

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

January 29, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Region 5 Systems, 1645 N Street

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Greg Janak, Corrie Kielty, Sarah Krenke, Jill Kuzelka, Rebecca Meinders, Rachel Mulcahy, Laura Osborne, Melissa Ripley, Kim Schroeder, Kelsey Schwab, Evette Watts

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Renee Duffek, Michele Vana

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Erin Linde, PhysLab; Gale Pohlmann, Community; Wendy Baumeister, Theresa Henning, Trina Janis, Patrick Kreifels, Sandy Morrissey, Erin Rourke, Amanda Tyerman-Harper and Marti Rabe, Region 5 Systems

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

Kuzelka called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. followed by announcements and roll call. A quorum was present.

### **OPEN MEETING ACT INFORMATION**

Kuzelka noted that Open Meeting Act information is posted at Region 5 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 January 15, 2025.

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

Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Janak, to amend the agenda reflecting the change in the meeting format and date. The next BHAC meeting will be held on March 5 and will be hybrid. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Ripley, Schroeder, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Duffek, Osborne, and Vana. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

### **PRESENTATION**

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. Lack of autopsies leads to poor data collection regarding overdose deaths. Janis will be setting up meetings with County Attorneys to impress on them the importance of seeking an autopsy and will demonstrate how to access funding to help with costs associated with requesting an autopsy.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Janak made a motion, seconded by Schroeder, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented (Minutes-November 6, 2024, FY 24-25 Compliance Management Report, and Regional Governing Board Report). Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Ripley, Schroeder, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Duffek, Osborne, and Vana. Motion carried.

### **ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS**

**FY 24-25 Contractual Agreements:** Henning 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.
- 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 Contract:
  - Telecare: This contract was reduced by 84 percent from the previously approved contract because the participant is doing well and requires fewer intensive services.

Ripley made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to recommend the Board approve all contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Ripley, Schroeder, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Duffek, Osborne, and Vana. 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.

Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve the settlement fund proposals as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Ripley, Schroeder, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Duffek, Osborne, and Vana. Motion carried.

Henning gave kudos to Janis who has been collecting data, reviewing income levels, and making sure the Region is the payor of last resort for the flex funds. Janis' efforts are very much appreciated.

**Conflict of Interest Summary Report:** Following discussion of what defines a conflict of interest per the BHAC bylaws, several corrections were made to the Report. The defining indicator is whether a contract benefits the individual personally. Ripley made a motion, seconded by Watts, to recommend the Board approve and place on file the Conflict of Interest Summary Report pending corrections. There was no objection. Voting aye were: Janak,

Kielty, Krenke, Kuzelka, Meinders, Mulcahy, Ripley, Schroeder, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Duffek, Osborne, and Vana. Motion carried.

**OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION:**

**Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates / Legislative Session Schedule:** Kreifels noted that over seven hundred bills were introduced for this Legislative session and then provided brief information regarding an extensive list of bills that are on NAHBO's and the Region's radar. The Region will monitor relevant bills that would impact behavioral health throughout the Legislative session. Kreifels will check with NABHO to determine whether he can release the list since it is not the Region's document.

**Square One and Voluntary Crisis Response Center (VCRC):**

- SquareOne: Construction has not started on the identified property; however, SquareOne has responded to eighty requests for services to date.
- VCRC: A soft opening will take place in March for two Crisis Stabilization beds; sixteen beds (Crisis Stabilization/Respite combined) will be available in May. February 2026 is the anticipated date for the VCRC to be fully operational.

**CCBHC Implementation:** The two CCBHCs in Region 5, CenterPointe and Lutheran Family Services, are on target to launch on July 1. The CCBHCs are going through the prospective payment system; and will be prescribed specific CPT codes for billing. The daily rate for the CCBHCs is being negotiated with SAMHSA. Kreifels explained that as more services are provided by the CCBHCs, and paid for with non-Region funding, the Region's allocations to those network providers will be reduced. Until these funding issues are determined, it will be a complicated year to make funding decisions.

**Incarceration and Authorizations:** Tyerman-Harper briefly followed up on the concern raised at the last BHAC meeting regarding inconsistency in how providers are prioritizing individuals who have not been using substances while in a controlled environment. Investigation has determined that these concerns have been isolated to the MCOs, and the Region will take this concern to NABHO to address with the MCOs and to DBH in the Network Director meeting.

**Increase in Rental Assistance Program Vouchers:**

- Tyerman-Harper stated that the Region was over budget in the Rental Assistance Program and requested additional funds from DBH. An additional \$760,000 was provided, which will cover the projected overage and the one hundred individuals on the waitlist. The Region will be hiring an additional Housing Specialist. Regions 1 and 4 have also received increased funding for housing.
- The Region applied for and was awarded additional funds for HUD housing. With the Federal pause currently in place, the impact of the pause on these funds is not known. It is also unclear if the block grant funding for mental health and substance abuse will be affected.

**Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Report:**

- Baumeister stated that the SIM report was included as an email attachment and the map was provided in the agenda packet.
- In August four priorities for this project were identified by the Steering Committee. Those priorities are Housing, Data Sharing, Expansion of EPC beds and establishment of a Forensic ACT Team. There was discussion regarding the need for a forensic ACT team as CCBHCs are required to have an ACT team capable of serving seventy individuals. Currently LFS and CenterPointe share an ACT Team, and it is not currently operating at capacity.
- Baumeister provided information regarding a new program at The Bridge called The Bridge Connect. Connect is a low barrier drop-in center and the program is designed to increase access to addiction / recovery resources and social services. Beginning on Monday, Connect will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Office Move – 3600 Union Drive & Stylistic Name Change:**

- The Governing Board has approved a stylistic change to the Region's name, and in the future Roman Numeral V will be replaced by numeral five (5).
- The Regional office will be moving to 3600 Union Drive during the week of February 24-28. Building partners, Mental Health Association, Cause Collective and FIF have already relocated or will be shortly. During the move

week neither building will be open to the public and staff will be working remotely. This move will come with a significant reduction in costs related to the current building.

**Emergency System Update:** 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 Medical Center for EPCs in place of the Mental Health Crisis Center (MHCC) as a strategy to increase EPC beds. Kreifels stated that no funds will be redirected from emergency services as changes are made to the EPC process. MHCC will continue to serve the remaining Counties.

**Regional Prevention Coalition System Update:**

- At the February Coalition meeting the Coalition will discuss Prevention related bills and prioritize which bills to address with Senators. Data is being collected from various sources that will allow decisions to be data driven.
- Prevention will be doing block grant planning and will presume that prevention block grant funding will not be jeopardized by the current mandate.
- Many resources are available in the Region 5 catchment area, but Prevention is looking at the navigation piece and may be simplifying databases to make them more user friendly for communities.
- An additional LOSS team has started at the southeast corner of Region 5 catchment area. LOSS teams are now available in all counties. Data indicates that the largest concern for suicide risk currently is men in the 25-65 age range. Data shows that family members impacted by a suicide death are shown to be at higher risk to complete suicide in the future if they do not receive support.
- Because the Region will have less physical storage space, Prevention will be housing fewer items onsite.

**Network Continuous Quality Improvement / FY 24-25 Q1 Synopsis:** Provided for informational purposes.

**Consumer Coordination Quarterly Report Q2:** Provided for informational purposes.

**FY 24-25 Capacity Utilization Summaries:** Provided for informational purposes.

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

**ADJOURN**

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- February 10 – 10:15 a.m. – Regional Governing Board Meeting at Apace / Hybrid
- February 13 - 9:00 a.m. – Regional Prevention Coalition
- February 24 – 9:00 a.m. – Network Provider Meeting / Teams
- March 5 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting / Hybrid