

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 28, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive

MEMBERS PRESENT: Corrie Kielty, Jill Kuzelka, Rachel Mulcahy, Laura Osborne, LeRoy Ott, Gale Pohlmann, Melissa Ripley, Michele Vana, Evette Watts

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Janak, Paige Joseph, Sarah Krenke, Rebecca Meinders, Kim Schroeder, Kelsey Schwab

OTHERS PRESENT: Sara Siebler, Telecare; Tami DeShon, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Kayla Lathrop, Amanda Tyerman-Harper and Marti Rabe, Region 5 Systems

HOUSEKEEPING / ANNOUNCEMENTS / INTRODUCTIONS

Kuzelka called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 May 14, 2025.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda. It was noted that Election of Officers will be held at the August 27 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

PRESENTATION, SARA 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

Osborne made a motion, seconded Pohlmann, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda includes the April 2, 2025, BHAC meeting minutes, the FY 24-25 Compliance Management Report, and the Regional Governing Board Report. Voting aye were: Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

FY 24-25 Contractual Agreements: Henning presented an Evidence-based Practice Contract with Intuitive Mind Training and Consulting to provide enhanced skills training for individuals trained in DBT). Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve this contract with Intuitive Mind Training and Consulting as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.

FY 25-26 Contractual Agreements:

- **Housing and Urban Development (HUD):** The three contracts with HUD provide for Rural Transition-age Permanent Housing for transition age youth, Rural Permanent Supportive Housing in rural Region 5, and Lincoln Permanent Supportive Housing. Ripley made a motion, seconded by Ott, to recommend the Board approve the HUD contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.
- **Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS):** These several contracts with DHHS are for the purpose of providing prevention, rental assistance, the transition voucher program, behavioral health coordination, network management service, prevention activities for high risk drinking and vaping, activities that reduce opioid overdose related deaths and abuse of prescription and illicit opioid and stimulants, and to provide funding for Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH). Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve the DHHS contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Mulcahy, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Abstain: Kuzelka, Osborne; Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.
- **Collaborative Projects:** These contracts with the City of Lincoln, Four Corners Health Department, BHECN and Wellbeing Initiative provide funding for BETA and youth BETA, create an efficient and effective volunteer database, focus on workforce development in the behavioral health field and provide consumer coordination activities and promote consumer involvement, respectively. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve the Collaborative Projects contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.
- **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH):** This contract with CenterPointe provides PATH services to individuals who are at risk of homelessness or are homeless. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Ripley, to recommend the Board approve the PATH contract with CenterPointe as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.
- **Emergency Protective Custody (EPC):** These contracts with various counties in the Region 5 catchment area establish an agreement to utilize MHCC, Mary Lanning, and Fremont Methodist Hospital as appropriate. The contract with MHCC establishes MHCC as primary provider for crisis stabilization services. Kriefels pointed out that the EPC contracts are different this year because of the pilot project which would use Fremont Methodist Hospital for EPCs in Butler and Saunders Counties and use Mary Lanning Hospital for EPCs in Fillmore, Polk, Thayer, and York Counties. Ott made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to recommend the Board approve the EPC contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.
- **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA):** These seven contracts with various individuals are to provide Adult and / or Youth Mental Health First Aid training in the community. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Watts, to recommend the Board approve the MHFA contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Abstain: Kuzelka; Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.

- Opioid Steering Committee – Obvious Expenditure: This contract with Whispering Acres, would provide match funding for capital construction of group space and a restroom if Whispering Acres is awarded funds from the Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Cash Fund RFA. Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve this contract for match funding as presented. Discussion followed. Osborne and Kuzelka expressed concerns about how quickly this project might move forward, and the fact that the request does not meet identified priorities. The motion was modified with the approval of Pohlmann and Kielty. The motion is to approve a \$13,500 match for Whispering Acres' application to the DHHS Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Cash Fund RFA, and if the DHHS Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Cash Funds are not awarded to Whispering Acres, the BHAC recommends the Board approve the original request from the Opioid Steering Committee to fund the entire project up to \$135,000. Voting aye were: Kielty, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley and Watts. Abstain: Kuzelka, Vana; Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.
- Network Provider: The contracts with Mary Lanning Hospital and Fremont Methodist Hospital establish an agreement for the respective provider to serve as the primary provider for EPC services in the adjacent counties as noted above. The contracts with Network Providers are for the provision of mental health and / or substance use services for adults and / or youth in Region 5 System's geographical area. Based on questions about changes to funding for Network Providers, it was decided to postpone the vote on Network Provider contracts until after the Regional Budget Plan was reviewed. The Budget Plan includes specific information about all the contracts and any changes.
- Prevention Federal Block Grant Recipients: These contracts with Block Grant Recipients are for the purposes of addressing substance use prevention by the various prevention coalitions. The contracts with Lincoln Police Department and Nebraska State Patrol are for the purpose of creating a law enforcement / youth partnership to ensure establishments are not selling to minors. The contract with The Truth Initiative will provide the EX program to enhance education, training and intervention for those smoking/vaping, the contract with Laura Osborne is for the entry of multi-county data into the Nebraska Prevention Information and Reporting System, and the remaining contracts will provide meeting facilitation, minutes, recruitment activities, and various other prevention activities. Ott made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve the Prevention Federal Block Grant Recipients contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Mulcahy, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Abstain: Kuzelka, Osborne, Vana and Watts: Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.
- Evidence-based Practice Contracts: These contracts will provide for training and consultation for DBT and Motivational Interviewing (MI), as well as provide approved DBH training within the network. Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to recommend the Board approve the Evidence-based Practice contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.
- Suicide Prevention: These contracts are for the purpose of reducing overall suicide morbidity as well as the implementation of Zero Suicide Transformational Framework. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve the Suicide Prevention contracts as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.

FY 25-26 Regional Budget Plan Summary:

- The FY 25-26 Regional Budget Plan and an accompanying Plan Summary were provided at the meeting. DeShon presented the framework for the Budget providing information regarding Provider Contracts, Region Coordination, Pooled Services and Other Services for a total of \$19,795,492, briefly explaining what is funded by each category.
- Tyerman-Harper reviewed the Budget Plan Summary details, prefacing her remarks by noting that Region 5 Systems has received notice from DHHS / DBH of the preliminary FY 26 allocation of \$18,582,486. This amount reflects an increase of \$440,000 from the final amount from the previous fiscal year. Tyerman-Harper provided information regarding key budget considerations for the upcoming fiscal year, budget preparation,

payment methods, and levels of care. Detailed information was provided for inpatient, residential, non-residential, community support, emergency services, specialized children / youth / young adult services prevention, network management, and other initiatives. See the FY26 Regional Budget Plan Summary for complete details.

- Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Ripley, to recommend the Board approve the FY26 Regional Budget Plan as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.
- At this time Kielty made a motion, seconded by Ripley, to recommend the Board approve the Network Provider Contracts as presented. This vote was delayed to provide BHAC members with more information regarding the Network Provider contracts. Voting aye were: Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.

Service Changes (Houses of Hope and The Bridge Behavioral Health): These changes were discussed within the context of the Network Provider Contracts discussion.

2025 Summer Mini-Grant Awards: Lathrop reviewed the eight applications for Summer Mini-Grants providing Review Committee rationale for decisions. A total of \$14,496.68 was requested, and \$11,521.68 was recommended. Osborne made a motion, seconded by seconded by Kielty, to recommend the Board approve the 2025 Summer Mini-Grant Awards as recommended. Voting aye were: Kielty, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Abstain: Kuzelka; Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Grant Awards: Lathrop reviewed the two applications for CLAS funding for FY 2025-2026, briefly describing the projects to be funded. Ott made a motion, seconded by Mulcahy, to recommend the Board approve the CLAS grant applicants as presented. Voting aye were: Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne, Ott, Pohlmann, Ripley, Vana and Watts. Absent: Janak, Joseph, Krenke, Meinders, Schroeder and Schwab. Motion carried.

Annual Strategic Plan Review: Kreifels reminded the BHAC that the Board had approved the multi-year Strategic Plan in June of 2024. The review includes updates on the seven goals identified in the original Plan.

OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION:

Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates: Kreifels reported that LB 454, introduced by Senatore Quick has moved through the process and one vote remains before it will go into effect. This bill will provide additional flexibility to the Behavioral Health Regions.

FY 25-26 Meeting Schedule: Provided for informational purposes.

FY 25-26 Site Visit Schedule: Provided for informational purposes.

FY 24-25 Attendance Log: Provided for informational purposes.

FY 24-25 Terms of Service Summary: Provided for informational purposes. Election of officers will be held at the August 27, 2025, meeting. BHAC members who are ending a three-year term will be asked to complete background checks as required by the BHAC bylaws.

System Coordination Updates: Provided for informational purposes.

BHAC Meeting Materials: Kreifels stated that the Board had approved no longer mailing hard copies of the BHAC packets for each meeting. The BHAC agreed to do the same. The agenda packets will be emailed as usual, and hard copies will be available at the meeting.

Consumer Affairs Quarterly Report – Q3: Provided for informational purposes.

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FY 24-25 Capacity Utilization Summaries: The Summaries were not finalized for the BHAC meeting and will be sent via email when they are available.

Training Plan: Provided for informational purposes.

ADJOURN

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES

- June 9 – 10:15 a.m. – Regional Governing Board Meeting – Apace, 4433 S. 70th
- June 12 – 9:00 a.m. – Prevention Leadership Coalition
- June 16 – 9:00 a.m. – Network Provider Meeting / Teams
- August 27 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting – Region 5 Systems; 3600 Union Drive