

REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

REGION 5 SYSTEMS MINUTES

September 8, 2025

Apace
4433 S. 70th Street
Lincoln, NE
10:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Griess, Butler County; Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Danielle Schwab, Jefferson County; Les Agena, Johnson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Michael Weiss, Nemaha County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Bill Reece, Saunders County; Darrell Zabrocki, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County; LeRoy Ott, York County

MEMBERS ABSENT: Emily Haxby, Gage County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Brian Pribyl, Saline County

OTHERS PRESENT: Tami DeShon, Deanna Gregg, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Erin Rourke, and Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Region 5 Systems; Josh Greisen, Lincoln Financial Group; Bryce Williby, Universal Financial Strategies; Shane Ideus and Rob Burkett, Unico; Traci Cooney

HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER

Yoakum called the meeting to order at 10:15 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 www.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 August 31, 2025.

ROLL CALL / AGENDA

Roll was called; a quorum was present (see members present above).

Agena made a motion, seconded by Schwab, to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Donna Dekker (10 years), Tami DeShon (20 years), Annie Glenn (15 years), and Connie Vissering (5 years) were recognized for their dedicated service to Region 5 Systems.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Regional Governing Board Minutes:

- May 12, 2025
- June 9, 2025
- June 12, 2025

Reece made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the minutes as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

Retirement Plan Proposal:

Josh Greisen, Lincoln Financial Group, and Bryce Williby, Universal Financial Strategies, presented a new retirement plan proposal. Kreifels added that Greisen and Williby also attended the 6/9/25 Executive Committee meeting to present this proposal. From that discussion, the Executive Committee supported moving the proposal forward to the Governing Board for review and approval. Kreifels asked the Board for a motion that Region 5 Systems' management is hereby authorized and instructed to:

- Provide notice of termination to the existing retirement vendor, Union Bank and Trust;
- Enter into an agreement with the retirement vendor, Lincoln Financial Distributors; and
- Develop a retirement plan with Lincoln Financial Distributors, as approved by Region 5 Systems' legal counsel, that is in the best interest of employees and Region 5 Systems.

Harre made a motion, seconded by Reece, to approve the recommendations above as presented. Voting aye were: Butler County, Fillmore County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County. Absent: Gage County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County. Motion carried 11-0.

Organizational Insurance Review: Shane Ideus and Rob Burkett, Unico, presented the Organizational Insurance Review as listed on pages 17 and 18 of the packet.

Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Agena, to approve the document as presented. Voting aye were: Butler County, Fillmore County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County. Absent: Gage County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County. Motion carried 11-0.

Financial Report: DeShon presented the Financial Report.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the report as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

FY 24-25 Network Provider End of Year Amendments: DeShon presented the FY 24-25 Network Provider End of Year Amendments.

Ott made a motion, seconded by Reece, to approve the amendments as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

FY 25-26 Contractual Agreements: Henning presented the proposed Opioid Settlement Fund Expenditures as follows:

- \$125,000 to Region 5 Systems for Opioid flex fund pool;
- Up to \$30,000 to the Indian Center to assist with cost to replace HVAC system; and
- \$6,000 to Don't Panic Labs to pay for half of the funding of the MyLNU app.

Weiss made a motion, seconded by Ott, to approve the expenditures as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

FY 25-26 Performance Improvement Plan: Rourke presented the FY 25-26 Performance Improvement Plan.

Agena made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the plan as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

FY 25-26 Risk Management Plan: Rourke presented the FY 25-26 Risk Management Plan. Kreifels noted, based on a recommendation from the BHAC, on item D2, we will add public defenders to that line item. Schwab made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the plan as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

FY 24-25 R5 Services Purchased Audit Report (Professional Part. Program): DeShon presented the report. Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Schwab, to approve the report as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

FY 24-25 Final Services Purchased Expense Reimbursement Verification: DeShon presented the report. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Schwab, to approve the report as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

Service Changes (Houses of Hope STR and The Bridge Behavioral Health 3.2 & 3.7): Tyerman-Harper presented:

- A letter from Tammy Stevenson, Executive Director of Houses of Hope, that states Houses of Hope will pause operations while moving to a new location;
- Letters from Ed Thornbrugh, Executive Director of The Bridge Behavioral Health, regarding the temporary closure of The Bridge's withdrawal management service.

Revised Governance Policy: Michael presented the revised Governance Policy; changes were necessary to align with the Governing Board's recent revisions to its Interlocal Agreements and Bylaws. Reece made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the policy as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

Blue Valley Behavioral Health – Letter of Support: Kreifels presented the letter of support, a depiction of Region 5 Systems' service area and poverty levels, and Blue Valley Behavioral Health's service area. Region 5 Systems will look into what counties are contributing money to Blue Valley Behavioral Health. Harre made a motion, seconded by Ott, to approve the letter of support as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

Regional Administrator's Performance Evaluation and Compensation: Yoakum reported that the Executive Committee met on 5/12/25 to conduct Patrick Kreifels' annual performance evaluation. Based on that evaluation, the Executive Committee's recommendation to the Governing Board is a 7.5% increase to Kreifels' annual salary, retroactive to 7/9/25. Ott made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the salary increase as presented. Voting aye were: Butler County, Fillmore County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Saunders County, Seward County, Thayer County, York County. Absent: Gage County, Pawnee County, Polk County, Richardson County, Saline County. Motion carried 11-0.

OTHER UPDATES / INFORMATION

Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates: Kreifels explained we have included a System Coordination Update document in the packet and reviewed pages 46-51 as follows:

- 1915i waiver: Start date to occur January 2026 vs. November 2025. Services are specifically for people with a severe mental illness diagnosis and will include targeted case management by the Division of Behavioral Health, transitional support, supported employment services, and housing support. It is anticipated these services will bring into Nebraska 56% federal Medicaid matching funds. Service definitions have not been released to date.

- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC): There are seven CCBHC's identified across that state – two of which are in Region 5 Systems' catchment area: CenterPointe and Lutheran Family Services, both have received their certification. This is not a fee for service environment; it is a prospective payment environment. This new payment process starts 1/1/26. There is some apprehension on behalf of the providers bringing up CCBHC's across Nebraska.
- Governor Pillen requested \$500 million/10% reduction in the biennium budget. DBH decreased their budget by reducing the \$15 million carryover to \$5 million. The \$5 million will be used to launch the 1915i waiver. Other reductions are the \$1 million contract with NIFA, \$800,000 on 988 marketing at Husker games, and \$250,000 on a Veteran's application. As of now, there are no reductions to the Region's allocation.
- Priority is being given to utilize federal funds before utilizing state general funds.
- DBH and Medicaid are combining service definitions and manuals with an anticipated release in September 2025.
- LB 454 passed and will be implemented into law on 9/3/25. Doesn't require Region 5 Systems to do a public bidding (RFP) process and allows the Region to serve people in supported housing with substance use challenges using the Behavioral Health Services Fund (from the documentary stamp tax).
- LB 55: \$1.5 million budgeted with the identified fund source of "Hospital Quality Assurance and Access Assessment Fund." Reimbursement to providers of the current (higher) Medicaid rates when serving people with dual insurance eligibility -- Medicare/Medicaid vs. being reimbursed (lower) Medicare rates. The hope is payments will be retroactive to 7/1/25. Health & Human Services recently shared there are not funds available in the system to be allocated to this hospital quality assurance and access assessment fund.
- Nebraska Legislative Health & Human Services Committee held a hearing on July 29, 2025, and Director Drew Donshorowski testified. Substance Use Disorder Section 1115 Demonstration Amendment extend short-term stays in an Institute for Mental Disease (IMD) for people undergoing a crisis in a psychiatric hospital for up to 60 days. Secondly, allow Medicaid to pay for medical respite services pursuant to NRS 68-911.
- Henning reported the second Opioid grant cycle has closed and 28 applications were reviewed; awards are expected to be announced soon.
- Morrissey reported alcohol compliance checks were completed for the year. The Prevention team will work with Kidglov to create educational information for establishments on identifying a youth license vs. an of-age license.
- Region 5 Systems was allocated \$18,142,485.96 and drew down \$18,087,585.06, which equates to 99.70% drawdown of funds. Of the remaining \$54,900.90, \$26,000 was restricted funding (Documentary Stamp Tax) and we tried to work with DBH and requested to shift \$28,990 but we were denied.

The Impact of Potential Medicaid Cuts in Nebraska: Provided for informational purposes. Projected coverage losses could affect 110,000+ Nebraskans.

Understanding the One Big Beautiful Bill: Provided for informational purposes. Outlines pros and cons of the One Big Beautiful Bill. Congress must reach a spending agreement by September 30, 2025, to avoid a shutdown, starting October 1, 2025.

Action to End Crime and Disorder on America's Streets: Provided for informational purposes. Region 5 Systems is going to receive an additional HUD contract in January 2026 which will make it possible to house 12 more people.

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

June 9, 2025, Regional Governing Board Executive Committee Minutes: Provided for informational purposes.

FY 24-25 Year-end & FY 25-26 Utilization Summaries: Provided for informational purposes.

Consumer Affairs Quarterly Report – Q4: Provided for informational purposes.

Training Plan: Provided for informational purposes.

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 20 – Network Provider Meeting 9:00 a.m. via Teams
- October 29 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. at 3600 Union Drive, Lincoln, NE
- November 10 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. at Apace, 4433 S. 70th Street, Lincoln, NE

ADJOURN

Krueger made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m.