

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

April 2, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Greg Janak, Sarah Krenke, Jill Kuzelka, Rachel Mulcahy, Laura Osborne, LeRoy Ott, Gale Pohlmann, Melissa Ripley, Kelsey Schwab, Evette Watts

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Corrie Kielty, Rebecca Meinders, Kim Schroeder, Michele Vana

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Richard Wiener, UNL; Kasey Parker, Mental Health Association; Doug Headley, Lincoln Police Department; Theresa Henning, Trina Janis, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Erin Rourke, Amanda Tyerman-Harper and Marti Rabe, Region 5 Systems

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

Kuzelka called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. followed by introductions, 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 March 19, 2025.

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

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

### **PRESENTATION, DR RICHARD WIENER - BETA**

- Dr. Wiener, University of Nebraska / Lincoln, who presented information regarding *Training Police to Answer Mental Health Calls – The BETA Project*.
- 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.
- Questions and discussion followed.

### **PRESENTATION, KASEY PARKER, MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (MHA)**

- Moyer provided information regarding the programs / services offered by MHA and noted that the agency has grown from two staff to over seventy employees over the last twenty years. MHA is a peer-run organization and Moyer discussed the joy she has experienced in watching individuals who struggle with mental health concerns, to be enabled to feel comfortable living in the community.

- MHA offers 24-hour supports through the Keya House, a hospital diversion service. Individuals who recognize they are struggling with their mental health can go to Keya House and avoid a possible hospital stay. Keya House serves between 100 to 125 guests a year, unduplicated. Keya House also has a warm line that is available 24 / 7.
- The REAL (respond, empower, advocate, listen) program works with law enforcement. When an officer has contact with someone who is struggling with a mental health challenge, but is not in crisis, a referral is made. REAL staff contact that person and if they are willing to participate, staff will collaborate with them to help them become stable and prevent a reoccurrence or a need for a higher level of care.
- The Honu House is a reentry program for individuals leaving a correction facility. MHA re-entry specialists meet with incarcerated individuals who are preparing to discharge from the facility to set up services and help them to adjust during the re-entry process. The Sequential Intercept Mapping project indicated that intervention at this stage is a priority for successful reentry. Transitional housing is available for up to twenty individuals. Approximately one hundred persons are served annually. MHA has expanded into the Omaha area and has two houses in that community.
- MHA recognizes the benefits of employment and provides benefit specialists who can help someone who is wanting to try working to do so successfully without the risk of losing their benefits.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

An error in listing a BHAC member as absent for rollcall votes was pointed out. The minutes will be corrected to reflect that correction and reposted to the Region 5 website. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Janak, to approve the Consent Agenda with corrections noted. The Consent Agenda includes the January 29, 2025, BHAC meeting minutes, the FY 24-25 Compliance Management Report, and the Regional Governing Board Report. Voting aye were: Janak, Krenke, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Kielty, Meinders, Schroeder and Vana. Motion carried.

### **ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS**

**FY 24-25 Contractual Agreements:** Henning presented the following categories of contracts:

- Opioid Steering Committee – Obvious Expenditures: This pilot program, in the amount of \$150,000 through DetectaChem, Inc., will provide handheld Apex R7 Spectrometers to law enforcement for the following law enforcement entities: Seward County Police Department, Lincoln Police Department, Beatrice Police Department, Richardson County Sheriff's Office, and Nebraska City Police Department. The Apex R7 will allow trained officers to analyze and identify 3,500 different substances quickly and accurately. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Krenke, to recommend the Board approve these contracts. Voting aye were: Janak, Krenke, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Kielty, Meinders, Schroeder and Vana. Motion carried.
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): This contract, in the amount of \$22,183, will allow the Region to provide Mental Health First Aid Training in the community. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Ripley, to recommend the Board approve this contract with DHHS. Voting aye were: Janak, Krenke, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Kielty, Meinders, Schroeder and Vana. Motion carried.

**2025 Network Provider Survey Results and Comparisons:** Kreifels discussed several areas of the Network Provider Survey:

- A comment relating to question two involved the disparity in reporting requirements across Regions. Kreifels stated that the Region will entertain discussion with other Regions to develop consistent requirements.
- One individual indicated disagreement with the statement that their agency has the resources needed from Region 5 to fulfill contract requirements. This was discussed at the recent Network Provider meeting, and no specific need was mentioned when providers were asked about barriers to fulfill contract deliverables.
- One provider disagreed with the statement that agencies receive consistent messages from the Region. This was addressed at the Network Provider meeting and providers were asked to reach out to the Region as the Region does strive to communicate clearly.
- Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to recommend the Board accept and place on file the Network Provider Survey. Voting aye were: Janak, Krenke, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Kielty, Meinders, Schroeder and Vana. Motion carried.

**2025 BHAC Survey Results and Comparison:** Twelve BHAC members completed the survey. Kreifels briefly addressed several comments:

- There was discussion regarding “killing so many trees” to produce the meeting agenda packets. Kreifels stated that the Governing Board has asked that the Region address this concern as we reevaluate how packets are distributed and presented at the meeting. This will be an agenda item for the April 14 Governing Board meeting, and results will be brought back to the BHAC to reevaluate this process.
- One BHAC member disagreed with the statement that BHAC members are well informed about the services the Region contracts for. Initially, orientation is conducted for new members, but it was acknowledged that there is a learning curve. The Region is available to review the service array and any areas of service coordination that someone has questions about.
- Regarding getting a prompt response, BHAC members were asked to reach out to Kreifels or any Region 5 staff member if they feel a prompt response was not received.
- Ripley made a motion, seconded by Watts, to accept and place on file the BHAC survey results. Voting aye were: Janak, Krenke, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Kielty, Meinders, Schroeder and Vana. Motion carried.

**Opioid Remediation Settlement Blueprint:** Janis presented the following information:

- The initial Blueprint was distributed early last year, and it has since been updated. Changes include the discontinuation listing names of committee members as that tends to change frequently. There is a reference to Region 5’s website where the list of committee members will be kept updated. Page seven now includes the Opioid Settlement Funds History, where anticipated settlement payments to Nebraska are noted. Funds received by Nebraska to date are \$50,549,491.82. The biggest change involves the identification of priorities, which are based on the recent needs assessment. The last page lists the obligated funds and projects funded through March 1 of this year.
- Ripley made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to recommend the Board approve the Blueprint as presented. Voting aye were: Janak, Krenke, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Kielty, Meinders, Schroeder and Vana. Motion carried.
- Kreifels recognized Janis for her efforts to ensure that the available funding was or will be spent within the biennium.

**BHAC Membership – Paige Joseph:** Information regarding a BHAC applicant was provided in the packet. Seeing no objections, Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Krenke, to recommend the Board approve Joseph for membership on the BHAC. Voting aye were: Janak, Krenke, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Schwab, and Watts; Absent: Kielty, Meinders, Schroeder and Vana. Motion carried.

#### **OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION:**

##### **Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates:**

- The 1115(1) waiver targeting housing and case management for persons needing habilitative supports to live in the community has been submitted to Medicaid. If approved, it will help individuals transition from Lincoln Regional Center or assisted living facilities to less restrictive levels of care and help them be successful in the community.
- Kreifels provided updates on a number of bills that are of interest to the Region. Several of the bills are still in committee and not expected to make it out of committee during this session. Kreifels noted that as of March 31, 2025, there were 250 hours of debate time left in this session. Eighty bills are on final reading and / or have been sent to the Governor. Of the 106 priority bills, 55 are still in committee. Bills will be prioritized for debate based on if they are essential for operations to pass for the upcoming year.
- Details related to the list of bills will be emailed to BHAC members.

##### **FY 26 Budget:**

- The initial Budget Plan for FY26 has been submitted. Negotiations with DHHS are ongoing as the Region has asked for additional funds in the amount of 1.5 million for FY26. Rationale for that request is based on several things. The delayed implementation of the CCBHCs will require the Region to fund those services through December 31. Originally implementation was scheduled for July 1 of 2024. That cost is \$348,000.

- Additional funds to cover service enhancement for medication management at Lutheran Family Services and rural access Capacity Access Guarantee for Blue Valley are also being requested.
- Overproduction of capacity is anticipated to require an additional \$483,000 as a shortfall is anticipated.
- The Region was planning to cease housing individuals due to a shortfall in funding for that service. DHHS did supply an additional \$760,000 for this year, but an additional \$440,000 will be required to sustain the individuals who are currently housed.

**988 Annual Report:** Kreifels discussed the 988 Annual Report and encouraged BHAC members to continue to educate the public about this resource. Mobile Crisis Response was activated in Region 5 a total of seventy-six times. Mobile Crisis Response provides someone to respond for help. Statistics for each of those categories were included in the report.

**Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds – Opioid Needs Assessment:**

- Janis presented the draft of the Opioid Need Assessment Report. The summary report and the full report, which runs to 229 pages, will both be available on the Region 5 website once the draft is finalized. Janis commented that the full report contains county specific data which may be useful for grant writing, etc.
- Janis noted that the original priorities and funding decisions were not based on data. Moving forward data collected will be used to drive priorities and funding decisions.

**Emergency System Update:**

- A meeting was held with Butler and Saunders Counties to discuss a pilot project. The strategy for this pilot is that individuals placed under emergency protective custody (EPC) in those Counties will be taken to the Fremont Hospital rather than the Mental Health Crisis Center. The Sequential Intercept Mapping project identified the needs for more EPC beds days, and it is anticipated that this pilot project will help address that need.
- A meeting is scheduled in York County to discuss a similar strategy where individuals in Fillmore, Polk, Thayer, and York Counties to be taken to Mary Lanning. Mary Lanning will require a medical clearance before accepting EPCs from these counties.

**Regional Prevention Coalition System Update:** Prevention is working on the FY26 budget, conducting environmental scans to establish a baseline for vaping, wrapping up block grants and ramping up other grants for the next year. Prevention is using evidence based practices in all areas.

**Voluntary Crisis Response Center:** Kreifels reported that additional delays regarding construction and licensing have created challenges and the start date is now projected for August 1 at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street site. In the interim a location with four beds, located on Colby Street, will begin serving individuals in April. This temporary opening is required for IBHS to continue to receive funding for this project.

**SquareOne:** Square One is up and running, providing crisis response, crisis therapy and ongoing support. When renovations are completed at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street site, crisis respite beds will be available. January to April of 2026 is the anticipated timeline for that service to be available.

**ARPA Funding / DOGE:** ARPA funding was ceased as of March 24. Region 5 providers who were using ARPA funding for construction have received their allocations. ARPA funding was being used for contingency management and to fund DBT training. Those will be discontinued. SAMHSA was notified that they would receive a decrease of \$144 million dollars. There has been no notification of a reduction of block grant dollars to the state currently.

**BHECN Open House Networking Event:** Baumeister will be overseeing the BHECN event. The goal is to build relationships with institutions to engage young people to pursue a career path in behavioral health. The event is set for April 15, beginning at 5:00 p.m., at 3600 Union Drive.

**Network Continuous Quality Improvement / FY 24-25 Q2 Synopsis:** The synopsis through December 31 was provided for informational purposes. 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 has discussed strategies to improve this data point and identified rationale for the decline. Kreifels commented that communication from HUD indicates that the Region is no longer required to follow the housing first evidence-based practice. The Region will continue to follow the housing first evidence-based practice.

**FY 24-25 Capacity Utilization Summaries:** Provided for informational purposes. With 66.67 percent of the fiscal year completed, utilization for all line items stands at 65.10 percent.

**Training Plan:** Provided for informational purposes. Dates for upcoming BETA trainings are included in this document.

## **ADJOURN**

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- April 10 - 9:00 a.m. – Regional Prevention Coalition
- April 14 – 10:15 a.m. – Regional Governing Board Meeting – Apace, 4433 S. 70<sup>th</sup>
- April 21 – 9:00 a.m. – Network Provider Meeting / Teams
- April 30 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting – Region 5 Systems; 3600 Union Drive