

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 (5years) 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 MyLNK 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.

**Region 5 Systems
Balance Sheet
September 30, 2025**

Financial Row	Amount
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank	
1000 - Cash - Checking	\$2,149,825.04
1002 - Cash - Opioid Settlement Funds	\$3,123,377.41
1004 - Cash - Petty Cash (Reg V)	\$100.00
1005 - Cash - Section 125	\$2,706.35
1006 - Cash - YAB Checking	\$1,914.31
Total Bank	\$5,277,923.11
Accounts Receivable	
1100 - Accounts Receivable - Federal	\$204,095.21
1105 - Accounts Receivable - State	\$1,309,986.55
1110 - Accounts Receivable - County	\$100,429.42
1115 - Accounts Receivable - Grants	\$17,884.07
1120 - Accounts Receivable - Other	\$19,197.77
Total Accounts Receivable	\$1,651,593.02
Other Current Asset	
1140 - Prepaid Expenses	\$690.00
1150 - Section 125 - Deposit	\$4,874.00
1220 - Accumulated Depreciation	(\$872,017.31)
NS-015 - Undeposited Funds	(\$120.00)
Total Other Current Asset	(\$866,573.31)
Total Current Assets	\$6,062,942.82
Fixed Assets	
1200 - Furniture & Equipment	\$982,430.67
1210 - Lease Asset	\$657,072.32
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,639,502.99
Total ASSETS	\$7,702,445.81
Liabilities & Equity	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
1301 - Accounts Payable - Emp Ins Premiums	\$549.64
1303 - Accounts Payable - AFLAC Insurance	\$781.20
1305 - Accounts Payable - Other	\$194,750.54
Total Accounts Payable	\$196,081.38
Other Current Liability	
1310 - Accrued Vacation	\$412,761.06
1318 - Pension - Employee Contribution	(\$3,268.06)
1320 - Section 125- Med/Child Care	(\$1,244.10)
1321 - FLEX - Medical Insurance	(\$10,009.26)
1360 - Lease Liability	\$657,072.32
Total Other Current Liability	\$1,055,311.96
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,251,393.34
Equity	
2000 - General Fund	\$1,078,343.50
2010 - Fed - Homeless Funds	\$8.00
2020 - SPG (Non-Grant) Funds	\$1,716.40
2030 - State - Funds	\$346,613.40
2040 - State - Funds (Prior Yr)	\$1,188.66
2045 - State - Transition Grant Funds	\$57,363.60
2048 - State - Workforce Stabilization Fund	\$403,976.82
2050 - State - Native American Funds	\$114.66
2055 - Equipment Fund	\$124,467.26
2060 - YAB Fund	\$7,101.54
2065 - State - Opioid Resettlement Fund	\$2,464,420.00
NS-005 - Opening Balance	(\$10.00)
Retained Earnings	\$264,633.38
Net Income	\$1,701,115.25
Total Equity	\$6,451,052.47
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$7,702,445.81

**Region 5 Systems
Income Statement
September 30, 2025**

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Financial Row	Sept 2025	Amount (Jul 2025 - Sep 2025)	Comparative Amount (Q1 2024)	Variance	% Variance
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
3000 - Federal - SUD	\$156,635.75	\$529,159.21	\$338,552.89	\$190,606.32	56.30%
3005 - Federal - MH	\$89,212.98	\$677,922.22	\$262,451.32	\$415,470.90	158.30%
3015 - State - Behavioral Health	\$1,615,038.96	\$3,906,717.88	\$2,558,040.15	\$1,348,677.73	52.72%
3020 - County - SUD	\$45,513.37	\$87,595.37	\$90,765.25	(\$3,169.88)	-3.49%
3030 - County - MH	\$258,658.80	\$529,197.05	\$358,510.99	\$170,686.06	47.61%
3035 - Grant Income	\$317,085.38	\$1,174,376.50	\$981,183.12	\$193,193.38	19.69%
3055 - Miscellaneous - Other	\$45,748.08	\$161,682.10	\$157,211.44	\$4,470.66	2.84%
3060 - Administrative Services Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,656.79	(\$21,656.79)	-100.00%
3065 - Event Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	(\$50.00)	-100.00%
3070 - Interest Income	\$11,341.53	\$31,461.64	\$32,461.39	(\$999.75)	-3.08%
Total - Income	\$2,539,234.85	\$7,098,111.97	\$4,800,883.34	\$2,297,228.63	47.85%
Gross Profit	\$2,539,234.85	\$7,098,111.97	\$4,800,883.34	\$2,297,228.63	47.85%
Expense					
5000 - Provider Expenses	\$1,648,584.36	\$2,612,442.04	\$2,039,344.24	\$573,097.80	28.10%
5001 - EBP Specific	\$6,166.41	\$32,797.65	\$95,669.26	(\$62,871.61)	-65.72%
5002 - Non-EBP	\$1,966.90	\$3,466.90	\$64,153.34	(\$60,686.44)	-94.60%
5003 - Provider Expenses Non 1099	\$0.00	\$945.54	\$0.00	\$945.54	0.00%
5005 - Misc Payments	\$4,400.00	\$314,740.30	\$300.00	\$314,440.30	104,813.43%
5010 - Transition Payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$468.00	(\$468.00)	-100.00%
5020 - EPC	\$19,136.00	\$60,944.00	\$60,320.00	\$624.00	1.03%
5030 - Initiatives	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$662.68	(\$662.68)	-100.00%
5050 - CLAS Payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,580.00	(\$1,580.00)	-100.00%
5055 - Consumer Voice-Recovery	\$419.52	\$433.62	\$5,478.00	(\$5,044.38)	-92.08%
5070 - DHHS PFO	\$14,952.44	\$28,203.44	\$29,738.69	(\$1,535.25)	-5.16%
5080 - Security Deposit/App Fees	\$13,388.41	\$39,491.30	\$37,341.76	\$2,149.54	5.76%
5090 - Other Related Costs	\$134,040.70	\$194,707.74	\$20,418.98	\$174,288.76	853.56%
5100 - Furnishings (Program)	\$9,400.00	\$29,244.79	\$33,491.51	(\$4,246.72)	-12.68%
5105 - Furnishings (Office)	\$0.00	\$460.62	\$0.00	\$460.62	0.00%
5110 - Housing Related Debt	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	(\$1,000.00)	-100.00%
5120 - Landlord Mitigation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	(\$3,000.00)	-100.00%
5130 - Flex Funds	\$28,519.22	\$69,745.01	\$38,454.62	\$31,290.39	81.37%
5140 - Admin Fee	\$4,528.93	\$8,293.75	\$26,390.12	(\$18,096.37)	-68.57%
5150 - Advertising	\$201.50	\$661.50	\$400.00	\$261.50	65.38%
5160 - BHAC Expenses	\$41.00	\$817.38	\$453.39	\$363.99	80.28%
5170 - Auditing	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$13,000.00	(\$3,000.00)	-23.08%
5180 - Background Checks	\$220.00	\$514.00	\$582.90	(\$68.90)	-11.82%
5200 - Consulting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,250.00	(\$3,250.00)	-100.00%
5210 - Contract Services	\$29,117.86	\$53,470.99	\$58,139.55	(\$4,668.56)	-8.03%
5230 - Disability Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,088.86	\$903.90	\$184.96	20.46%
5240 - Employee Benefit Fees	\$1,419.65	\$11,842.57	\$13,360.34	(\$1,517.77)	-11.36%
5260 - Evaluations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$510.00	(\$510.00)	-100.00%
5270 - FICA Taxes	\$21,730.28	\$63,554.24	\$70,313.47	(\$6,759.23)	-9.61%
5290 - RGB Expenses	\$478.80	\$513.05	\$323.19	\$189.86	58.75%
5300 - Health Insurance	\$1,888.86	\$181,805.31	\$192,549.14	(\$10,743.83)	-5.58%
5310 - HSA ER Contribution	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,103.10	(\$10,103.10)	-100.00%
5315 - Land and Buildings	\$4,858.93	\$14,510.40	\$0.00	\$14,510.40	0.00%
5320 - Legal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,607.50	(\$6,607.50)	-100.00%
5330 - Meeting Expenses	\$1,609.38	\$3,811.76	\$1,408.86	\$2,402.90	170.56%
5340 - Miscellaneous	\$75.00	\$554.99	\$644.12	(\$89.13)	-13.84%
5350 - Pension	\$14,567.52	\$38,562.58	\$67,793.47	(\$29,230.89)	-43.12%
5360 - Photocopying/Printing	\$955.17	\$3,389.44	\$3,874.45	(\$485.01)	-12.52%
5370 - Postage	\$1,437.56	\$2,875.12	\$2,375.12	\$500.00	21.05%
5380 - Rent (Program)	\$191,307.58	\$517,268.73	\$462,240.69	\$55,028.04	11.90%
5385 - Rent (Office)	\$10,569.76	\$31,755.53	\$0.00	\$31,755.53	0.00%
5390 - Repairs & Maintenance (Program)	\$788.90	\$4,446.61	\$6,727.55	(\$2,280.94)	-33.90%
5395 - Repairs & Maintenance (Office)	\$6,031.00	\$7,754.25	\$0.00	\$7,754.25	0.00%
5400 - Salaries	\$287,631.82	\$834,311.46	\$784,942.98	\$49,368.48	6.29%
5410 - Software Purchases/Maintenance	\$133.59	\$101,099.51	\$129,200.99	(\$28,101.48)	-21.75%
5420 - St Unemployment Taxes	\$16.63	\$19.79	\$143.79	(\$124.00)	-86.24%
5430 - Staff Development	\$1,853.23	\$11,561.20	\$11,564.00	(\$2.80)	-0.02%
5440 - Staff Development-Non-State	\$4,533.04	\$5,033.80	\$7,965.91	(\$2,932.11)	-36.81%
5450 - Subscr, Dues, Books	\$2,663.98	\$11,716.45	\$9,048.83	\$2,667.62	29.48%
5460 - Supplies	\$12,128.58	\$13,600.31	\$4,316.39	\$9,283.92	215.09%
5470 - Telephone	\$2,637.70	\$14,404.11	\$16,312.40	(\$1,908.29)	-11.70%
5480 - Training Expenses	\$0.00	\$7,007.27	\$25,610.09	(\$18,602.82)	-72.64%
5490 - Travel	\$4,549.51	\$9,758.63	\$8,307.82	\$1,450.81	17.46%
5500 - Utilities (Program)	\$12,252.02	\$36,331.82	\$30,606.52	\$5,725.30	18.71%
5501 - Utilities (Office)	\$1,145.54	\$3,584.89	\$0.00	\$3,584.89	0.00%
5510 - Vehicle Maintenance	\$870.94	\$2,164.47	\$3,743.86	(\$1,579.39)	-42.19%
5520 - Workers Comp Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,289.00	\$0.00	\$1,289.00	0.00%
Total - Expense	\$2,513,218.22	\$5,396,996.72	\$4,405,135.52	\$991,861.20	22.52%
Net Ordinary Income	\$26,016.63	\$1,701,115.25	\$395,747.82	\$1,305,367.43	329.85%
Net Income	\$26,016.63	\$1,701,115.25	\$395,747.82	\$1,305,367.43	329.85%

SUMMARY OF ALL ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAMS & FYI

September 2025 (25.00%)

BUDGET ITEM	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET (12 MO)	% RECEIVED/EXPENDED	% Budget Line to Overall Budget
Administrative Revenue				
Interest	\$4.86	\$120,000	0.00%	100.00%
Total Admin. Revenue	\$4.86	\$120,000	0.00%	100.00%
Administrative Expenditures				
Salaries	\$667,641.15	\$3,756,825	17.49%	81.58%
Benefits	\$238,593.81	\$1,425,863		
Payroll Taxes	\$51,337.52			
Employee Insurance	\$142,683.38			
Pension	\$44,572.91			
Advertising	\$661.50	\$1,100	60.14%	0.02%
BHAC Mtg Exp/Travel	\$714.67	\$3,000	23.82%	0.05%
Auditing	\$8,728.16	\$28,555	30.57%	0.45%
Background Checks	\$514.00	\$1,800	28.56%	0.03%
Compliance / Mandates	\$0.00	\$2,000	0.00%	0.03%
Consulting	\$0.00	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
Contract Labor	\$7,251.67	\$80,000	9.06%	1.26%
Equipment & Furnishings **	\$460.62	\$5,000	9.21%	0.08%
Client Evaluation	\$0.00	\$1,000	0.00%	0.02%
Event Expenses	\$0.00	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
Insurance - General	\$0.00	\$90,000	0.00%	1.42%
RGB Mtg Exp/Travel	\$513.05	\$5,000	10.26%	0.08%
Legal Fees	\$0.00	\$30,140	0.00%	0.47%
Meeting Expenses	\$1,326.24	\$5,000	26.52%	0.08%
Miscellaneous	\$535.15	\$7,805	6.86%	0.12%
Photocopying / Printing	\$2,938.18	\$12,000	24.48%	0.19%
Postage	\$2,502.20	\$10,000	25.02%	0.16%
Rent/Utilities	\$30,289.93	\$162,236	18.67%	2.55%
Land/Building	\$14,510.40	\$58,663	24.72%	0.92%
Repairs & Maintenance	\$7,659.36	\$40,000	19.15%	0.63%
Software Purch/Maint	\$87,364.09	\$201,430	43.37%	3.17%
Staff Development	\$15,622.51	\$88,000	17.75%	1.39%
Subscr., Dues & Books	\$10,411.79	\$22,000	47.33%	0.35%
Supplies**	\$7,640.18	\$35,000	21.83%	0.55%
Telephone	\$12,592.31	\$50,000	25.18%	0.79%
Training Expenses	\$0.00	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
Travel	\$8,183.93	\$43,000	19.03%	0.68%
Vehicle Maintenance	\$2,164.47	\$12,000	18.04%	0.19%
Purchase of Services	\$19,382.27	\$105,199	18.42%	1.66%
Administrative Fees	\$0.00	\$70,000	0.00%	1.10%
Total Admin. Expenditures	\$1,148,201.64	\$6,352,616	18.07%	100.00%

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

September 19, 2025

Patrick Kreifels, Regional Administrator
Christa Yoakum, Regional Governing Board Chair
Region 5 Behavioral Health
3600 Union Drive
Lincoln, NE 68516

Mr. Kreifels and Ms. Yoakum,

Thank you for your letter requesting reinstatement of Blue Valley Behavioral Health's Continued Access Guarantee (CAG) funding to its original amount of \$403,000. The Division will not reinstate funding for additional CAG funds. We encourage Blue Valley Behavioral Health to work with the Region 5 Systems to offer additional services in the region should they require additional revenue.

Thank you for your efforts and we appreciate the partnership in serving Nebraskans,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Janousek PsyD".

Thomas Janousek, PsyD
Director, Division of Behavioral Health
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

From: Janousek, Thomas <Thomas.Janousek@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 2:31 PM
To: Holly Brandt-R1 <hbrandt@region1bhs.net>; McCarthy, Katie <katiemccarthy@r2hs.com>; Tiffany Gressley <TGressley@Region3.net>; Ingrid Ganesbom-R4 <igansebom@region4bhs.org>; Patrick Kreifels <pkreifels@region5systems.net>; Patti Jurjevich-R6 <pjurjevich@regionsix.com>
Subject: FW: Opioid Settlement and County funds match

All,

Please see below, this was the letter I received from the AG's office regarding county match with Opioid Settlement Funds.

Thanks,

Thomas Janousek, PsyD | *Director*
 DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Cell: 402-875-3763

DHHS.ne.gov | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Bral, Derek <derek.bral@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 1:36 PM
To: Janousek, Thomas <Thomas.Janousek@nebraska.gov>
Cc: Zhul, Khrystyna <khrystyna.zhul@nebraska.gov>
Subject: RE: Opioid Settlement and County funds match

Dr. Janousek,

In follow-up to our call from last week, I looked into your question regarding Merrick County's attempt to use their opioid settlement funds toward their county match requirement under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-808, which states that "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." As you know, "[t]he total amount of funding provided by counties ... shall be equal to one dollar for every three dollars from the General Fund." And "[a]t least forty percent of such amount shall consist of local and county tax revenue, and the remainder shall consist of *other nonfederal sources*."

The opioid settlement funds come from "nonfederal sources" (i.e., they come from a private settlement), and they qualify as funding for the provision of "behavioral health services" as that term is defined by the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act (the "Act"). Thus, Merrick County may count these funds against their annual county match requirement.

The Act defines "behavioral health services" to include "consumer-provided services, support services, inpatient and outpatient services, and residential and nonresidential services, provided for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of *behavioral health disorders* and the rehabilitation and recovery of persons with such disorders[.]" See, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-804(3). "Behavioral health

disorders” are defined as “mental illness or alcoholism, drug abuse, or other addictive disorder[.]” Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-804(1).

Under the opioid settlements, settlement funds are to be used for “opioid remediation,” which is broadly defined to include care, treatment, and other programs designed to: (1) address misuse or abuse of opioid products, (2) treat or mitigate opioid use *or related disorders*, (3) mitigate *other alleged effects* of the opioid abuse crisis, including on those injured as a result of the opioid abuse crisis. Exhibit E to the settlements provides a *non-exhaustive* list of expenditures that qualify as Opioid Remediation, including, for example, “treatment of Opioid Use Disorder ... *and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health ... conditions.*”

Given the broad definition of “opioid remediation” and the *non-exhaustive* list of approved uses, the opioid abatement funds qualify as funding for “behavioral health services” as that term is defined by the Act. The definition of “opioid remediation” is broad enough to include many of the same “behavioral health services” contemplated the Act, including for example, “inpatient and outpatient services, and residential and nonresidential services ... for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of [mental illness or alcoholism, drug abuse, or other addictive disorder.]” Since the opioid settlements authorize recipients to use funds for “co-occurring substance use disorders and other mental health conditions,” (i.e., non-opioid substance use disorders), they also qualify as “funding ... for the provision of behavioral health services” under the Act. Thus, Merrick County may use their opioid settlement funds to count toward their annual county match requirement.

If the counties wanted to, many of them could probably just put their opioid funds toward their general law enforcement or first responder service funds. Such expenditures would probably qualify as “opioid remediation,” since the settlements expressly allow expenditures as “reimbursement for past ... expenditures” related to the opioid epidemic. So the counties really don’t have to be paying these funds to the behavioral health regions, and I don’t see any problem with crediting them for forwarding it to the regions if they think the funds will be spent more effectively that way.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions or need additional clarification.

Thank you,

Derek T. Bral

Asst. Attorney General

Consumer Protection Bureau

Nebraska Attorney General’s Office

Ofc.: 402-471-1928

Cell: 402-314-0383

derek.bral@nebraska.gov



**PROTECT THE
GOOD LIFE**

Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Application Recommendations

Cycle 2 - September 2025

Agency	Proposed Funding Amount	Counties Served	Priority Areas - Extra point areas in bold/blue								Description of Project
			A: Treatment	B: Recovery	C: Harm Reduction	D: Connections to Care	E: Criminal Justice Involved	F: Prevention	G: Providers and Health Systems	H: Public Safety/First Responders	
Asian Center	\$17,215.85	Lancaster							F:3		Creation of a multimedia opioid abuse prevention campaign for immigrants and refugees in Lincoln, NE.
Blue Valley Behavioral Health	\$57,279.20	Saline	A:1	B:3			E:3				To provide Spanish interpretation services for substance abuse evaluation, treatment, and an online addictions education course and provide access to a online addictions education course for adults and youth who have been charged with their first offense of alcohol or drug related crimes.
								F:3			To provide support to the Centered for Life Program, which expands access to a thriving recovery community for people who are seeking support regardless of whether or not they are engaged in formal behavioral health services.
Fillmore County Hospital	\$8,000.00	Fillmore and York							F:1 F:3		Provide funding for national speaker Nathan Harmon to increase awareness regarding the affects of substance use and poor decision making in York and Fillmore counties.
Four Corners Health Department	\$181,938.60	York, Seward, Polk, and Butler	A:1						G:1		To improve access to healthcare services, provide coordinated care, and reduce the number of emergency room visits for uninsured and underinsured individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) or Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in York, Seward, Polk, and Butler counties.
Fresh Start	\$13,214.00	Lancaster		B:1	C:1						To support successful completion of transitional shelter programming, including progress toward individual goals and permanent housing, for individuals who experience a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) or Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).
Houses of Hope	\$109,378.74	Lancaster	A:1 A:2					E:2	G:1		To enhance and expand outpatient substance use services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system by becoming a certified Matrix Treatment Provider.
Jefferson County Diversion Services	\$27,000.00	Jefferson		B:1			E:3	F:1			To support youth and their families to prevent further involvement with the justice system and development of a substance use disorder

Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Application Recommendations

Cycle 2 - September 2025

Agency	Proposed Funding Amount	Counties Served	Priority Areas - Extra point areas in bold/blue							Description of Project		
			A: Treatment	B: Recovery	C: Harm Reduction	D: Connections to Care	E: Criminal Justice Involved	F: Prevention	G: Providers and Health Systems		H: Public Safety/First Responders	
Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department	\$50,000.00	Lancaster							F:3	H:1 H:4	To assess, monitor, and evaluate substance exposure trends by analyzing wastewater surveillance samples from the City of Lincoln's wastewater treatment plants.	
Richardson County House of Hope	\$50,000.00	Richardson	A:1	B:1							To address homelessness for women recovering from Substance Use Disorder (SUD) or Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) by providing intermediate housing and programming to assist women in bridging to permanent housing in Richardson county.	
Seward Co Detention Center	\$8,000.00	Seward	A:1	B:1				E:2		G:1	H:4	Reentry support and rehabilitation services for individuals experiencing an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in Seward County Detention Center.
Whispering Acres-Camp G.R.I.T.	\$9,775.22	Gage, Jefferson, Thayer, and Saline		B:1					F:1 F:3			To provide employees for Camp G.R.I.T., a camp designed to break the intergenerational cycle of addiction by providing targeted support and mentorship to youth ages 9-15 who have been affected by a substance use disorder of a family member.

Region 5 Systems Contractual Agreements

State Opioid Response (SOR) Contracts

Contracting Entity	Time Period	Contract Amount	Funding Source	Primary Author(s)	Reviewed By	Purpose
CenterPointe	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$13,000 to CenterPointe	DHHS-DBH SOR Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team, Network Provider, and BHAC	Contract for provision of approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, and to support treatment and recovery support services for opioid use disorder and stimulant misuse and use disorders.
BayMark Health Services (BAART)	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$40,000 to BayMark Health Services (BAART)	DHHS-DBH SOR Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team, Network Provider, and BHAC	Contract for provision of approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, and to support treatment and recovery support services for opioid use disorder and stimulant misuse and use disorders.
Jill Kuzelka	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$250 per training to Jill Kuzelka	DHHS-DBH SOR Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team, Network Provider, and BHAC	To provide Narcan training within Region 5 Systems catchment area.
Laura Osborne	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$250 per training to Laura Osborne	DHHS-DBH SOR Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team, Network Provider, and BHAC	To provide Narcan training within Region 5 Systems catchment area.
Sim Reynolds	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$250 per training to Sim Reynolds	DHHS-DBH SOR Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team, Network Provider, and BHAC	To provide Narcan training within Region 5 Systems catchment area.

Action Needed: Motion from the Board to approve these contracts.

Plan for One Contracts

Contracting Entity	Time Period	Contract Amount	Funding Source	Primary Author(s)	Reviewed By	Purpose
Capture Developmental and Community Services	October 1, 2024 - November 24, 2025	\$33,467.40 to Capture Developmental and Community Services	DHHS-DBH Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team and BHAC	To provide one-to-one direct care staff within a residential setting to an individual transitioning from Mary Lanning under a Plan for One agreement.

Action Needed: Motion from the Board to approve this contracts.

Partnerships for Success (PFS) Contracts

Contracting Entity	Time Period	Contract Amount	Funding Source	Primary Author(s)	Reviewed By	Purpose
KidGlov	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$5,000 to KidGlov	DHHS-DBH PFS Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team and BHAC	To provide project management and reporting of Power of Parents webpage.
Mental Health Association	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$5,000 to Mental Health Association	DHHS-DBH PFS Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team and BHAC	Provide WRAP train-the-trainer for colleges and identified industry specific personnel to lead WRAP groups promoting wellness for those at risk within their schools/organizations
Mental Health Association	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$2,000 to Mental Health Association	DHHS-DBH PFS Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team and BHAC	Provide WRAP refresher for current trainers (required every 3 years).
Mental Health Association	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$5,000 to Mental Health Association	DHHS-DBH PFS Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team and BHAC	Provide WRAP train-the-trainer to build capacity within Johnson, Pawnee, and Richardson counties.
Nebraska Collegiate Prevention Alliance	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$15,752 to Nebraska Collegiate Prevention Alliance	DHHS-DBH PFS Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team and BHAC	Provide Rob Turrisi's Power of Parenting handbook to ensure successful transition to college life. Encourage participation of students at Bryan College of Health Sciences, SCC Lincoln, Union Adventist University, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Doane University, and Nebraska Wesleyan University in the Year 1 College Behavior Profile (Y1CBP), a web-based alcohol screening and brief intervention program.
Marcus Theatre	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$17,610 to Marcus Theatre	DHHS-DBH PFS Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team and BHAC	Movie trailers in Lancaster county providing Power of Parents messaging regarding high risk drinking.
Lincoln Police Department	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$4,000 to Lincoln Police Department	DHHS-DBH PFS Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team and BHAC	Create a law enforcement/youth partnership in assuring establishments are not selling alcohol to minors.
Public Health Solutions	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$28,315 to Public Health Solutions	DHHS-DBH PFS Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team and BHAC	To implement PFS deliverables within Jefferson, Saline, and Gage counties.
LMO Consulting, LLC	September 30, 2025 - September 29, 2026	\$5,071 to LMO Consulting, LLC	DHHS-DBH PFS Contract	Region 5 Systems	Corporate Compliance Team and BHAC	To implement PFS deliverables within Johnson, Pawnee, and Richardson counties.

Action Needed: Motion from the Board to approve these contracts.

Region 5 Systems

ADULT PREVENTION MINI-GRANT AWARD SUMMARY
2025 Winter Cycle

Applicant Name What requesting funding for	Amount Requested	Committee Recommendation	Committee Comments/Rationale	BHAC Approval 10/29/2024	RGB Review 11/10/2024
Four Corners Health Department – Children & Families Unit (Sharen Saf sharens@fourcorners.ne.gov) Readiness and Feasibility Study for pregnant and postpartum families at high risk for ATOD use in York, Seward, Polk, and Butler counties	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	Award Full Amount Pending State approval		
Four Corners Health Department (Linda Dubs-Cerny lindadc@fourcorners.ne.gov) Trauma and ATOD prevention/education classes for teens and adults at high risk for further involvement in criminal justice and diversion programs	\$2,992.00	\$0	Provide support through Special Populations funds.		
NJJA (Tammy Sassaman tsassaman.njja@outlook.com) Keynote speakers for Youth Day in Kearney	\$2,400.00	\$0	Unable to support due to conference being out of Region. Passed along to Region 3 for possible support.		
Lancaster PLT (Brooke Fullerton bfullerton93@gmail.com) Digital Display Campaign – promote digital search of English and Spanish versions of Power of Parenting Handbook	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	Award Full Amount		
Saunders County ACT (Amber Pelan apelan@saunderscounty.ne.gov) Blue Bridge Autism & Developmental Disability Training for First Responders	\$3,000.00	\$0	Provide support through CLAS funds.		
Seward Public Schools (Matt Dominy matt.dominy@sewardschools.org) Second Step kits for grades K and 1	\$905.00	\$905.00	Award Full Amount		

Applicant Name What requesting funding for	Amount Requested	Committee Recommendation	Committee Comments/Rationale	BHAC Approval 10/29/2024	RGB Review 11/10/2024
Wellbeing Initiative (Becki Roberts broberts@winitiative.org) WRAP I Seminar – open to anyone in Region 5 area	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	Due to limited funding, Region 5 can support half the requested amount through mini-grant funds.		
TOTAL	\$18,297.00	\$8,405.00		\$	\$
Amount Available for Adult (\$)	\$8,478.32			\$	\$

Region 5 Systems

**CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE SERVICES GRANT AWARD SUMMARY
2025-2026 (Winter Applicants)**

Applicant Agency Name Project Name or Description	Amount Requested	Review Committee Approved 10/08/2025	BHAC Approval 10/29/2025	RGB Approval 11/10/2025	Acceptance/ Decline Amount	Reimbursement Claim Amount / Date
Applicant Name Saunders County ACT Team Training by law enforcement – Blue Ridge Autism Training, for first responders to be able to deescalate individuals with disabilities, including autism which puts them at high risk, particularly in circumstances with ATOD concerns.	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$	\$3,000	
TOTAL:	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$	\$3,000	
Amount Available: \$4,700						



System Coordination Updates October 2025

Behavioral Health/Legislative Update

- **1915i Medicaid Waiver:** In response to the Department of Justice (DOJ) - Civil Rights Division, May 14, 2024, Nebraska Health & Human Services (NHHS) was informed by the United States Department of Justice findings of the investigation on Nebraska's administration of its behavioral health service systems, including employment services for adults with serious mental illness. The DOJ assessed the state's compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 42 U.S.C. 12131-12134, as interpreted by the Supreme Court in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999). It was determined by the DOJ that, "Nebraska is violating Title II of the ADA by unnecessarily segregating people with serious mental illness in assisted living facilities and day program facilities." NHHS has been in consultation with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Myers Stauffer firm to create a plan in response to the DOJ findings. NDHHS is hoping to bring up new Medicaid services with a new projected go live date of January 1, 2026, vs. November 1, 2025. It is anticipated to fund these new services Nebraska will receive a 56% federal Medicaid match. These 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 supports.
- **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC):** Delayed start from July 1, 2025, to January 1, 2026. May 2023, Governor Jim Pillen signed LB276 into law and CCBHC's must be funded January 1, 2026. Region 5 Systems has two CCBHC's within our 16-county area, CenterPointe and Lutheran Family Services, both located within Lincoln, NE. CCBHC's are required to provide 9 core services such as, around-the-clock crisis support, easy-access mental health & substance use care, tailored treatment plans, specialized care for veterans and military personnel, peer support for families, care and case management, whole health approach, comprehensive psychiatric rehabilitation, and early detection and support for physical health. Prospective payments have been established with all the CCBHC's and in August 2025 certification site visits occurred by Medicaid and DBH.
- Governor Pillen is requesting a \$500 million or 10% reduction from all state departments in the biennial budget. The Division of Behavioral Health is looking at decreasing their budget by reducing the \$15 million carryover to \$5 million, which will be used to start the 1915i waiver. Additional reductions include a \$1 million contract with NIFA, a \$800,000 reduction on a 988-marketing contract at Husker Games, and a \$250,000 reduction on a Veteran's application. The total amount of reductions has not been determined at this time. No reductions have been requested to the Regional Behavioral Health Budgets.
- Nebraska Health & Human Services Mid-Biennium budget was released on 10/24/2025. A decrease of carryover of \$12 million, citing projections for the 1915i waiver, is significantly lower and estimates it to be \$2-3 million for FY 2026 & 2027 vs. the initial projections of \$8 million. Reducing the use of general funds of \$3.479 million and replacing them from the Health Care Cash Fund to pay for 988 Suicide Hotline. Lastly, a reduction of FY26 \$2.5 million and FY26 \$2.7 million as permanent reductions to the Behavioral Health Aid (Program 38) basis.
- Priority is being given to utilizing federal funds prior to state general funds for behavioral health services, coordination, and initiatives.
- The Division of Behavioral Health and Medicaid combines services definitions and manuals explaining expectations. A new manual will be released for public comment in September 2025. Please be sure to take notice of the release and offer feedback.

- Nebraska Legislation-Interim Studies:
 - 2025 Nebraska 109th Legislative Session:
 - LB454-Passed and implemented into law effective 9/3/2025. Allows Regions option of not going through a public bidding process (Request for Proposal) and allows Regions to serve people in supported housing with substance use conditions using the Behavioral Health Services Fund (from the documentary stamp tax). A cleanup bill is being considered for the 2026, 110th Legislative session to include risk mitigation funds being available for people with substance use disorders vs only severe mental health.
 - LB55-Reimbursement to providers of the current (higher) Medicaid rates when serving people with dual insurance eligibility-Medicare/Medicaid vs. being reimbursed the (lower) Medicare rates. \$1.5 million allocated in the budget and identified the fund source as the "Hospital Quality Assurance and Access Assessment Fund." Medicaid has stated they will be using the \$22 million in this fund for other priorities and not funding the differential between Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates. Conversations are occurring with Medicaid as to why they are going against the constitutional requirement as identified by the Nebraska Legislative Appropriations Committee in the approved budget. If agreement is not obtained, it could require a statutory change in the 2026, 110th Legislative session.
 - Substance Use Disorder Section 1115 Demonstration Amendment. The Nebraska Legislative Health & Human Services Committee held a hearing on July 29, 2025, and Director Drew Donshorowski testified. Nebraska Medicaid in the process of amending this waiver for SU disorder services and requesting authority from CMS to provide two additional services. Both will be for anyone with full coverage of Medicaid benefits. First allow Medicaid to treat individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) or serious emotional disturbance (SED) for short-term stay in an Institute for mental disease (IMD). This authority will allow Nebraska Medicaid to cover treatment for people undergoing a crisis in a psychiatric hospital for up to 60 days. The anticipated effective date is January 1, 2026. More information is being sought on what this service is. The second service is to allow Medicaid to pay for medical respite services pursuant to NRS 68-911. The plan is to have two medical respite facilities: one in Lincoln and the other in Omaha. A place for people who are unhoused to receive care after being discharged from a medical facility/hospital. Offering a stable, safe environment for people to get follow-up care and complete the healing process. The anticipated effective date is April 1, 2026.
 - LR188-Senator Dorn-Examine the significance of the state financial partnership with the federal government in delivering health services to NEbraskans through the Medicaid program. Hearing is set for November 7, 2025, at 9:30am with the Nebraska Legislature, Appropriations Committee.
 - LR201-Senator Hallstrom-Examine the rates, revenues, and uses of the documentary stamp tax. NRS 71-812(3) to provide housing assistance to eligible individuals with serious mental illness (or co-occurring disorder) and who are receiving behavioral health services funded by NDHHS/Regional Behavioral Health Authorities. Of the \$2.25 cents tax collected, \$0.30 cents fund the Behavioral Health Services Fund to provide housing for people who are unhoused and present with serious mental health and substance use challenges. remaining balances from the documentary tax fund include: \$0.07 to domestic violence (new legislation from 2025 and increased the total tax to \$2.32), County Register of Deeds keep \$0.50, \$0.95 for Affordable Housing Trust Fund, \$0.25 to Site & Building Development Fund, \$0.25 to Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund.
 - LR210-Senator Hardin-Examine and compare how health information exchanges work in other states.
 - LR213-Senator McKinney-Examine the connection between neighborhood level investment and youth outcomes, including, but not limited to, educational attainment, youth violence, and long-term well-being.
 - LR219-Senator Fredrickson-Examine non-opioid pharmacological treatment options in Medicaid.
 - LR224-Senator Fredrickson-Examine the adequacy of funding and resources available to Level 3

- Special Education Contractual Services for children.
 - LR224-Senator Dungan-Examine the effectiveness of programs addressing health related social needs which are unmet adverse social conditions that contribute to poor health, including food insecurity, unemployment, and housing stability.
 - LR227-Senator Cavanaugh-Examine the recommendations presented to the Legislative Mental Health Care Capacity Strategic Planning Committee.
- On Thursday, July 31, 2025, U. S. Senate appropriators advanced their Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and related agencies (LHHS) funding proposal on a bipartisan basis in a 26-3 vote. Notably, this proposal departs from the proposal in the President's Budget Request and does not reflect the proposed agency's restructuring and reductions. Overall, the Senate proposal includes \$116.6 billion, a \$446 million increase for the Department of Health and Human Services. This proposal includes \$7.4 billion for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Funding for key mental health and substance use programs in the proposal includes:
 - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics: \$385.5 million (+ \$0.5M for integrated care technical assistance)
 - Mental Health Awareness Training: \$27.963 million (level funding)
 - Project AWARE: \$140 million (level funding)
 - Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration: \$55.877 for grants and \$2.991 for technical assistance (level funding)
 - 988: \$534 million (+ \$15 million)
 - State Opioid Response Grants: \$1.595 billion (+\$20 million)
 - Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services Block Grant: \$2.028 billion (+ \$20 million)
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant: \$1.007 billion (level funding)
- The funding bill will now head to the Senate floor for further action. The House will also need to introduce its LHHS funding proposal. Congressional leaders have not yet started bipartisan negotiations, and with the House out on August recess, there is little time to finalize a spending deal ahead of Oct. 1 when the next fiscal year starts. This makes a Continuing Resolution, i.e., a stopgap funding measure, increasingly likely to continue funding and avoid a government shutdown. Details of the proposal can be found in the bill text, report language and summary. Congress must reach a spending agreement by September 30, 2025, to avoid a shutdown. If no deal is reached, the federal government will shut down starting October 1, 2025.

Emergency System/Stepping Up

Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) Pilot Expansion Project

The Pilot Program began on July 1st. At the end of the first quarter, there have been 11 EPCs to Mary Lanning and 2 EPCs to Methodist Fremont. There was 1 commitment placed at Mary Lanning. The total number of bed days accessed with the expansion was approximately 70 days.

BETA Trainings

Winter BETA 2026 February 10-13

Summer BETA 2026 June 23-26

Voluntary Crisis Response Center

The VCRC has opened at its new location 3220 N 14th. 16 beds total. The beds are fluid for crisis stabilization (3-5 day stay, open to law enforcement, TASC, and Centerpointe Co-Responder Unit). Mental Health Respite (21 days, step down from Mental Health Crisis Center or Mary Lanning or Methodist)

Emergency System and Competency Restoration System

The system is in crisis. Individuals are not discharging from LRC so unable to admit individuals under Mental Health Board Commitment or Competency Restoration. Wait times for males for competency restoration is near 100 days so the individuals remain in jail. Females for competency restoration and mental health board is nearing 140 days.

Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN)

- Advisory Board held the first meeting on October 14th. Good representation from ESU, Extension Offices, UNL, Corrections, Behavioral Health and Community.
- BHECN partnered with Emergency Systems for the Mental Health Board Training with approximately 40 people in attendance
- Provider Event scheduled for November 7th. Will offer 4 CEUs (2 ethics) and revitalization activities for providers.
- BHECN-Southeast has the most colleges and universities of the sites. Events such as guest speaking, pop-ups, career fairs will be held to encourage students to pursue a career in community behavioral health
- Graduate Trainee Support Program is open until November 10th. The Graduate Trainee Support Program financially supports master's-level students during their advanced practicum or internship experiences that serve rural, public sector, or justice-involved communities. To be eligible to apply, students must have confirmed practicum or internship experiences, be in good academic standing, and intend to practice in Nebraska after graduation.
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 - <https://www.unmc.edu/bhecn/programs-training/student-trainee-opportunities/graduate-traineestipend.html>

Youth System Coordination

The opening of the new SquareOne building has been pushed back to April 2026 due to the renovation timeline. Services (crisis response, crisis psychotherapy and emergency community support) continue at CenterPointe's Campus for Health and WellBeing.

Opioid Remediation Settlement Funds/State Opioid Response Grant (SOR)

Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Cash Fund RFA – Division of Behavioral Health

- DHHS Division of Behavioral Health announced on September 30, 2025, the intention to fund the following projects within Region 5 Systems catchment area under this RFA.
 - Bryan Medical Center – Increase detox beds from 3 to 5 at the Independence Center.
 - CenterPointe – Increase dual-disorder residential beds from 18 to 20, increase short-term residential beds from 0 to 26, and provide withdrawal management (ASAM Level 3.7) within the short-term residential program.

Region 5 Systems Opioid Project Updates (SOR and Settlement Funds)

- Lockboxes and Detera for safe storage/disposal of opioid medications are available on a first-come, first-served basis please reach out to Trina Janis (tjanis@region5systems.net) to make a request.
- Future projects to be funded by SOR will be discussed by the RX and Illicit Drug Summit Workgroup on November 3, 2025.
- The second Opioid Settlement Grant Cycle awards have been announced, see packet for list of funding recommendations. This year Region 5 Systems:
 - received 28 applications totaling \$3,070,440.49 in requests
 - had 14 unique priority areas represented among applicants
 - recommended funding for 12 applications, a total of \$599,241.61 in funding
 - has 13 unique priority areas represented among recommended applications
- Contracts for these applications begin January 1, 2025.

Prevention System

- FY 2026 SUTPBG – all contracts have been issued to coalitions. Four Corners Public Health is contracting to coordinate the prevention coalitions in York and Butler. Public Health Solutions is contracting to provide prevention coordination for Saline, Gage, Jefferson, Fillmore, and Thayer. 100% of all strategies

identified as priority need within urban and rural areas are evidence-based.

- Center for Disease Control Suicide funds for YR 3 have been awarded to NE Public Policy Center. Each Region in NE will receive \$30,000 for FY26. Priorities include; targeted population males 25-64+, education on lethal means security, promotion of telehealth, community education on addressing signs associated with individuals having thoughts or plans of suicide.
- DHHS Behavioral Health has received YR 3 funding for Partnership for Success grant. Region 5 submitted a plan and budget to the State. DHHS indicated it may be a bit before contracts are delivered.
- Annual Programmatic audit materials were submitted to DBH Behavioral Health.

Housing System Coordination

- The federal shutdown is impacting Region 5 Systems in the three HUD funded programs. The grant cycle for Rural Permanent Housing (RPH) ended 9/30/25 and Rural Transition Age Permanent Housing (RTPH) ended 10/31/25. Final billings require HUD office approval and all staff are on furlough status. We have \$75,000 outstanding in final grant payments and will have an additional projected \$18,000 outstanding for Lincoln Permanent Housing (LPH) at the end of December if the shutdown has not yet ended by that time.
- We have paused hiring a vacancy in the RPH program as a result.

Region V Systems (RVS) Quarterly Report

July 2025 - September 2025

Taisa Brumagen, CPSS

List of tasks completed/milestones hit this quarter:

- Attended events and workgroups such as overdose awareness week proclamation, NABHO policy day, Rally for recovery in Norfolk, Nebraska mental health and substance use state wide convening, Nebraska anti-violence conference, and Lancaster County Health Department 6 pillars to emotional wellbeing while providing feedback and support with peer perspective and lived experience.
- Met with James Bowers with NAMI Starting implementing a collaborative plan to support the community with education and groups to support behavioral health.
- Met with consumers and organizations to provide education on CFAC by sharing website for access to joining the CFAC committee and funding application while sharing information and experience with CFAC meetings and project funding guidelines.

Assessment of Need/Problem Solving:

- **Consumer Family Advisory Committee (CFAC):** The CFAC committee has been looking for more ways to provide CFAC information and funding opportunities to the community. Maintaining communication with The Region and CFAC and advocating for CFAC needs and support from The Region. Created a new CFAC brochure with The Regions support of printing which will be available for educational opportunities about CFAC. Invited more consumers and family members to engage and share CFAC social media resources and community events.
- **Behavioral Health Conferences:** Budget planning for the 2026 BHC. Implemented tentative ideas and planning for resourceful budget expenses while utilizing advocacy opportunities for outside financial support and donations. Brainstormed ways to provide a successful BHC while being mindful of expenses.
- **Training and education:** Provided WRAP seminar two in partnership with Region 5 prevention. The community advocacy for WRAP seminar one was heard and submitted a prevention mini grant to host a WRAP seminar one in partnership with Region 5. Planned 2026 Continuing education opportunities for peers.

Projects:

Lived experience engagements: Continue to Build new partnerships and expand existing partnerships to increase the voice of individuals and family members with lived experience while visiting and engaging with other providers and organizations open houses and events. Schedule meetings with other behavioral health providers and provide

collaborative ideas for education and support to consumers and family members who wish to participate.

Legislative advocacy and education: Attend policy groups with State Senators and introduce myself in areas of legislation. Actively educate myself and peers on legislative bills and focus areas of upcoming hearings. Educate those with lived experience on legislative advocacy efforts to bring peer perspectives for mental health and substance use areas to foster collaboration with legislative offices. Continue to attend such areas where lived experiences can bring perspective.

Data Collected/Analyzed:

Current:

of support groups- 34

of support group participants (duplicated)- 283

Accumulative:

of support groups- 147

of support group participants (duplicated)- 2,264

of committee/workgroup meetings- 68

Tasks/goals next quarter:

Continue working on the following projects:

- Building and maintaining connections with other providers and organizations by supporting them with events and groups. Provide peer perspective in work groups when invited and advocate for collaboration to support the community.
- Support consumers and family members as well as organizations requesting CFAC application process and provide technical assistance when needed with application questions and using the Region 5 website to find CFAC information.
- Support and attend Nebraskans with lived Experience meetings and provide consumer specialist support with training to be created and offered to the community for continuing education as well as conference planning.

MANAGEMENT REPORT
FY 25-26

	Associates in Counseling & Treatment	Blue Valley Behavioral Health	The Bridge Behavioral Health	CenterPointe	Goodwill Industries	HopsSpoke	Houses of Hope	TASC	Integrated Behavioral Health	Lutheran Family Services	Mental Health Association	Mental Health Crisis Center	St. Monica's	TeleCare	Wellbeing Initiative
Audited Financial Statements and Insurance Due Date Requirements are Variable by Provider	Audited Financial Statement	N/A												N/A	
	General Liability Insurance	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X		X	X
	Motor Veh. Liab. Insurance	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X		X	X
	Work. Comp. Insurance	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
	Professional Liab Insurance	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X		X	X
	Cyber Liability Insurance	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X		X	X
FY 25 Fee Schedules	Dir. & Off. Liab. Insurance	N/A	X	X	X	X	X		N/A	X		N/A		X	X
July 1															
Aug 15	Actuals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oct 1	Subcontracts (all currently ongoing - FY 26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oct 31	Complaints/Grievances, Appeals & Critical Incidents														
	Recovery Outcomes														
	Ineligibles and Denials														
	Zero Suicide														
	Service Enhancement/Reinvestment	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Agency Board of Directors List	N/A							N/A					N/A	N/A
Nov 1	Complaints/Grievances, Appeals & Critical Incidents														
Jan 31	Recovery Outcomes														
	Ineligibles and Denials														
	Zero Suicide														
	Perception of Care (July-December 2025)														
	Service Enhancement/Reinvestment	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Complaints/Grievances, Appeals & Critical Incidents														
	Recovery Outcomes														

MANAGEMENT REPORT
FY 25-26

	Associates in Counseling & Treatment	Blue Valley Behavioral Health	The Bridge Behavioral Health	CenterPointe	Goodwill Industries	HopeSpoke	Houses of Hope	TASC	Integrated Behavioral Health	Lutheran Family Services	Mental Health Association	Mental Health Crisis Center	St. Monica's	TeleCare	Wellbeing Initiative
April 30	Ineligibles and Denials														
	Zero Suicide														
	Service Enhancement/Reinvestment		N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	N/A		
	Complaints/Grievances, Appeals & Critical Incidents														
	Recovery Outcomes														
	Ineligibles and Denials														
July 31	Zero Suicide														
	Perception of Care (January-June 2026)														
	Service Enhancement/Reinvestment														
	Documents Received	7	8	8	8	8	8	2	3	8	2	7	3	7	8
	Cumulative Weekly Capacity Reports Received	14	14	11	13	14	13	14	14	8	5	N/A	1	14	13
	Total Received on Time	21	22	19	21	22	20	16	17	16	7	7	4	21	21
	Documents Expected	7	8	8	8	8	8	2	3	8	2	7	3	7	8
	Cumulative Weekly Capacity Reports Received	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	N/A	14	14	14
	Total Due	21	22	22	22	22	22	16	17	22	16	7	17	21	22
	% of Compliance to Date	100%	100%	86%	95%	100%	91%	100%	100%	73%	44%	100%	24%	100%	95%

X: Present (on time or with approved extension)
L: Late (with no approved extension)
I: Incomplete (did not meet agreed upon structure)

80% Attendance Report for FY 25-26

As of May 19, 2025

Network Provider	Network Provider Meetings												Regional Quality Improvement Team Meetings												# Attended	# Possible	% Attended
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June			
ACT		X																							1	1	100%
Blue Valley		A																							0	1	0%
The Bridge		X																							1	1	100%
CenterPointe		X																							1	1	100%
Fremont Hospital		A																							0	1	0%
Goodwill Ind		X																							1	1	100%
HopeSpoke		X																							1	1	100%
Houses of Hope		X																							1	1	100%
IBHS		X																							1	1	100%
Lutheran Family		X																							1	1	100%
Mary Lanning		A																							0	1	0%
M.H.A.		X																							1	1	100%
MHCC		A																							0	1	0%
St. Monica's		X																							1	1	100%
TeleCare		X																							1	1	100%
Wellbeing Initiative		X																							1	1	100%

*NP Meeting Cancelled

11

15

73%

Date:

YAB Meeting

✓	Name	Address	County/ Grade	Phone	Email
	Anya Boerner	656 Poplar Street Syracuse, NE 68446	Otoe/ Senior	812-290-8399	anyaboerner@gmail.com
	Aubrey Ninneman	512 North Harris St, Wilber, NE, 68465	Saline/ Senior	402-480-8355	aubreyninneman@yahoo.com
	BriAnna Hartman	223 N Hight St. Wilber, NE 68465	Saline/ Sophmore	402-821-8216	Brihartman09@gmail.com
	Brooke Mitchell	610 Barger Ave. Hebron, NE	Thayer/ Eigth	402 768 1397	tiffanymitchell1@gmail.com
	Bristol Titus	1128 320th St Hiawatha, KS 66434	Richardson / Sophmore	785-288-1958	bristol.titus@fallscityps.org
	Connor VanLaningham	500 Jefferson st. Clatonia, NE 68328	Saline/ Sophmore	402-989-2231	connorvanlaningham@gmail.com
	Ethan Jonas	210 West 2nd St Wilber, NE 68465	Saline/ Sophmore	402-803-4725	ethanionas913@gmail.com
	Eva Kuhn	1177 Oak Street Syracuse, NE 68446	Otoe/ Eigth	402-219-2674	Ekuhn1026@gmail.com
	Garrett Ruth	560 28 Rd, Rising City, NE	Butler/ Sophmore	402-954-8318	garrettaruth@gmail.com
	Josslyn Bangert	2224 Stone St Falls City, NE 68355	Richardson / Freshman	402-883-7364	jossbangert@gmail.com
	Jessica Bauers	201 W 3rd Street Stromsburg, NE 68666	Polk/ Senior	402-646-8199	Jessierae2026@gmail.com
	Jacob Novak	792 County Road 2400 Crete, NE 68333	Saline/ Freshman	402-641-3458	jlnovak402@gmail.com
	Jade Spencer	1105 North Nebraska Ave York, NE 68467	York/ Sophmore	402-366-4962	jspencer7109@gmail.com
	Kenley Alexander	64930 709 Trail Verdon, NE 68457	Richardson / Sophmore	402-882-7601	kenley_alexander82@gmail.com
	Kaylie Fritz	1125 county road 2200 Crete, NE 68333	Saline/ Junior	402-821-7794 c	kaylie.fritz@wilberclatonia.org
	Kaytlin Rhodd	70274 656 Ave. Falls City NE, 68355	Richardson / Freshman	402-801-1983	kaytlin.rhodd@fallscityps.org

Date:

YAB Meeting

	Kelsey Zoubek	1075 County Road M Western, NE 68464	Saline/ Senior	402-921-9509	kelseyzoubek184@gmail.com
	Monica Zoubek	1075 County Road M Western, NE 68464	Saline/ Senior	402-921-9511	monicazoubek8@gmail.com
	Paul Dale	885 2nd St. PO Box 125 Utica, NE 68456	Seward/ Sophomore	402-710-2034	pauldale916@gmail.com
	Rylen Mitchell	110 Sunset Dr Hebron, NE	Thayer/ Eighth	402-768-1837	rylen.mitchell@thayercentral.net
	Sam Janning	13 Cypress St Yutan, NE 68023	Saunders/ Sophomore	402-909-3822	samjanning719@gmail.com
	Samantha Novak	792 County Road 2400 Crete, NE 68333	Saline/ Junior	402-641-2108	sjnovak52@gmail.com
	Teara Marrs	579 Thorne St. Syracuse, NE 68446	Otoe/ Freshman	402-269-4142	tearamarrs@icloud.com
	Victoria Hutchison	627 4th St. Otoe, NE 68417	Otoe/ Senior	402-269-4099	Victorylane24@icloud.com
	Sandy Morrissey	Region 5 Systems 3600 Union Drive, Lincoln NE 68516		402-441-4368 w 402-483-5315 c	smorrissey@region5systems.net
	Teri Effle	Region 5 Systems 3600 Union Drive, Lincoln NE 68516		402-441-4367 w 402-429-9959 c	teffle@region5systems.net
	Kayla Lathrop	Region 5 Systems 3600 Union Drive, Lincoln NE 68516		402-441-4346 w 701-833-5043 c	klathrop@region5systems.net

2026 Legislative Session*

January						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	DAY 13	DAY 14	DAY 15	DAY 16	DAY 17	

February						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	DAY 18	DAY 19	DAY 20	DAY 21	DAY 22	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	DAY 31	DAY 32	DAY 33	DAY 34	DAY 35	

March						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
	DAY 52	DAY 53				

April						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Federal & State Holidays

January 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 16 – Presidents' Day

Legislative Recess Days

February 13
March 2, 13, 16, 27
April 3, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16

*The Speaker reserves the right to revise the session calendar.

Region 5 Systems						
Upcoming Trainings						
All trainings to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska unless otherwise noted						
Date/Times	Topic / Description	Presenter	Location	CEUs	Cost	Target Audience
November 10, 2025 1:00pm - 4:30pm	DLA-20 Adult Full	CenterPointe	Virtual - Teams	3.0 LMHP, LMFT, Social Work, Professional Counseling	Free	Network Providers
November 14, 2025 10:00 am - 12:00pm	Lost and Found: Case Management Strategies with Those Who Hoard	Jennifer Baker, LICSW	Region 5 Systems	2.0 LMHP, LMFT, Social Work, Professional Counseling	Free	Community
November 14, 2025 12:00pm - 1:00pm	QPR Gatekeeper Training	Prevention Staff	Virtual	Certificate provided through QPR Institute website upon course completion	Free	Community
December 5, 2025 8:00am - 12:00pm	DLA-20 Adult Full	Lutheran Family Services	Virtual - Teams	3.0 LMHP, LMFT, Social Work, Professional Counseling	Free	Network Providers
December 9, 2025 8:30am - 5:30pm	Youth Mental Health First Aid	Cheryl Turner	Virtual	Certificate provided through MHFA Connect website upon course completion	Free	Community
January 23 & 30, 2026	Motivational Interviewing Phase I	CenterPointe	CenterPointe Campus for Health and Wellbeing 2202 S. 11th St. Lincoln, NE	14 LMHP, LMFT, Social Work, Professional Counseling	Free	Network Providers
February 10 - 13, 2026 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.	BETA- Behavioral Health Threat Assessment	Various Speakers	Innovation Campus 2021 Transformation Drive Lincoln, NE 68508	20 LMHP, LMFT, Social Work, Professional Counseling	Free for Law Enforcement, Dispatch, and Crisis Response Team Members \$250 for community members	Law Enforcement, Dispatch, Crisis Response, and Behavioral Health Professionals
February 27 & March 6, 2026	Motivational Interviewing Phase II	CenterPointe	CenterPointe Campus for Health and Wellbeing 2202 S. 11th St. Lincoln, NE	14 LMHP, LMFT, Social Work, Professional Counseling	Free	Network Providers
June 23 - 26, 2026	BETA- Behavioral Health	Various Speakers	Don Clifton Professional	20	Free for Law Enforcement, Dispatch, and Crisis Response, Crisis Response, Crisis Response,	Law Enforcement, Dispatch, Crisis Response,

More information can be found on Region 5 Systems' website: <http://www.region5systems.net>
 Contact: Theresa Henning for more information at: thenning@region5systems.net

