



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 29, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive (hybrid)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Janak, Paige Joseph, Corrie Kielty, Rachel Mulcahy, Laura Osborne, Gale Pohlmann, and Evette Watts

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Krenke, Jill Kuzelka, Rebecca Meinders, LeRoy Ott, Melissa Ripley, Kelsey Schwab, and Michele Vana

OTHERS PRESENT: Traci Cooney, Deanna Gregg, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Sandy Morrissey, Kristin Nelson, Erin Rourke, and Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Region 5 Systems

HOUSEKEEPING / ANNOUNCEMENTS / INTRODUCTIONS

Janak called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by announcements and roll call. A quorum was present.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Janak noted that Open Meetings 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 October 15, 2025.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION, KRISTIN NELSON, EMERGENCY SERVICES

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.

- Nelson will give an update in 6 months on VCRC admissions – if they had availability to accept walk-ins/self-referrals or if they were at capacity accommodating admissions from law enforcement.
- Rourke will breakdown EPC county data per capita.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Osborne, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda includes the 8/27/25 BHAC minutes, the 9/8/25 RGB minutes, and FY 25-26 Compliance Management Report. All present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

CCBH's Supported Employment: This is contracted through CenterPointe and LFS. There may be some difference of opinion regarding CCBHC's responsibility of offering supported employment with the extended support phase. Goodwill is discussing with two CCBHC's the option of contracting as designated collaborating organizations to fulfill the delivery of supported employment extended support.

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 doesn't fund the rate difference it could require a statute change at the upcoming legislative session.

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 13 and 14 of the packet.

- 15% of the funds go to counties and municipalities and 85% goes to the state.
- 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 15-18 of the packet. Of the 28 applications we received this year, we are asking for approval of 12 applications - just under \$600,000. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to approve the grant application recommendations as presented. Osborne abstained; all others present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

FY 25-26 Contracts: Henning presented page 19 of the packet. [This document was updated and re-distributed this morning.]

- State Opioid Response (SOR) Contracts: Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to approve the FY 25-26 SOR contracts as presented. Osborne abstained; all others present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.
- Plan for One (PFO) Contract: Osborne made a motion, seconded by Watts, to approve PFO contract as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

FY 25-26 Annual Report Draft: Rourke presented the attachment noting: Page 5 will be updated by the end of this week; page 14 is new - it covers BHECN; and on page 21, the adult crisis continuum flow was revamped. The final version of this report will be taken to the 11/10/25 RGB meeting and emailed to everyone sometime in November.

Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Kielty, to approve the FY 25-26 Annual Report draft as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

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

Kielty made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to approve the FY 25-26 Network Performance Improvement Plan as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

FY 24-25 Management Summary: Rourke presented the attachment.

Osborne made a motion, seconded by Watts, to approve the FY 24-25 Management Summary as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

2025 Winter Cycle Prevention Mini-Grants: Morrissey presented the attachment.

Watts made a motion, seconded by Jospeh, to approve the 2025 Winter Cycle Prevention Mini-Grant recommendations as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

Rural Health Transformation Project: Included for your information.

- Nebraska is getting \$200 million for its 88 rural counties for 5 years. The goal is to submit the application to CMS by 11/1/25 (due no later than 11/5/25). This is a proposal 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.

OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION:

Behavioral Health / System Coordination / Legislative Updates:

- 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 DBH.
 - Of the \$15 million in funds not used last year, \$2 - \$5 million did not get spent down by the Regions. Region 5 Systems used all but \$50,000 of our allocation.
 - \$3 million will be used for the 1915i waiver and \$12 million will go to the general fund.
 - The Regions base will be reduced by \$2.5 million this year and \$2.7 million next year; however, the Region's allocation will not be reduced. Some 988 funding will shift from the general fund to the health care cash fund.
- LR188: Introduced by Senator Dorn, this is an interim study to examine the significance of the state financial partnership with the federal government in delivering health services to Nebraskans through the Medicaid program. There is a notice of hearing on 11/7/25, at 9:30 a.m.
- 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.
- Government Shutdown - Day 29: HUD currently has 52 units: 32 Rental Assistance Program (RAP), 8 Rural Permanent Housing (RPH), and 12 Lincoln Permanent Housing (LPH).
 - We are not filling any future vacancies.
 - HUD has funding for the next grant cycle.
 - RAP grant ended 9/30/25.
 - RPH grant ends 10/31/25 – we expect billing to be held up.
 - LPH grant ends 12/31/25. LPH is set to expand by 12 additional units with a new grant in January; however, that is on hold.
 - Brainstorming ideas: Look at moving month-to-month lease units to annual lease units; look at moving some to RAP, etc.
 - If shutdown extends beyond 1/1/26, there could be a problem with funding.

Consumer Coordination Quarterly Report – Q1: Will be provided when available.

YAB Membership List: Included for your information.

2026 Legislative Calendar: Included for your information.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented.

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 10 – 10:15 a.m. – RGB Meeting – Apace, 4433 S. 70th Street, Lincoln, NE (hybrid)
- 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

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.