

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

REGION V SYSTEMS MINUTES

May 13, 2024

Region V Systems
1645 N Street
Lincoln, NE
10:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gale Pohlmann, Jefferson County; Les Agena, Johnson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Michael Weiss, Nemaha County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Bill Reece, Saunders County; Ken Schmieding, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County; Leroy Ott, York County

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Svoboda, Butler County; Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Emily Haxby, Gage County; Janet Henning, Saline County

OTHERS PRESENT: Julie Fisher-Erickson, Lutheran Family Services; Wendy Baumeister, Sue Brooks, Tami DeShon, Renee' Dozier, Theresa Henning, Trina Janis, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER

Pohlmann called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. Leroy Ott from York County was introduced. He is replacing Stan Boehr who passed away suddenly last month.

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 May 5, 2024.

ROLL CALL / AGENDA

Roll call followed. A quorum was present.

Present: Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County

Weiss made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the May 13, 2024, agenda as presented. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – SUE BROOKS, LINCOLN ADULT AND RURAL TRANSITION-AGE HOUSING SPECIALIST

- Pohlmann recognized Sue Brooks for five years of service. Brooks' current position is Lincoln Adult and Rural Transition Age Housing Specialist. Pohlmann highlighted Brooks' responsibilities, recognized her strengths, and thanked her for her dedicated service to Region V Systems.

PROVIDER PRESENTATION – JULIE FISHER-ERICKSON, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES

- Fisher-Erickson briefly described the history of Lutheran Family Services (LFS) noting that LFS has been in existence for 135 years and began as two orphanages. LFS began providing behavioral health services in the seventies. Fisher-Erickson commented that she has been with LFS for 23 years and discussed the many roles she filled over those years.
- LFS has offices across the state and has recently opened Dana Village which will provide housing and other supportive services for youth transitioning out of the foster care system.
- LFS is one of two Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) in Lincoln. That model will be adopted statewide in 2025. To increase access to services of various kinds, LFS has employed service coordinators to help with basic needs and provide system navigation.
- Fisher-Erickson described the services provided by LFS and noted that Open Access is once more available now that LFS is fully staffed. Open Access allows immediate access to an evaluation or assessment. This service is available Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- In addition to core services, LFS provides children's services at Mourning Hope and the Child Advocacy Center, targets high utilizers with DBT therapy, adoption and foster care, refugee resettlement, Zero Suicide, the Fatherhood Initiative, and others.
- LFS is hosting an Open House on Wednesday, May 15, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION – WENDY BAUMEISTER, CRIMINAL JUSTICE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVES MANAGER – STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

- Baumeister commented that she has been in her position for five and a half months and has been engaged in data collection, determining what needs exist, developing collaborative relationships with justice and other entities, and refining the focus for this process. The target population for the Stepping Up Initiative is individuals who are living with a mental health challenge who are justice involved.
- In November 2023 Lancaster County signed the Resolution bringing this initiative to the forefront. Saunders and Otoe Counties have also signed Resolutions, and Baumeister has met with Seward and Jefferson Counties and expressed a willingness to attend County Board Meetings and meet with anyone who would like more information.
- Stepping Up is highly individualized and collaborative, able to develop plans and processes based on the needs of individual counties and communities.
- To put the need for this service in perspective, Baumeister noted that if every corrections bed in Region V was full, that would be around 1,300 individuals. Thirty-five percent of those individuals have a mental health diagnosis, which would be approximately 455 persons in Region V. Incarceration can exacerbate mental health symptoms and incarcerated persons may exhibit more disruptive behaviors and become a bigger risk to all involved, which can increase workloads and divert resources.
- The core principles are: Reduce the number of individuals with mental health concerns who are in jail; increase connections to treatment; reduce the length of time that an individual spends in jail; and reduce recidivism. The Critical Time Intervention model as well as Sequential Intercept Mapping are evidence-based models that will be implemented.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

April 8, 2024, Regional Governing Board Minutes: Weiss made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024, meeting as presented. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

- DeShon presented the financial report through March 31, 2024, briefly reviewing income and expenditures for mental health, substance use disorder and other line items. DeShon noted that the Region is monitoring several areas that are currently or may end the year slightly over budget including salaries, BHAC milage, background checks, contract labor, insurance, software, travel, and audit expenses. It is anticipated that overall expenditures will be under budget by the end of the fiscal year even though one or more of the highlighted areas may be slightly above the budget line items. With 75 percent of the fiscal year completed, total expenditures stand at 74.41 percent.
- Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Agena, to approve the Financial Report as presented. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.

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

- ARPA – Contingency Management and Medication Assisted Treatment: These contract amendments with CenterPointe (increase of \$61,500), LFS (increase of \$16,000), and Houses of Hope (increase of \$22,800) extend their current contracts for Contingency Management and / or Medication Assisted Treatment through September 30, 2025, with a corresponding increase in funding. Reece made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve these contract extensions and increased funding as presented. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.
- Prevention: The contract with the Lincoln Police Department, in the amount of up to \$5,000, will increase the number of compliance checks to ensure establishments are not selling to minors. The second contract, with Counter Tools, in the amount of \$23,100, will provide technical assistance to tobacco prevention and control efforts in retail environments and other public health entities. Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the Prevention contracts as presented. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.
- Statewide Opioid Response (SOR) Grant: These two contracts provide for approved medication for the treatment of opioid use disorder (BayMark Health Services - \$25,021) and the provision of a four-webinar training series on substance use prevention (J. Chad Professional Training - \$8,800). Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the SOR Grant contracts as presented. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.
- Training: These four contracts provide for the following training:
 - Critical Time Intervention (CIT) basic training and consultation – Dr. Carolyn Hanesworth, \$21,500
 - Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) training – Policy Research Associates – \$25,000
 - Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) training and supplies – UNL – \$25,000
 - Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) training and supplies – UNL – Center on Children, Families and the Law - \$26,598
 - Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Agena, to approve these training contracts as presented. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.
- Network Provider Amendment: This contract, with Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC), will increase MHCC's overall contract amount by 17.25 percent for the purpose of providing additional substance abuse services for adults in Region V. Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the

increased funding for MHCC. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.

Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds Update:

- Obvious Expenditures Recommendations: Janis presented the following requests:
 - Opioid Flex Fund Proposal: These flex funds would be utilized to help obtain resources necessary to meet treatment needs and remove barriers to accessing services. \$50,000 has been requested for these expenses. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the Flex Fund Proposal as presented. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.
 - Region V Systems Opioid Needs Assessment: The goal of this needs assessment is to gather data, conduct focus groups, create a logic model and final report to provide a framework for making good decisions moving forward. The budget for this project is \$114,575. Reece made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to approve the funding for this Assessment. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.
- Grant Application: Janis noted that the Grant Application process opened on April 15 with a closing date of May 6. Twelve applications were submitted totaling over two million dollars in requests. The Review Committee is in the process of scoring the applications and will be reviewing them tomorrow. The goal is to fund a minimum of two projects. The recommendations from the Review Committee will be on the Board agenda in June.

FY 22-23 DBH Audit: DeShon commented that this audit was completed by the Division of Behavioral Health and was an audit of Region V expense-based expenditures. Zero payback was requested as all expenditures were deemed to be appropriate. Lang made a motion, seconded by Agena, to accept the report as presented. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.

FY 24-25 Meeting Schedule (Draft): Tyerman-Harper presented the draft meeting schedule for FY 24-25 and noted that the Board meetings are typically on the second Monday of the designated month with the exception of November when Veterans Day falls on the second Monday. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the FY 24-25 Meeting Schedule as presented. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.

County Match:

- Kreifels reminded Board members that he had asked each Board member to go to their county boards and discuss sustaining the County Match at the current level. Kreifels also commented that he has communicated with each RGB member since the April meeting. Kreifels discussed the removal of 10.3 million dollars in Legislative Session 107, and the additional loss of fifteen million dollars in the most recent session and pointed out that last year County Match was decreased due to the loss of the 10.3 million. The Region has implemented several efficiencies to address the loss of funding. These efficiencies include a reorganization and elimination of three positions. Other modifications are being explored.
- Several Board members commented that their Boards had not taken official action though consensus was given to continue the match at the current level. When it was suggested that the item be tabled,

Kreifels explained that the Region will present the FY24-25 Budget for approval at the June meeting and must have final budget numbers in order to do that.

- There was additional discussion regarding the need for the continuation of these dollars as Kreifels presented information regarding the foundational beliefs that Region V adheres to. Kreifels and Pohlmann clarified that it would be appropriate to vote aye if the individual county has verbally agreed to support this request while stressing the importance of behavioral health services in each county. Ott made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve sustaining County Match at the current level in their County. Voting aye were Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Thayer County, York County; nays none; abstain, Seward County; absent: Butler County, Fillmore County, Gage County, Saline County. Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

- Interim studies LR420 and LR422 will be monitored this summer. These bills relate to the budget needs and funding sources for the Behavioral Health Regions and the needs, successes and challenges relating to behavioral health in Nebraska, respectively.
- Senator Hanson has requested a report on the concerns and perspectives regarding the need for psych beds and the report will be available in the fall.
- The Governor has announced that 1,000 positions will be eliminated statewide. The rationale is that many of these positions have been vacant for 90 days. This is in keeping with the Governor's desire to reduce state government by six percent.
- Kreifels is preparing a succinct document, a Statewide Perspective of the Behavioral Health System of Care, to present to Senators when he meets with them over the summer. The document will briefly describe the history of the Regions via legislation, the unique services provided, various funding sources and collaborations, and a timeline that demonstrates the areas that have had an influence on behavioral health utilization such as Medicaid expansion, the pandemic, and a series of reductions in funding.
- Kreifels is in the process of attending a meeting for each county board and has completed six visits to date.
- Kreifels met with Dr. Corsi, the CEO of the Division of Health and Human Services, on May 7 to learn more about his vision for behavioral health care in Nebraska. Corsi has stated that his goal is to provide the Regions with more flexibility to issue funds.
- Kreifels will be meeting with the lobbyist and other Regional Administrators on June 3 to prepare for the 109th Legislative session.

Medicaid Unwind: By the end of April 88 percent of Medicaid members have had their eligibility reviewed. Sixty eight percent of those reviewed have had their coverage renewed and 32 percent were disenrolled. Overall, there has been a decrease of 13 percent of persons enrolled in Medicaid. As a result, the Region is seeing a slight increase in persons returning to Region V funding.

Emergency System Update: Kreifels reported the following:

- Kristin Nelson, Director of Emergency Services, has been working with Lincoln Regional Center to facilitate discharges for discharge-ready individuals. At one point there were 15-18 individuals waiting for discharge; currently that number is down to eight. Kreifels noted that these individuals have multiple co-morbidities making placement in the community especially challenging. The Region is working on creating specialty services called plans for one, to aid in the successful transition from the Lincoln Regional Center to community-based care.
- BETA training is scheduled for July 29 – August 1. The youth BETA scheduled for June 11 has been canceled.

FY24-25 Site Visit Schedule (Draft): Tyerman-Harper presented the site visit schedule for informational purposes noting that these dates are included in the Regional Budget Plan submission to ensure the Region is fulfilling that contract deliverable.

Regional Prevention Coordination System Update: Morrissey reported the following:

- End of year activities are taking place with the goal of using as much funding as possible.
- The State did approve an underage drinking campaign and some of that campaign will target parents.
- Programmatic reviews with the County Coalitions are almost completed.
- Counter Tools, approved by the Board today, will provide data for every county and provide environmental scans for tobacco.
- Next year Counter Tools will focus on vaping and leads, or other community members will go into the community and look at placement, signage, and cost, talk to clerks, and gather information. A concern regarding vaping is that it is impossible to tell what is actually in the cartridges. Another concern is that the devices can be explosive.

Network Continuous Quality (CQI) Improvement:

- Outcomes have been developed for next years' service/rate enhancement. The report is being finalized for Q3 reporting.
- Performance Improvement Plans indicators are being developed for FY 24-25.
- The timeline for this year's annual report and other year-end reporting has begun.

FY 23-24 Capacity Utilization Summaries: Summaries are provided for informational purposes. The Region's goal is to be above 70 percent and indications are that the Region will utilize between 77 to 85 percent of allocated funds.

April 8, 2024, Regional Governing Board Executive Committee Minutes: Minutes are provided for informational purposes.

FY 23-25 Training Plan: Provided for informational purposes.

Other Business: Michael reported that Region V has once again placed as a finalist in the Best Places to Work contest. Michael noted that it is difficult for non-profits to compete, which makes this honor especially valued. The award celebration is scheduled for June 6 at Haymarket Park. Michael will send an email with event information and noted that Board members were invited to attend. The deadline for accepting the invitation is May 23.

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 13 – Executive Committee Meeting
- May 20 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- May 29 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. – Region V Systems, 1645 N Street
- June 10 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. – to be held at Apace, 4433 South 70th Street
- June 13 – Regional Prevention Coalition – 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.