REGION 5 SYSTEMS
Supporting Wellness and Recovery in Behavioral Health
SINCE 1974

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 28, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Region 5 Systems, 3600 Union Drive

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS	ABSENT	PRESENT
AVERY BLUM		X
KENNY HARRE	X	
GREG JANAK	X	
PAIGE JOSEPH		X
CORRIE KIELTY		X
JILL KUZELKA	X	
NICOLE MAHER		X
REBECCA MEINDERS		X
RACHEL MULCAHY	X	
BENJAMIN MURRY		X
LAURA OSBORNE		X
GALE POHLMANN		X
MARTI RABE		X
MICHELE VANA	X	
EVETTE WATTS		X

HOUSEKEEPING / ANNOUNCEMENTS / INTRODUCTIONS
Meinders called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Roll was called; a quorum was present. Osborne, Kielty and Blum left the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Vana arrived at 11:00 a.m.

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

OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION
Meinders noted that Open Meetings Act information is posted in the meeting room.
Notification of this meeting and information regarding availability of the agenda was provided through a legal notice in the Lincoln Journal Star, published November 1, 2026.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA
There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

Presentation -Kristin Nelson, Emergency Services

Nelson presented on the status within the emergency system as well as steps being taken to improve the system.

- Information was provided on the current wait times for the crisis center as well as wait times for network providers. The emergency system was full for 169 days last year, compared to 2023 when there were only 63 days full.
    - The average wait for a bed at the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) is 86 days.
    - The average wait for a treatment provider is 57-87 days.
    - To help address this issue, Region 5 is meeting with LRC and providers to determine if necessary steps have been taken and completed to keep the referral process moving forward for each consumer.
    - The expansion pilot project with Mary Lanning and Methodist Fremont Hospitals has taken some burden off the existing system.
- Education is being provided to law enforcement which includes awareness of the diversion options available. Those options are VCRC, the mobile crisis unit (TASC and CenterPointe) and now, SquareOne.
- Region 5 is meeting weekly with the HERT team to review cases that might be in crisis and need additional support.
- Officers are wondering what can be done when they have assisted with repeat consumers. One of the steps taken is to send out a peer to meet with the consumer. The peer determines if the consumer is working with anyone and provide referrals for that person.
- Another concern that law enforcement is mentioning is crisis transport. RideCare became an active resource for law enforcement as of September 15, 2026.
- BETA training will be offered in February 2027, April 2027, and June 2027.
- Region 5 Systems received a SAMSHA grant to create ONE (Outpatient Navigation and Engagement) program which will help the emergency system.
    - The program will provide increased support for consumers who are under an outpatient mental health board commitment. These could be things such as housing, counseling, dog food, etc.
    - ONE will also provide evidence-based training as well as build a database that helps educate and helps the county clerks and departments to better keep track of those consumers under a mental health board order.

CONSENT AGENDA

Murry made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda includes the 9/2/2026 BHAC minutes, FY27 Compliance Management Report, and the 9/14/2026 RGB minutes. All present voted aye. Motion carried 10-0.

ACTION / PRIORITY ITEMS

FY27 Contractual Agreements:

Henning presented the following contracts for approval to move to the Regional Governing Board for ratification:

Outpatient Navigation and Engagement (ONE) Grant

- $244,516 to the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center for a comprehensive evaluation of the ONE project.

Meinders made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to recommend the Regional Governing Board ratify this contract as presented.

Roll Call: Yes: Blum, Joseph, Kielty, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Osborne, Pohlmann, Rabe, Watts
Absent: Harre, Janak, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Vana.
Motion carried.

Plan for One Contracts

- $65,892.19 to Capture to help an individual discharge from the crisis center (MHCC) into Capture for services to help them be successful.

- An amendment for a current individual that was discharged from Mary Lanning Hospital. The original contract ($130,879.62) was approved through October 2026, and this would provide an extension through the end of June 2027 with an increase in cost due to the extension ($99,895.02).

Murry made a motion, seconded by Joseph, to recommend the Regional Governing Board ratify these contracts as presented.
Roll Call: Yes: Blum, Joseph, Kielty, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Osborne, Pohlmann, Rabe, Watts
Absent: Harre, Janak, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Vana.
Motion carried.

Rural Health Transformation Project

- $79,550 to DBH to expand and strengthen BETA training and train more trainers for the hearing voices training.
- BETA training presenter: Cheryl Turner (up to $800).
- BETA training presenter: Maxson Counseling and Consultation LLC (up to $1,400).
- BETA training presenter: Jill Kuzelka (up to $450).
- BETA training presenter: Autism Action Partnership (up to $1,300).
- BETA training presenter: MHA (up to $3,100).

Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Murry, to recommend the Regional Governing Board ratify these contracts as presented.
Roll Call: Yes: Blum, Joseph, Kielty, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Osborne, Pohlmann, Rabe, Watts
Absent: Harre, Janak, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Vana.
Motion carried.

CDC Suicide Grant

- $30,000 to the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition to reduce overall suicide morbidity by 10% within the state of Nebraska.
- $800 per training with CenterPointe to provide Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR) training.
- $17,700 to Marcus Theatre for movie trailers in Lancaster county with suicide prevention messaging for youth and adults.
- $800 per training with Jenn Moffett to provide Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) to the community.
- $800 per training with Joscelyn Kuts to provide ASIST training to the community.

Rabe made a motion, seconded by Meinders, to recommend the Regional Governing Board ratify these contracts as presented.
Roll Call: Yes: Blum, Joseph, Kielty, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Osborne, Pohlmann, Rabe, Watts
Absent: Harre, Janak, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Vana.
Motion carried.

Garrett Lee Smith

- $24,845 to Beck Institute to provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Suicide Prevention (CBT-SP) training designed specifically for adolescents who have recently attempted suicide or experienced acute suicidal ideation.
- $2,750 to Jenn Moffett for Soul Shop training for faith-based clergy to provide tools for community in addressing suicide prevention.
- $30,800 to Lincoln Public Schools to support Hope Squads within 21 LPS schools and provide funding for the purchase of lockboxes, trigger locks, and cable gun locks.
- $6,500 to KidGlov for the creation of a movie trailer in both English and Spanish with information on what to do if someone is talking with them about suicide.

Watts made a motion, seconded by Joseph, to recommend the Regional Governing Board ratify these contracts as presented.
Roll Call: Yes: Blum, Joseph, Kielty, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Osborne, Pohlmann, Rabe, Watts
Absent: Harre, Janak, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Vana.
Motion carried.

Partnerships for Success (PFS) Contracts

- $5,000 to KidGlov to provide project management and reporting of Power of Parents webpage for Lancaster County.
- $7,000 to Wellbeing Initiative to provide WRAP train-the-trainers for colleges and identified industry specific personnel to lead WRAP groups.
- $15,752 to Nebraska Collegiate Prevention Alliance for project management of Power Parenting profile and assist with college profile uploading on the individual college websites as well as webhosting fees.
- $17,610 to Marcus Theatre for movie trailers in Lancaster county providing Power of Parents messaging regarding high-risk drinking.
- $4,000 to the Lincoln Police Department to create a law enforcement/youth partnership in assuring establishments are not selling alcohol to minors.
- $28,315 to Public Health Solution to implement PFS deliverables within Jefferson, Saline, and Gage counties.
- $4,882 to LMO Consulting, LLC to implement PFS deliverables within Johnson, Pawnee, and Richardson counties.
- $555 to Flood Broadcasting, Inc to provide radio spots for promotion of the EX Program.
- $555 to KNZA, Inc to provide radio spots for promotion of the EX Program.

Murry made a motion, seconded by Rabe, to recommend the Regional Governing Board ratify these contracts as presented.
Roll Call: Yes: Blum, Joseph, Kielty, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Osborne, Pohlmann, Rabe, Watts
Absent: Harre, Janak, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Vana.
Motion carried.

State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant

- $4,770 to Sharps Medical Waste Services to purchase a MedSafe and replacement liners for Nebraska City and Auburn.
- An amendment/increase of $8,800 to BayMark's (BAART) current year contract for provision of approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder and to support treatment and recovery support services.
- $2,000 to KidGlov to create a digital ad campaign promoting Narcan training, MedSafe locations and other SOR activities.
- $5,000 to J Chad Professional Training (Tall Cop) to provide two webinar trainings on substance use prevention.
- $14,984 to CenterPointe to contract for provision of approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder and to support treatment and recovery support services.
- $88,000 to BayMark (BAART) to contract for provisions of approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder and to support treatment and recovery support services.
- $250 per training to the following persons/entities to provide Narcan training within Region 5 Systems catchment area.
    - Jill Kuzelka
    - Laura Osborne
    - Simera Reynolds
    - Andrea Hincapie
    - Four Corners Health Department

Joseph made a motion, seconded by Maher, to recommend the Regional Governing Board ratify these contracts as

presented.
Roll Call: Yes: Blum, Joseph, Kielty, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Osborne, Pohlmann, Rabe, Watts
Absent: Harre, Janak, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Vana.
Motion carried.

FY27 Network Performance Improvement Plan:
Rourke reviewed the document and explained its purpose is to guide quality improvement efforts for the network of providers in Region 5 Systems.

Pohlmann made a motion, seconded by Watts, to approve the plan as presented and move to the Regional Governing Board for approval.
Roll Call: Yes: Blum, Joseph, Kielty, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Osborne, Pohlmann, Rabe, Watts
Absent: Harre, Janak, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Vana.
Motion carried.

Region 5 Supported Housing Residency Checks Report:
Tyerman-Harper presented the letter from the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) housing administrator. Due to recent federal highlights on fraud, DBH implemented on-site visits with a sample of individuals who receive vouchers through Region 5 Systems' Rental Assistance Program. The site visit was to ensure that vouchers were being used appropriately, rental assistance was being received by the persons registered for this service, and to verify the physical location of the units identified as receiving rental assistance payments.

Rabe made a motion, seconded by Murry, to approve the letter and move to the Regional Governing Board for approval.
Roll Call: Yes: Blum, Joseph, Kielty, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Osborne, Pohlmann, Rabe, Watts
Absent: Harre, Janak, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Vana.
Motion carried.

Opioid Settlement Site Visit – BAART:
Henning presented the site visit results from an audit that was conducted on BAART as a recipient of Opioid Settlement Funds.

Meinders made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to approve the audit and move to the Regional Governing Board for approval.
Roll Call: Yes: Blum, Joseph, Kielty, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Osborne, Pohlmann, Rabe, Watts
Absent: Harre, Janak, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Vana.
Motion carried.

FY26 Network Provider Audit Year End Summary:
Tyerman-Harper presented the FY26 audit results for network providers.

Rabe made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to approve the summary and move to the Regional Governing Board for approval.
Roll Call: Yes: Blum, Joseph, Kielty, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Osborne, Pohlmann, Rabe, Watts
Absent: Harre, Janak, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Vana.
Motion carried.

FY26 Management Summary Draft:
Rourke presented the summary that explained various organizational performance improvement indicators within Region 5 Systems.

Meinders made a motion, seconded by Joseph, to approve the report and move to the Regional Governing Board for approval.
Roll Call: Yes: Joseph, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Pohlmann, Rabe, Vana, Watts

Absent: Blum, Harre, Janak, Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne.
Motion carried.

FY26 Region 5 Systems Annual Report Draft:
Kreifels presented the draft Annual Report, explaining that the funding section cannot be updated until the audit is completed. Once that is received, the funding section will be updated, and a final report will be disseminated.

Murry made a motion, seconded by Pohlmann, to approve the report and move to the Regional Governing Board for approval.
Roll Call: Yes: Joseph, Maher, Meinders, Murry, Pohlmann, Rabe, Vana, Watts
Absent: Blum, Harre, Janak, Kielty, Kuzelka, Mulcahy, Osborne.
Motion carried.

OTHER UPDATES/INFORMATION:
Behavioral Health / System Coordination / Legislative Updates:

- Legislative:
  - Budget reduction - For FY28, DBH has asked all Regions to reduce their budgets by 5%, involving the state general funds and healthcare cash fund. This is to help offset the state's budget shortfall of approximately $1 billion.
  - LB901 – This bill is regarding the tax on revenue from gaming devices being dispersed to the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities at a rate of 3.75% of the collected funds. The funds will be processed through the Department of Revenue. The Regions should receive those funds quarterly through direct deposit, which is the agreement with DBH. The first deposit should occur in November 2026. The Region conduct planning around these funds and determine what that means for the system. One option to look at is supported housing, which was Senator Spivey's intent. Another option to be reviewed is if there is other support to the system with the reduction of potential funds planned for FY28.
- Emergency System
  - Details of the ONE project will be provided at the next cycle of meetings.
- Housing
  - Region 5 Systems is awaiting HUD award decisions on new proposals for transitional housing in both Lincoln and the rural counties.
- State Opioid Settlement and Response
  - Henning reviewed extra activities that Region 5 Systems was able to support with the carry-over funds.
  - A grants management system is in creation. Employees have been able to begin using portions of the system.
  - Mobile MOUD is set to open January 2027 with Bonsaii. There have been a few regulation issues that have been addressed. This also brings another opioid clinic to Lincoln, to open in November 2026.

- Youth System
  - SquareOne had its grand opening on October 19, 2026, with its first official day on October 20, 2026. In the first week, SquareOne had one youth in respite for five days, and two or three youth contemplated making use of the services, with an average of three walk-ins per day.

Process to Develop 5-year Strategic Plan:

- Region 5 Systems' current Strategic Plan is for a three-year period. The new plan will cover five years. Kreifels will meet with all Regional Administrators next week to create a statewide strategic plan. A survey will be completed for system partners to identify their gaps and needs. A survey was already sent to all jail administrators with responses received. Those results will be shared in the Strategic Plan. The Regional Governing Board is considering bringing the BHAC and RGB together for a one-day review of parliamentary procedures and identify any gaps or needs. There will also be planning with system

coordination directors to help identify goals and gaps. This report will be provided in the last meeting cycle of FY27.

Medicaid Lookback:

- Kreifels reviewed a visual prepared by Region 5 Systems to help operationalize the Medicaid lookback requirements DBH has set.

Noncitizen Medicaid Changes:

- For your information, there has been a Medicaid change.

Coverage for Medically Necessary IMD Stays:

- Coverage for Medically Necessary IMD stays was reviewed. It is only applicable if you have more than 16 beds in a therapeutic group home, secure residential or psychiatric residential. If there are more than 16 beds, only stays of 60 consecutive days or less will be eligible for coverage. The state must demonstrate an average length of stay of no greater than 30 days.

RideCare:

- This is a resource for law enforcement in all 16 counties. For your information.

Nebraska Summit on Navigating Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Admission Pathways:

- Kreifels presented the report and explained that based on identified gaps and issues, strategies have been created to address those items. Further information will be provided as this project progresses.

Consumer Coordination Quarterly Report – Q1:

- For your information.

FY26 Attendance Log:

- For your information.

FY27 Attendance Log:

- For your information.

2027 Legislative Session Calendar:

- For your information.

Training Plan:

- For your information.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented.

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 9, 2026 – RGB Meeting – 10:15 a.m. at Apace, 4433 S. 70th Street, Lincoln, NE (hybrid)
- January 11, 2027 – Network Provider Meeting – 9:00 a.m. via Teams
- January 27, 2027 – BHAC Meeting – 10:00 a.m. at 3600 Union Drive, Lincoln, NE (hybrid)

ADJOURN

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.