

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

November 6, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Region V Systems, 1645 N Street

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Renee Duffek, Melissa Ripley, Evette Watts

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tami DeShon, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Erin Rourke, Amanda Tyerman-Harper and Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

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

Kuzelka called the meeting to order at 10:01 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 October 23, 2024.

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

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented (Minutes – August 28, 2024, FY 24-25 Compliance Management Report, RGB Report). There was no discussion. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schroeder, Schwab, and Vana; Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts. Motion carried.

### **ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS**

**FY 24-25 Contractual Agreements:** Kreifels presented contract information for the following:

- **Plans for One:** These specialized contracts with Paradigm and Capture Developmental and Community Services are for the purpose of integrating individuals transitioning from the Lincoln Regional Center or providing staffing within a residential setting for persons with high intensity needs. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend that the Board approve the Plans for One as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schroeder, Schwab, and Vana; Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts. Motion carried.
- **State Opioid Response (SOR):** These contracts with KidGlov, J. Chad Professional Training, Crete Public Schools, CenterPointe, BayMark Health Services and Marcus Theater are to provide prevention activities such as promotional materials and videos, training, evidence-based opioid curriculum, approved medications for opioid disorder treatment, and promotion of harm reduction vending machines and MedSafes. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to recommend that the Board approve the SOR contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schroeder, Schwab, and Vana; Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts. Motion carried.
- **Administrative:** These contracts with Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska and Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates are for the purposes of focusing on workforce development in the behavioral health field and

providing lobbying services and support to Regional Behavioral Health Authorities. Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Schroeder, to recommend that the Board approve the Administrative Contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schroeder, Schwab, and Vana; Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts. Motion carried.

- Partnerships for Success (PFS): These contracts with Laura Osborne, Public Health Solutions, Brooke Fullerton, and Lincoln Police Department are for the purposes of implementing PFS deliverables within their respective counties and creating a law enforcement / youth partnership in assuring establishments are not selling alcohol to minors. Kielty made a motion, seconded by Janak, to recommend that the Board approve the PFS contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Meinders, Mulcahy, Pohlmann, Schroeder and Schwab; Abstain: Kuzelka, Osborne, and Vana; Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts. Motion carried.
- Prevention Block Grant: These contracts with Nebraska State Patrol and Counter Tools are for the purposes of creating a law enforcement / youth partnership in assuring establishments are not selling alcohol to minors and providing technical assistance to commercial tobacco prevention and control efforts through the Region. Janak made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend that the Board approve the Prevention Block Grant contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schroeder, Schwab, and Vana; Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts. Motion carried.
- Evidence-based Training: These contracts with Intuitive Mind Training and Consulting and Motivate 2 Communicate are for the purposes of training and consultation to implement Dialectical Behavioral Therapy and Motivational Interviewing respectively. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend that the Board approve the Evidence-based Training contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schroeder, Schwab, and Vana; Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts. Motion carried.
- Network Provider – End of FY 23-24 Contract Shifts: These contracts with CenterPointe, Goodwill, HopeSpoke, Integrated Behavioral Health, Lutheran Family Services, Mental Health Association, St. Monica’s, and Telecare are shifts made following the June billing in order to maximize funding. Some contract amounts were decreased while others were increased based on utilization during the fiscal year. These contracts provide mental health and substance use disorder services for adults and children in the Region V geographical area. Kielty made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to recommend that the Board approve the end of year FY 23-24 Contract Shifts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schroeder, Schwab, and Vana. Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts; Motion carried.

**FY 23-24 Region V Annual Report (draft):** Kreifels commented that Rourke oversees the process of publishing the Annual Report though the Report is a collaborative effort from all employees. BHAC members commented that the design is visually appealing. Kreifels gave kudos to the CQI Department, and Barb Forsman specifically. Kreifels briefly highlighted the various areas of the Annual Report which include Structure and Governance, Funding and Expenditures, Network Administration, Children and Family Services, Partnership / Collaborations and Region V Employees. Kreifels thanked BHAC members for providing local input. The Report is a comprehensive summary of the activities carried out by the Region and shows evidence of the impact these activities have had on persons served. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Mulcahy, to recommend that the Board approve the FY 23-24 Annual Report as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schroeder, Schwab, and Vana; Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts. Motion carried.

**FY 23-24 Region V Systems Management Summary (draft):**

- Rourke presented the Management Summary discussing the thirty-nine Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) Indicators monitored during the fiscal year, Network Services, Continuous Quality Improvement Concerns / Requests, the Professional Partner Program, and Housing. Data is reported quarterly, and a threshold has been established for each PIP.
- Waitlist information was briefly discussed. The average wait to receive services was 37 days. Delays in receiving services are largely driven by lack of capacity. Meinders noted that Blue Valley and St. Monica’s have a different perspective on accepting referrals based on the interpretation that forced sobriety does not equal sobriety and are more inclined to consider these referrals a priority. This will be a topic for discussion with the Network Providers and some training may be needed to provide a consistent response to these referrals.
- Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend that the Board approve the Region V Management Summary as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schroeder, Schwab, and Vana; Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts. Motion carried.

**Prevention Mini-Grant Award Summary – 2024 Winter Cycle and Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Grant Award Summary:**

- Morrissey presented the mini-grant applicant, Saunders County TeamMates, which is requesting \$1,000 for coordination activities. Morrissey indicated that Prevention is working to get other TeamMates organizations to collect data to support the assertion that TeamMates is evidence based. Remaining grant funds will be distributed following review by the internal committee.
- Asian Community and Cultural Center has requested funds for two WRAP III Trainings. Morrissey mentioned that, following these trainings, the Asian Center will be able to train trainers to provide WRAP training in the future.
- Janak made a motion, seconded by Krenke, to recommend that the Board approve the Prevention Mini-Grant Award Summary and the CLAS Grant Award Summary as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schroeder, Schwab, and Vana; Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts. Motion carried.

**FY 23-24 24 Site Visit Reports:**

- Tyerman-Harper presented the site visit reports for Associates in Counseling and Treatment, The Bridge Behavioral Health, CenterPointe, HopeSpoke, Houses of Hope / TASC / Touchstone, Integrated Behavioral Health, Lutheran Family Services, Mental Health Association, Mental Health Crisis Center, and St. Monica's. A unit audit is completed for each agency annually, with program fidelity audits being conducted every three years. Tyerman-Harper drew attention to areas where all units were unable to be verified, any corrective action required, and results of program fidelity reviews which required corrective action as well. A number of follow-up audits remain to be conducted to close out the fiscal year.
- Tyerman-Harper explained that the site visit schedule has shifted to later in the fiscal year to have an adequate sample to monitor. This change is driven by lower capacity utilization. Tyerman-Harper noted that, because of the small samples available in some programs, one error could cause an agency to fall below the 95% threshold, which partially explains why there was more corrective action this year. Another change was the interpretation of exceptions for program fidelity reviews. Tyerman-Harper commented that the Region approaches site visits with the perspective of quality improvement and uses a collaborative approach throughout the process.
- Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to recommend that the Board approve the FY 23-24 Region V Service Purchased Audit Report as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Osborne, Pohlmann, Schroeder, Schwab, and Vana; Absent: Duffek, Ripley, and Watts. Motion carried.

**OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION:**

**Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates / Legislative Session Schedule:**

- The tentative legislative session schedule is attached for informational purposes.
- Dr. Thomas Janousek has been named the Behavioral Health Director for DHHS, replacing Tony Green who was serving as Interim Director.
- The Federal Communications Commission is implementing geo-routing for the 988 system which will move from using the area code to the actual location of the person calling. Calls will be routed to the call center in the caller's geographic location rather than based on the phone number. The advantage is that the Call Center will be familiar with resources in their service area. Awareness of 988 is lacking among persons 57 and older.
- The Division of Behavioral Health is negotiating with the Department of Justice in hopes of entering into a Memo of Agreement. The priority focus is individuals in assisted living where more than twenty-five percent of persons served have a serious and persistent mental illness diagnosis as that violates the tenets of the Olmstead Act which prohibits congregating these individuals without providing voice and choice. Transitional services and case management services are being considered.
- The Behavioral Health Regions are considering working with a Senator to request legislation that would afford Regions more flexibility in the areas of Requests for Proposals (RFP) and pilot projects. More flexibility would allow the Region to expand the network internally or bring up a pilot project without having to go through the RFP process.
- Regarding Rental Assistance, the Region would like to see the statute revised to separate mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) statutes and make SUD a standalone service. As the statute currently reads, to be

eligible for Rental Assistance Program (RAP) an individual must have a mental health diagnosis and may have a co-occurring SUD, but having a SUD only does not convey eligibility for RAP funding.

- DHHS will be submitting a 1915(i) waiver which would provide Medicaid services supporting independence for persons within a defined category of behavioral health concerns as well as targeted case management. The goal is to have the new services submitted by January 1, 2025, and the services turned on by April 1, 2025.
- Tyerman-Harper noted an interim hearing for LB392, introduced by Senator Hansen, was held last week. The focus of this hearing is on setting methodology for rebasing provider rates.
- DHHS submitted seven Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) statewide for a waiver. CenterPointe and Lutheran Family Services (LFS) are included in those seven and those agencies are going through a series of trainings to ensure that they are prepared to meet the requirements for a CCBHC. Training is also occurring relating to billing for the seven core services. A soft opening is scheduled for July 1, 2025, and the official date is January 2026. There was discussion related to whether DBH would cover services if an individual lost their Medicaid eligibility. Kreifels stated that some unbraiding of funding will have to occur over the next 2-5 years, though at this time it is not clear how that will happen.

**Coordinated Specialty Care Update:** Tyerman-Harper reported that the RFP was released in October and one applicant attended the Bidders Conference and subsequently submitted an RFP. That agency has since withdrawn its application. There is another provider that expressed interest in providing this service, and the Region is meeting with this provider on Friday to assess next steps to determine if the proposal would be viable.

**DHHS Medicare Change Impacts and Clarification:** Medicare has opened its network to licensed clinicians with the intent to increase access to services. Providers are required to bill Medicare first and also are required to accept the Medicare rate. An unintended consequence is that Medicare rates are significantly lower than Medicaid rates, and providers are seeing an impact on their bottom line. Legislation is being considered that would mitigate this loss of revenue from this Medicare change.

**Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds Update:**

- Kreifels reported that there was discussion with the Division's attorney regarding operationalization of LB1355 to determine what is covered and what is not. The Region has received approximately 3.3 million dollars and has obligated just under 1.8 million. Funding not allocated during the biennium is subject to "claw back" by the Division. Kreifels reported that Region V is in a good position to meet that stipulation for the biennium. As priorities are determined moving forward, the process will slow down and become more methodical about assessing needs for our service area.
- Opioid funds have been used to purchase vending machines to provide harm reduction products. The first one has been placed at CenterPointe and the second one will be placed at Matt Talbott. Narcan, safe drug disposal kits and safe sex information are provided. Prevention has purchased some informational towers and can provide them to agencies requesting them.
- The Division of Behavioral Health is contracting with the Nebraska Medical Association, and they are subcontracting with Goldfinch Health, a company that works to enhance surgical care, support patients surrounding surgery and encourages opioid minimizing pain management post-surgery. The goal of this prevention strategy is to reduce the number of opioids prescribed by training doctors and nurses about this alternative approach to pain management.

**SquareOne and Voluntary Crisis Response Center (VCRC):**

- SquareOne: CenterPointe is currently providing services in its existing location. The plans for renovation have been finalized. Because the projected costs are greater than anticipated, the entire building selected for the site will not be renovated at this time. A Youth Advisory Board is being put in place and marketing is taking place across the sixteen counties of Region V.
- Voluntary Crisis Response Center (VCRC): Delays have occurred related to the Building Permit, which was just approved today. The foreman IBHS has engaged has expressed concerns about the electrical system and insulation, so it is possible that there will be more delays. There is a deadline by which ARPA funding for capital construction must be completed. It is hoped that the building will be partially operational by the deadline, and services can begin. Protocols for referrals are being reviewed and marketing is taking place.

- Kreifels stated that he has been meeting with legislative candidates and senators with the goal of educating them about the behavioral health system. Kreifels commented that there is a lack of knowledge regarding behavioral health among some of the candidates and some people he has spoken with have been more receptive than others.

**FY 23-24 Region V Systems Services Purchased Audit Report (Professional Partner Program) and FY 23-24 Region V Systems Audit Report (Network Coordination):** These audits are conducted by DHHS and are provided for informational purposes. There were two findings requiring corrective action for the Professional Partner Program. No corrective action was required for the Network Coordination audit.

**Inpatient Mental Health Care Bed Capacity Review:** This report was required by LB921 and is provided for informational purposes. The report lists various strategies and solutions. The Region has requested an opportunity to discuss this report with DBH. Kreifels will follow up with Meinders regarding a question about the version of the report that was included in the packet. Meinders also discussed concerns about the inability to act on a competency opinion within five days.

**Medicaid Unwind:** Rourke reported that as of August 31, 2024, ninety-nine percent of the reviews had been completed. Overall, there was a fifteen percent decrease in the number of persons enrolled in Medicaid with a corresponding four percent increase in the number of persons served by Region V funding in FY 23-24.

**Office Move – 3600 Union Drive:** As an objective from the Strategic Plan, the Region had been looking to find a permanent home for the Regional office. The current building rent is expensive, and the building requires a lot of repairs. In conjunction with Kasik, Apace Director, the Region was given an opportunity to purchase the building formerly owned by Apace at 3600 Union Drive. The cost for this lease will be approximately half of what is currently being spent, and the new location is eight years old, so it is in good condition. The goal is to be in the new space by March 3, 2024. The Governing Board approved the Region entering into a financing lease with Apace at the September 9, 2024, meeting.

**Emergency System Update:** No updates.

**Regional Prevention Coalition System Update:**

- Prevention has purchased ten Naloxone towers for Lancaster County providing information to the public. Rural counties also have these towers. Morrissey asked for input about where these towers should be located.
- Oversight of SOR funds will be transferred to Janis and it is anticipated that there may be some braiding of funds between SOR and settlement.
- Changes will be coming for coalitions regarding data, tracking and monitoring. Maintaining the coalitions is a priority for Region V Prevention.

**Network Continuous Quality Improvement:** No data presented. Reports will be available for the January meeting.

**FY 24-25 Capacity Utilization Summaries:** Region V Systems continues at 26% and is above the 25% utilization for the first quarter.

**Training Plan:** Provided for informational purposes.

**ADJOURN**

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- November 14 - 9:00 a.m. – Regional Prevention Coalition
- November 18 – 10:15 a.m. – Regional Governing Board Meeting at Apace / Hybrid
- November 25 – 9:00 a.m. – Network Provider Meeting / Teams
- January 29 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting / Hybrid