

Opioid Steering Committee  
MAY 13, 2025, 1:00-3:00  
Hybrid Meeting  
Region 5 Systems 3600 Union Dr, Lincoln, NE

**Opening:**

Trina opened the meeting at 1:04 at Region 5 Systems and Online.

**Presentation:** Jeff Sorenson/ Police Lieutenant- Narcotics Unit- Gang Unit

Jeff presented the different drug trends and data taken from the Midwest HIDTA region. They use the Midwest data as it relates similar to what they see in Lincoln.

**New Business:**

**Proposal from Nebraska Pharmacist Assoc-** Vending Machine Pilot Program additional funding request.

Amy Homan is requesting to increase the vending machine budget by \$3,350 for an additional vending machine to be added to the pilot program. This machine will be located at The Bridge. *Ben Murry made a motion to approve; Rachael seconded the motion. Passed through majority vote.*

Amy mentioned she has been able to supply first aid kits for the vending machines, through Nebraska Pharmacy Association. She has offered to keep making the first aid kits for the machines if she has the product. The committee suggested adding \$2,000 to purchase another year's worth of first aid products to be able to continue supplying this through the vending machine. *Rachael motioned to amend the original request approve for \$3,350 to \$5,350, to include the \$2,000 cost of the first aid kits. Erik Delaney seconded the motion. Passed through majority vote.*

Amy reviewed with the committee; results of the Outcomes Report and the data collected from the vending machines. Discussion was held about the data collected and future data that could possibly be collected.

**Whispering Acres** – Jill Kuzelka – Expansion project funding support

Jill explained that Whispering Acres has outgrown their current space that they have to effectively conduct all the programs they have to offer. The additional space would allow them to expand group programs, provide more private space for therapy sessions, as well as add many new programs. The new space would also allow them to offer all their services, even during inclement weather. Currently the space they have is not climate controlled, there is no heat, AC or running water. They are using Jills home for counseling sessions, restroom and kitchen access and during inclement weather, services are cancelled. The expansion would allow them to provide services year-round and to have public access to restrooms, kitchen and counseling/group room.

Whispering Acres will apply for a State Opioid infrastructure grant when it opens up in July, which requires them to have 25% matching funds. Region 5 Systems is an allowable source for matching funds in the amount of \$29,050.00. The estimated total to complete the expansion project is \$116,200. The matching funds will only be needed if Whispering Acres is awarded the grant to do the expansion. Should their State infrastructure grant application be unsuccessful, they are asking the Opioid Steering Committee to be open to

considering funding support of \$116,200.00 for the expansion project. The committee discussed the numerous benefits of the programs offered at Whispering Acres.

*Laura Osborn made a motion to approve the \$116,200 requested; Ben Murry Seconded the motion.*

*Eric Delaney made a motion to amend the original motion to approve the \$116,200 with a cap at \$135,000 (for potential increase in construction cost.); Laura Osborn seconded the amendment of the first motion.*

*Vote was taken; 2 – Abstained, 1 – No, 7 – Yes*

*\*This recommendation will be forwarded to BHAC, then RGB for final approval.*

**Outcomes Report:** Joe Pastuszak reviewed the outcomes report handout with the committee.

**Needs Assessment:** The Brief and Full report are both linked on [region5systems.net](http://region5systems.net) website.

Next Meeting

July 8, 2025- 1:00-3:00 Hybrid