

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

REGION 5 SYSTEMS MINUTES

May 12, 2025

Apache
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; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Darrell Zabrocki, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County; LeRoy Ott, York County

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Griess, Butler County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; Brian Pribyl, Saline County; Bill Reece, Saunders County

OTHERS PRESENT: Wendi Anderson, HopeSpoke; Jon Day, Blue Valley Behavioral Health; Renee' Dozier, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Amanda Tyerman-Harper, and Marti Rabe, Region 5 Systems

HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER

Yoakum called the meeting to order at 10:16 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. Notification of this meeting and information regarding availability of the agenda was provided through a legal notice in the Lincoln Journal Star, published May 4, 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, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County

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

Yoakum asked that the Board allow for Public Comment at a later point in the meeting based on a request from the individual asking to speak. Lang made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the May 12, 2025, agenda with the change to allow for public comment at a later point in the meeting. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION / WENDI ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOPE SPOKE

- Anderson discussed her history with HopeSpoke relating that she has been with the agency in various roles for 26 years. Originally the agency was called Child Guidance Center. The agency was founded in

1949 and primarily worked with children. HopeSpoke became involved in providing more services to adults as working with children often revealed that parents may have significant mental health concerns of their own. They also discovered that, as children aged out of the system, they request to continue services where there was a familiar face and where the providers know their story.

- Anderson discussed the services that are funded by Region 5, including outpatient, medication management and therapeutic consultation. Services are available face to face or via telehealth, and school based services reduce transportation / scheduling barriers to treatment in thirteen schools.
- There was brief discussion about trends that have been observed since the pandemic, including longer stays, more concerns, substance misuse, and younger children impacted. A focus has also been addressing generational trauma.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

April 14, 2025, Regional Governing Board Minutes: Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2025, meeting as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

- Kreifels presented the financial report through March 31, 2025, providing the cash position for the various accounts. Kreifels commented that the CD recently came due, and those funds will be re-directed after exploring options. Several areas are continuing to be monitored as they are over the anticipated budgeted amounts. The highlighted areas include BHAC meeting expenses, legal fees, postage, software purchase / maintenance, staff development and subscriptions, dues, and books.
- With 75 percent of the fiscal year completed, total expenditure stands at 67.42 percent, approximately 7.58 percent under budget. Eighty-five percent of funds allocated for relocation have been expended. Kreifels reported that the Region got almost all of its \$30,000 deposit back after vacating the 1645 N Street location.
- Agena made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the financial report as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

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

- State Opioid Response Contracts: The contracts with individuals will provide Narcan training, and the contract with KidGlov will allow Prevention to update opioid videos, place them on the website, create materials on harm reduction vending machines, and add Spanish resources to the opioid page. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Zabrocki, to approve the State Opioid Response Contracts. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.
- Partnerships for Success Contracts – Carry Over Dollars: These contracts will provide various prevention activities in the areas of high-risk drinking, smoking, and vaping cessation. Lang made a motion, seconded by Schwab, to approve the Partnerships for Success Contracts. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.
- Plan for One Contract: This contract will provide one-to-one direct care staff to an individual transitioning from the Lincoln Regional Center and reflects a reduction of the original amount approved by the Board by 22 percent. Krueger made a motion, seconded by Agena, to approve the Plan for One Contract as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson

County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

Region 5 Systems (RGB) Bylaws: Kreifels thanked Board members for discussing the bylaws with him in a series of phone calls. The two changes agreed on were changing the quorum requirement from eight to nine, to reflect a clear majority and striking this sentence: “the RGB will give consideration / preference to electing the Lancaster County representative as one of the Executive Committee Officers.” There was no further discussion. Lang made a motion, seconded by Schwab, to approve the revised RGB Bylaws as presented. Rollcall vote followed: Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

Region 5 Systems Interlocal Agreement: Kreifels commented that there have been a lot of conversations regarding the Interlocal Agreements over the last 18 months. If approved today, Michael will send out the finalized interlocal agreements for both Apaca and Region 5 Systems to each County Clerk to put on the county’s respective agendas for approval by the full board. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Zabrocki, to approve the Interlocal Agreement as presented. Rollcall vote followed. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

FY 25-26 Meeting Schedule: Tyerman-Harper presented the draft FY 25-26 Meeting Schedule. Lang made a motion, seconded by Agena, to accept the Meeting Schedule as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

2026 Annual Conflict of Interest Report: Tyerman-Harper presented the Annual Conflict of Interest Reporting noting that no one identified any conflicts. This reporting is requested annually to be in compliance with the Region 5 Systems’ Governance Policy. Harre made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to accept and place on file the Report as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

Annual Strategic Plan Review: Kreifels briefly provided updates for the multi-year Strategic Plan that the Board approved in June 2024. The updates reflect the Region’s efforts towards meeting the goals the Board approved. Weiss made motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the Strategic Plan Review as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County; Absent: Butler County, Otoe County, Polk County, Saline County, Saunders County. Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates: Kreifels noted a new format to present these types of informational items, providing a document for reference. Kreifels briefly discussed the following:

- 1915(i) Medicaid Waiver: The waiver was submitted in response to the Department of Justice finding that Nebraska was violating Title II of the American’s with Disabilities Act. The focus population is individuals with severe mental illness who are in assisted living and day program facilities. Services for these individuals will be for Medicaid eligible persons only. Of the 3,000 persons identified in the target population, fifty have expressed interest. Services would include targeted case management, transitional support, supported employment services, and housing supports.

- **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC):** The start date for the CCBHCs has been delayed from July 1, 2025, to January 1, 2026. LB276, signed by Governor Pillen, requires that CCBHCs must be funded as of January 1, 2026.
- **American Rescue Act (ARPA):** These funds, released during the pandemic, were abruptly stopped as of March 24, 2024. For Region 5 the impact was mostly felt in the areas of contingency management and provider training opportunities.
- **Legislative Report:** Kreifels reported briefly regarding LB454, submitted by Senator Quick on behalf of the Regions. This bill would remove the requirement for a public bidding process when the Region wants to bring up a new service to fill a gap in the system, allowing for greater flexibility and agility in getting services started. The Regions have also requested that the Documentary Tax Stamp Funds be revised to include serving people with substance use disorders. This bill has been approved to move to the select file.
- **Region 5** has received an additional 1.2 million for housing support over the biennium.
- Kreifels shared an article regarding a situation in Region 2 where the father ended the life of his two sons, his spouse and then took his own life. The story highlights the ongoing need for behavioral health services. Kreifels reminded the Board that the behavioral health Regions have seen their funding reduced statewide by \$37,808,808.00 since FY21.

Houses of Hope Announcement: Tyerman-Harper shared information regarding the collaboration between CenterPointe and Houses of Hope known as Touchstone. CenterPointe has chosen to end that collaboration and may bring up their own short term residential services. As a result, no later than June 30, 2025, Houses of Hope programming of short-term residential will vacate the building owned by CenterPointe. A building has been identified and depending on construction timelines, Houses of Hope intends to begin accepting referrals for short-term residential services by January 2026. Houses of Hope will also be offering outpatient services in July 2025.

Regional Prevention Coalition System Update: Kreifels commented that several of the contracts approved by the Board were related to prevention activities.

FY 24-25 Capacity Utilization Summaries: With 75 percent of the fiscal year completed, Region 5 utilization is at 72.55, a narrow margin, which does take into account the additional funding received for housing. Kreifels anticipates that the Region will need to request additional funding to cover service utilization for FY25.

April 14, 2025, Regional Governing Board Executive Committee Minutes: No discussion.

Network Continuous Quality Improvement: No discussion.

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

FY 24-25 Training Plan: Provided for informational purposes. Henning commented that there were some additional trainings that were included on this report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jon Day, Blue Valley Behavioral Health, signed up for public comment to request support from Region 5 Systems Governing Board related to Capacity Access Funding (CAG). FY25 DHHS removed \$118,000 from BVBH's allocation for CAG, and for the coming FY26, intends to remove an additional \$115,000. Day commented that BVBH is the largest provider in Nebraska, with offices in eleven counties where they see over 6,000 people a year. CAG has been traditionally used in the same way that rural hospitals use Disproportionate Share funding to help cover higher costs relating to providing services in rural areas. Day provided two documents outlining office locations, services offered, and the number of people served and a copy of the letter of support to preserve funding for FY25 that was submitted to DHHS by the board on

June 20, 2024. Day asked that the Board support his request to keep his current funding by providing a letter of support.

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 19 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m. – Teams
- May 28 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. at 3600 Union Drive Lincoln, NE
- June 9 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. at Apace, 4433 S 70th Street, Lincoln, NE

ADJOURN

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.