



## REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

September 14, 2026

10:15 a.m.

Apace, 4433 S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE

### **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, Theresa Henning, Patrick Kreifels, Kim Michael, and Erin Rourke, Region 5 Systems

### **HOUSEKEEPING / CALL TO ORDER**

Yoakum called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

### **OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION**

Yoakum noted the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the meeting room and reminded members that meetings are public and recorded. The agenda was posted at [www.region5systems.net](http://www.region5systems.net). Notice of the meeting and agenda availability was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on September 6, 2026.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Weiss made a motion, seconded by Rohrig, to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 10-0.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION**

The Board recognized Eden McClain, Professional Partner, for 10 years of service to Region 5 Systems and thanked her for her contributions.

### **ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS**

#### **June 8, 2026, Regional Governing Board Minutes:**

Harre made a motion, seconded by Zabrocki, to approve the minutes as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 10-0.

#### **Presentation – Organizational Insurance Review – Unico:**

Shane Ideus, President of Unico, provided a presentation regarding business insurance renewal for Region 5 Systems. He provided Board members with a draft policy showing costs for General Liability, Auto, Cyber, Directors and Officers, and an Umbrella policy.

Ideus is not recommending any changes for the coming year. He leveraged competitive pricing and is still waiting for a few more carriers. If the current figures are used, there is a 5-6% increase that is driven by exposure.

Harre made a motion, seconded by Reece, to accept the draft insurance policies as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 10-0.

#### **Financial Report:**

Kreifels reviewed the financial reports as of August 10, 2026. Kreifels explained Region 5 Systems' cash position, that current funds are obligated contract services with providers.

Zabrocki made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to approve the financial report as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 10-0.

#### **Final FY26 Network Provider Shifts:**

Henning explained the FY26 provider contract shift documents and how funds are shifted throughout the year. The reported information showed each provider, where their contracted funds started, and where those funds ended as of June 30, 2026. All overproduction by providers was covered by funds within the system as outlined in the shifts. Kreifels added that Region 5 Systems was able to pull down 98.4% of funds last fiscal year and utilize those funds among the providers.

Rohrig made a motion, seconded by Krueger, to approve the FY26 Network Provider Shifts as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 10-0.

#### **FY27 Contractual Agreements:**

Henning presented the listed contracts for Board approval:

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health (DBH)

- Partnership for Success (PFS) grant amendment with an increase of \$33,000.

DBH

- Region 5 Systems funding amendment with an increase of \$175,000.

SAMHSA grant for Outpatient Navigation and Engagement (ONE)

- Contract begins 9/30/2026 for a 2-year period with extension of up to 5 years. The grant is \$750,000 per year.

PFS - KidGlov

- \$30,000 for the creation of a Ghost Vape Campaign

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Suicide Grant - KidGlov

- \$9,076 for the creation of a suicide resource in English and Spanish

Plan for One (PFO) Contracts

- Telecare - \$50,968 to enhance services and support in residential settings.
- Capture - \$30,984 to provide one-on-one direct staff in residential settings.

Rural Health Transformation Project – BETA

- \$10,000 to Joseph Wright Consulting to facilitate two BETA training courses.

State Opioid Response Grant

- \$5,800 to Davin Cole as a speaker at the Treatment and Current Drug Trends Summit
- Up to \$3,000 to Simera Reynolds to provide Narcan training within the Region 5 catchment area.

Weiss made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the contractual agreements as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 10-0.

**FY26 Opioid Site Visit Summary:**

Henning provided the results of the site visits. There were seven recovery homes that had paybacks to Region 5 Systems, over \$3,000 in total. Those paybacks are due to Region 5 Systems by the end of September. One home did need a payment plan, in which they are ineligible for Region 5 Systems' funds until paid in full.

There were three corrective actions, which were noted for all audits. The corrective actions clarified documentation requirements for funds received, used, and returned to Region 5 Systems.

Reece made a motion, seconded by Caverzagie, to approve the FY26 Opioid Site Visit Summary as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 10-0.

**FY27 Risk Management Plan:**

Michael reviewed the annual Risk Management Plan for Region 5 Systems. She explained that the document is written in the negative; meaning, if an event listed in the document were to happen, it could put Region 5 Systems in a liability status, such as jeopardy of losing funding or accreditation.

The plan is representative of all Region 5 Systems departments.

Krueger made a motion, seconded by Zabrocki, to approve the FY27 Risk Management Plan as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 10-0.

**FY27 Performance Improvement Plan:**

Rourke reviewed the annual Performance Improvement Plan. She explained that input is provided by all Region 5 Systems departments. If a department does not meet their performance goals, those respective departments will show how they can adjust in the future to ensure goals are met.

New this year are three indicators:

- Housing (RAP) – Monitor whether resources are allocated evenly or fairly across the region, with having at least 30% of participants residing in rural counties.
- Operations HR – At least one technology training opportunity will be covered at all of our employee meetings, which occur most months (8 or 9 months throughout the year).
- Prevention – Ensure that they offer a minimum of ten trainings throughout the year. Examples of training would be QPR, Mental Health First Aid and Rentwise.

Caverzagie made a motion, seconded by Rohrig, to approve the FY27 Performance Improvement Plan as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried 10-0.

**OTHER UPDATES / INFORMATION**

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

**Legislative Updates:**

- Nebraska put the Medicaid work requirements into effect May 1, 2026. Federally, this requirement goes into effect January 1, 2027. People on extended Medicaid will be reviewed every 6 months. This could cause some consumers to become ineligible for Medicaid and need Region 5 Systems' funding.
- Nebraska applied for a waiver of the IMD restriction. The waiver would allow flexibility in that individuals who stay short-term, up to 60 days, allow the provider to utilize more than sixteen beds.

Currently they are restricted to sixteen beds in residential facilities.

**Emergency System:**

The sequential intercept mapping summit was successfully completed. There is a draft report being reviewed by all the Regions and DBH. Once reviewed, the report will be presented to the Board.

Kreifels sent out a jail survey to the counties in the catchment area. The survey had questions such as: Do you have behavioral health needs within your jail? How do you screen for those? What are your behavioral health needs? Do you have the funds to address those needs?

This will allow Region 5 Systems to identify gaps in the system and determine a way to support the county jails in addressing behavioral health issues.

**Statewide Opioid Response:**

Henning shared that if any Board members have someone in their community in need of lock boxes or locked medication bags, those are available through Region 5 Systems. There are also Detera bags available to dispose of medications.

The Treatment and Current Drug Trends Summit on September 2, 2026, had 260 people registered and 190 in attendance. Through a partnership, some of the sessions were recorded and will be available for those who could not attend.

Region 5 Systems worked with an entity to help develop an online application process for opioid flex funds. The site went live on September 10 with the first application received on September 11.

Yoakum assisted in getting employees connected to the National Association of County Officials. Those employees will be going to New Jersey later this month to learn more about working with pregnant or parenting women that have substance use disorders.

**Housing:**

Region 5 Systems applied for a notice of funding to receive additional housing funds through the Federal government. Award notices are expected by the end of September.

Additional housing funds were received last year. Employees are working to get full capacity in those units. Currently 8 of 32 units are full.

Rentwise continues to be offered to individuals in Region 5 Systems housing.

**CQI:**

Rourke explained that IBHS Voluntary Crisis Response Center (VCRC) had 343 admissions for FY26 with an average stay of 4.2 days for Crisis Stabilization and 16.9 days for Mental Health Respite.

**Outpatient Navigation and Engagement (ONE) Grant:**

Region 5 Systems was awarded a SAMSHA grant to administer the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program, for which we have coined "Outpatient Navigation and Engagement". The Director position has recently been filled by Dustin Bartley, who will start his position on October 6, 2026.

**Bureau of Justice Administration Grant Opportunity – York County:**

The York County attorney reached out to Region 5 Systems and 4-Corners Public Health District to collaborate on a grant application. If York County is awarded the grant, Region 5 Systems' involvement will be to hire a project director/evaluator for individuals that present to the courts and have substance use or mental health challenges and need an evaluation. This is a 3-year grant.

**Social Detoxification & SUD Respite:**

The Bridge Behavioral Health terminated its detox and respite contracts with Region 5 Systems effective 6/30/2026. Region 5 is coordinating and planning with system partners for covering this gap within the system. Region 5 is in discussions with Integrated Behavioral Health Services as a possible provider of both services.

**SquareOne:**

There was a second unannounced site visit for licensing done at the SquareOne facility. There is one correction needed, the kitchen sink exceeded water temperature threshold limits as required by licensing. Licensing will retest the water temperature before issuing final approval.

**Medicaid Eligibility Lookback:**

There are concerns in the network regarding expectations pertaining to retroactive Medicaid reimbursements and lookbacks of up to 12 months. More dialogue will continue with providers and DBH to ensure there is clear understanding of the requirements.

Rourke has developed a depiction of what that looks like for providers and how they would have to manage this process. This information will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

**2027 Legislative Session:**

The Governor has directed state agencies to make a 5% cut to their budgets to cover the \$1 billion shortfall, with a potential of another 3%. DBH is planning to utilize their carry-over funds to cover the first 5% to avoid cuts to the Regions' budgets. It is unsure where DBH will cut the other 3% if required.

**Gaming Devices:**

During the last legislative session, lawmakers approved a tax on gaming devices, with 3.75% of the revenue allocated to the Regions. Regional Administrators and DBH are negotiating how to distribute the funds. The Regional Administrators favor quarterly direct deposits, while DBH prefers to collect the revenue throughout the year and disburse it to the Regions the following year.

**YAB Roster:**

For your information. Kreifels encouraged Board members to recognize and support the youth from their counties for their involvement.

**Consumer / Family Advisory Committee Quarterly Report – Q1:**

For your information.

**FY 26 Training Plan:**

For your information.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- September 14 – RGB Executive Committee Meeting (following full RGB meeting)
- October 19 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m. via Teams
- October 28 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. at Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive Lincoln, NE
- November 9 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. at Apace, 4433 S 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.