed Opioid Project Manager. Janis has been at the Region for two and a half years and brings a wealth of experience to the role, having previously had experience with working with grants and other significant projects.
- The Region is working with the Opioid Network to develop a framework for moving ahead methodically with these funds. This will be a planning year to allow for a strategic approach. The Statewide Opioid Response Committee has issued an RFP for a provider to conduct a needs assessment to be identified soon, and it is anticipated that results of that assessment will be available in December.

**Emergency System Update:**

- There are currently twenty Region V individuals at LRC. Even though the current census is at 20, the access to beds at LRC has been decreased to 12, prioritizing these lost beds for restoration of competency hearings. Multiple meetings with other Regional Administrators, DHHS, and legislators have been held to discuss the challenges this presents to the emergency system.
- Nelson and Danforth recently went to Region 6 and had conversations about strategies they use to identify issues and data points in regard to the individuals in jail who have mental health conditions. The Region may implement a similar process. A bill has been introduced that, if implemented, would evaluate whether or not there are enough beds in the system to serve the needs of this population.
- Board members were encouraged to continue to educate and inform constituents about the 988 hotline. Currently the hotline is receiving approximately 53 calls per day with capacity for up to 200. Mobile crisis has been activated 40 times over the last year.

**Regional Prevention Coalition (RPC):** Morrissey briefly discussed the following:

- Schools are continuing to feel the effects of Covid, with anxiety and depression creating behavioral and emotional issues in schools. Prevention will continue to use evidence based programs though some of the block grant funding was moved to the six federal strategies.
- Seeing tobacco use and vaping as a gateway to other drug use, Prevention will begin working with coalition leads and provide training on Counter Tools as a way of collecting data within establishments that hold tobacco licenses.
- The Partnership for Success grant application is currently pending though the application has received approval for the research submitted.

**Lancaster County ARPA Collaborative Project – Family Resource Center:** An RFQ for this service was issued today with responses due within one week. Agencies deemed eligible will be required to submit an RFP to provide Crisis Response, Crisis Outpatient Psychotherapy, Emergency Community Support, and Mental Health Respite services.

**Recovery and Wellness Engagement & Outreach Center:** Kreifels discussed plans to pilot a program with Wellbeing Initiative to bring up a center in Lincoln and four rural areas. These centers would provide for all support with sobriety and mental health challenges. This goal is to engage individuals who may be in the pre-contemplation or contemplation stage of recovery. Because it is not anticipated that the collaborative projects will be drawing down funding this year, there is approximately \$571,000 available for this project. A service definition is anticipated to be completed soon. These centers would be staffed by persons with lived experience who are trained peer support specialists.

**Strategic Planning Efforts for FY 23-24:** Kreifels noted that a series of meetings have been taking place with various entities to identify gaps and move forward in a way that gets funding out to people who need it and subsequently increase the drawdown for Region V funds.

**Network Continuous Quality (CQI) Improvement / Regional Data Overview:** Provided for informational purposes. Kreifels noted that initial findings by the Public Policy Center indicate that the implementation of DBT has had a positive impact showing a decrease in the length of stay for inpatient and hospital stays.

**Informational Items:** The following documents were provided for information purposes.

- Year-end FY 22-23 and July 2023 Capacity Utilization Summaries.
- Year-end FY 22-23 Compliance Management Report
- Wellbeing Initiative Quarterly Report
- FY 22-23 Training Plan

**Other Business:** None.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- May 8 – Executive Committee Meeting
- May 15 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- May 31 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
- June 12 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.