



**MEETING OF THE  
REGION 3 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

January 16, 2026

**MINUTES**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Elaine Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting, called the meeting to order, and introductions were conducted.

- Owen Mendyk, Hall County Sherriff's Office
- Jen Puls, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
- Tiffany Gressley, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
- Gary Quandt, Hall County Regional Governing Board Member
- Elaine Anderson, Vocational Rehabilitation
- Jackie Klein, Family Member
- Karla Bennetts, Families CARE

2. Posting of Open Meetings Act

Tiffany Gressley reviewed the intent of the Open Meetings Act with the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Members. She explained how advanced publicized notice of meeting information is in the Grand Island Independent, the Hastings Tribune, and the Kearney Hub allowing the public an opportunity to participate in meetings.

3. Comments from the Public

There were no individuals from the public in attendance of this meeting so there were no public comments.

4. Review of October 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Gary Quandt made a motion to approve the minutes. Jackie Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentation of the FY25 Region 3 Impact Report

Tiffany Gressley highlighted information from the FY25 Region 3 Impact Report. She said the final data set is received from the Division of Behavioral Health in mid October, then Region 3 begins the process of developing the Impact Report.

Tiffany Gressley said the FY25 Region 3 Impact Report had been emailed to this committee. Tiffany provided a Power Point presentation of highlights covering Fiscal Year 2025, which is July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Tiffany said FY25 Expenditures were \$11,705,486 through 83.0% Direct Services, 5.0% System Enhancements, 7.0% System Coordination, and 5.0% Regional Administration and Network Management. Tiffany described the Region 3 Fiscal Management responsibilities. Network Management and System Coordination of the Region 3 service area ensures contractual obligations of the Division of Behavioral Health, which includes 16

Community-Based Network Providers and 6 Community Coalitions for Prevention Activities. Tiffany said there were a total of 3,885 unique individuals served with 87.1% were adults 19 and older and 12.9% were youth 18 and younger. Individuals often participate in more than one service a year as shown by the duplicate count of 6,837 people.

Tiffany shared information and highlighted the Prevention System Coordination, the Youth System of Care, Behavioral Health Consumer and Family Coordination, the Emergency Psych System, Region 3 Housing Assistance Program, Region 3 Network Access and Performance Outcomes, Region 3 Emergency Community Support, and Region 3 Professional Partner Program.

6. Conflict of Interest Policy and Statement Review

Tiffany Gressley explained that the Conflict of Interest Policy and Statement is reviewed annually with BHAC members and Regional Governing Board members. She said please disclose if you believe you have any conflicts of interest. She provided an example of a potential conflict of interest. The statements are collected from all members annually; an additional disclosure is completed only if there is a conflict of interest to disclose. Jen Puls will email the document to all BHAC members, then members will then complete the forms and either email or mail the completed form to the Region 3 office.

7. Regional Administrator's Report

a. FY26 Budget Update

Tiffany Gressley reported for July through November for FY2026 Region 3 has drawn down 35.8% of the budget. The amount of time elapsed is 41% for July through November. She said the monthly draw down is monitored closely each month and compared to the previous fiscal year spend down. If there is a provider that is drawing down less than projected for a service, Region 3 staff reach out to the provider to discuss challenges/barriers they may be encountering and brainstorm ways to overcome those barriers.

b. FY27 Regional Budget Planning Timeline

Tiffany Gressley reviewed the FY27 Regional Budget Planning Timeline and Approval Process document noting specific events. She said Region 3 did not receive a preliminary allocation letter from DBH until January 9, 2026. Historically regions receive preliminary allocation letters in December. February 2, 2026 we will be meeting with our Network Providers and conducting our annual budget planning session. We will be reviewing the proposed FY27 budget March 19, 2026 with the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee, then March 27, 2026 reviewing with the Regional Governing Board, once approved by both groups, the budget plan is submitted to DBH. If there are changes made by the Division of Behavioral Health to the Region 3 FY27 Regional Budget Plan, there would be a presentation to the Regional Governing Board at the May 22, 2026 meeting. Contracts go into effect July 1, 2026.

c. Legislative Update

Tiffany Gressley said LB722 was introduced by Senator Quick on behalf of the regions. This bill is to clean up the language from the last legislative session's bill which added flexibility to the Region Housing Program. Tiffany explained how last session's bill had allowed the housing funds to be utilized with individuals who have a primary Substance Use Disorder diagnosis instead of requiring a primary Mental Health Diagnosis. The statute language was not changed in the section of the statute that discusses the Landlord Mitigation funds. The Landlord Mitigation funds help to cover the cost of damage above and beyond normal wear and tear to a landlord's property. Currently, the Mitigation Funds can be used for individuals with a primary mental health diagnosis only. The proposed bill LB722 would clean up the language to include

both SUD and MH diagnoses and is supported by the Division of Behavioral Health. Tiffany said there is no fiscal piece attached to this bill so the hope is that it will go through quickly.

Tiffany Gressley said the Governor released his budget plan today. She said she was ready to dive into the information. Tiffany said there have been significant budget cuts to the Health and Human Services across the state.

Tiffany Gressley said Senator Quick introduced LB724. This bill is for Health and Human Services to complete a cost study of services. The bill has a fiscal note attached to it so it will probably not move out of committee but it will be helpful in providing education and awareness about the current Behavioral Health rates.

d. NACO HHS Committee Meeting

Tiffany Gressley said the Nebraska Association of County Officials met in December 2025 in Kearney. The NACO Health and Human Services Committees have an annual meeting during this time. At this meeting the proposed service definitions changes were determined. The review time for the proposed changes was a short turnaround time which has now been extended to January 16, 2026. Region 3 provided comments and concerns highlighting concerns about the increase in licensed staffing requirements proposed, especially in light of the continued shortage of the Behavioral Health Workforce, and the potential decrease in access and capacity to services, especially in our rural areas. Tiffany explained how there would be added cost for the proposed staff increases to providers but no increase in rates. She said we are hoping the proposed changes are not carried through as presented.

Tiffany said at the end of January, NACO is hosting a senator breakfast meeting that she will be participating in.

8. Networking and Other

- Karla Bennetts, Families CARE, said they appreciate these meetings to provide updated information. She said Families CARE is busy with eight people on staff and serving 120 families. Karla said in March they will have a Chili Soup Fundraiser where they ask providers to bring chili and set out information about their agency. She will send out a save the date soon.
- Elaine Anderson, Vocational Rehabilitation, said they have had a shift in focus more toward employment versus 20-30 years ago the focus was on physical health.

9. Date of Next Meeting:

The next Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting would be on Thursday, March 19, 2026 from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Zoom. The 2026 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee meetings will be July 16, 2026 in person at Region 3 Behavioral Health Services office in Kearney, and October 15, 2026 in person at Region 3 Behavioral Health Services office in Kearney.

10. Adjourn

Karla Bennetts motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gary Quandt seconded the motion. Elaine Anderson adjourned the meeting.