



REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

February 9, 2026

10:15 a.m.

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

ROLL CALL

COUNTY	BOARD MEMBERS	ABSENT	PRESENT
BUTLER	SCOTT GRIESS		X
FILLMORE	KENNY HARRE		X
GAGE	EMILY HAXBY		X
JEFFERSON	DANIELLE SCHWAB		X
JOHNSON	LES AGENA		X
LANCASTER	CHRISTA YOAKUM		X
NEMAHA	MICHAEL WEISS		X
OTOE	DAN CROWNOVER		X
PAWNEE	JAN LANG		X
POLK	JERRY WESTRING	X	
RICHARDSON	JOHN CAVERZAGIE		X
SALINE	RAY ROHRIG		X
SAUNDERS	BILL REECE		X
SEWARD	DARRELL ZABROCKI		X
THAYER	DEAN KRUEGER		X
YORK	DEB ROBERTSON		X

Roll was called; a quorum was present.

Others Present: Traci Cooney, Tami DeShon, Theresa Henning, Trina Janis, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Sandy Morrissey, Erin Rourke, and Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Region 5 Systems

HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER

Yoakum called the meeting to order at 10:19 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 February 1, 2026.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Trina Janis (5years) was recognized for her dedicated service to Region 5 Systems.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Regional Governing Board Minutes 11/10/2025:

- Weiss made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the minutes as presented. All present voted aye except for Rohrig who abstained. Motion carried 14-0.

Election of Officers and Appointment to BHAC:

- Kreifels presented the 2026 Election of Officers for the Regional Governing Board Executive Committee document, and the Board proposed the following roles and commissioners to fulfill them:
Chair: Christa Yoakum; Vice Chair: Bill Reece; Member at Large: Kenny Harre; Member at Large: Darrell Zabrocki. Commissioner Kenny Harre volunteered to fulfill the RGB Representative on the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee.
Krueger made a motion, seconded by Lang, to accept the positions as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

Financial Report:

- DeShon presented the financial report through December 31, 2025. With 50 percent of the fiscal year completed, the total administrative expenditure stands at 39.58% percent.
- DeShon noted that on the Summary of All Administrative Programs, expenditures will catch up due to January being a 3-month payroll and additional invoice expenses will be coming in and payments going out. Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the Financial Report as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

Contractual Agreements:

- Henning provided an update on a new contract agreement with Andrea Hincapie who provides Narcan training within the Region 5 Systems catchment area as part of the SOR funding. Agena made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the contract with Andrea Hincapie as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.
- Henning provided an update on a recommendation from the Opioid Steering Committee in regard to the Nebraska Pharmacist Association. This recommendation is to continue funding the Nebraska Pharmacist Association for the three vending machines. This is a 3-year grant to continue the funding to allow Region 5 Systems to continue stocking those vending machines, provide maintenance, and software updates. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Schwab, to approve this contract with Nebraska Pharmacist Association as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.
- Henning provided an update on an amendment with Department of Behavioral Health to increase Region 5 Systems funding by \$118,605 to provide funding for the Coordinated Specialty Care/First Episode Psychosis implementation within the Region. Reece made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the contract with Department of Behavioral Health as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.
- Henning provided an update to three contracts with speakers for the Behavioral Health Threat Assessment training. Caverzagie made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the contract with three speakers for Behavioral Health Threat Assessment training as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

FY26 Fund Utilization Strategy:

- Tyerman-Harper explained that Region 5 Systems continues to monitor monthly utilization of services by providers and ensures the funds are being used for the services seeing higher demand above their initial allocation. Region 5 Systems is starting to feel the impact of previous year's budget cuts. Prior years, VCRC and SquareOne allowed for more flexibility of the use and shifting of our funds due to the services within these two programs not being fully operable. Now that VCRC and SquareOne are operating at full capacity or close to it, these funds are not available to be shifted to other services seeing higher utilization, thereby we are realizing less flexibility in shifting funds where needed. Shifts occur from one provider's contract into another provider's contract to meet the demand. Providers have been understanding in these shifts. Historically Region 5 has always been able to cover a provider's overproduction and providers are

operating in good faith Region 5 Systems will be able to fulfill this approach moving forward through the fiscal year. We have sought verbal agreement with the Division of Behavioral Health and other Regional Administrators to shift unutilized funds from other Region's contracts into Region 5's contract to cover the over utilization of services above our initial allocation.

Provider Contract Amendments:

- Henning presented November 2025 current shifts in funds based on utilization. Harre made a motion, seconded by Zabrocki, to approve the shifts as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

FY27 Preliminary Allocations:

- DeShon presented preliminary allocation for FY 27 in the categories of funding source: state, federal, county, and other funds. The main change in state allocation will be an increase due to the FEP contract for coordinated specialty care with Lutheran Family Services. Total state allocation for FY 27 is \$18,701,142. Weiss made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve the preliminary numbers. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

FY25 Network Compliance Monitoring:

- Rourke presented DBH's audit of compliance with Region 5 Systems' contract deliverables across the various areas of network management and system coordination. This was a positive review with no findings. Schwab made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve this report. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

FY25 Services Purchased Audit Monitoring:

- Rourke presented DBH's audit of Region 5 Systems' funding of expense-based and non-fee for services. This was a positive review with no findings. Reece made a motion, seconded by Lang, to approve this report. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

FY25 Prevention Audit Monitoring:

- Rourke presented DBH's audit of prevention coordination. This was a positive review with no findings. Krueger made a motion, seconded by Zabrocki, to approve this report. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

FY25 Prevention Programmatic Monitoring:

- Rourke presented DBH's audit of prevention. There was one finding as outlined in the report and Region 5 Systems has submitted a corrective action plan to DBH that has been accepted. Caverzagie made a motion, seconded by Schwab, to approve this report. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

BHAC Membership Changes:

- Tyerman-Harper reported that three members are no longer on this committee.
 - Ripley – Accepted a position with a provider.
 - Ott – No longer a commissioner with York County.
 - Krenke – Work obligations.Schwab made a motion, seconded by Agena, to approve the member changes. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

Conflict of Interest Summary – BHAC:

- Tyerman-Harper introduced the conflict-of-interest results for BHAC members. Lang made a motion, seconded by Harre, to approve the conflict-of-interest responses. All present voted aye. Motion carried 15-0.

RGB Attendance:

- Kreifels shared the executive committee recommended sharing Board member attendance at the RGB meetings. With the no longer mailing Board packets, some Board members are unintentionally missing meetings. As a support to Board members, a strategy has been implemented to use Phonevite to call commissioners prior to the meeting as a reminder, hopefully resulting in a quorum. Region 5 Systems will explore the possibility of having a text option vs call and report back at the next Board meeting.

OTHER UPDATES / INFORMATION

2026 Legislative Calendar: Included for your information.

Behavioral Health/System Coordination/Legislative Updates:

- 1915i
 - Governor's budget states the services within the 1915i waiver are "no longer a need" for this waiver. The behavioral health system and community would disagree that there is no longer a need for the services outlined in this waiver. The waiver was withdrawn from CMS for approval.
- CCBHC
 - Began July 1. Reports from providers say that there are issues with the EHR system and the billing with the managed care organizations. Providers recently received guidance on billing processes/policies.
- Service definitions
 - Combining service definitions between Division of Behavioral Health and Medicaid. Last opportunity for public comment is January 31, 2026. More information about next steps will be sought.
- Rural Health Transformation Fund
 - Nebraska applied for \$200 million and received \$218 million per year. The funding is allocated for up to 5 years. Behavioral health areas of focus for funding include nursing home behavioral health consultation pilot, expanding primary care and behavioral health care integration, central dispatch for crisis response telehealth, crisis stabilization renovation for existing projects, and consideration of secure transportation.
- System planning
 - There continues to be challenges with accessing beds for people who have an inpatient mental health board commitment at Lincoln Regional Center. The competition for beds for competency evaluation and restoration and Mental Health Board commitments. Length of stay is over 800 days average. There was agreement from DBH, Region 6, and Region 5 Systems to do some planning around those challenges, and to invite system partners to provide input.
 - Mental Health Crisis Center and hospitals were full for several days in January 2026.
- Legislation
 - LB722 – Senator Quick
 - Clean up bill on behalf of Regions. Expands the risk mitigation portion. This would allow Region funds to be used to pay the landlord for extensive damages to a property for people with substance use challenges.
 - LB723 – Senator Quick
 - Provide for a bill to allow Nebraska not to go into further restrictions than the Federal government for Medicaid.
 - LB724 – Senator Quick
 - Ask for a cost study of rates for behavioral health services especially with the service definition changes.
 - LB740 – Senator McKinney
 - Requiring Medicaid to file a SPA or 1115 waiver to reimburse supportive housing services.
 - LB860 – Senator Bostar
 - Programming for youth up to age 21 in regard to additional services and treatment.

- LB866 – Senator Ballard
 - Utilize the Opioid Recovery Trust Fund for drug prevention for law enforcement and provide for drug detection.
 - LB945 – Senator Dorn
 - Continue to true up the difference in reimbursement rates for providers in regard to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements.
 - LB1031 – Senator Dorn
 - Require appropriations from the Hospital Quality Assurance and Access Assessment Fund and state intent regarding Medicaid/Medicare rates for mental health providers.
 - LB1040 – Senator Kauth
 - Expand mental health commitment act to allow spouse, friend, or anyone concerned to file a petition on someone.
 - LB1043 – Senator Meyer
 - Include prescription antidepressants, antipsychotics, and anticonvulsants on the preferred drug list under Medical Assistance Act.
 - LB1071 and LB1072 – Senator Arch – Budget bills
- Upcoming BETA Trainings
 - Winter 2026 – February 10-13
 - Summer 2026 – June 23-26
 - State Opioid Response Grant
 - Approved for Deterra - safe storage/disposal of opioid medications are available.
 - Prevention System
 - Regional Leadership Coalition will meet in February.
 - Consideration of the tobacco tax increase.
 - Housing Coordination
 - Fluctuation with federal administration. In December, set to change programming because of reduced funding. Now renewals will take place. This is all due to litigation at the federal level.

EPC Rate Per Capita:

- Rourke pointed out that there was an updated version of the report available. New version is run by the adult population rather than total population. EPC by county of admission.

FY26 Q2 EPC Pilot Expansion:

- July- December data regarding Mary Lanning Hospital and Methodist Fremont Hospital EPC admits.

Q2 Consumer Coordination Report: Included for your information.

FY26 Capacity Utilization Summaries: Included for your information. Through December 2026 we should be at 50% utilization of funds and we are at 51.3% overall. Thereby using funds sooner in the year than budgeted.

FY26 Management Report: Included for your information.

FY 26 Training Plan: Included for your information.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 2/23 – 9:00 a.m. – Network Provider Meeting – Teams
- 2/25 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting – Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive, Lincoln, NE (hybrid)
- 3/9 – 10:15 a.m. – RGB Meeting – Apace, 4433 S. 70th Street, Lincoln, NE (hybrid)

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.