



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 28, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive (hybrid)

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Janak and Michele Vana

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Anitra Warrior, Tami DeShon, Traci Cooney, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Sandy Morrissey, Kim Michael, Erin Rourke, and Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Region 5 Systems

HOUSEKEEPING / ANNOUNCEMENTS / INTRODUCTIONS

Meinders called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. followed by announcements and roll call. A quorum was present.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Meinders 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 January 14, 2026.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION, WENDI ANDERSON, HOPESPOKE

Anderson gave a presentation on HopeSpoke. She presented and discussed the history and services offered.

CONSENT AGENDA

Pohlman made a motion, seconded by Watts, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda includes the 10/29/25 BHAC minutes, the 11/10/25 RGB minutes, and FY 25-26 Compliance Management Report. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Contractual Agreements:

- Henning provided an update on a new contract agreement with an individual named Andrea Hincapie who provides Narcan training within the Region 5 Systems catchment area as part of the SOR funding. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Pohlman, to recommend the Board approve this contract with Andrea Hincapie as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

- 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 3 vending machines. This is a 3-year grant to continue that funding to allow Region 5 Systems to continue stocking those vending machines, provide maintenance and software updates. Mulcahy made a motion, seconded by Watts, to recommend the Board approve this contract with Nebraska Pharmacist Association as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.
- 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. Watts made a motion, seconded by Joseph, to recommend the Board approve this contract with Department of Behavioral Health as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.
- Henning provided an update to 3 contracts with speakers for the Behavioral Health Threat Assessment training. Pohlman made a motion, seconded by Joseph, to recommend the Board approve this contract with 3 speakers for Behavioral Health Threat Assessment training as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

Provider Contract Amendments:

Henning presented that page 13 shows November 2025 current shifts in funds based on utilization. She stated that Region 5 Systems staff are currently keeping a close eye on funds and draw downs. Watts made a motion, seconded by Meinders, to move the document to the Regional Governing Board for ratification. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

FY 25 Network Compliance Monitoring:

Rourke presented that this is DBH's audit of compliance with contract deliverables across the various areas of network management and system coordination. She pointed out that there were no findings in this report. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Meinders, to approve this report. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

FY 25 Services Purchased Audit Monitoring:

Rourke presented that this is an audit that Region 5 Systems Fiscal department works with Department of Behavioral Health on expense-based services and non-fee for services. She pointed out that there were no finding on this report. Pohlman made a motion, seconded by Mulcahy, to approve this report. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

FY 25 Prevention Audit Monitoring:

Morrissey reported that Region 5 is meeting DHHS expectations. Watts made a motion, seconded by Pohlman, to approve this report. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

FY 25 Prevention Programmatic Monitoring:

Morrissey reported that there were 2 discrepancies on this report that Department of Behavioral Health corrected. First, that 12 hours of continuing education was required by all coalition leaders as well as full-time preventionists. Previously part time wasn't required to complete the 12 hours of continuing education. They will be updating the manual to reflect all people must complete the required training, moving forward. The second discrepancy is that Department of Behavioral Health wasn't sure where in any of their guidelines it is stated that 75% of their work plans had to be evidence based and within the Region 5 Systems catchment area. Department of Behavioral Health stated that Region 5 Systems was only at 61% but Morrissey clarified that 15 of the 16 counties receive funding. Pohlman made a motion, seconded by Meinders, to approve this report. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

BHAC Membership (Ripley, Ott, Krenke):

Tyerman-Harper updated the committee that 3 members are no longer available to serve on this committee.

Ripley – Accepted a position with a provider.

Ott – Recalled.

Krenke – Work obligations.

Watts made a motion, seconded by Joseph, to approve the member changes. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

FY 27 Preliminary Allocation:

DeShon presented that Region 5 Systems is working on allocation of state funds, contributions and other contracts. Main change on state allocation will be an increase to the FEP contract for coordinated specialty care with Lutheran Family Services. Total state allocation for FY 27 is \$18,701,142. Page 19 shows initial/preliminary allocations to providers as well as housing and a few other initiatives. Joseph made a motion, seconded by Watts, to approve the preliminary numbers and move the report to the Regional Governing Board. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

Conflict of Interest Summary Report:

Tyerman-Harper introduced page 20 that shows conflict of interest results for this committee. Meinders made a motion, seconded by Pohlman, to approve the conflict-of-interest responses and move the report to the Regional Governing Board. All present voted aye. Motion carried 9-0.

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 systems 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 Grant
 - Nebraska applied for \$200 million and received \$208 million. Primary funding will be for Primary Care. This grant is for 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 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. Agreement from DBH, Region 6 and Region 5 to do some planning around those challenges, also invite system partners to provide input.
 - Mental Health Crisis Center and hospitals were full in January.
- 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
 - Adds to the Opioid Recovery Trust Fund for drug prevention and a cash fund for law enforcement and provide for drug detection.
 - LB945 – Senator Dorn
 - Continue to try for access and make up the difference 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 Detera - safe storage/disposal of opioid medications are available.
 - Prevention System
Regional Leadership Coalition will meet in February.
Hope the tobacco tax increase passes.
 - 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.

FY 26 Utilization/Contract Shift Approach:

Use all state funds before more are issued. If one provider has funds “left-over”, shift to another provider who needs them.

SAMHSA Grants Update:

No longer an issue. SAMHSA issued a message that some federal grants would be withdrawn. 24 hours later, that decision was rescinded.

Consumer Coordination Quarterly Report – Q2: Included for your information.

FY 26 Capacity Utilization Summaries: Included for your information.

Training Plan: Included for your information.

Service Definition Update/Timeline:

Previously discussed in this meeting.

Rural Health Transformation Fund:

Previously discussed in this meeting.

System Planning – Lincoln Regional Center:

Previously discussed in this meeting.

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.

FY 26 Q2 EPC Pilot Expansion:

July- December data in regard to Mary Lanning Hospital and Methodist Fremont Hospital EPC admits. Meinders asked about the pilot project with a jail in Region 4. Kriefels will look into further information and present his findings to this committee at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Michael emailed out the annual BHAC Opinion Surveys. Due January 30.

Kriefels updated that IBHS' VCRC is about 75% full. They have expanded who may refer for this service beyond law enforcement.

Kriefels will provide updates to VCRC and SquareOne at the next meeting.

IMPORTANT DATES

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

ADJOURN

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.