

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

REGION V SYSTEMS MINUTES

February 12, 2024

Apace
3600 Union Drive
Lincoln, NE
10:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Emily Haxby, Gage County; Gale Pohlmann, Jefferson County; Michael Weiss, Nemaha County; 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; Les Agena, Johnson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Bill Reece, Saunders County; Stan Boehr, York County

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Thornbrugh, The Bridge Behavioral Health; Kim Freese, SAMHSA (Zoom), Kiley Wiechman, HBE; Tami DeShon, Renee' Dozier, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Erin Rourke, Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER

Pohlmann called the meeting to order at 10:28 a.m.

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 February 4, 2024.

ROLL CALL / AGENDA

Roll call followed. A quorum was present.

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

Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County, York County

Weise made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve the February 12, 2024, agenda. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PROVIDER PRESENTATION – ED THORNBROUGH – THE BRIDGE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (BBH)

- Ed Thornbrugh, The Bridge Behavioral Health (BBH): Thornbrugh discussed the services available at BBH which includes two levels of detoxification treatment based on medical need (ASAM Level 3.2 or social detoxification, and ASAM Level 3.7 or medically monitored inpatient withdrawal), intermediate residential and short-term residential and nine respite beds. Respite beds are available to both men and women and length of stay is up to 30 days. Individuals in residential services have 35-40 hours of programming available per week.
- Thornbrugh described his past work experiences noting that he has worked in the entire continuum of care and stating that he has a passion for making sure that services are available to everyone who needs them. Thornbrugh has been in his current position since January 2 of this year.

KIM FREESE, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, SAMHSA, REGION VII

- Kreifels introduced Freese who was present via Zoom stating that Freese has been providing technical assistance to the Region regarding the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC). CCBHCs are required by LB267.
- Freese discussed the five priorities that guide SAMHSA and noted that this initiative falls under the principle of integrating behavioral and physical healthcare in one location. CCBHCs provide a broad range of outpatient services and are designed to serve an individual across their lifetime.
- Federal agency partners in operationalizing this initiative include SAMHSA, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE). The initial Medicaid demonstration project began in eight states in a process that began ten years ago.
- Nebraska has entered the process through a state plan / waiver and using an E grant process. Every two years two additional states are added to the demonstration. Nebraska is moving in that direction. A motivating factor in becoming part of this process is the availability of an enhanced Medicaid rate.
- Freese briefly discussed criteria which includes specific standards for staffing, access to services, care coordination, scope of services, quality and other reporting and organizational authority and governance.
- Data driven outcomes are demonstrating that these programs are effective and efficient.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Election of Officers:

- Election of officers was held during the Apace meeting earlier this morning. The position of BHAC representative had not been discussed. Pohlmann agreed to continue in that role. The officers are Chair: Gale Pohlmann; Vice Chair: John Caverzagie; Secretary: Christa Yoakum; Treasurer: Jan Lang; and Gale Pohlmann, BHAC Representative.
- Weiss made a motion, seconded by Harre, to retain the current officers and accept Pohlmann as the BHAC representative. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

November 13, 2023, Regional Governing Board Minutes: Henning made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2024, meeting as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

Financial Report:

- DeShon presented the financial report through December, briefly reviewing income and expenditures for mental health, substance use disorder and other line items.
- There were no new highlighted areas and DeShon reiterated that these line items are largely amounts that are paid on an annual basis. It is anticipated that all items will fall within the budget projection by

the end of the fiscal year. DeShon reported that with 50 percent of the fiscal year completed, total expenditures stand at 50.16 percent.

- Henning made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the financial report as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

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

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): These contracts with Iron Video Production and KidGlov are for the purpose of creating electronic messaging regarding the opioid epidemic and trauma. Lang made a motion, seconded by Harre, to approve the ARPA contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.
- Network Provider Amendments: These contracts with Associates in Counseling & Treatment, Goodwill Industries, Mental Health Crisis Center, and St. Monica's represent either an increase or a decrease in contract amounts based on utilization. Henning made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the Network Provider contract amendments as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.
- Training: These contracts are for the purpose of funding BETA training within Lincoln and providing information technology support during the two-day Opioid Summit in March. The contract with Monica Meier is void as it has been determined that this training can be provided without cost. Krueger made a motion, seconded by Schmieding, to approve the Training contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.
- Software: This contract is for the purpose of purchasing and implementing Enterprise Resource Planning. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve the Software contract as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

FY 22-23 Financial Audit - HBE:

- Kiley Wiechman, HBE, presented audit findings from the FY 22-23 Financial Audit. The Board received copies of the report electronically on Friday, February 9, and copies are available for anyone wanting a hard copy of the report at the meeting today. Wiechman reviewed financial statements, fund financial statements, and other notes and supplementary information and briefly explained the audit timeline and process.
- In the Summary of Auditor's Results an unmodified audit report was issued; there were no deficiencies in internal controls. There was no noncompliance disclosed, and an unmodified audit report was issued on compliance for Region V. There were no findings which were required to be reported and Region V was qualified as a low-risk auditee.
- Krueger made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the FY 22-23 Fiscal Audit as presented. Kreifels thanked Wiechman and the fiscal department for their efforts in completing the audit. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

FY 22-23 Management Summary (draft): Rourke reviewed the Management Summary, noting that this serves as the Region's "report card" measuring performance in several areas. The report includes the key indicators that are monitored throughout the year, information related to network services, continuous quality

improvement activities, the Professional Partner Program, and the Housing Program. Lang made a motion, seconded by Harre, to approve the FY 22-23 Management Summary as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

FY 23-24 Network Performance Improvement Plan (draft): Rourke stated that this document includes the measures that the Region is monitoring for network providers in the current fiscal year. These indicators may have thresholds which providers are expected to meet. This data is reported to the Board on a quarterly basis. Henning made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the FY 23-24 Network Performance Improvement Plan as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

FYs 20-23 Prevention Programmatic Monitoring Report: Rourke commented that this report encompasses the years 2020 through 2023 as DHHS had not completed an audit for several years. Because of the lengthy timeline of the survey, any recommendations or findings have already been addressed and plans of correction submitted. Krueger made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve and place on file the FY 20-23 Prevention Programmatic Monitoring Report. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

FY 22 Financial Audit Report – Revised Final: This review by DHHS included three recommendations, no findings, and one payback. Prior to receiving this report, the fiscal department has been working to update processes. It was noted that the payback represented less than one percent of total funding. Henning made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve and place on file the FY 22 Financial Audit Report. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

FY 23 Network Compliance Monitoring Report: The Network Compliance Monitoring Report included four recommendations and three commendations. Harre made a motion, seconded by Schmieding, to approve and place on file the FY 23 Network Compliance Monitoring Report. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

Interlocal Agreement: The Interlocal Agreement had been discussed at length at the Apace meeting prior to this meeting. The agreement was approved by Apace. Henning made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the same resolution for Region V Systems. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Seward County and Thayer County; voting nay: none; absent Butler County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Otoe County, Saunders County and York County.

OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

- The Appropriations Committee hearing is scheduled for this afternoon. Pohlmann will be testifying, as will other county commissioners and Regional Administrators. At stake at this hearing is the Governor's line item removal of fifteen million dollars from the Behavioral Health Regions in this biennium. This amount is approximately 3.6 million dollars for Region V and would represent a permanent loss. Loss of these funds will impact service capacity and several of the projects that are in the process of being brought online.

- A hearing on LB943 is also scheduled for this afternoon. This bill would appropriate funds for the five percent rate increase providers were granted in the current biennium budget. No funding was applied to this measure and a loss of capacity was the result. Kreifels noted that earlier there had been a cut of 10.3 million dollars also due to an unfunded rate increase. A total of thirty-three million dollars is at risk of being removed from Program 38 over a three year period.
- Kreifels and other Regional Administrators have met with Corsi, the new DHHS Director. Corsi discussed his priorities which include the child welfare systems, changes to the developmental disability program, behavioral health, and aging populations. DHHS is looking to restructure, specifically, Child and Family Services will separate protective services from economic assistance. Long Term Services will include Developmental Disabilities, Behavioral Health, and Aging.

Behavioral Health Stabilization Funds Update: In order to obtain these funds providers were required to submit a plan for maintaining and stabilizing staff levels. Aggregate data through December shows that prior to workforce stabilization funding there was a 15 percent overall vacancy rate. The vacancy rate now stands at nine percent. The most significant impact was observed regarding non-licensed staff.

Medicaid Unwind: During the pandemic state of emergency providers were not allowed to remove individuals from the Medicaid rolls. Now that the state of emergency has expired, Medicaid has been re-evaluating Medicaid status. Through December 2023 sixty-seven percent of individuals re-evaluated for Medicaid eligibility have remained enrolled with the remaining thirty-three percent being disenrolled. Approximately 80,000 individuals were disenrolled for various reasons. Slightly over forty-seven percent of those disenrolled were discharged for procedural reasons while the remaining fifty-two percent were determined to be ineligible. Kreifels reminded Board members that during the emergency fewer Region V funds were being drawn down. Medicaid numbers will continue to be monitored to gauge what impact the disenrolled individuals will have on the Region's drawdown.

Square One and Voluntary Crisis Response Center:

- Square One: Dozier noted that CenterPointe has been selected as the provider for this service and will initially provide three of the four core services on the CenterPointe campus to include Crisis Response, Crisis Outpatient Psychotherapy and Emergency Community Support. An offer by Lancaster County to purchase the property at 220 S. 17th Street has been accepted and an RFP has been issued to hire an architect. The projected date for the move to this facility is the fall of 2025. At that time the fourth service, mental health respite, will be available. Dozier reminded the Board members that these services will be available for any family in the Region V catchment area.
- Voluntary Crisis Response Center: IBHS, the selected provider for this service, has closed on a property at 14th and Cornhusker. The anticipated date for this service to be in place is September of 2024. In an effort to maximize these dollars, funds will be expended to hire staff and purchase necessary equipment and furnishings.
- **DBH Telehealth and Phone Services:** Use of telecare services was greatly expanded during the pandemic. Effective January 1, 2024, DBH has mandated which services are able to utilize telehealth. Concerns were expressed regarding intensive outpatient (IOP) and Supported Employment services. This directive has a particularly significant impact on rural areas where transportation and workforce shortages are barriers to receiving services.

DBH Core Services Requirements: DHHS has outlined core services which need to be available in the Behavioral Health Regions and the timeframes for bringing these services up. Region V is currently offering or contracting for the required core services. Kreifels mentioned that DHHS has added a requirement that any pilot program will now require a Request for Proposals (RFP) which reduces the Region's flexibility and ability to bring up a project quickly.

Strategic Planning Sessions: The Region has been engaged in strategic planning with Freese from SAMHSA. Strategic Planning Sessions have taken place in Fillmore, Seward, Lancaster, and Otoe Counties. Information gleaned from these four sessions will be aggregated and prioritized. Based on these findings,

the Region will be introducing a new Strategic Plan which will identify those areas of focus and Regional mission and values. The Plan will be brought to the March Board meeting.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Implementation: No further information.

Emergency System Update:

- BETA training is scheduled for February 13-16. This training is for law enforcement and provides understanding when working with someone who may be experiencing a mental health crisis.
- The Region has recently been able to get an individual admitted to LRC who had been at the Crisis Center for over 200 days. A significant number of individuals are waiting in jails for over 100 days for competency and restoration hearings. LRC has plans to increase staffing significantly and it was suggested that the 15 million being removed from Program 38 will be directed toward LRC.
- Stepping Up Initiative: The purpose of this initiative is to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

Prevention System Update: Prevention is working with coalitions to determine whether or not to apply for a prevention framework grant and may decide to apply for other federal funding.

Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds Update:

- The Steering Committee meets tomorrow and will be discussing how the funds will be expended.
- A Summit is scheduled for March 19-20. A four-part video series has been filmed and will be presented at the Summit. The video will highlight recovery stories and provide a message of hope.
- Kreifels commented that the Region is being methodical in its approach to expending these funds in an effort to be transparent and avoid duplication.
- Senator Hunt has introduced LB307 which would allow syringe exchange as a harm reduction measure which would decrease the incidence of HIV and hepatitis.

Network Continuous Quality (CQI) Improvement: No further discussion.

FY 23-24 Capacity Utilization Summaries: The Region is working diligently to redirect these funds and the percentage of drawdown is increasing. It is hoped to bring that percentage to 70-80 percent in this fiscal year.

Informational Items: The following documents were provided for informational purposes.

- November 13, 2023 RGB Executive Committee Minutes
- Wellbeing Initiative Quarterly Report Q2
- FY 23-24 Training Plan

Other Business: Board members were reminded that the March meeting will be held at Region V Systems, 1645 N Street.

IMPORTANT DATES

- February 26 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- February 28 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
- March 11 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. – to be held at Region V Services, 1645 N Street
- March 11 – Executive Committee Meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.