

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

August 30, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Region V Systems, 1645 N Street

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Renee Duffek

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

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

Kuzelka called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by announcements and rollcall. A quorum was present.

### **OPEN MEETING ACT INFORMATION**

Kuzelka 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 August 16, 2023.

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

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

### **NETWORK PROVIDER PRESENTATION – ST. MONICA'S**

- Natalya Young – St. Monica's: Young distributed a brochure and a document listing the programs / services that St. Monica's provides and briefly described those programs. St. Monica's is most widely known for its residential programs and will be opening a gender-specific halfway house very soon, a service for women which was previously unavailable.
- Young described her history with behavioral health and stated that she has been in her current role as Director since July 2022.
- Young briefly described the role that the Behavioral Health Regions play in encouraging collaboration and helping to remove barriers.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Osborne made a motion, seconded by Knight, to approve the consent agenda. (Minutes – May 31, 2023, FY 22-23 Year-end Compliance Management Report, RGB Report). There was no further discussion. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none, absent: Duffek. Motion carried.

### **ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS**

**FY 22-23 Year-end Provider Contractual Amendments:** DeShon 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. Kielty made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to recommend the Board approve the FY 22-23 Year-end Provider Contractual Amendments. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none, absent: Duffek. Motion carried.

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

- **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. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Janak, to recommend the Board approve this contract for the provision of adult or youth MHFA. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none, absent: Duffek. Motion carried.
- **Prevention:**
  - **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.
  - Osborne made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve these contracts for the provision of prevention services. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none, absent: Duffek. Motion carried.
- **Miscellaneous:**
  - **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.
  - Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to recommend the Board approve these Miscellaneous contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none, absent: Duffek. Motion carried.

**Voluntary Crisis Response Center Request for Proposals (RFP) Recommendation:**

- Kreifels briefly reviewed the timeline for this project which will include crisis stabilization and mental health respite for adults in the 16 counties of Region V. Lancaster County is contributing 2.4 million dollars in ARPA funding for capital construction for this collaborative project. When Lancaster County did not approve the agency recommended by the review committee - The Bridge Behavioral Health (BBH) - the Governing Board moved to allow BBH time to determine whether they could move forward without the ARPA funding. BBH declined to pursue seeking alternative funding.
- The Board motion also allowed the Region to pursue negotiations with the other agency, Integrated Behavioral Health Services (IBHS). There was brief discussion regarding the strengths and challenges of this application with insightful comments from members of the review committee. After receiving a revised budget and meeting with IBHS staff, the review committee subsequently recommended moving forward with IBHS. Lancaster County did approve using their ARPA funding for IBHS.
- Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by McEntarffer, to recommend the Board approve the Voluntary Crisis Response Center RFP Recommendation as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana and Watts; nays none, absent: Duffek. Motion carried.

**FY 22-23 Site Visit Report Summaries: Summaries:**

- Final site visit reports for FY 22-23 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 were presented.
- Kreifels noted agency compliance with units 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.
- Knight made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve the FY 22-23 Site Visit Report Summaries as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, Vana, and Watts; nays none, absent: Duffek; Motion carried.

**FY 23-24 Risk Management Plan – Draft:** The Risk Management Plan is a requirement for CARF accreditation and 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 including changes that may be necessary after evaluation of the business interruption plan related to affects from the pandemic. Janak made a motion, seconded by Watts, to recommend the Board approve the FY 23-24 Risk Management Plan as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, and Watts; nays none, absent: Duffek, Vana; 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 have provided input for the draft Plan. Rourke indicated that there were few changes to the PIPs, though there are four new / additional areas to be monitored.
- Schroeder made a motion, seconded by Keilty, to recommend the Board approve the FY 23-24 Performance Improvement Plan as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, and Watts; nays none, absent: Duffek, Vana; Motion carried.

**DHHS Audit Monitoring:** Kreifels reported that the DHHS audits of Network Audit Monitoring, Prevention Audit Monitoring, and the Professional Partner Program were found to be in compliance with standards and / or unit audits. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Knight, to recommend the Board audit monitoring reports as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, and Watts; nays none, absent: Duffek, Vana; Motion carried.

**Meeting Time Extension:** Kreifels asked the BHAC to consider extending the meeting end time from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., noting that the extensive agendas require a significant amount of time to cover thoroughly. Hearing no dissent, Watts made a motion, seconded by McEntarffer, to approve the extension of the meeting time from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, McEntarffer, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Schroeder, and Watts; nays none, absent: Duffek, Vana; Motion carried.

**OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION:**

**Behavioral Health/Legislative Updates:** Kreifels reported the following:

- Rourke was recently appointed to join the Corporate Compliance Team as of September 1.
- Governor Pillen has appointed Steve Corsi as the CEO for DHHS, subject to Legislative approval. 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 a number of interim studies which may have an impact of the behavioral health system of care should they come to fruition. Kreifels provided a brief overview, including the introducing Senator for the following: LR 136, LR 150, LR 171, LR 199, LR 201, LR 202 and LR 204. Regional Administrators will be meeting with Senators to ensure they are informed of the challenges the Regions have experienced in drawing down funds and that they understand the differences between the Regions and Medicaid.
- Ingrid Ganseboom, Region 4 Regional Administrator, along with Kreifels will be presenting an update at NABHO on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- DHHS will be reporting any budget shifts to the Legislature. The Regions have asked to be apprised of what those shift might be.
- LB433, introduced by Senator Jacobson, did not get out of committee. This bill has to do with seeking more flexibility and a timely response from DHHS for the Behavioral Health Regions to allow local needs to be met quickly. This bill may move forward if it appears that the Division is not allowing that flexibility.

**Behavioral Health Workforce Stabilization Funds Update:** Kreifels reported that these workforce stabilization funds have been distributed to providers. Young had commented in her earlier presentation about how they used those funds and are now fully staffed. Providers will submit quarterly reports.

**Medicaid Unwind:** The State began reviewing Medicaid applicants in April of this year as the Covid emergency ended and has completed 35 percent of those reviews. Based on July utilization, there is a modest increase in

individuals presenting for services without Medicaid. DeShon commented that utilization for one month (8.33 percent of the fiscal year) is at 5.8 percent, which is above the amount for the previous year (4.7 percent). The Region will continue to closely monitor utilization.

**Opioid Remediation Settlement Dollars:** Kreifels introduced Trina Janis, who was recently hired as the Opioid Program Manager for Region V, beginning Monday, August 28. Janis briefly discussed her previous experience and has been serving as a Professional Partner at the Region for the last two and a half years. This will be a planning year as meetings with SAMHSA, the Opioid Response Network and other entities will take place. A meeting will take place in Kearney in September, a summit is being planned for after the first of the year, a subcommittee will be established, many trainings will take place, and opportunities for learning will be explored. A statewide needs assessment is due in December.

**Emergency System Update:**

- There are currently twenty Region V clients at Lincoln Regional Center with two waiting for a bed. The new bed allocation plan did not provide the relief the Region was anticipating. Initially the Region had access to between 38-40 beds and the new plan is designating 12. Efforts to help facilitate discharges and mitigate other areas of concern through the implementation of evidence-based practices have not moved forward. A firm has been identified which will endeavor to determine whether or not Nebraska / the Regions have the appropriate number of beds in the system to serve our citizens.
- 988 continues to be underutilized with an average of 53 calls a day. The call center is staffed to take up to 150 calls per day. Mobile crisis teams have been activated 40 times to date.

**Lancaster County ARPA Collaborative Project – Family Resource Center:** This project continues to move forward. The intention is to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the youth and family crisis response center by September 11. Services to be offered are mental health respite and crisis response to include crisis psychotherapy and community support. A timeline for moving forward through this process has been established and it is anticipated that recommendations will be on the BHAC agenda for the November 1 meeting.

**Recovery & Wellness Engagement & Outreach Center:** The Region has moved forward with efforts to establish outreach centers which would include one center in Lincoln and four in rural counties. This will be a peer-run service though participants will be enrolled in a concurrent service. The goal for these centers is to provide encouragement and support for individuals living in recovery. The Region is working in collaboration with Wellbeing Initiative and to date no locations have been set. Kreifels noted that funding is available in the Regional allocation, partly due to the fact that the Voluntary Crisis Response Center for youth will not be drawing down funding this year. Several barriers were noted, including transportation. The goal is to use supports and systems that are already in place and partner with them.

**Strategic Planning Efforts for FY 23-24:** Kreifels has met with public health directors and SAMHSA Regional Director Kim Freese, was in the office for a day and a half to discuss strategies for system transformation. Freese will present information regarding strategic planning including Certified Community Behavior Health Clinics (CCBHC) at a future BHAC meeting.

**BHAC Bylaws:** BHAC bylaws will be reviewed and revised and brought to the BHAC for approval.

**Regional Prevention Coalition:**

- Morrissey noted that mental health concerns within schools is a top priority with anxiety and depression affecting many students, a by-product of the Covid pandemic. Morrissey stated that the Coalition leads are incredible and perform their efforts with little funding; however, priorities have changed, and people are falling away from the table. Prevention is looking at coming under one umbrella, a Regional Coalition distinct from the Region V Regional Coalition which would allow Coalitions to work more collectively though funding would continue for local coalitions.
- Nebraska has applied for a Partnership for Success grant which would provide \$365,00. The application is still pending review.

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**Network Continuous Quality Improvement / Regional Data Overview:** Rourke provided a very brief overview of this report, which is due quarterly. The report includes statistics on employment and stable living as well as persons in the labor force. Both measures are positive for the Region. Action plans and strategies for improvement are noted. The report also includes data regarding waitlist, EPC, and service enhancement measures.

**Wellbeing Initiative Quarterly Report:** Provided for your information.

**Year-end 22-23 Capacity Utilization Summaries:** Provided for your information.

**FY 22-23 Training Plan:** Provided for your information.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Knight expressed her excitement and gratitude that a mini-BETA is scheduled for Fillmore County this fall.

**ADJOURN**

- There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- September 11 – 10:15 a.m. – RGB Meeting at Region V Services
- September 14 – 9:00 a.m. – Regional Prevention Coalition
- September 18 – Network Provider Meeting / Teams
- November 1 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting / Hybrid