



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 1, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS	ABSENT	PRESENT
GREG JANAK	X	
PAIGE JOSEPH		X
CORRIE KIELTY	X	
JILL KUZELKA	X	
MEINDER, REBECCA	X	
MULCAHY, RACHEL	X	
LAURA OSBORNE		X
KENNY HARRE		X
GALE POHLMANN		X
MICHELE VANA		X
EVETTE WATTS		X

Roll was called; a quorum was present.

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

HOUSEKEEPING / ANNOUNCEMENTS / INTRODUCTIONS

Osborne called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Osborne 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 March 18, 2026.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

SQUAREONE PRESENTATION

Ashley Chism with CenterPointe provided a power point presentation, introducing the SquareOne project.

CONSENT AGENDA

Harre made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda includes the 2/25/2026 BHAC minutes, the 3/9/2026 RGB minutes, and FY 26 Compliance Management Report. All present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

Contractual Agreements:

- Henning provided an update on a new contract agreement with Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to cover FY 26-27 Mental Health First Aid training costs to the community. Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve this contract with DBH as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.
- Henning provided an update on contracts with 6 trainers to provide Mental Health First Aid trainings to the community. Watts made a motion, seconded by Joseph, to recommend the Board approve these contracts as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.
- Henning provided an update on 3 contracts with consultants for DBT training, June Jam speakers and Motivational Interviewing trainers. Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Vana, to recommend the Board approve these contracts as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.
- Henning provided an update on a contract with another provider to assist in providing services under Plan for One for a consumer from LRC. Vana made a motion, seconded by Watts, to recommend the Board approve this contract as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Provider Contract Amendments:

- Henning presented provider shifts and amendments. Watts made a motion, seconded by Vana, to accept the contract amendments as presented and move to the Board for approval. All present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

2026 Network Provider Survey Results:

- Kreifels presented the results from the survey, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement and explained that he offered individual discussions with Providers if they would like to discuss the results. Rohrig made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to accept the survey results as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

2026 Network Stakeholder Survey Results:

- Kreifels presented the results of the survey, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement. Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Vana, to accept the survey results as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

2026 BHAC Survey Results:

- Kreifels discussed the results of the survey, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement. Watts made a motion, seconded by Vana, to accept the survey results as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

VCRC Marketing Video:

- Rourke provided a short video created by IBHS, to introduce the VCRC facility and program.

OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION:

Behavioral Health / System Coordination / Legislative Updates:

- Legislative:
 - Page 16 – Kreifels reminded that the DOJ investigation found that Nebraska was not in compliance with the Olmstead Act. They found that more than 25% of individuals with mental health conditions were co-mingled with others in assisted living facilities. DHHS was going to implement the 1915i waiver and has decided it was no longer needed. The waiver was one of the items removed from the Governor's budget. Instead, DBH has 4 staff who have been retained as Targeted Case Managers. Their focus had previously been on working with individuals with SMI and housing but has since changed to adults in assisted living

and day rehabilitation with 2 acute stays in a 6-month period that are on Medicaid. DBH is also adding 1 FTE at LRC for forensics to divert persons from inpatient restoration to outpatient restoration.

- CCBHC – Have been operable for 3 months. CenterPointe has been billing and receiving reimbursements for all services except ACT services. Lutheran Family Service has shared they are not receiving reimbursements yet.
- Public Policy Center – Assessment on Housing programs across all regions. Will be shared when received.
- State budget has passed. Region 5 did not receive a reduction.
- Rural Health Transformation –
 - Funding priorities are nursing home behavioral health consultation pilot, contracted between DBH and the Nursing Home Association. Nursing homes will contract with Behavioral Health solutions on a tiered payment system to take on individuals with severe mental illness along with co-morbidities.
 - Expanding behavioral health care integration with primary care. Optimal ratio of 3 primary care physicians to 1 social worker/behavioral health therapist.
 - Central dispatch and telehealth – Primarily benefits western regions.
 - Potential for a contract with RideCare to assist with transporting individuals to larger cities/facilities such as Lincoln. This could potentially be a support to Law Enforcement by decreasing the amount of time away from their community.
 - Crisis Stabilization Renovations for existing projects – More information provided next month.
- LB722 – On final reading.
- Region 5 will be applying for a SAMSHA grant, submission is due April 20, 2026. Assisted Outpatient Treatment instead of LRC to help individuals in the community.

- Emergency System
 - BETA Training in Auburn
 - Emergency protective custody pilot added 152 extra bed days in the system.
 - VCRC data provided. Approximately 99 individuals were served January through July 2025.

- Youth Coordination
 - SquareOne grand opening May 28.
 - Professional Partner Program will attend a statewide conference in Kearney.
 - December 2025 – Toured the new Children’s Nebraska Behavioral Health Wellness Center in Omaha.
 - Upstream mapping workshop in Jefferson county.

- Statewide Opioid Response
 - SOAR update – approved for \$118,471 to provide additional lock boxes, med safe, Spanish Narcan trainings, webinars for Substance Use Prevention and additional funding for MOUD.
 - Submitted 2nd proposal in coordination with the Nebraska Prevention Collegiate Alliance. Still awaiting a response.
 - Opioid Settlement funding priorities will be mobile MOUD, Substance Use Treatment Capacity development, Billion Pill Pledge and creating a public dashboard related to outcomes.
 - 13 goals among 6 grant applications for quarter 2. 92% were meeting or exceeding their threshold. Additional 13 projects will begin reporting out at the end of 3rd quarter.
 - Mobile MOUD – Bonzai in Omaha provides mobile methadone treatment and is interested in providing that service in the Lincoln area. We coordinated technical assistance from the ORN with Bonzai to see what it would take to get the program started in this area.

- Prevention
 - 4 Corners is taking on 2 coalitions.
 - Public Health Solutions has asked all 5 of their counties to pull together.
 - Year 3 with the CDC Suicide Funds. Another year will be awarded.
 - Partnership for success – asked for carryover to focus on vaping.
 - Lancaster county has a Youth Advisory Board and they are focusing on vaping. Region 5 Systems, Youth Action Board will be collaborating with the Lancaster County Youth Advisory Board.

- Provide education to the Youth Boards on working on legislation. One example is location of the vape shops.
- Housing
 - RAP is working on utilizing all funding and have been admitting people who are on the waitlist as priority 2. now.
 - LPH expansion – added 2-2 bed units and housed 2 families. Preparing for 2 more units.
- Network
 - CenterPointe is opening a short-term residential program with a tentative opening of January 2027. Serving men and women.
 - Houses of Hope is opening a short-term residential program at 48th and A St with a tentative opening of Fall 2026. Serving only men.

YAB Recruitment Flyer:

- For your information. Recruiting for members.

FY26 Capacity Utilization Summaries:

- Currently at 67.5% and should be at 66.67% for the year. Closely monitoring to maximize funding.

Training Plan:

- For your information.

OTHER BUSINESS

Kelsey Schwab has resigned from BHAC.

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 9 – 9 a.m. - Regional Prevention Coalition at Region 5 Office, 3600 Union Dr, Lincoln, NE
- April 13 – 10:15 a.m. – RGB Meeting at Apace, 4433 South 70 Street, Lincoln, NE
- April 29 – 10:00 a.m. – BHAC Meeting at Region 5 Office, 3600 Union Dr, Lincoln, NE
- May 11 – 10:15 a.m. – RGB Meeting at Apace, 4433 South 70 Street, Lincoln, NE
- May 18 – Network Provider Meeting (via Teams)
- May 28 – SquareOne Grand Opening (time TBD)

ADJOURN

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.