



**REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**

March 9, 2026

10:15 a.m.

Apache, 4433 S. 70<sup>th</sup> 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, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, Erin Rourke, and Amanda Tyerman-Harper, Region 5 Systems

**HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER**

Yoakum called the meeting to order at 10:17 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](http://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 March 1, 2026.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Weiss made a motion, seconded by Reece, to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 13-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS**

**Regional Governing Board Minutes 2/9/2026:**

Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Rohrig, to approve the minutes as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 13-0.

### **Financial Report:**

Deshon presented pages 6-8. Page 6 shows the budget balance as of January 2026. Page 7 shows the income statement as of January 2026. Year to date percentage utilized for mental health is 60.9% and substance use is 61.34%. Region 5 should be at 58.33% at this point in time. Kreifels reminded members that he does have a verbal agreement with other Regions to receive some of their excess funds if we go over budget this year.

Page 8 shows the administrative budget as of January 2026. This budget is currently at 50.55% utilized. That is lower than projected for this time period, but Region 5 expects it to increase to projection due to some upcoming annual fees the agency has that haven't been accounted for yet this year.

Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Rohrig, to approve the budgets as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 13-0.

### **FY 27 County Match**

- **Statutory Required Match**

Kreifels presented pages 9-11. Page 9 shows the requested amount from each county in FY26 and the FY27 requested amount per county including the required match based on Nebraska statute 71-808 and requested additional match dollars per county. Kreifels explained that the request for FY27 is the same-as last year; amounts haven't changed.

Lang made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to approve the statutorily required match as presented. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County Seward County, Thayer County and York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson and Polk County. Motion carried.

- **Requests for Additional County Match**

Page 11 shows an example letter that will be sent to each county commissioner and county clerk. It will show how much is required by statute and how much additional match that Region 5 is asking for requesting per their specific county. A motion was requested to move forward the additional county match fund requests to the counties.

Harre made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve Region 5 to send the letter via certified mail to each county. Voting aye were Fillmore County, Gage County, Jefferson County, Lancaster County, Nemaha County, Otoe County, Pawnee County, Richardson County, Saline County, Saunders County Seward County, Thayer County and York County; Nays none; Absent: Butler County, Johnson and Polk County. Motion carried.

### **Provider Contract Amendments**

Henning presented the funding shifts that took place for December, January and February.

Lang made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the shifts as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 13-0.

### **FY 25 Network Audit Monitoring**

Tyerman-Harper explained that DBH had audited Region 5 on the audits that Region 5 does on providers. DBH had a finding. Region 5 requested a reconsideration of the finding and was denied. Region 5 responded with a plan of correction that was accepted by DBH.

Krueger made a motion, seconded by Zabrocki, to approve the report as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 13-0.

### **OTHER UPDATES / INFORMATION**

#### **Behavioral Health/System Coordination/Legislative Updates:**

- Kreifels updated members that the Appropriations Committee released the approved budget last Friday. There were no other cuts to DBH than the original ones that DBH agreed and submitted.
- Rural Health Transformation Funds – Page 15 outlines what these funds will be used for.
- System Planning/Summit – June 30 and July 1, Region 5 will be holding a summit regarding LRC beds. Invited parties include law enforcement, LRC, DBH and members of the legislature. Commissioners are welcome to attend as well. The meeting will be led by the Policy Research Association, an unbiased group.
- LB722 – Clean up language for using the Documentary Stamp Tax funds. This bill has moved to Select File.
- LB945 – Regarding hospital assessment funds. This bill has not made it out of committee.
- Emergency Systems Training – Training will be held for law enforcement in Auburn, NE on April 17. Targeted counties are Otoe, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee and Richardson. This training is open to other counties also.
- Youth System Coordination – SquareOne is planning their respite beds to be operational in April/May. They will have 4 respite beds for youth. The average stay is projected to be 1-7 days.
- State Opioid Response Grant – DBH will not fund the Billion Pill Pledge, but they could fund lock boxes and a campaign they are working on around Narcan stigma on campuses and lock boxes for campuses. The funds are \$176,000. For the upcoming fiscal year Opioid Remediation Settlement Fund priorities will include Mobile MOUD, substance abuse treatment capacity development and creation of a public dashboard for project outcomes, and the Billion Pill Pledge.
- Prevention – Applying for \$30,000-\$35,000 of Partnership For Success carry over funds.
- Housing - Surveys were recently completed by participants, landlords, system partners, and referral sources with mostly positive feedback. Area for quality improvement that was identified was improved communication by housing staff. Region 5 was also approved for 10 more HUD funded Lincoln Permanent Housing units and are currently working with landlords to acquire units. One person/family was housed by the March 1 deadline. Active efforts are being made to recruit and contract with additional landlords.
- Network – Information on complaints, appeals and critical incidents are on page 23.

#### **Phonevite – Advance Reminder of RGB Meeting**

Henning provided input to members that there is not another cost-effective program that allows texting. She reminded members that the voice call comes across caller ID as Ms. Cooney's number. Members are able to call or text that number back.

#### **Potential adjustment to EPC:**

- Region 5 currently contracts with Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings. Mary Lanning provides EPC beds when needed by law enforcement from four counties on the west side of our service area. Region 5 also contracts with Methodist Hospital in Fremont. Methodist provides EPC beds when needed by law enforcement from two counties on the north side of our service area. Methodist recently let Region 5 know they no longer want to contract for this service as of July 1, 2026. Region 5 reached out to Methodist to find out what they would need in order to renew their contract. Region 5 will continue negotiations with them.
- DHHS is negotiating with Bryan Medical Center and CHI (CommonSpirit Health) to utilize hospital assessment funds for people placed on EPC and to offset expenses. Some hospitals will receive an increase in funding over the next several years. In Omaha (R6), CHI – Lasting Hope, is being asked to self-fund with these funds vs DBH paying. CHI and DBH are continuing to negotiate. Bryan Medical Center currently covers individuals on EPC if MHCC is full or if there are physical morbidities. The potential negotiations are that Bryan will keep the individual to finish out treatment if they were inpatient Mental Health Board commitment or the person voluntarily wanted to stay and offsetting costs to counties by \$250,000.00.

**VCRC Report:**

Rourke provided page 25 as an update to data received for the first several months of service at VCRC. She explained that some of the data seems drastic due to the first 5 months of service, there were only 5 beds. After moving to their permanent location, beds increased to 16.

**FY 26 Capacity Utilization Summaries:**

Kreifels stated that Region 5 utilization should be at 58% now. Utilization is currently at 61%.

**FY 26 Network Management Report**

Included for your information.

**FY 26 Training Plan:**

Included for your information.

**11/10/25 RGB Executive Committee Minutes**

Included for your information

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- March 9 – RGB Executive Committee Meeting (following full RGB meeting)
- March 16 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m. – Teams
- March 27 – New RGB Orientation – 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at 3600 Union Drive
- April 1 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. at 3600 Union Drive Lincoln, NE
- April 13 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. at Apaca, 4433 S 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.