

**REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD**

**REGION 5 SYSTEMS  
MINUTES**

March 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; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Bill Reece, Saunders County; Darrell Zabrocki, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County; LeRoy Ott, York County

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jan Sypal, Butler County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Brian Pribyl, Saline County

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Richard Wiener, Samantha Wiener, University of Nebraska; Tami DeShon, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Erin Rourke, and Marti Rabe, Region 5 Systems

**HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER**

Yoakum called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

**OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION**

Yoakum 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 March 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, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Saline County

Agenda made motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the March 10, 2025, agenda as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Saline County; Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – KATIANA MACNAUGHTON**

Katiana MacNaughton was recognized for 10 years of service as a Transition Age Professional Partner. Yoakum highlighted her individual responsibilities, recognized her strengths, and acknowledged her dedicated service to Region 5 Systems.

### **PRESENTATION / DR RICHARD WIENER – BETA**

- Nelson introduced Dr. Richard Wiener, University of Nebraska / Lincoln, who presented information regarding *Training Police to Answer Mental Health Calls – The BETA Project*. Nelson commented that the Region has been providing BETA training for sixteen years.
- The purpose of the study was to look at the effectiveness of BETA training to determine if the training has an impact on attitudes, skills, and knowledge about appropriate ways to manage mental health calls.
- Dr. Wiener used data collected from two BETA trainings, Winter 2024 and Summer 2024, explaining that the second study was to determine if the initial results could be replicated. The data was gathered from pre- and post-tests and was compared to a sample that did not take the training.
- Two different measures were used to make the comparison, and for both measures, for both surveys, it was determined that there was a significant increase in knowledge and change in attitude for law enforcement after completing the training. BETA was shown to be a best practice for serving individuals with behavioral health concerns. Dr. Wiener pointed out that training law enforcement locally is cost effective and can be more responsive to local concerns. He also suggested that re-training on a regular basis would be a good practice.

### **ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS**

**February 10, 2025, Regional Governing Board Minutes:** Lang made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, meeting as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Saline County; Motion carried.

### **Financial Report:**

- DeShon presented the financial report through January 31, 2025, discussing the items that are currently over budget and providing rationale for those overages. Most of the highlighted items are annual expenditures, so it is anticipated that they will fall within the budget by the end of the year. The Region will be monitoring BHAC meeting expenses, legal fees, and postage to determine if those line items will need to be increased. With 58.33 percent of the fiscal year completed, total expenditures stand at 52.51 percent, approximately \$430,000 under budget.
- Reece made a motion, seconded by Zabrocki, to approve the financial report as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Saline County; Motion carried.

### **FY 25-26 Regional Budget:**

- DeShon reported that the Region has been reviewing provider submissions of their requests for allocations, which were due at the end of February. Region 5's FY 25-26 Budget is due to DHHS on March 21, 2025. The final approval will occur around the end of April.
- Kreifels reported that the Region has requested an additional appropriation of approximately 1.5 million dollars for FY 26.
- The CCBHC's Medicaid reimbursement will not be implemented until January 1, 2026, instead of July 1, 2025. The Region was required to shift \$348,000 to continue to cover those expenses because of the Medicaid delay.
- The Region's FY24-25 utilization of services has continued to increase, and the Region has requested an additional \$483,000 for FY 25-26 for services based on the increase in utilization.
- There are additional expenses in the amount of \$111,714 to maintain services at the current level with two expense-based services.
- Rural access or Capacity Access Guarantee dollars for Blue Valley Behavioral Health (BVBH) were decreased and the Region has been unsuccessful to date in getting the money back in the budget. The possibility exists that BVBH will be forced to close one to five rural offices. An additional \$115,000 in appropriations was requested to bring that allocation up to match FY25 allocation.

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- The Region has requested more funding for housing due to the need identified in the community. The Division did provide an additional \$750,000 in funding for FY 25 and FY 26. An additional \$440,000 was requested to maintain people who are housed for FY 26.
- The Division will be presenting their budget to the Nebraska Legislative Appropriations Committee at a hearing today.

**Interlocal agreement and Bylaws Updates:**

- At the February 10, 2025, RGB Meeting, Kreifels stated that the majority of the Governing Board approved the Interlocal Agreement to add Paragraph 14; this passed with one abstention. After the February meeting, further discussion was held with the county which was in disagreement with including Paragraph 14.
- For today's discussion, Kreifels presented that Paragraph 14 has been removed from the draft Interlocal Agreement based on further consultation with Region 5 Systems' attorney, who counseled that removing Paragraph 14 does not affect how Region 5 Systems and associated counties need to be in compliance with state statutes. For context, this reverts the Interlocal Agreement draft to the version approved at the November 18, 2024, RGB meeting (no Paragraph 14). Board members were advised to take the revised document to their county board/attorney for review. The version of the agreement presented today will be placed on the Governing Board's May 12, 2025, agenda for a motion to approve.
- Draft Governing Board Bylaws will be on the April 14, 2025, RGB agenda for discussion only. If there is consensus regarding the Bylaws, the final Bylaws and Interlocal Agreement will be motion items on the May 12, 2025, agenda.

**OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates:** Kreifels reported the following:

- LB328: Kreifels testified in opposition to this bill which would change provisions relating to the disbursement of the documentary stamp tax and would no longer provide a portion of funding for housing.
- LB454: Kreifels testified in support of this bill which would provide the Regions with more flexibility and discontinue the obligation of requiring a formal bidding process, or Request for Proposals when bringing up a new service. There is language in the bill that would allow housing funds to be used for persons with substance use disorders as well as mental health concerns. DHHS is supportive of this bill.
- Initially the revenue forecast was anticipated to include a four hundred million dollar shortfall. The forecast improved and the shortfall was reduced to two hundred thirty nine million. With concerns regarding proposed cuts to Medicaid match and the unknowns regarding other Federal changes, the deficit could increase by an additional ninety million dollars.

**Office Move – 3600 Union Drive:** Region 5 opened for business in the new location on March 3, 2025. The office was closed the last week of February while the move took place. The 1645 N Street building will be turned over to the landlord by the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds:** Henning reported the following:

- Results of the needs assessment completed in January will go to the Opioid Steering Committee this week. After review by the committee, the final results will be shared with the Board.
- The Committee is working with DHHS on creating guidelines for utilization of their statewide infrastructure funds to leverage those state funds. As a result of this ongoing work, the release of the next grant cycle has been changed with an anticipated release date of June 13 with request for approval at the November RGB meeting. There is approximately nine million dollars available for capital construction in the state infrastructure opioid fund. Kreifels commented that some of those infrastructure funds could be used to fund short-term residential changes by both CenterPointe and Houses of Hope which would expand beds in the service area.
- Initially twenty-one areas were identified as priority areas where funding would be used. The committee has added four additional points: creating opportunities for individuals with lived experience, developing access to evidence-based programming, treatment, and recovery for substance use, and developing culturally responsive interventions.

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

- RPC is working with The Truth Initiative to address vaping and smoking among youth. The helpline provided does not require parental approval. Cessation programs via the internet will also be available through The Truth. Morrissey commented that the entity has been gracious and has lowered the cost of these programs for the Region. Morrissey would like to see the initiative go statewide in FY 26-27, and with the support of this program, the cost would be \$100,000 statewide.
- The RPC budget has been set, and coalitions will continue to use evidence-based programs chosen by coalition leads.
- Social / emotional learning programs are in place in several schools, and the number of schools involved has increased.
- RPC continues to offer Question, Persuade, Respond (QPR) and youth and adult Mental Health First Aid trainings on a regular basis.
- Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) teams are available in the entire Region except for the southeast corner of the state. The health department in that area has been working to bring up a LOSS team.

**Network Continuous Quality Improvement:** Two documents were shared with the board, both having to do with outcomes.

- Stable Living and Employment Status for Discharges Q1-2: Rourke noted that a slight decline in individuals discharging to stable living and employed has been noted over the last couple of year. The Regional Quality Improvement Team will be assessing this data in their meeting today to make plans for improving this data point.
- National Outcome Measures Q1-2

**FY 24-25 Capacity Utilization Summaries:** These documents are provided for informational purposes. The Region uses these documents to monitor utilization of funds throughout the year to draw down as much of the allocation as possible.

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

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

**Annual Conflict of Interest Statement via DocuSign:** A request for Board members to complete the annual Conflict of Interest Statement will be sent soon, and the summary will be available at the April meeting.

**Other Business:**

- Implementation of the pilot programs to take people placed under Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) to area hospitals rather than the Mental Health Crisis Center are moving forward. Under this pilot Fillmore, Polk, Thayer, and York Counties would use Mary Lanning Hospital, and Butler and Saunders County would utilize Fremont Methodist Hospital. The anticipated start date is July 1, 2025.
- The first meeting is March 26, at 11:00 a.m. at the Saunders County Courthouse for Butler and Saunders County. The second meeting is April 3, at 3:00 p.m. at the York County Courthouse for the other four counties. Law enforcement, County Attorney's, Public Defenders, Lancaster County Mental Health Crisis Center, Mary Lanning Hospital, Methodist Fremont Hospital, TASC Crisis Response, and respective County Commissioners have been invited to attend.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- March 17 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m. - Teams
- April 2 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. – Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive
- April 14 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. – Apace, 4433 South 70<sup>th</sup> Street

**ADJOURN**

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.