



**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD**

Friday, January 24, 2025

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**REGION 3 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
4009 6TH AVE., SUITE 65
KEARNEY, NE**

The Mission of Region 3 Behavioral Health Services is to foster recovery and resiliency for individuals and their families who experience a behavioral health challenge.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions
Rich Nelson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
2. Posting of Open Meetings Act
The Open Meetings Act sign is posted in the meeting room. Two weeks prior to the January 24, 2025 Regional Governing Board meeting, advanced publicized notice was ran in the Kearney Hub, the Grand Island Independent and the Hastings Tribune.
3. Comments from Public
There were no individuals from the public in attendance.
4. Roll Call
Roll Call was taken by Jen Puls.

Present:

Adams – Lee Hogan
Buffalo – Bill Maendele
Clay, Jim Pavelka
Custer – Tammy Kleebe
Furnas – Dennis Tegtman
Garfield – Jerome Zulkoski
Greeley – Jordan Foltz
Hall – Gary Quandt
Hamilton – Richard Nelson
Harlan – Jeff Bash
Merrick – Carolyn Kucera
Phelps – Theresa Puls
Valley – Helen Cullers
Wheeler – Roy Plugge

Excused:

Howard – Jessie Urbanski

Absent:

Blaine – Craig Thompson
Franklin – Josh Johnson
Kearney – Jeff England
Loup – Donna Steckel
Nuckolls – Jerry Grove
Sherman – Ken Kaslon
Webster – Trevor Karr

Also Present:

Tiffany Gressley – Region 3 Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Kerry Slaymaker – Region 3 BHS
Kayl Dahlke – Region 3 BHS
Beth Reynolds Lewis – Region 3 BHS
Jen Puls – Region 3 BHS

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Carolyn Kucera to approve the agenda, seconded by Tammy Kleeb, motion carried.

Kerry Slaymaker said the CPA Audit would be tabled until the next RGB Meeting as Robert Meyer is sick, today.

6. Approval of November 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Gary Quandt to approve the November 1, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Theresa Puls, motion carried.

7. Executive Committee Report

Rich Nelson reported the meeting started at 8:30 a.m. and met for the full hour. They reviewed November through January expenses and discussed proposed Legislative Bills. There were no Region 3 policies to be reviewed as they were covered in November. Rich asked if there are any questions. There were none.

8. Election of 2025 Regional Governing Board Officers

a. Comments by Current Officers

Tiffany Gressley invited the current officers to comment on how the past year as an officer has been and to share if they would be interested in continuing as officers for the calendar year.

Theresa Puls - Theresa said this has worked well for her; if there are someone who lives closer that is interested in being on the executive committee please consider the position. If no one is interested, she is willing to be nominated and happy to stay on the executive committee.

Rich Nelson - Rich said if someone wants to be chair, great. He said he is willing to be chair one more year and this is a good group to work with.

Bill Maendele – Bill said he echoes what the other two said. Although he was strong-armed into the position last year, it had been easy being in town to sign checks.

b. Regional Governing Board Members to Express Interest in serving as an Officer
No other Governing Board members expressed an interest in serving as an officer.

c. Nominations from the Floor

Gary Quandt moved to nominate the slate of officers as stands, seconded by Tammy Kleeb.
Gary moved to close nominations, seconded by Tammy.

d. Election of Officers

A Roll call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan - Yes

Craig Thompson - Absent

Bill Maendele - Yes

Jim Pavelka - Yes

Tammy Kleeb - Yes

Joshua Johnson - Absent

Dennis Tegtman - Yes

Jerome Zulkoski - Yes

Jordan Foltz - Yes

Gary Quandt - Yes

Rich Nelson - Yes

Jeff Bash - Yes

Jessie Urbanski - Absent

Jeff England - Absent

Donna Steckel - Excused

Carolyn Kucera - Yes

Jerry Grove - Absent

Theresa Puls - Yes

Ken Kaslon - Absent

Helen Cullers - Yes

Trevor Karr - Absent

Roy Plugge – Yes

Election of 2025 Regional Governing Board Officers for 2025 are as follows:

Chairperson – Rich Nelson
Vice Chairperson – Theresa Puls
Secretary – Bill Maendele

9. Conflict of Interest Policy Review and Statement

Tiffany Gressley reviewed a handout, *Conflict of Interest Statement for Region 3 Governing Board Members and Region 3 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Members*. The intent of the statement is for members to disclose any potential conflicts of interest. All Region 3 Governing Board members are asked to sign the *Conflict of Interest Statement* on an annual basis. Tiffany asked that each Governing Board member review the form, sign, date and return it to Region 3.

10. Region 3 Fiscal Reports

a. FY25 Year-to Date Network Expenditures

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed a handout, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Network Expenditure Report July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. Mental Health services have been paid out at 44% of the budgeted amount with 50% of the fiscal year elapsed. A number of services were over budget and Kerry reviewed the services that were considerably over budget. Kerry said they are keeping an eye on the services over 50%. ACT utilization has increased and it is believed to be due to Medicaid Expansion unwind. A couple other services are potentially affected by Medicaid Expansion unwind, including Community Support at 65% paid. Inpatient Post Commitment Treatment Days have paid 73% of the FY25 budget. This is an anomaly as Region 3 has not paid for this service in several years. SOAR is also at 71% which is a service that helps people apply for SSI/SSDI.

Substance Use Disorder services have been paid out at 45% of the budgeted amount for FY25 with 50% of the fiscal year elapsed. The Halfway House service spent 61% of the FY25 budget due to Medicaid unwinding and is trending up. Kerry said some services have little utilization which helps balance it out.

Theresa Puls asked if the Youth Outpatient SUD funds would need to be increase if needed. Kerry said the number in red is the refund received for the Youth Outpatient SUD services, so additional funds are not needed. Kerry said expenses typically go up in January as it is new insurance and deductible year. Kerry referenced page three of the document where Supported Housing Substance Use Disorder has had funds added to this service.

Grand Total paid out for July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 was \$5,195,701 or 45% of the budgeted amount. Kerry said this is closer than we have been in past years. Kerry said services are billed to the state first then to county. There are funds set aside for the Crisis Stabilization Unit expansion as that goes into next year. Kerry said Prevention Coalitions have a majority of their expenses for activities during the spring.

Kerry reviewed the Other Reinvestment Projects, the budgeted amount and percentage paid out for each service. Kerry explained how the APRA grant funds had various timelines to spend the amounts for each project determined by the Division of Behavioral Health to Region 3. She provided status updates of the projects with funds available until September 30, 2025. Kerry explained how funds cannot be used until the contract is received by Region 3. She provided an example about the prevention opioid contract received this week, which the timeframe started in October however; funds could not be spent until the contact was received.

b. FY25 Contract and Shift Ratifications

Kerry Slaymaker explained how budget shifts work through Region 3. Tiffany Gressley, Regional Administrator receives the contracts electronically, signs and returns them to the Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Behavioral Health. The contract is then signed by the Regional Governing Board Chairperson and brought to the next Regional Governing Board for ratification. There is only one budget shift for \$99,870 that needs ratified. This allocation is for the Crisis Stabilization Unit moving funds from Mental Health to Substance Use Disorders (SUD). Kerry said the state as a whole is falling short on SUD allocations needed for Maintenance of Effort. \$92,000 of the budget shift is for the same service only a different line item and the remainder is for flex funds and Youth Substance Use Assessments.

c. FY26 Regional Budget Planning Timeline

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed the FY26 Regional Budget Plan Timeline and Approval Process, which is based on the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) Timeline. This timeline started in December 2024, which begins with the RBP Guidelines given to providers and projections of spending for the current fiscal year. The projections for this year are used to determine what the need is for FY26. Providers were asked to send Region 3 the projections which give us a better of idea of what they need for FY26. Kerry said we have not received final allocation from DBH yet, but anticipate the allocation to remain the same as this year. Kerry is currently working on compiling and balancing the totals requested by providers. Kerry asks providers for additional information and to see if there were special circumstances that may cause FY25 expenses to be less than potential FY26 expenses. Kerry provided an example of a therapist being on maternity leave, so the agency was not able to see as many people during that time. Kerry and Tiffany review what is submitted to see if there is anything that needs attention. Monday, January 27, 2025 will be the annual planning meeting with Region 3 Network Providers, which is the starting point. In two weeks allocations to providers are distributed, time will be spent on filling in forms, and beginning to meet with providers who have unique needs. March 3, 2025 – Network Providers electronically submit FY26 Budget Plans to Region 3. March 20, 2025 - Region 3 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee to review the FY26 Regional Budget Plan. March 21, 2025 – Region 3 to present the FY26 RBP to the Region 3 Governing Board for approval. April 25, 2025 – Region 3 is to hear back from the DBH. May 23, 2025 – In the event changes must be made to the FY26 RBP, presentation to the Region 3 Governing Board will take place for final approval. July 1, 2025 – DBH to Region 3 final contracts are effective. Rich Nelson asked if there were any questions. There were none. Bill Maendele motioned to approve the Region 3 Fiscal Reports, seconded by Jeff Bash. Motion carried.

11. FY24 Independent CPA

Kerry Slaymaker said Robert Meyer was ill and will report the FY 24 Independent audit information at the next Regional Governing Board Meeting.

12. Emergency Protective Custody Up-dates

Beth Reynolds-Lewis said she wanted to provide an update on Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) as there has been a gentle shift. She said primarily a request through the hospitals by asking officers for the people to have medical clearance before transporting them to mental health facility. Beth said within the past 20 years the officers don't officially EPC until medical clearance has occurred. If the person is EPCed before medical clearance has occurred, then all medical and mental health charges are billed to the county. Beth suggests having discussions with smaller community hospitals. Beth shared they can't cover physical needs (X-rays, stiches, bloodwork, etc.) only psychological needs. She said nothing has changed to Region 3 practice; we need to go back to the COVID practice to make sure the person would not die in the back of an officer's car. Beth provided an example of the admitting Emergency Room (ER) Doctor and the Psychiatrist does not see eye to eye on what is happening. If a medically transferred person had taken extended release Tylenol that does not show up in the bloodwork, later the psychiatrist does not want the person on the psychiatric unit. Beth said what is being asked is what is the best for the

consumer. Theresa Puls said the person should be taken to a local hospital first to be medically cleared. Beth said usually the closest hospital has to do with liability, other factors that fall into play are when the people are covered by Medicaid and have fallen off of Medicaid. She said psychiatric hospitals are making more of a sense of it. Beth said often it is not known how much substance has been ingested, being transferred to the medical floor in the same hospital then once medically cleared transfer back to the psychiatric floor. Beth said for the officer to NOT sign the certificate. Jeff Bash asked if Beth could print up something to take to the County Boards. Beth said she can speak to all the sheriffs and Region 3 does a mental health day at the academy before each group graduates. Beth said this is more of a bigger issue as providers are frustrated and it is happening more often. Beth encourages officers to use 988 to have the person talk on the phone. This will help slow down the process of any behavioral health crisis. Bill Maendele said as a paramedic he sees it happening more often at a shift change in the psychiatric hospital for people who are suicidal and have not ingested anything and are not on any medications. Beth Reynolds said the locum doctors coming to Kearney do not understand the hospitals in Region 3 do not run like Lincoln and Omaha hospitals. She said she is happy to talk to others. Tiffany Gressley said Beth Reynolds is willing to talk to Law Enforcement. Rich Nelson asked how are EPCs in general trending compared to last year. Beth said a little higher however it goes up and down around the holidays and after.

13. Alternative Compliance Request

Tiffany referred to a handout, Live Well AC Approval letter. Region 3, on behalf of Live Well, has requested a two year Alternative Compliance effective July 1, 2024-June 30, 2026 to waive the requirement of National Accreditation for the organization. Region 3 will oversee the quality of service delivery by Live Well. Live Well Counseling Center (Live Well) is long standing provider that provides mostly outpatient therapy with a strong focus on youth. Tiffany Gressley provided a brief recap of the process when a Region 3 Provider is not CARF accredited.

Rich Nelson and the Division of Behavioral Health have approved the Alternative Compliance Request and Tiffany requested that the Regional Governing Board ratify the approval of Alternative Compliance for Live Well Counseling Center.

Theresa Puls motioned to accept the approval letter, seconded by Gary Quandt. No discussion. Motion carried.

14. Quality Improvement Report

a. FY25 1st Quarter Quality Improvement Report

Kayl Dahlke reviewed the 1st Quarter (July through September) outcomes of the FY2025 Network Quality Improvement Plan: Performance Measurement and Reporting document. Kayl highlighted the outcomes for individual satisfaction measure, access measure, and performance measures. Access measures include Housing Assistance Program, Supported Employment, Short Term Residential, and Medication Management. Performance Measures include goals for stable living at discharge, consumer confidence, and employment at discharge, Supported Employment, Housing Assistance Program, Crisis Services, Professional Partner Program, Crisis Stabilization Unit, Transitional Age Coordinated Employment, Co-Responder Program, Strategic Opioid Response (SOR), Network Management, Peer Support, and Recovery Support Program. He said red numbers meant the targets were not met and the far column showed the number of individuals for each goal. Kayl explained how some measures were only collected semi-annually. Rich Nelson asked how often the goals are reviewed and are they dictated by Kayl said some goals are dictated by the state. Quarterly DBH sends information on the goals for all Regions across the state, however the information does not arrive timely as it depends on the date. Kayl said Region 3 does not have many outcomes in red and most outcomes are above other regions in the state. He said quarterly Region 3 holds a Regional Quality Improvement Team Meeting which include Region 3 Network Providers, at the meeting we review this information and other data and discuss how to improve the outcomes.

b. Region 3 Stakeholder Survey

Kayl Dahlke said Nathan Canfield emailed the Stakeholder Survey this week. The email would contain a survey monkey link or an attachment of an electronic copy. Kayl said the completed surveys could be emailed or mailed back to Region 3, if not completed through the Survey Monkey link. Tiffany Gressley said we value input and utilize the information for our Strategic Planning. She said we look at what we need to work on and appreciate the input in our planning process.

15. Presentation of the FY24 Region 3 Impact Report

Tiffany Gressley expressed her appreciation to Region 3 staff on their efforts to have the FY24 Region 3 Impact Report completed by January. One challenge Region 3 faces in the completion of the report is the wait time for final fiscal year data from DBH that is not available until October. The final Impact Report was emailed to providers, RGB members and other system stakeholders. Tiffany presented a Power Point presentation of highlights covering Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024). Highlights included; FY24 Expenditures were \$12,742,954 with 80.0% of the funds spent Direct Services, 8.1% System Enhancements, 7.2% System Coordination, and 4.7% Regional Administration and Network Management. Additionally, there were a total of 4,067 unique individuals served with 87.2% were adults 19 and older and 12.8% were youth 18 and younger. Individuals often participate in more than one service a year as shown by the duplicate count of 7,546 people. The report is available on the Region 3 web-site.

16. Region 3 Risk Management Plan Approval

Kerry Slaymaker explained that the Region 3 Risk Management Plan is presented for approval each Year. She said the plan lays out the possible risks, action plans, what action steps are being completed, and who is responsible for the task. Kerry leads the team comprised of staff members representing all areas of our organization, each year the plan is reviewed by the Risk Management Team and Leadership Team. Kerry reviewed the details of the Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Organizational Risk Management Plan November 2024. One item of note was that the previously written Succession Plan had been filled by Kerry Slaymaker and Tiffany Gressley and the team will review the applicable plan in 2025. Kerry asked if there were any questions. There were no questions. Motion by Helen Cullers to approve the Region 3 Risk Management Plan November 2024, seconded by Theresa Puls. Motion carried.

17. Regional Administrator's Report

a. Legislative Up-date

Tiffany Gressley shared a legislative update. Senator Quick has agreed to carry LB454 for the Regional Administrators; the barriers in increasing and/or expanding services in response to identified needs have been discussed at RGB previously. Current interpretation from DBH is that regions must conduct an RFP to expand existing services with existing providers, adding significant time. LB454 allows for expansion of existing services with existing providers without the requirement of an RFP but with the approval of DBH. An additional piece of LB454 is expanding the approved use of the Housing Assistance Program funds to include Substance Use Disorders (SUD) as the primary diagnosis. Currently, individuals must have a Mental Health Diagnosis (MH) to qualify for the funds.

b. NACO Conference

Tiffany served on a panel in December during the annual NACO (National Association of County Officials) conference held in Kearney. The breakout session focused on the Opioid Settlement Fund and she described the process through the regions were using to distribute funds to communities. She said NACO has also reach out to her to be on another panel for Justice and

Behavioral Health. Beth Reynolds-Lewis will be participating on that panel on behalf of Region 3.

c. NACO HHS Committee

The Health and Human Services Committee of NACO hosted a Senator Breakfast on January 13, 2025 in Lincoln. The Regional Administrators provided information about the role of the regions. Tiffany reported that the meeting went well, four senators from the Region 3 area were in attendance. The NACO HHS discussed potentially hosting another event for senators during the session.

d. FY24 Region 3 Network Compliance Monitoring

Tiffany Gressley shared the copy of the DBH letter regarding the FY24 Region 3 Network Compliance Monitoring process. Tiffany reviewed the letter and noted there were no findings, one recommendation, and three commendations.

18. Other Business

19. Date of Next Meeting

The next Regional Governing Board meeting is Friday, March 21, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Region 3 Behavioral Health Services, 4009 6th Avenue, Suite 65, Kearney, NE

Remaining 2025 Meeting Schedule

- May 23, 2025
- August 22, 2025
- October 31, 2025

20. Adjourn

Motion by Gary Quandt to adjourn the January 24, 2025 meeting, seconded by Jeff Bash, motion carried. Rich Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.