

## REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

### REGION 5 SYSTEMS MINUTES

February 10, 2025

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Emily Haxby, Gage County; Danielle Schwab, Jefferson County; Les Agena, Johnson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Michael Weiss, Nemaha County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Darrell Zabrocki, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County; LeRoy Ott, York County

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jan Sypal, Butler County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; Brian Pribyl, Saline County; Bill Reece, Saunders County

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Erin Linde, PhysLab; Tami DeShon, Renee' Dozier, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Erin Rourke, Amanda Tyerman-Harper, and Marti Rabe, Region 5 Systems

#### **HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER**

Caverzagie called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m.

#### **OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION**

Caverzagie 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](http://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 2, 2025.

#### **ROLL CALL / AGENDA**

Roll call followed. A quorum was present.

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

Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County

Agena made a motion, seconded by Zabrocki, to approve the February 10, 2025, agenda as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **PRESENTATION / OPIOID PROJECT – DR. ERIN LINDE, PHYSLAB**

Dr. Erin Linde, Forensic Pathologist with Physicians Laboratory, presented information about the importance of conducting autopsies and noted some of the challenges related to failure to perform autopsies in the event of a death for undetermined causes. County coroners are being asked to act as physicians, leading to a wide variation in knowledge, training and experience. Lack of autopsies results in data that is flawed or unreliable regarding the actual number of overdose deaths. Funding is available to counties for covering the costs of autopsies and transportation. Trina Janis, Opioid Program Manager for Region 5 Systems, will be meeting with County Attorneys from each of the sixteen counties to review available resources and supports.

### **ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS**

**Election of Officers & Appointment to BHAC:** At the APACE meeting held prior to this meeting, the following officer slate was presented and approved: Chair: Christa Yoakum; Vice Chair: Bill Reece; Secretary: Leroy Ott; Treasurer: Kenny Harre. In addition to these offices, Ott volunteered to represent the Governing Board on the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. Krueger made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the election of officers and BHAC representative as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried. Following the voice vote, Yoakum assumed the duties of the Chair.

**November 18, 2024, Regional Governing Board Minutes:** Lang made a motion, seconded by Harre, to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2024, meeting as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

### **Financial Report:**

- DeShon presented the financial report through December 31, 2024, discussing the various items that are currently over budget and providing rationale for those overages. Many 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 50 percent of the fiscal year completed, total expenditures stand at 42.8 percent. There was brief discussion regarding interest rates. When the Certificate of Deposit comes due in June, the Region will explore other opportunities to secure a better rate.
- DeShon noted that a new section is included on the Summary of All Administrative Programs FYI document specifically for relocation expenditures. Approximately 50 percent of the budgeted amount has been expended, and expenses are coming in slightly below the budgeted amount.
- Weiss made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the Financial Report as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

**FY 24-25 Contractual Agreements:** Henning briefly presented contract information for the following categories providing a brief description of each contract:

- Partnership for Success:
  - KidGlov: Rebrand a booklet to serve counties and create a landing page on the TalkHeart2Heart website; provide a survey for parents.
  - Nebraska Collegiate Prevention Alliance: *Provide the Power of Parenting* handbook to parents in selected counties and other activities to ensure successful transition to college life.
- Prevention Federal Block Grant Recipients:
  - The Truth Initiative: To provide the EX Program, a program providing education, training, and intervention for those smoking / vaping.

- Network Provider Shifts: Henning commented that other providers also experienced contract shifts, but a motion is required only for any shift over 15 percent. These shifts are based on contract utilization.
  - The Bridge Behavioral Health: An increase of 58 percent from the previously approved contract.
  - St. Monica's: An increase of 18 percent from the previously approved contract.
  - Integrated Behavioral Health Services: A decrease of 27 percent from the previously approved contract.
  - Wellbeing Initiative: An increase of 58 percent from the previously approved contract.
- Zero Suicide Project: These contracts are all for the purpose of implementing the Zero Suicide Transformational framework to provide safer care for those at risk of suicide.
  - Better Living Foster Care and Family Services
  - CEDARS
  - Christian Heritage
  - Jenda Family Service
- Stabilization Funds:
  - Agiloft: To increase efficiencies in Region 5 Systems contract management database.
  - Fidelity EHR: To streamline data entry processes and improve workflow efficiency.
- Plan for One Amendment:
  - Telecare: This contract was reduced by 84 percent from the previously approved contract because the participant is doing well and requires fewer intensive services.
- Housing and Urban Development: To provide enhanced behavioral health support individuals transitioning from the Lincoln Regional Center while receiving secure residential treatment.
- Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve all contracts as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

**Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds:** Janis presented three Obvious Expenditure Proposals for Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds as moved forward by the Opioid Steering Committee:

- University of Nebraska / DopaGE: This proposal would fund the University of Nebraska in the amount of \$84,550 to provide substance use education to students to protect them from the risk of fatal overdose. This proposal supports Region 5 in achieving the Prevention and Harm Reduction Priority abatement strategies.
- Lincoln Lancaster Community Health Department Wastewater Surveillance: An additional request for \$25,000 will help to meet the goal of analyzing the wastewater in both stations to evaluate the level of high-risk substances. Wastewater analysis provides leading edge information regarding the types and amounts of substances being used and can be reported to law enforcement allowing additional prevention activities to be put in place.
- Opioid Flex Fund Proposal: This request is for an additional \$75,000 to help individuals to secure or remain in recovery housing. To date fifty-two individuals have been served in the areas of housing, transportation, minor car repairs and phone service.
- Agena made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the Opioid Expenditures as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

**Revised Interlocal Agreement and Resolution:**

- Kreifels presented historical context to the Revised Interlocal Agreement, providing a timeline for the process of putting new Interlocal Agreements in place. February 2024 the Board voted to approve separating the Interlocal Agreements for Apace and Region 5. A draft was presented in April 2024 and RGB members were asked to take the document to their individual County boards. In September 2024 the Board approved the Interlocal as well as the stylistic change to Region 5's name. Each modification was submitted to DHHS and received approval. Further modifications were made and approved at the November 2024 meeting.
- Since then, Region 5's Attorney advised that new language discovered in Neb. Rev. Stat. 23-104.01 should be included in the Interlocal Agreement. Amendments to this statute became law in July 2024. There was discussion concerning whether the correct Statute was referenced. Michael will send the documents to Board members to take to their Counties for approval.
- Harre made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the revised Interlocal as presented. Rollcall vote followed. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Abstain: Gage County; Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.
- The resolution was presented to allow officers of Region 5 Systems to work with its legal counsel and the County boards, respectively, to make additional non-substantive changes (if any), at their reasonable discretion, to reach a final draft of the new interlocal agreement.
- Weiss made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the resolution as presented. Roll call vote followed. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays: Gage County; Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

**Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) Membership – Gale Pohlmann:** Kreifels observed that Pohlmann was no longer eligible to serve on the BHAC as the RGB representative; however, he would like to continue to serve as a member. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Agena, to appoint Pohlmann to the BHAC. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

**Conflict of Interest Statement - BHAC:** The BHAC Conflict of Interest statement provides information about any self-disclosed conflicts of interest. None of the current BHAC members identified any conflicts that would disallow them from serving on the BHAC. Lang made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve and place on file the Annual Conflict of Interest Statement. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

**OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**2025 Regional Governing Board Survey:** Kreifels stated that Michael will be sending out the Annual Survey to the Governing Board members. Additionally, the Region annually surveys staff, persons served, BHAC members, and Network Providers. Kreifels asked for any feedback/observations on improvements, specifically about the agenda.

**Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates:** Kreifels provided brief information regarding an extensive list of bills that are of interest to the Region because of their potential impact on behavioral health. Kreifels will send the list to Board members to provide full information. Kreifels encouraged Board members to reach out to their Senator with concerns or questions about specific bills.

**Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Implementation:** Behavioral Health system transformation is underway, and Nebraska is required to bring up agencies which will be classified as CCBHCs. There are two CCBHCs agencies are in our service area and located in Lancaster County – CenterPointe and Lutheran Family Services. CCBHCs are required to provide nine core behavioral health services, primary care, and crisis services and those services must be in place by January 1, 2026. These agencies will be billing under a perspective payment structure at a daily rate vs. a fee for service environment for individuals on Medicaid. As a result of these billing practices, the Region will be making changes to the way funding is allocated, particularly for crisis services.

**Increase in Rental Assistance Program Vouchers and HUD Award:**

- Tyerman-Harper reported that there are currently 225 individuals in the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) with a 70/30 urban/rural split. There is currently a waitlist of one hundred individuals. Because of the large numbers involved and the waitlist, the Region was anticipating a budget shortfall. Additional funds were requested from the Division which approved an additional \$760,000 for the remainder of the year. These additional funds will allow the Region to hire a housing specialist to help implement the additional vouchers and begin housing individuals on the wait list.
- Dozier commented that the Region had received a grant to increase the number of vouchers in Lincoln. There are currently thirty-two units in rural areas for adults and eight for transition age youth. Kreifels commented that the recent Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) process revealed that housing is a priority.

**Office Move – 3600 Union Drive & Stylistic Name Change:** Kreifels provided an update on the office move as well as the new address for Region 5. The week of February 24-28 both 1645 N Street and 3600 Union Drive offices will be closed to the public while the move takes place. During this time, business operations will continue, and employees will be working remotely and in the field. The doors will open at 3600 Union Drive office on March 3, 2025. During the month of March 2025, Region 5 Systems will prepare the office at 1645 N Street for return to the owner. We are required to be out of the 1645 N Street office no later than 3/31/2025.

**Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) Pilot:**

- The SIM identified additional acute beds as a priority. Law enforcement or County Attorneys can declare someone as mentally ill and dangerous to themselves or others, the criteria for an EPC hold.
- Kreifels indicated that a pilot is being explored with four counties (York, Fillmore, Thayer and Polk) to utilize Mary Lanning Hospital and two counties (Butler and Saunders) to utilize Fremont Methodist Hospital for people placed on EPCs rather than the Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC) as a strategy to increase EPC beds and improve access and flow-through. MHCC was full for almost 70 days in the last year. Funding would not change for the MHCC. The pilot project will be for one year; results will be evaluated at the end of that time.
- Contract negotiations are underway; Mary Lanning has requested that a medical clearance be provided before transporting an individual to the hospital.
- Meetings with County Board members, County Attorneys, and law enforcement in the affected counties are being planned for early March with details to be determined. Should there be agreement about these changes in the EPC process, the change would begin as of July 1, 2025.

**Regional Prevention Coordination System Update:** Morrissey provided the following information:

- Morrissey thanked the Board for approving the contract that will provide support for people who are addicted to vaping / smoking. Morrissey would like to see the other Regions onboard with the project and would like to start a pilot program in Lancaster County to collect data.
- Region 5 counties where compliance checks have taken place have shown great compliance; however, similar compliance checks with entities selling smoking / vaping products are indicated.
- Data will provide an opportunity to educate about the harm in using these products and provide support to youth through the Catch My Breath program. Prevention will be reviewing marketing channels to ensure that people can find the resources they need.

- Twenty-four bills introduced in this Legislative session include prevention elements.

**Network Continuous Quality Improvement – FY 24-25 Network CQI Synopsis:** Rourke briefly reviewed data from the first quarter noting that Network Providers report the data. The goal of collecting this type of data is to monitor access, efficiency, effectiveness, and satisfaction with treatment provided.

**FY 24-25 Capacity Utilization Summaries:** Provided for informational purposes. Kreifels commented that with 50 percent of the fiscal year expended, the Region is just under 50 percent in utilization. The Region monitors these numbers closely to be able to effectively utilize all allocated funds.

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

**Training Plan:** Provided for informational purposes. Trainings provided are for the purpose of building confidence and competence among providers. Last week a Behavioral Threat Assessment Training (BETA) was held to increase competence for law enforcement when encountering someone who is experiencing a mental health crisis, to allow them to respond appropriately.

**Other Business:** None

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- February 24 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- March 5 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. – Hybrid / Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive
- March 10 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. – Hybrid, Apace, 4433 South 70<sup>th</sup> Street

#### **ADJOURN**

Lang made a motion, seconded by Ott, to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.