

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

REGION 5 SYSTEMS MINUTES

June 9, 2025

Apache
4433 South 70th Street
Lincoln, NE
10:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Danielle Schwab, Jefferson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Michael Weiss, Nemaha County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; Bill Reece, Saunders County; Darrell Zabrocki, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Griess, Butler County; Emily Haxby, Gage County; Les Agena, Johnson County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Brian Pribyl, Saline County; LeRoy Ott, York County

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Siebler, Telecare; Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Erin Rourke, Amanda Tyerman-Harper, and Marti Rabe, Region 5 Systems

HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 10:30 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 June 1, 2025.

ROLL CALL / AGENDA

Roll call followed. There was no quorum.

Present: Fillmore County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Saunders County, Seward County

Absent: Butler County, Gage County, Johnson County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County, Thayer County, York County

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION / SARAH SIEBLER, TELECARE

- Siebler provided a history of Telecare which was founded in California in 1965 with a focus on client empowerment. Telecare provides over 170 programs in five states but only provides one service in Nebraska, serving all six Behavioral Health Regions. Telecare NE is a secure residential program with sixteen beds funded by Medicaid and Region 5 Systems. Referrals come from psychiatric inpatient treatment, Lincoln Regional Center, Corrections, and Behavioral Health Regions for Plans for One.
- An emphasis in treatment is the use of the evidenced-based practice, Dialectical Behavior Treatment (DBT). Siebler provided information regarding how DBT helps the community, the people served and the staff. Components of DBT include groups, weekly individual therapy, and skills coaching.

- Desired outcomes are clients remaining in service without hospitalization, reduction in future time in hospitals, and service in the least restrictive setting possible. DBT also seeks to reduce self-harm, suicidal ideation, aggression, and symptoms and assists with legal issues. No client is discharged from Telecare without services or to the street. Outcome tools validate that clients using DBT have been more successful at discharge, they do better sooner, with shorter lengths of stay post discharge and fewer hospitalizations in the future.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

May 12, 2025, Regional Governing Board Minutes: No discussion. No motion.

Financial Report:

- DeShon presented the financial report through April 30, 2025, providing the cash position for the various accounts. 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. Relocation expenses are at 93.11 percent and should end the year at or slightly below 100 percent.
- No discussion. No motion.

FY 25-26 Regional Budget Plan: No discussion. No motion.

Service Changes (Houses of Hope and The Bridge Behavioral Health): Tyerman-Harper reported on service changes for Houses of Hope and The Bridge Behavioral Health.

- Houses of Hope (HH) / Short Term Residential: The collaboration between CenterPointe and Houses of Hope, coined Touchstone, has ended, and Houses of Hope will be vacating the current location on P Street by June 30, 2025. HH is in the process of securing a building and anticipates offering short term residential services by the first quart of 25-26. CenterPointe is also in the process of bringing up a short term residential facility. While there will be a gap in the interim, overall, there will increased bed availability in the system. Alternates for treatment during the interim were identified.
- The Bridge Behavioral Health (BBH): BBH will no longer be providing Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal due to challenges with staffing and costs. BBH will continue to serve this population under the Social Detox program.

Blue Valley Behavioral Health – Letter of Support: No discussion. No motion.

FY 25-26 Office Budget: No discussion. No motion.

FY 24-25 Contractual Agreement: No discussion. No motion.

FY 25-26 Contractual Agreements: No discussion and no motions.

FY 24-25 Audit Report by Dept. of Behavioral Health: No discussion. No motion.

Summer 2025 (FY 25-26) Prevention Mini-Grant Summary: No discussion. No motion.

FY 25-26 CLAS Grant Award Summary: No discussion. No motion.

Revised Financial Planning & Management Policy: No discussion. No motion.

Resolution Authorizing RA to Execute Division of Behavioral Health Funding Shift Form: No discussion. No motion.

Regional Administrator's Performance Evaluation and Compensation: No discussion. No motion.

OTHER UPDATES / LEGISLATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates:

- Kreifels reported that LB 454, introduced by Senator Quick, has moved through the Legislative process and was signed by Governor Pillen on June 4, 2025. This bill will provide additional flexibility to the Behavioral Health Regions by not requiring a public bidding process when contracting for behavioral health services. Additionally, Documentary Stamp Tax funds were expanded to include treatment for individuals with Substance Use Disorders.
- Senator Storer's bill, a pilot to serve individuals on EPC in an area connected to jails passed. -Statewide opioid funds may be used for capital construction in jails.
- Overall, Kreifels commented that it was a positive session with no reductions to the budget for Program 38.

System Coordination Updates: Kreifels reviewed several items included in the Updates:

- The 1915(i) Medicaid Waiver is intended to help people with severe mental health challenges. The necessity of applying for this Waiver came out of the Department of Justice finding that Nebraska was in violation of the Olmstead Act. If approved, federal match dollars would maximize funds to provide services such as housing, in-home support, shared living spaces, employment, tenancy support, and others. Services would begin by November if the Waiver is approved.
- CCBHCs were to start July 1; however, the start date was postponed until January 1 when the CCBHCs must be funded.
- ARPA Funds: ARPA funding ended abruptly March 24, 2025. This loss of funds primarily impacted contingency management and training initiatives for Region 5.
- Meetings have been held with Mary Lanning Hospital and Fremont Hospital, and the Region is positioned to move forward with the pilot program beginning July 1. Counties adjacent to these area hospitals will use them for individuals from their counties who are placed under EPC. Mary Lanning is requiring a medical clearance before accepting these individuals. This pilot program is driven by the fact that the Mental Health Crisis Center was full on 68 days last year.
- BETA was held in Nebraska City with 35 attendees.
- The Region continues to engage with BHECN in an effort to recruit, train, and retain a strong mental health workforce.
- The Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Cash Fund RFA is anticipated to be released July 1, 2025. A ten percent match is required, and a bonus is available to grant applicants with support letters from the Region. Region 5 Systems Opioid Project Updates anticipates a new grant cycle beginning in June 2025.
- Prevention continues to work in the areas of data collection, environmental scans have been completed in each county, 988 messaging is being pushed into all counties, and compliance checks have been completed in all counties.
- SquareOne utilization data was shared.
- The Division has released performance measures to be included in the FY 25-26 contract. The Regions will be working with DBH to add definition and clarity to the measures during FY 25-26. An incentive for meeting the established targets could be included in the FY 26-27 State-to-Region contract.

Consumer Coordination Quarterly Report: Provided for informational purposes.

FY 24-25 Capacity Utilization Summaries: Provided for informational purposes. Kreifels noted that the Region is on target to allocate all available funds and currently 83 percent of funding has been allocated.

May 12, 2025, Regional Governing Board Executive Committee Minutes: No discussion.

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

FY 24-25 Training Plan: Provided for informational purposes.

Staff Presentation: Yoakum presented Kreifels with a plaque in recognition of his twenty years of service to Region 5 Systems.

Other Business: The next Regional Governing Board meeting will be held June 16, 2025, and will be hybrid to facilitate attendance for a quorum. Region 5 Systems will meet at 9:30 a.m.

The Board determined the agenda items for the meeting as follows:

- FY 25-26 Regional Budget Plan
- FY 25-26 Office Budget
- FY 24-25 Contractual Agreement
- FY 25-26 Contractual Agreements
- Summer 2025 (FY 25-26) Prevention Mini-Grant Summary
- FY 25-26 CLAS Grant Award Summary
- Revised Financial Planning & Management Policy
- Resolution Authorizing RA to Execute Div. of BH Health Funding Shift Form

IMPORTANT DATES

- June 16 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m. – Teams
- August 27 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. at 3600 Union Drive Lincoln, NE
- September 8 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. at Apace, 4433 S 70th Street, Lincoln

ADJOURN

Having no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.