

Region 5 Systems Opioid Steering Committee (OSC)

January 13, 2026 – 1:00-3:00

Region 5 Systems / Hybrid

3600 Union Drive

Lincoln, NE

Members Present: (in person) Erik Delaney, Maria Hatfield, Amy Holman, Sandy Morrissey, Ben Murry, Simera Reynolds, and Rebecca White

Members Present: (virtual) Ryan Carruthers, Jeff Curry, Cheyenne Drudik, Oscar Gonzales, Jill Kuzelka, Rachel Mulcahy, Laura Osborne, Sonya Turco, and Christa Yoakum

Members Absent: Chris Allende, Heather Anders, Grant Brueggmann, Taisa Brumagen, Makenzie Crew, Ryan Dale, Bryan Davis, Dr. LuAnn Even, Raegan Hain, Colby Holz, Ruth Karlsson, Kerry Kernen, Stephanie Knight, Jeri Johns, Vic Johns, Jessica Loos, Laura McDougall, Dave Miers, Sandra Miller, Michon Morrow, Jenn Nelson, Brian Peters, Jill Pokorny, Ryan Pospisil, Traci Reuter, Amy Reynoldson, Dean Rohwer, Will Schmeekle, Kim Showalter, Jeff Sorenson, Bullet Splichal, Ronnie Spradley, Cynthia Steele, LeAnn Stevenson, Jerry Taylor, Ed Thornbrugh, Terra Uhing, Sheila Vinton, and Joseph Wright

Others Present: Donna Dekker, Theresa Henning, Trina Janis, Joseph LeDuc, and Joe Pastuszak

Welcome

Trina opened the meeting at 1:00 pm

Minutes from November 18, 2025

Following committee review, Amy Holman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Simera Reynolds. Motion carried by a majority vote in favor. There were no abstentions.

Revised Opioid Steering Committee Charter

The charter was discussed at the previous meeting, during which suggested changes were identified. Trina incorporated those changes and presented the revised charter for approval. She asked if there were any questions or comments. Ben Murry made a motion to approve the revised charter, seconded by Erik Delaney. Motion carried by a majority vote in favor. There were no abstentions.

Obvious Expenditure Guidelines and Application

Trina discussed the revised Obvious Expenditure Guidelines handout. Trina noted obvious expenditure requirements in the five bullets at the bottom of the handout. Erik Delaney made a motion to approve the Obvious Expenditure Guidelines and Application, seconded by Ben Murry. Motion carried by a majority vote in favor. There were no abstentions.

Obvious Expenditure Proposal Review Procedure

Discussion occurred regarding review procedures and the understanding that not all items may be brought to the OSC for consideration. While Region 5 Systems emphasized that transparency with the OSC remains a top priority, it was noted that, although rare, certain circumstances may require decisions to be made without prior OSC review. These situations may involve non-public information or time-sensitive matters requiring prompt action. Region 5 Systems stated that the goal is to be strategic

and efficient with everyone's time while maintaining full transparency and alignment with established priorities that OSC has helped develop.

Ryan Carruthers made a motion to approve the Obvious Expenditure Proposal Review Procedure as presented, seconded by Rachel Mulcahy. Voting aye were Ryan Carruthers, Erik Delaney, Cheyenne Drudik, Maria Hatfield, Amy Holman, Sandy Morrissey, Rachel Mulcahy, Ben Murry, Laura Osborne, Simeria Reynolds, Sonja Turco, Rebecca White, Christa Yoakum; Motion carried.

Nebraska Pharmacists Association – Obvious Expenditure Proposal

Amy Holman presented an Obvious Expenditure funding request proposal to the OSC to continue the Vending Machine Program for an additional three years. She provided a handout outlining vending machine outcomes, Grab-n-Go site distribution, and partnerships with Rural Health Departments over the past two years, demonstrating ongoing community needs.

Amy noted that the program plans to transition from branded Narcan to generic Naloxone. The generic product has been tested and confirmed to work effectively in the vending machines, and packaging will include information clarifying that it is the same medication, simply a generic equivalent. Safe Sex kits are provided at no cost through the Nebraska AIDS Project. She also shared that first aid kits are being provided by the Lincoln Hygiene Network at a low cost.

Theresa expressed appreciation for how the OSC, and partners are collaboratively leveraging multiple funding sources to support the program.

Additionally, Amy reported that the City of Lincoln is installing four new vending machines at the following locations:

- Downtown Bus Station
- F Street Recreation Center
- The Hub
- The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

Ben Murry made a motion to approve the 3-Year Continuation of the Vending Machine Program, seconded by Erik Delaney. Motion carried by a majority vote in favor. There was one abstention, Rebecca White.

Changes to Flex Fund Guidelines

Trina discussed proposed changes to the Flex Fund Guidelines, including a reduction of the maximum allowable amount per person from **\$5,000 to \$3,000**. Additional wording was incorporated into the guidelines to provide clarification on what would be an approved request. Trina emphasized that **requested funds are intended to remove a barrier to treatment and are only for short-term needs**.

Blueprint

It was noted that the Blueprint is reviewed annually each March. Trina requested that all members review the current Blueprint and submit any suggested revisions or recommendations to her via email by the **end of January**.

Upcoming Summit

As part of the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, ten individuals within the R5S catchment area attended the RX and Illicit Drug Summit in Nashville in April/2025. As a condition of attendance, participants agreed to reconvene following the summit and form a workgroup to develop plans for implementation over the next one to two years. After discussion, the committee determined that

hosting a regional summit would provide broader benefit to individuals and organizations within the service area.

The committee will host a **one-day summit on September 1, 2026**, at the **Innovation Campus**. The event will feature local speakers, with additional presentations provided by **Opioid Response Network (ORN)**. More to come on this.

Next Meeting: March 10, 2026, 1:00-3:00 Hybrid, 3600 Union Dr. Lincoln, NE 68516