



REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

November 10, 2025

10:15 a.m.

Apache, 4433 S. 70th Street, Lincoln, NE (hybrid)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenny Harre, Fillmore County; Danielle Schwab, Jefferson County; Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County; Michael Weiss, Nemaha County; Jan Lang, Pawnee County; John Caverzagie, Richardson County; Darrell Zabrocki, Seward County; Dean Krueger, Thayer County; LeRoy Ott, York County

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Griess, Butler County; Emily Haxby, Gage County; Les Agena, Johnson County; Dan Crownover, Otoe County; Jerry Westring, Polk County; Brian Pribyl, Saline County; and Bill Reece, Saunders County

OTHERS

PRESENT: Traci Cooney, Tami DeShon, Deanna Gregg, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Kristin Nelson, Erin Rourke, and Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Region 5 Systems; and Kiley Wiechman, HBE LLP

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 November 2, 2025.

ROLL CALL / APPROVE AGENDA

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

Lang made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

EMERGENCY SERVICE PRESENTATION:

Nelson gave a presentation on emergency services in the Region 5 Systems catchment area. Topics included: 988, VCRC, Stepping Up, EPC expansion pilot, Crisis Response Teams, and BETA.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Regional Governing Board Minutes 9/8/25: Weiss made a motion, seconded by Zabrocki, to approve the minutes as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

FY 24-25 CPA Fiscal Audit Report: Kiley Wiechman, from HBE LLP, presented the draft FY 24-25 fiscal audit report (handout). DeShon asked for a motion to approve the draft audited financial statements for fiscal year ending 6/30/25 as presented.

Ott made a motion, seconded by Weiss, that pending the 2025 compliance supplemental approval by the federal government (Office of Management & Budget), this approval shall remain in effect provided no material changes are made to the final version. Should any material changes or adjustments arise during the completion of the final audit, the revised financial statements shall be brought back before the Regional Governing Board for further review and approval. Motion carried 9-0.

Financial Report: DeShon presented pages 6 through 8 of the packet.

Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the report as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

LB55-Program 38 Budget-Hospital QA & Access Assessment Fund: The Nebraska Legislative Appropriations Committee put into the Nebraska Health & Human Services legislative approved budget that Medicaid will utilize the Hospital Quality Assurance and Access Assessment Fund to reimburse providers for the rate differential between Medicare and Medicaid. Nebraska Medicaid is stating no funds are available to reimburse providers for the difference. Conversations are occurring with NHHS to ensure the funds are available. If NHHS does not fund the rate difference it could require a statute change at the upcoming legislative session.

Reinstatement of Blue Valley's Continued Access Guarantee (CAG): At the 9/8/25 RGB meeting, the Board approved a support letter to Dr. Corsi and Dr. Janousek for the reinstatement of \$403,000 to Blue Valley Behavioral Health. Kreifels presented page 9 of the packet – a letter in which Dr. Janousek is denying reinstatement of these funds.

DBH Interpretation of County Match:

- Nebraska Statute 71-808: Each county in a behavioral health region shall provide funding for the operation of the behavioral health authority and for the provision of behavioral health services in the region. The total amount of funding provided by counties under this subsection shall be equal to one dollar for every three dollars from the general fund. At least forty percent of such amount shall consist of local and county tax revenue, and the remainder shall consist of other nonfederal sources. Historically, how this has been met is that for every \$1 from the county, 40% is from local tax dollars and the remaining 60% is through other payers (commercial insurance, private pay, etc) within the system of care. Demonstrating multiple payors that fund the behavioral health system/continuum of care. The Division's perspective is that the 60% should be sent to the Regions instead of retained to the Network Providers.
- Historically, any copayment received by providers after applying financial eligibility has been kept by providers in addition to the reimbursement rate. This has been due to reimbursement rates not completely covering the costs of providing services. The DBH is questioning why reimbursement rates would not be lowered for any required copayments.

County Match - Opioid Settlement Funds: Kreifels presented pages 10 and 11 of the packet.

Counties may use opioid settlement funds to count toward their annual county match requirement for anything above the 40% required local tax match amount.

Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Application Recommendations: Henning presented pages 12 and 13 of the packet. Of the 28 applications we received this year, we are asking for approval of 12 applications for a total of \$599,241.

Ott made a motion, seconded by Harre, to approve the recommendations as presented. Motion carried 9-0.

FY 25-26 Contracts: Henning presented page 14 of the packet.

State Opioid Response (SOR) Contracts: Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the SOR contracts as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

Plan for One (PFO) Contract: Krueger made a motion, seconded by Schwab, to approve the PFO contract as presented. Motion carried 9-0.

Partnerships for Success (PFS) Contracts: Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie to approve the PFS contracts as presented. Motion carried 9-0.

FY 25-26 Annual Report Draft: Rourke presented the attachment noting on page 4 there is a revamped org chart, page 8 lists our network providers and the services they provide, page 14 is new and covers BHECN, and pages 20 – 31 highlight system coordination efforts.

Lang made a motion, seconded by Schwab, to approve report as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

FY 24-25 Management Summary: Rourke presented the attachment. This is a report on annual performance indicators, network service indicators, and internal program indicators.

Weiss made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the report as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

FY 25-26 Network Performance Improvement Plan: Rourke presented the attachment. Kreifels noted these reports are prepared and brought to the Board to comply with our CARF standards of excellence.

Lang made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to approve report as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

2025 Winter Cycle Prevention Mini-Grants: Morrissey presented pages 15 and 16 of the packet noting the Four Corners Health Department Children and Families Unit request was denied by the state.

Of the total requested amount of \$18,297, we are asking for approval of \$8,405.

Weiss made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the recommendations as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

CLAS Grant Award Summary: Morrissey presented page 17 of the packet. We are asking for approval of \$3,000.

Lang made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to approve the recommendation as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

Rural Health Transformation Project: Included for your information.

- Nebraska will be receiving \$100 million with a potential of an additional \$100 million for its 80 rural counties for 5 years. Approximately \$12 million will be dedicated to behavioral health services. The plan was submitted to CMS to:
 - Expand integrated primary care sites for rural clinics to have licensed mental health professionals;
 - Provide 24/7 crisis response network for law enforcement;
 - Renovate existing clinical facilities for mental health crisis stabilization centers to provide rapid stabilization, coordinated referrals, and follow-up through the state's CCBHC network;
 - Implement a behavioral health nursing home pilot to expand post-acute care capacity for individuals with serious mental illness and complex behavioral needs.

2025 Employee Survey Results: Kreifels presented the attachment. Of the 49 eligible employees to take the survey, 43 responded -- an 88% completion rate. This report has been reviewed by Leadership Team and Corporate Compliance Team to review any areas that fell below 80%, 10% or greater decrease from the prior year, give weight to comments, and if there is a pattern or trend. A plan has been developed for continuous quality improvement. All employees at Region 5 System have received the survey and improvement plan for the areas identified. In over 20 years, this is the first time scores for each question are above 80%.

Schwab made a motion, seconded by Zabrocki, to approve the report as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

OTHER UPDATES / INFORMATION

Behavioral Health / System Coordination / Legislative Updates: Kreifels explained we have included a System Coordination Update document in the packet and reviewed pages 18-22 as follows:

- LB454: Allow for more flexibility to the Regions to not always require a formal bidding process when contracting for services and the use of the documentary stamp tax funds to include serving individuals with substance use in addition to mental health. Cleanup language potentially coming to the documentary stamp tax funds for landlord risk mitigation payment.
- The biennium budget was released by HHS. It is being proposed, the DBH (Program 038) base be reduced by \$2.5 million for FY26 and \$2.7 million in FY27; however, at this time, the Region's allocation will not be reduced. There is a focus to swap state general funds for health care cash funds and housing cash funds, therefore decreasing state general fund obligation and expense. The other focus for DBH is to utilize federal funds prior to state funds.
- Hill Day: Henning and Rourke attended 10/7/25 and 10/8/25. They met with aides regarding CCBHC legislation, substance use legislation bills, due process continuum of care act, re-entry act of 2025, the PEER support act, and for appropriations, requested the highest level of proposed funding.
- The CCBHCs are on target to start 1/1/26.
- Government shutdown related to Housing:
 - We have put a pause on filling current vacancies.
 - We have not been reimbursed for HUD housing expenses in the following programs: RTPH and RPH.
 - If the government shutdown extends beyond 1/1/26, there could be challenges with obtaining reimbursement for expenses for employees and lease payments.
 - This has put Region 5 Systems in an ethical and financial dilemma.

FY 25-26 Capacity Utilization Summaries: Included for your information. We should be at 25% and we are at 24.5%, the highest utilization and draw down of all the Regions.

Consumer Coordination Quarterly Report – Q1: Included for your information.

FY 25-26 Compliance Management Report: Included for your information.

YAB Membership List: Included for your information.

2026 Legislative Calendar: Included for your information.

FY 25-26 Training Plan: Included for your information.

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 17 – 9:00 a.m. – Network Provider Meeting – Teams
- January 26 – 9:00 a.m. – Network Provider Meeting – Teams
- January 28 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting – Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive, Lincoln, NE (hybrid)
- February 9 – 10:15 a.m. – RGB Meeting – Apace, 4433 S. 70th Street, Lincoln, NE (hybrid)

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.