



Behavioral Health Services

MEETING OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

Friday, January 26, 2024
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
Tammy Kleeb welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Review of Open Meetings Act
The Open Meetings Act sign is posted in the meeting room. Advanced publicized notice of this meeting was placed in the Kearney Hub, the Grand Island Independent and the Hastings Tribune.
3. Roll Call
Roll Call was taken by Jean Starman.

Present:

Buffalo – Bill Maendele
Custer – Tammy Kleeb
Franklin – Joshua Johnson
Garfield – Jerome Zulkoski
Greeley – Jordan Foltz
Hall – Gary Quandt
Hamilton – Richard Nelson
Howard – Jessie Urbanski
Merrick – Carolyn Kucera
Nuckolls – Jerry Grove
Sherman – Kenneth Kaslon

Excused:

Clay – Ivan Fintel
Furnas – Dennis Tegtman
Loup – Donna Steckel
Phelps – Theresa Puls
Valley – Helen Cullers
Webster – Trevor Karr

Absent:

Adams – Lee Hogan
Blaine – Craig Thompson
Harlan – Anthony Gulizia
Kearney – Larry Landstrom
Wheeler – Travis Heinz

Also Present:

Robert Meyer – RJ Meyer and Associates
Tiffany Gressley – Region 3 Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Kerry Slaymaker – Region 3 BHS
Suzanne Davis – Region 3 BHS
Kayl Dahlke – Region 3 BHS
Jean Starman – Region 3 BHS

- 4. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Gary Quandt to approve the agenda, seconded by Carolyn Kucera, motion carried.

5. Comments from the Public
There were no comments from the public.
6. Approval of October 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Motion by Bill Maendele to approve the October 27, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Josh Johnson, motion carried.
7. Executive Committee Report
Tammy Kleeb reported that the Executive Committee met on January 26, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. The committee discussed the current holidays recognized by Region 3 and approved the addition of Juneteenth as a Region 3 holiday. Juneteenth is a federal holiday recognized annually on June 19. Tammy added that the Region 3 office is open on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Presidents' Day as it is a work day for Region 3 employees.

Tammy explained that Regional Governing Board members sign a *Conflict of Interest Statement* on an annual basis regarding any potential conflicts of interest. Tammy stated that a new form, *Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form*, was discussed and approved for Region 3 use. The form is to be completed by anyone who has an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest. The new form will provide additional documentation and transparency.

8. Election of 2024 Regional Governing Board Officers

a. Comments by Current Officers

Tammy Kleeb – Tammy shared that she has decided to resign from serving as a Regional Governing Board Officer in 2024. Tammy stated that she enjoyed serving on the committee and would like others to have the opportunity to be an officer. Tammy added that the Executive Committee is a great committee.

Rich Nelson – Rich stated that he appreciated the opportunity to serve as Vice Chairperson in 2023. He shared that he learned a lot and it provided opportunities to ask questions on a one-to-one basis.

Gary Quandt made a motion to nominate Rich Nelson as Chairperson, seconded by Jordan Foltz. A roll call vote commenced.

- Lee Hogan - Absent
- Craig Thompson - Absent
- Bill Maendele - Yes
- Ivan Fintel - Excused
- Tammy Kleeb - Yes
- Joshua Johnson - Yes
- Dennis Tegtman - Excused
- Jerome Zulkoski - Yes
- Jordan Foltz - Yes
- Gary Quandt - Yes
- Rich Nelson - Yes
- Anthony Gulizia - Absent
- Jessie Urbanski - Yes
- Larry Landstom - Absent
- Donna Steckel - Excused
- Carolyn Kucera - Yes
- Jerry Grove - Yes
- Theresa Puls - Excused
- Kenneth Kaslon - Yes
- Helen Cullers - Excused
- Trevor Karr - Excused

Travis Heinz - Absent

Tiffany Gressley reported that Theresa Puls stated during the Executive Committee meeting on October 27, 2023 that she is willing to serve as Vice Chairperson. Theresa Puls was excused from this meeting due to being out of town.

Bill Maendele made a motion to nominate Theresa Puls as Vice Chairperson, seconded by Jessie Urbanski. A roll call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan - Absent

Craig Thompson - Absent

Bill Maendele - Yes

Ivan Fintel - Excused

Tammy Kleeb - Yes

Joshua Johnson - Yes

Dennis Tegtman - Excused

Jerome Zulkoski - Yes

Jordan Foltz - Yes

Gary Quandt - Yes

Rich Nelson - Yes

Anthony Gulizia - Absent

Jessie Urbanski - Yes

Larry Landstom - Absent

Donna Steckel - Excused

Carolyn Kucera - Yes

Jerry Grove - Yes

Theresa Puls - Excused

Kenneth Kaslon - Yes

Helen Cullers - Excused

Trevor Karr - Excused

Travis Heinz - Absent

Bill Maendele shared that he was asked by individuals if he had an interest in serving as Secretary. Bill stated that he would volunteer to serve if no one else was interested in the position.

Josh Johnson made a motion to nominate Bill Maendele as Secretary, seconded by Jessie Urbanski. A roll call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan - Absent

Craig Thompson - Absent

Bill Maendele - Yes

Ivan Fintel - Excused

Tammy Kleeb - Yes

Joshua Johnson - Yes

Dennis Tegtman - Excused

Jerome Zulkoski - Yes

Jordan Foltz - Yes

Gary Quandt - Yes

Rich Nelson - Yes

Anthony Gulizia - Absent

Jessie Urbanski - Yes

Larry Landstom - Absent

Donna Steckel - Excused

Carolyn Kucera - Yes

Jerry Grove - Yes

Theresa Puls - Excused
Kenneth Kaslon - Yes
Helen Cullers - Excused
Trevor Karr - Excused
Travis Heinz - Absent

- 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
No other nominations were made from the floor.
- d. Election of Officers
Election of 2024 Regional Governing Board Officers took place with Agenda Item 8. a.
Regional Governing Board Officers for 2024:
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. FY24 Year-to-Date Network Expenditures

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Network Expenditures July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023*. Mental Health services expended 40% of the budgeted amount for FY24 with 50% of the fiscal year elapsed. Kerry stated that Region 3 closely monitors expenditures on a monthly basis and if services are close to exceeding the budgeted amount, budget shifts can be made. Kerry gave an example with the Plans for One service. A budget shift of \$6,000 was completed so an individual could receive Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation services; a lower level service from Secure Residential, which requires a plan approval. Kerry explained that if there is higher utilization in some services, we can shift funds accordingly. Assertive Community Treatment expended 49% of the FY24 budget. Expenditures of 47% - 50% usually reflect expense-reimbursement services. Some services show 0% expended. Individuals using such services may be Medicaid eligible so Region 3 would not be the payer source. Crisis Inpatient Youth has a low budgeted amount as it serves as a placeholder. In some years, there have been more than one youth in the service and other years there have been no Region 3 funded youth use the service. Inpatient Post Commitment Treatment Days has a budgeted amount of \$2,900, which serves as a placeholder amount.

Substance Use Disorder services expended 36% of the budgeted amount for FY24 with 50% of the fiscal year elapsed. Kerry noted that Dual Disorder Residential service is a Medicaid eligible service so Region 3 expended 0% of the budgeted amount. There is a \$10,000 budget, however, we have not spent any funds at this time because all the individuals have been Medicaid eligible for the service. Therapeutic Community, a women's treatment center provided by The Bridge in Hastings, expended 25% of the budgeted amount. This is a Medicaid paid service. Due to Medicaid expansion, Region 3 has expended considerably less money for this service than in years past. With the Medicaid unwinding process, we are starting to see increased utilization.

Grand Total paid out for FY24 - \$5,378,957 or 39% of the budgeted amount with 50% of the year elapsed.

Kerry explained that Region 3 has been approached with an expansion and service development request. The Crisis Stabilization Unit at Mid-Plains Center in Grand Island is looking to expand the number of their beds. The need is great throughout the state for this type of service so Region 3 would like to move forward with the expansion upon DBH approval.

Kerry explained that we have been approached by a provider who would like to open a short-term residential facility in the Region 3 area. There is a significant need for short-term residential services across the state and many individuals are on a waitlist for this service. Tiffany stated that we would like to receive approval from the Division of Behavioral in FY24 to move forward. If approved, next steps would be determined and a Request for Proposal process would likely be used.

Kerry reviewed Other Reinvestment Projects, which has expended 12% of the grant funds. A Sequential Intercept Model trainer may be available to provide training this spring or summer. A significant amount of preparation, such as data collection and one-on-one interviews, is needed before training can take place.

Two schools contacted Region 3 regarding Signs of Suicide (SOS) Curriculum implementation.

Funding for the Other Reinvestment Projects is available through September 2025.

b. FY24 Contract and Shift Ratifications

Kerry Slaymaker referred to a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Contract Ratifications by Regional Governing Board*, which includes contracts signed by Tiffany Gressley since the Regional Governing Board (RGB) meeting on October 27, 2023. Tiffany receives the contracts electronically, signs and returns them to the Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Behavioral Health. The contracts are then signed by the RGB Chairperson and brought to the Regional Governing Board for ratification. This is the process approved by the RGB.

- FY24 Budget Shift 11/20/23 - \$148,469
Funds were moved into services that were approaching their budgeted amount.
- FY24 Budget Shift 12/5/23 - \$73,900
Funds went from Prevention services to Prevention services and included state and federal funds.
- FY24 Budget Shift 12/20/23 - \$6,000
An individual was moved to a lower treatment level in the Plans for One service.
- State Opioid Response Grant Renewal - \$193,252
This is the Region 3 on-going Opioid Grant that has been in place for approximately five years and has been renewing each year.

Motion made by Carolyn Kucera to approve the FY24 Contract and Shift Ratifications, seconded by Rich Nelson. A Roll Call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan - Absent

Craig Thompson - Absent

Bill Maendele - Yes

Ivan Fintel - Excused

Tammy Kleeb - Yes

Joshua Johnson - Yes
Dennis Tegtman - Excused
Jerome Zulkoski - Yes
Jordan Foltz - Yes
Gary Quandt - Yes
Rich Nelson - Yes
Anthony Gulizia - Absent
Jessie Urbanski - Yes
Larry Landstom - Absent
Donna Steckel - Excused
Carolyn Kucera - Yes
Jerry Grove - Yes
Theresa Puls - Excused
Kenneth Kaslon - Yes
Helen Cullers - Excused
Trevor Karr - Excused
Travis Heinz - Absent

c. FY25 Regional Budget Planning Timeline

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed a handout, *FY25 Regional Budget Plan Timeline and Approval Process*, and noted the following dates on the timeline, which is based on the Division of Behavioral Health Timeline.

December 29, 2023 – Region 3 requests Network Providers’ FY25 preliminary projections for Expense reimbursement-based services and Unit-based services. Preliminary projections are due to Region 3 January 17, 2024. Kerry and Tiffany review the submissions, determine any adjustments and schedule meetings with individual Network Providers as needed.

February 16, 2024 – March 1, 2024 – Region 3 will provide technical assistance to Network Providers in developing the FY25 Budget Plan.

March 1, 2024 – Network Providers electronically submit FY25 Budget Plans to Region 3.

March 21, 2024 - Region 3 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee to review the FY25 Regional Budget Plan.

March 22, 2024 – Region 3 to present the FY25 RBP to the Region 3 Governing Board for approval.

April 29, 2024 – May 13, 2024 – The Division of Behavioral Health distributes letters confirming approval status to Region 3.

May 24, 2024 – In the event changes must be made to the FY25 RBP, presentation to the Region 3 Governing Board will take place for final approval.

July 1, 2024 – DBH to Region 3 final contracts are effective.

11. FY23 Independent CPA Audit

Robert Meyer, Certified Public Accountant with RJ Meyer & Associates, provided the FY23 Audit Report. Robert reviewed assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures. Salaries and retirement areas were reviewed which indicated nothing unusual. Robert reported that salary amounts were similar to the previous year which means Region 3 staff is relatively stable with no major increases or decreases.

Robert reported that state funding was higher in 2023 than in 2022. An Opioid Settlement payment was received in June 2023. Workforce Stabilization grant funds were also received to help retain and hire more behavioral health workers. Robert stated that the 2023 financials are very comparable to the 2022 financials.

Robert concluded that everything looked very good and operations are going well. Robert asked if there were any questions. There were no questions about the Region 3 FY23 Independent CPA Audit Report.

Motion made by Rich Nelson to accept the FY23 Independent CPA Audit Report as presented by Robert Meyer, seconded by Ken Kaslon, motion carried. A roll call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan - Absent
Craig Thompson - Absent
Bill Maendele - Yes
Ivan Fintel - Excused
Tammy Kleeb - Yes
Joshua Johnson - Yes
Dennis Tegtman - Excused
Jerome Zulkoski - Yes
Jordan Foltz - Yes
Gary Quandt - Yes
Rich Nelson - Yes
Anthony Gulizia - Absent
Jessie Urbanski - Yes
Larry Landstom - Absent
Donna Steckel - Excused
Carolyn Kucera - Yes
Jerry Grove - Yes
Theresa Puls - Excused
Kenneth Kaslon - Yes
Helen Cullers - Excused
Trevor Karr - Excused
Travis Heinz - Absent

12. Quality Improvement Report

a. FY24 1st Quarter Quality Improvement Report

Kayl Dahlke reviewed all areas of a handout, *FY2024 Network Quality Improvement Plan: Performance Measurement and Reporting – 1st Quarter Report July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023*. This tool is designed to improve and sustain identified satisfaction, access and performance measures for the Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Network. The “N” number shows the number of individuals applicable for each of the measures.

Kayl explained that *Consumer Confidence* reflects responses from the Annual Statewide Consumer Survey. Data will be reported after the survey is sent and responses compiled. The Region 3 service area currently has twenty-two pharmacies participating in the Naloxone Distribution Program, which is well above the target goal of ten pharmacies. Kayl stated that data will likely increase in the post-discharge tracking service, ValiData, as more Network Providers work with individuals who reach the 3-month post discharge point.

b. FY24 Point-in-Time Service Utilization Trends

Kayl Dahlke reviewed a handout that shows service utilization for the past seven months. Kayl stated that service utilization for this time period has remained fairly steady.

c. Region 3 Stakeholder Survey

Kayl Dahlke shared that the *Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey January 2024* was sent electronically to stakeholders, including Governing Board members. Kayl asked Governing Board members to complete and submit the survey by February 2, 2024 via the Survey Monkey link or on a paper copy that Kayl provided. The Stakeholder Survey is conducted annually. It is a way for us to receive feedback from various stakeholders across our region and it helps us identify where people see gaps in our service array.

13. Region 3 Risk Management Plan Approval

Kerry Slaymaker explained that the Region 3 Risk Management Team is comprised of staff members representing all areas of our organization. Kerry reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Organizational Risk Management Plan October 2023*. The handout includes identified risk/loss exposure, action steps to reduce or eliminate the loss/risk exposure, progress made, person(s) responsible, and person responsible to monitor. Kerry explained that the areas in red font indicate updated or clarifying information from last year's plan.

Regarding the development of a written succession plan, Kerry noted that an action step has been added which includes the creation of procedure manuals for all positions. The procedure manuals are to include instructions on position duties. Kerry added that Region 3 has individuals in place to perform duties in the event of someone's absence. Cross-training is encouraged to allow for a smooth continuation of operations.

The Risk Management Plan is reviewed annually by the Risk Management Team. Kerry asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked. Motion by Josh Johnson to approve the Region 3 Risk Management Plan October 2023, seconded by Jordan Foltz. A roll call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan – Absent

Craig Thompson - Absent

Bill Maendele - Yes

Ivan Fintel - Excused

Tammy Kleeb - Yes

Joshua Johnson - Yes

Dennis Tegtman - Excused

Jerome Zulkoski - Yes

Jordan Foltz - Yes

Gary Quandt - Yes

Rich Nelson - Yes

Anthony Gulizia - Absent

Jessie Urbanski - Yes

Larry Landstom - Absent

Donna Steckel - Excused

Carolyn Kucera - Yes

Jerry Grove - Yes

Theresa Puls - Excused

Kenneth Kaslon - Yes

Helen Cullers - Excused

Trevor Karr - Excused

Travis Heinz – Absent

14. Regional Administrator Report

a. FY25 County Match

Tiffany Gressley explained that each Region 3 member county provides county match funding for the operation of the Region 3 Behavioral Health Authority and the provision of behavioral health services in the Region. The Regional Governing Board establishes the formula based on population. On an annual basis, the Division of Behavioral Health certifies the amount of county matching funds provided by each Region. For every \$7.50 of State General Funds requiring match the Regional

Behavioral Health Authority provides \$1.00 in county funds. The Regional Governing Board utilizes the most recently posted estimated U.S. census data to determine per capita county match. Currently, 2022 census data is available which was used for the current FY24 match. The 2023 census data should be available at the end of March 2024.

Tiffany stated that the Region 3 Budget Plan is being developed using the assumption that FY25 County Match will remain the same based on the allocation chart that was distributed by the Division of Behavioral Health. However, Region 3 will not know our final allocation until the budget is fully passed through the Nebraska Legislature. The Governor's 2023-2025 Mid-Biennium Adjustment Budget includes a recommendation to decrease the state behavioral health aid (Program 038) by 15 million dollars.

An Appropriations Hearing will take place; date is to be determined. Tiffany and other Regional Administrators will attend to testify in opposition of the recommended budget reduction. Regional Governing Board Chairpersons are also encouraged to attend and testify. Tiffany added that individuals will still be in need of services and if services are not as readily accessible and available, those individuals may be more likely to show up in our emergency rooms and county jails.

Discussion took place. Bill Maendele, a Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Board Member, shared that NACO will oppose any proposed cuts in funding to behavioral health.

A question was asked about the Region 3 impact if the \$15 million funding reduction is implemented. Kerry explained that the Governor's recommended budget cut of \$15 million would be taken from Program 038, which includes the six behavioral health regions. It is unknown what the exact impact will be, but Region 3 could potentially see an estimated reduction of \$1.5 million - \$1.7 million or 10% - 12%.

Discussion took place.

Tiffany expressed appreciation to the Governing Board members for their support and understanding of the importance of access to services for individuals in need of behavioral health services. Tiffany will share information as it becomes available and encourages governing board members to reach out to senators on the Appropriations Committee to share their thoughts on the impact of the potential budget cut.

b. FY23 Network Compliance Response Letter

Tiffany Gressley referred to a FY23 Network Compliance Response Letter from the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) regarding our FY23 Network Compliance Auditing process. DBH completes this monitoring process each year to ensure we are meeting our Network Management and System Coordination responsibilities. Region 3 had no recommendations and several commendations listed on the letter, which reflects and highlights the quality work that our staff performs.

c. Opioid Settlement Funds Update

Tiffany Gressley explained that Tony Green, Interim Director for the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), shared at the December 6, 2023 Statewide Advisory Committee meeting that the Statewide Advisory Committee does not have the authority to enter into contracts for a statewide needs assessment or for projects received in the Request for Proposal that was released by that committee. The Statewide Advisory Committee can make recommendations to DBH for use of the funds but DBH can reject or accept those recommendations. When discussing this shift in administrative perspective, Director Green also referred to "geographic regions" instead of the "Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA)" as the structure for disbursement for 50% of the 85% of funds retained at the state level. Tiffany stated that this is

a significant change from all previous documents that have been released. In subsequent meetings with DBH, the RBHAs have directly inquired as to the status of additional funds to be released to the RBHAs and have not received an answer. Because of this, it is unclear when, or if, additional dollars will be released to the RBHAs. Region 3 received one allocation payment of approximately one million dollars on June 30, 2023. Previously, it was estimated that Region 3 would receive approximately sixteen million dollars over the course of eighteen years to disperse to communities. In light of this new information, Region 3 will pause current plans. We hope to gain clarification at the next Statewide Advisory Committee meeting on February 28, 2024 where the Division of Behavioral Health is to provide their recommendations to the Statewide Advisory Committee. Tiffany and Norah Renner will attend the meeting. Tiffany will share information as it becomes available.

Discussion took place.

15. Other Business

A question was asked if Governing Board members could participate in Regional Governing Board meetings via Zoom if unable to attend in person. Discussion took place. Tiffany Gressley will contact the Region 3 attorney and report back.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Regional Budget Plan Presentation

March 22, 2024

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Remaining 2024 Meeting Schedule

- May 24
- August 23
- October 25

Meetings are 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

17. Adjourn

Tammy Kleeb adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.