

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

REGION V SYSTEMS MINUTES

November 18, 2024

Apace / Hybrid
4433 South 70th Street
Lincoln, NE
10:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Emily Haxby, Gage County; Gale Pohlmann, Jefferson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Michael Weiss, Nemaha County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Janet Henning, Saline County; Bill Reece, Saunders County; Ken Schmieding, Seward County (Zoom); Dean Krueger, Thayer County; Leroy Ott, York County

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Svoboda, Butler County; Les Agena, Johnson County; Jerry Westring, Polk County

OTHERS PRESENT: Shane Ideus, Unico; Kiley Wiechman, Tanner Weir, HBE LLP; Tami DeShon, Renee' Dozier, Theresa Henning, Trina Janis, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Erin Rourke, Amanda Tyerman-Harper, and Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER

Pohlmann called the meeting to order at 10:26 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 November 10, 2024.

ROLL CALL / AGENDA

Roll call followed. A quorum was present.

Present: Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, Polk County

Reece made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the November 18, 2024, agenda as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Munira Husovic was recognized in absentia for 15 years of service as a Traditional Professional Partner. Pohlmann highlighted her individual responsibilities, recognized her strengths, and acknowledged her dedicated service to Region V Systems.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

September 9, 2024, Regional Governing Board Minutes: Lang made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024, meeting as presented. Fillmore County, Gage County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Abstain: Jefferson County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

Organizational Insurance Review – Shane Ideus, Unico:

- Ideus provided the organizational liability insurance review commenting that the marketplace is hard right now with insurance rates increasing. Ideus noted that most entities are seeing an increase of up to ten percent. For Region V a successful insurance continuation was completed and realized a premium decrease for workers compensation and a new carrier for Cyber insurance. The annual review ensured that the risk assessment was acceptable.
- When asked about changes related to the office move, Ideus stated that Unico will endorse the current policy with Apace when the lease begins March 1, 2025.
- Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the Organizational Insurance Review as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

FY 24 CPA Fiscal Audit Report – Kiley Wiechman, Tanner Weir, LBE LLP:

- Wiechman and Weir presented audit findings from the FY 23-24 Financial Audit. The Board received copies of the report at the meeting today. Wiechman and Weir reviewed financial statements, fund financial statements, and other notes and supplementary information and briefly explained the audit process and the variables in fund balances.
- In the Summary of Auditor's Results an unmodified audit report was issued; there were no opinions or deficiencies in internal controls. There was no noncompliance disclosed, and an unmodified audit report was issued on compliance for Region V.
- Reece made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve the FY 23-24 Fiscal Audit as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

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

- Day provided Board members with brochures and the most recent annual report noting that BVBH is the largest provider of outpatient services in Nebraska, serving over 6,000 individuals a year. BVBH operates eleven offices, including one in Lincoln with a staff of ninety-five. BVBH provides mental health and substance use disorder services for adults and children including outpatient therapy, community support, and medication management.
- Day shared two concerns. 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 and then can bill Medicaid for the 20 percent Medicare does not cover. An unintended consequence is that Medicare rates are substantially lower than Medicaid rates, and BVBH has seen a significant decrease in revenue. As a result, BVBH has stopped enrolling new participants who are dually eligible and is limiting services for current participants.
- A second concern relates to Capacity Access Guarantee funding, which is funding to help pay for additional expenses required to maintain the rural offices. The Division has reduced those funds by \$118,000 in this biennium.
- Based on these two concerns, Day expressed fears about being able to maintain all the rural offices. Staffing is especially difficult in rural areas, and BVBH must pay competitive rates in order to secure and retain staff. Day commented that BVBH may ask for a Letter of Support as the Legislative Sessions starts in January. Pohlmann mentioned that this should be a topic for discussion when a Senator attends a county board meeting.

Financial Report:

- DeShon presented the financial report through September 30, 2024, discussing the various items that are currently over budget and providing rationale for those overages. A majority of the highlighted items are annual expenditures, so it is anticipated that they will fall within the budget by the end of the year. With 25 percent of the fiscal year completed, total expenditures stand at 24.37 percent.
- Weiss made a motion, seconded by Reece, to approve the Financial Report as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

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

Plans for One:

- These are specialized contracts for persons with higher needs. The contracts with Paradigm, and Capture Developmental and Community Services, and Telecare are for the purpose of integrating two individuals who are transitioning from the Lincoln Regional Center or providing staffing within a residential setting for persons with high intensity needs.
- Henning made a motion, seconded by Reece, to approve the Plans for One contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

State Opioid Response (SOR):

- There are changes to several of these contracts from contracts originally approved based on DHHS' interpretation of allowable expenses. The contract with KidGlov is being reduced to \$3,800. There are no changes to the contracts with J. Chad Professional Training, Crete Public Schools, and CenterPointe. The contract with BayMark Health Services is being increased to \$56,791. The contract with Marcus Theater was for activities that were not allowable, and that contract will not move forward.
- Lang made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the SOR contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

Prevention Block Grant:

- There were changes to the contracts with Nebraska State Patrol and Counter Tools which 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. The contract with the State Patrol was increased by thirty-three percent, and the contract with Counter Tools was decreased by eighteen percent.
- Henning made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the Prevention Block Grant contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. 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.
- Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve the PFS contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. 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. The contract with Kissel, et. al. was moved from a three-year contract to a five-year contract to secure a better rate. The contract(s) with “Various Vendors,” will allow the Region to expend up to \$430,00 for expenses related to the upcoming office relocation and represents an increase from \$360,000.
- Henning made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the Administrative contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. 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. Due to funding cuts the contract with Intuitive Mind is being decreased by forty-eight percent, and the contract with Motivate 2 Communicate is being decreased by twenty-six percent from the amounts previously approved.
- Reece made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve the Evidence-based Training contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. 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. The contract with IBHS shows a significant increase of \$167 percent based on funding provided for the Voluntary Crisis Response Center.
- Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to approve the Network Provider End of FY 23-24 Contract Shifts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

Revised Interlocal Agreement

- Kreifels presented the revised interlocal agreement noting the changes made since initial approval in September. Kreifels stated that he had discussions with county clerks, county attorneys, and board members about these changes. If approved, Michael will send revised documents to Counties for approval and signature. Kreifels stated that he would like to see these Interlocal Agreements approved by all sixteen counties by the end of December 2024.
- Henning made a motion, seconded by Harre, to approve the amended Interlocal Agreement as revised and allow Kreifels to negotiate any minor changes to the document. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

Resolution:

- Harre made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the Resolution as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nay: Gage County; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

FY 23-24 Region V Annual Report:

- Kreifels presented the FY 23-24 Region V Annual Report noting that every department at the Region contributes to the process of compiling this information. Kreifels briefly highlighted a number of areas of the Annual Report including the annual letter to stakeholders, Governing Board contributions, and numbers of persons served by County. Kreifels attributed the increase in persons served in part the end of Medicaid unwind and service expansion. Kreifels briefly discussed the service array and recovery outcomes, perception of care data, expanded services, the Housing and Professional Partner program, the Zero Suicide Initiative, opioid abatement strategies and other areas of the report. Data indicates that services provided produce positive outcomes, often outperforming other Regions and states.
- Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Reece, to approve the FY 23-24 Region V Annual Report as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

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

- Rourke presented the FY 23-24 Management Summary discussing the thirty-nine Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) Indicators monitored during the previous fiscal year, Network Services, Continuous Quality Improvement Concerns / Requests, the Professional Partner Program, and Housing commenting that most of these areas met the established threshold. Many of these PIPS were carried over to FY 24-25. Rourke briefly discussed the waitlist data noting that the wait for dual disorder residential treatment is the longest wait as there are only twenty beds available. Persons without a priority such as IV drug use, or pregnancy wait the longest for treatment.
- Crownover made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the FY 23-24 Region V Management Summary (draft) as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

Prevention Mini-Grant Award Summary:

- Morrissey presented the mini-grant applicant, Saunders County TeamMates, which is requesting \$1,000 for coordination activities.
- Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the mini-grant applicant as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Grant Award Summary:

- 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.
- Yoakum made a motion, seconded by Henning, to approve the CLAS Summary requests as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

FY 23-24 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. Tyerman-Harper pointed out that the site visit process was delayed due to the lower capacity as an adequate sample was not available in some cases to proceed with the audit. 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.
- Reece made a motion, seconded by Yoakum, to approve the site visit reports as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee

County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson County, and Polk County. Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Exiting Board Member Appreciation:

- At this time Kreifels took the opportunity to present a certificate, thank you card, and Region V mug to Gale Pohlmann and Janet Henning, thanking them for their many years of service to Region V. Kreifels commented that their valuable historical knowledge will be missed in the future.

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

- Kreifels is continuing to meet with senators and candidates and has six remaining. Kreifels thanked Board members who participated in the meetings.
- 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 Division of Behavioral Health is negotiating with the Department of Justice due to being out of compliance with the Olmstead Act. The Division of Behavioral Health is considering a waiver for additional Medicaid Services and submitting a Medicaid Plan amendment in January.
- DHHS approved seven agencies as Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) statewide. CenterPointe and Lutheran Family Services are included in those seven and serve our 16 county area. A soft launch is scheduled for July 1, 2025, and the official date the CCBHCs will become operational is January 2026.
- The longtime collaboration between Houses of Hope and CenterPointe called Touchstone was dissolved. Touchstone is a short-term residential treatment provider. The current location for Touchstone is a building owned by CenterPointe. Houses of Hope will need to vacate that building by June of 2025. The Region is working with Houses of Hope to provide encouragement and support during the transition as they seek to relocate this service. CenterPointe intends to move the dual residential program to the P Street address.

Coordinated Specialty Care Update:

- Tyerman-Harper reported that the Request for Proposals (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 that provider will be submitting a plan.

Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds:

- Janis reported that Region V has received \$3,338,000 and has obligated \$1,791,200.60 of those funds.
- Technical assistance site visits were held with grant awardees in October.
- Janis commented that the funding to Physicians Laboratory to facilitate transportation of bodies of suspected overdose has not been utilized. Dr. Linde will present more information about this project at the February meeting as efforts continue to broaden awareness about this need.
- The vending machine has been installed at CenterPointe and has already been completely restocked. To date thirty-five packets of Deterra, one hundred twenty-one first aid kits, one hundred ninety-five Narcan boxes and fifty safe sex kits have been dispensed. The vending machine for Matt Talbott will be installed soon.

SquareOne:

- Dozier reported that outpatient services began in July with the majority of referrals coming from schools. Since its inception SquareOne has served fifty-six youth with fifty-four of those youth being able to remain in the community. CenterPointe is focusing on presenting information in the rural areas to law enforcement, schools, hospitals, and other rural providers to increase awareness of the service. The possibility of using telehealth to increase access is being explored.

Voluntary Crisis Response Center (VCRC):

- The contract for the VCRC was awarded to Integrated Behavioral Health Services (IBHS). Tyerman-Harper discussed unfortunate construction delays in bringing up this service, particularly related to receiving the

building permit. That process was facilitated by a meeting with the construction company foreman, the owner, the provider, and Sarah Hoyle, who is the Director of Human Services for Lancaster County.

- IBHS is working with Lincoln Police Department on protocols. While the VCRC will not be fully operational by March 31, 2025, when funding for capacity development will be discontinued, it is the hope that IBHS can start to serve people on April 1, 2025 on a contingency plan.

FY 23-24 Region V Services Purchased Audit Report (Professional Partner Program) and FY 23-24 Region V Audit Report (Network Coordination): These reports are provided for informational purposes. There was one finding for the Professional Partner Program and no findings for Network Coordination.

Inpatient Mental Health Care Bed Capacity Review: This report will be going to the Stepping Up steering committee for review.

Regional Prevention Coordination System Update: No updates.

FY 24-25 Capacity Utilization Summaries: Provided for informational purposes. Kreifels commented that the Region will be requesting additional funding to maintain the current volume of housing vouchers and will be requesting additional funds due to increased utilization.

FY 24-25 Network Management Report: Provided for informational purposes.

Training Plan: Provided for informational purposes.

September 3, 2024, Executive Committee Minutes: Provided for informational purposes.

Other Business: None

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 25 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m. (Cancelled)
- January 29 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. – Region V Systems, 1645 N Street
- February 10 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. – Hybrid, Apace, 4433 South 70th Street

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.