

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

August 27, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive

MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Janak, Paige Joseph, Corrie Kielty, Jill Kuzelka, Rebecca Meinders, Rachel Mulcahy, Laura Osborne, Gale Pohlmann, Kelsey Schwab, Michele Vana, Evette Watts

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Krenke, LeRoy Ott, Melissa Ripley

OTHERS PRESENT: Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Sandy Morrissey, Amanda Tyerman-Harper, and Deanna Gregg, Region 5 Systems

HOUSEKEEPING / ANNOUNCEMENTS / INTRODUCTIONS

Kuzelka called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. followed by announcements and roll call. A quorum was present.

OPEN MEETING ACT INFORMATION

Kuzelka noted that Open Meeting Act information is posted as required.

Notification of this meeting and information regarding availability of the agenda was provided through a legal notice in the Lincoln Journal Star, published August 13, 2025.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION, WENDI ANDERSON, HOPESPOKE

Anderson was unable to attend and present today.

CONSENT AGENDA

Kielty made a motion, seconded by Vana, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda includes the May 28, 2025, BHAC meeting minutes, Year-end FY 24-25 Compliance Management Report, and the Regional Governing Board Report. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Election of Officers:

- Osborne made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to elect Janak as Chair;
- Meinders volunteered as Vice Chair;
- Mulcahy volunteered as Member at Large.

Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Osborne to approve the officers noted above. All present voted aye, with Janak, Meinders, and Mulcahy abstaining. Motion carried.

FY 24-25 Network Provider End of Year Amendments: Henning reported this will be sent via email when it is available.

FY 25-26 Contractual Agreements: Henning reported on page 10, you will see three recommendations:

- \$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.
- \$6,000 to Don't Panic Labs to pay for half of the funding of the MyLNK app.

Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Janak, to approve the above recommendations. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION:

Behavioral Health / Legislative Updates: Kreifels explained we have included a System Coordination Update document in the packet and reviewed pages 22-27 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.
- 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.
- 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 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.

Temporary Closure of Social Detoxification Service: Provided for informational purposes.

FY 25-26 Risk Management Plan: Kreifels reported as part of Region 5 Systems' business practice and CARF accreditation standards, we created this plan. Kreifels went over the highlighted changes on the document. Under line D2, Meinders asked to add public defenders to the list of those receiving an emergency systems letter twice per year.

FY 25-26 Performance Improvement Plan: Provided for informational purposes. Patrick gave a brief overview of what each department/program contributes to create Region 5 Systems annual Performance Improvement Plan. This plan is used to measure important indicators to the organization. Indicators are developed due to a contract deliverable, outcomes for persons served, employees, process, and due to potential organizational risk if not met.

FY 24-25 Region 5 Systems Services Purchased Audit Report (Professional Partner Program): Tyerman-Harper presented the report. No findings; all units were verified.

FY 24-25 Final Services Purchased Expense Reimbursement Verification: Tyerman-Harper presented the report. No findings or corrective actions were noted.

System Coordination Updates: Provided for informational purposes.

- Morrissey gave highlights of the information on the Prevention section on pages 25 and 26.
- Henning gave highlights of the information on the Opioid section on page 25.
- Kreifels reported on 7/1/25, there are two new hospital contracts:
 - Mary Lanning will serve the following counties: Filmore, Polk, Thayer, and York; people placed on EPC from these counties will go to Mary Lanning instead of single point of entry in Lancaster County.
 - Fremont Methodist Hospital: To dates there have been two individuals placed on EPC from Butler and Saunders counties.
 - Pros: Allows 368 more bed days for EPCs and allows for people to enter acute care voluntarily or due to an inpatient mental health board commitment vs. waiting for admission to Lincoln Regional Center.
 - Challenge: Mary Lanning is requiring the local hospital to give medical clearance before an individual can be admitted to Mary Lanning, this clearance could take 2 - 4 hours.

Consumer Affairs Quarterly Report – Q4: Region 5 Systems contracts with Wellbeing Initiative for the Consumer Family Advisory Committee (CFAC). This report was prepared by Tasia Brumagen and is provided for informational purposes.

FY 24-25 Capacity Utilization Summaries: The summaries will be sent via email when available.

Training Plan: Provided for informational purposes.

OTHER BUSINESS

For efficiency purposes, Kreifels proposed discontinuing preparing the Regional Governing Board Report; the group decided the Regional Governing Board minutes will suffice in the packet instead of the aforementioned report.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- September 8 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. at Apace, 4433 S. 70th Street, Lincoln, NE
- September 11 – Prevention Leadership Coalition – 9:00 a.m. at 3600 Union Drive, Lincoln, NE
- 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

ADJOURN

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.