

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 29, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Region V Systems, 1645 N Street

MEMBERS PRESENT: Renee Duffek, Corrie Kielty, Stephanie Knight, Jill Kuzelka, Rebecca Meinders, Rachel Mulcahy, Laura Osborne, Gale Pohlmann, Kelsey Schwab, Michele Vana, Evette Watts

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Janak, Sarah McEntarffer, Melissa Ripley, Kim Schroeder

OTHERS PRESENT: Jon Day, Blue Valley Behavioral Health; Tami DeShon, Theresa Henning, Trina Janis, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Erin Rourke and Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

HOUSEKEEPING / ANNOUNCEMENTS / INTRODUCTIONS

Kuzelka called the meeting to order at 10:03 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 May 15, 2024.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no Public Comment.
- Kuzelka took a moment to thank Stephanie Knight for serving three three-year terms on the BHAC, the maximum allowed by the BHAC bylaws. Kuzelka presented Knight with a certificate of appreciation for her service.

NETWORK PROVIDER PRESENTATION – JON DAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BLUE VALLEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (BVBH)

- Day briefly described the history of BVBH which has been in operation for over 50 years. BVBH has offices in eleven of the fifteen rural counties as well as an office in Lincoln. Office days and hours are variable, but each office provides outpatient services as well as medication management and community support. BVBH sees around 6,000 unique individuals every year, which is the largest number of individuals seen by any provider in Nebraska.
- One of BVBH's goals is accessibility in rural areas. BVBH coordinates with hospitals, law enforcement, schools, and businesses to help meet that goal. Day commented that BVBH is administratively thin and staff in administrative positions carry a significant caseload. This strategy allows BV to see more people than would be possible otherwise.
- Day discussed some of the changes that took place when the Lincoln office opened, noting that there were more individuals presenting with more serious mental health concerns. Day also noted the significant challenges providers are facing based on the decreased allocations over the last several years.
- BVBH collaborates with TASC by providing emergency crisis response; the goal of this service is to divert individuals from being EPC'd and instead get them connected to services.
- Meinders commented that BVBH stepped up when the Community Mental Health Center closed by taking on the responsibility for individuals who were not responsible for reasons of insanity (NRRI) and would need lifetime supervision. The alternative would have been that these individuals would have returned to the Regional Center.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented (Minutes – May 1, 2024, FY 23-24 Compliance Management Report, RGB Report). There was no further discussion. Voting aye were: Duffek,

Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Election of Officers for FY 24-25: All current officers are eligible to serve another term. Osborne made a motion to nominate the current slate of officers to serve a second term. Mulcahy seconded that motion. There were no other nominations. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.

Contracts / Contract Amendments: Henning presented contracts in the following categories:

- **FY 23-24:**
 - **Prevention:** The contract for \$22,770 to Alpha Media is for the creation and broadcast of Public Service Announcements regarding underage drinking. The contract with DHHS for \$118,953.82 is to fund prevention activities related to high risk drinking and vaping. The various contracts with coalitions and Four County Collaborative (totaling \$118,891.84) are also for the purpose of funding activities related to high risk drinking and / or vaping. The contract with UNL Public Policy Center is to aid in reducing suicide morbidity by 10 percent. Kielty made a motion, seconded by Knight, to recommend the Board approve these Prevention contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Meinders, Mulcahy, Schwab and Watts; abstain: Kuzelka, Osborne, Pohlmann, and Vana; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
 - **Training:** The contract with Weber for \$3,000 will allow Weber to participate in Motivational Interviewing Informed Wraparound train-the-trainer courses. The contract with American Society of Addiction Medicine for \$14,000 is to purchase ASAM training vouchers for Network Providers. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve these contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
- **FY 24-25**
 - **Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):** These contracts with DHHS are for the purposes of providing behavioral health services in Region V (\$17,382.486); coordinating and providing Mental Health First Aid Training in the community (\$22,183); funding prevention activities for high risk drinking and vaping (\$118,953.82), funding activities that reduce opioid overdose deaths and opioid abuse (\$197,655); and providing funding for Projects for Assistance in Transition for Homelessness (\$65,000). Osborne made a motion, seconded by Mulcahy, to recommend the Board approve these contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
 - **Projects for Assistance in Transition for Homelessness (PATH):** This contract with CenterPointe for \$65,000 provides passthrough funding for support of homeless services. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve this contract for PATH services as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
 - **Emergency Protective Custody:** These contracts with fifteen rural counties of Region V and Lancaster County Mental Health Crisis Center, billed per consumer day, are for the purpose of providing crisis stabilization services. Pohlmann. made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve these contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
 - **Mental Health First Aid (MHFI):** These contracts with various individuals (\$400 per 8-hour training) will provide Adult and / or Youth Mental Health First Aid training in the community. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Duffek, to recommend the Board approve these MHFI contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; abstain Kuzelka: absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
 - **Network Provider:** These contracts with Region V Network Providers, totaling \$10,388,287, are for the purpose of providing mental health and / or substance abuse services in Region V. Henning noted that DeShon is still working to finalize network provider allocations and any changes to these contracts above fifteen percent will be brought to the Board for approval. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to recommend the Board approve these Network Provider contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.

- Prevention Federal Block Grant Recipients: These contracts with various coalitions, totaling \$107,858, address substance abuse prevention, related risk factors and mental health promotion. Counter Tools (\$30,000) will provide technical assistance regarding tobacco prevention; Laura Osborne (\$5,000) will provide data entry into NPIRS; Lincoln Police Department and Nebraska State Patrol (a total of \$15,000) will create a law enforcement / youth partnership in assuring establishments are not selling to minors. The contracts with Jefferson County Prevention Coalition (\$5,283.38); Lancaster County Coalition (\$68,108.03), Four County Collaborative (\$9,765.04), and Saline County (\$6,673.96) will fund prevention activities for high risk drinking through the Partnerships for Success grant. The contracts with Gage County MAPs (\$9,153.89), Jefferson County Prevention Coalition (\$8,898.64), Four County Collaborative (\$9,546.88) and Saline County (\$6,452.02) will fund prevention activities for vaping through the statewide Partnership for Success grant. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve the Prevention Federal Block Grant Recipients contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Meinders, Mulcahy, and Schwab; abstain: Kuzelka, Osborne, Pohlmann, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
- Southeast Nebraska Disaster Volunteer Database: These three contracts, totaling \$15,000, are for the purpose of creating an efficient and effective volunteer database to call on in the event of a disaster. Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Mulcahy, to recommend the Board approve the Disaster Volunteer Database contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Knight, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Watts; abstain Duffek, Kuzelka, and Vana; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
- Evidence-based Practice: These contracts with Intuitive Minds (\$25,000); Motivate 2 Communicate (\$20,000); Sara Siebler (\$400 per training); and Shireen Moshiri (\$400 per training) are for the purposes of providing consultation and / or training for Dialectical Behavior Training (DBT) and / or Motivational Interviewing (MI). Osborne made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve these contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD): These contracts with HUD will provide Rural Transition-age Permanent Housing (\$159,670); Rural Permanent Supportive Housing (\$365,388); and Permanent Supportive Housing (\$224,040). Vana made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to recommend the Board approve these contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
- Building Partner: These contracts with Cause Collective (\$3,290), Families Inspiring Families (\$21,042), and Mental Health Association (\$96,493) will provide facilities usage, office space, phone, and information technology support to the building partners. Knight made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve these contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
- Miscellaneous: The contract with Families Inspiring Families (\$2,400) provides collaboration and support for the program; UNMC (\$40,724) provides collaboration for the maintenance of the behavioral health employment website; the contract with Wellbeing Initiative (\$80,000) provides for consumer coordination activities; the contract with City of Lincoln (\$36,000) provides funding for BETA and Youth BETA trainings; the contract with County of Lancaster (\$20,150) provides funding for BETA and Youth BETA; the contract with UNL Public Policy Center (PPC) (\$16,000) provides for the reduction of suicide morbidity; the second contract with UNL PPC (\$769,954.95) provides for the implementation of the Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention project; the contract with Lancaster County (\$99,334) is anticipated to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails (Stepping Up Initiative); and the contract with Kissel Kohout (\$22,000) is to provide lobbying services and support to Behavioral Health Regions. Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to recommend the Board approve the Miscellaneous contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.

Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds Grant Awards: Janis noted that the deadline for grant applications was May 6. The internal review committee reviewed twelve applications and moved eleven of the proposals forward. The Opioid Steering Committee selected the following projects to move forward. Janis presented the following Grant Awards proposals totaling \$611,708.37.

- BAART: \$71,998.05: This project will enhance the availability and accessibility of evidence-based treatment options addressing abatement strategies A-1 and B-2.
- Jefferson County Diversion Services: \$9,400: This project will pay for eight at risk youth to participate in ten sessions of Equine Assisted Learning addressing abatement strategies E-3 and F-1.

- Nebraska Pharmacists Association: \$33,450 –This project will provide outreach and education about Narcan during the Big Red Welcome at UNL and during Project Connect addressing abatement strategy C-1.
- Physicians Laboratory: \$87,301: These funds will be used to purchase a vehicle to transport bodies of suspected overdose cases to and from the morgue to receive an autopsy addressing abatement strategy H-1.
- Whispering Acres Camp G.R.I.T: \$9,559.32 – This project will support two positions for G.R.I.T. to help youth with a family history of use or neglect addressing abatement strategy F-1.
- Osborne made a motion, seconded by Mulcahy, to recommend the Board approve these grant awards as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Schwab, and Watts; abstain; Kuzelka, Pohlmann, and Vana; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.

Stepping Up Initiative:

- Lancaster County Blueprint: Kreifels briefly outlined the contents of the Blueprint, highlighting the four key measures the initiative is addressing. Those measures are: 1) Reduce the number of people living with mental illness booked into jail; 2) increase connections to treatment; 3) reduce the length of stay in jail; and 4) reduce recidivism. The report also highlights the presenting problems and the local impact on Lancaster County. Knight made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve the Blueprint as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.
- Stepping Up Steering Committee Charter – Lancaster County: No discussion.

Summer 2024 Prevention Mini-Grant Summary: Morrissey presented the seven recipients for the 2024 Summer Mini-grant Cycle and briefly described the projects the funds will be used for. Applicants include Beatrice Public Schools, SCIP, Seward Suicide Prevention Coalition, Seward County Bridges, Youth for Christ, York Jail Ministry, and York Public Schools for a total of \$13,303. Knight made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to recommend the Board approve the mini-grant recommendations as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.

CLAS Grant Award Summary: Morrissey presented the application for CLAS funding. The committee recommended approval of SCIP’s application for \$750. The funds will allow for translation of substance use prevention resources. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve the CLAS Grant Award Summary applicant as presented. Voting aye were: Duffek, Kielty, Knight, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schwab, Vana and Watts; absent: Janak, McEntarffer, Ripley, and Schroeder. Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION:

Behavioral Health/Legislative Updates: Kreifels provided updates and information on the following:

- Interim studies: LR420 and LR422, introduced by Senator Frederickson, 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. LR420 is a priority number five bill.
- Kreifels will be meeting with lobbyist Kohout to determine how the Regions can help educate senators by providing data, testimony, and other relevant information. To that end, Kreifels is finalizing a one-page document, seeking consensus for the content from the other Regional Administrators. The goal behind creating the document is to help senators understand the role of the Regions.

Budget Plan Update:

- DeShon reported that the Region has received approval for the Regional Budget Plan. There were significant reductions for provider contracts because of the decreased allocation. One area affected by the reduced allocation related to Blue Valley where the Division reduced Capacity Access Guarantee (CAG) funding by thirty percent. It is the Division’s intent to move that funding to a fee-for-service format.
- Concerns regarding maintenance of effort for substance use have surfaced as identified by the Division of Behavioral Health. The Region shifted funds within our budget for FY24-25 from mental health to substance use disorder to support the maintenance of effort and attempt to preserve federal block grant funds from the federal government.
- The drawdown in FY23-24 is anticipated to be between 77%-85% with our initial allocation. With the reduction of \$15 million (\$3 million is Region V Systems portion) our drawdown is anticipated to be at 91 to 95 percent.
- Moving forward, the Region will be unable to move funds into service enhancements for Blue Valley and HopeSpoke.

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- There was a brief discussion about individuals that have both Medicare and Medicaid. Providers will be receiving only the Medicare rate which is significantly lower.

Department of Justice Townhall and Report: Kreifels commented that this report by the Department of Justice is timely given that the Legislature has reduced behavioral health funding by over forty-three million dollars over the last several biennia. The report noted restrictions on authorizations, limits on community-based support, challenges with Supported Employment and other concerns. The state continues to negotiate with the Department of Justice.

Medicaid Unwind: Rourke reported that Medicaid has finished re-evaluating eligibility for eighty-eight percent of Medicaid recipients and anticipates completing the process by the end of June. As a result of the re-evaluations, there has been a decrease of thirteen percent of individuals enrolled in Medicaid.

Emergency System Update:

- Region V has scheduled Behavioral Health Threat Assessment (BETA) training for July 29 – August 1.
- Interim Director Green has set a goal to provide access to Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) within thirty days and to move discharge-ready individuals out of the LRC within thirty days. At one point there were as many as eighteen individuals who were discharge ready. That number has been significantly reduced. Several of the discharge-ready individuals have multiple morbidities and complexities and cannot be transitioned to traditional community-based services.
- The diversion rate for Mobile Crisis is ninety percent. The Stepping Up Initiative will track data to determine if those who cannot be diverted are being arrested instead.

Regional Prevention Coalition System Update: Morrissey reported the following:

- End of year / start of the next fiscal year activities are taking place, which includes state audits.
- Prevention has applied for a Partnership for Success grant with results to be known by the end of the summer.
- The CARF survey regarding Prevention went very well with no recommendations. The CARF surveyor encouraged Prevention to work hard to keep the grassroots coalitions in place.

Network Continuous Quality Improvement:

- FY 24-25 Network Performance Improvement Plan – Draft: Rourke asked anyone with comments or suggestions regarding the Network PIP to contact her.
- FY 23-24 Quarter 3 Network CQI Synopsis: This document provides highlights from the previous quarter.
- Full reports will be emailed to BHAC members when available.

FY 23-25 Training Plan: No further information

Other Business: Michael reported on the recent CARF site visit conducted May 16 and 17. The survey went very well, and surveyors noted only two recommendations during the exit conference.

ADJOURN

- There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES

- June 10 – 10:15 a.m. – Regional Governing Board Meeting at Apace
- June 13 – 9:00 a.m. – Regional Prevention Coalition
- June 17 – Network Provider Meeting / Teams
- August 28 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting