



**MEETING OF THE  
REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD**

**Friday, March 13, 2026**  
**9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**REGION 3 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES  
4009 6<sup>TH</sup> 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

Dennis Tegtman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Jean Starman.

**Present:**

Buffalo – Bill Maendele  
Custer – Tammy Kleeb  
Furnas – Dennis Tegtman  
Garfield – Jerome Zulkoski  
Hall – Gary Quandt  
Hamilton – Rich Nelson  
Harlan – Jeff Bash  
Howard – Jesse Urbanski  
Kearney – Jeff England  
Nuckolls – Jerry Grove  
Phelps – Theresa Puls  
Sherman – Ken Kaslon  
Webster – Trevor Karr

**Absent:**

Blaine – Craig Thompson  
Franklin – Josh Johnson  
Greeley – Jordan Foltz  
Valley – Max Magiera

**Also Present:**

Tiffany Gressley – Region 3 Behavioral Health Services (BHS)  
Kerry Slaymaker – Region 3 BHS  
Kayl Dahlke – Region 3 BHS  
Jean Starman – Region 3 BHS

**Excused:**

Adams – Lee Hogan  
Clay – Jesse Mohnike  
Loup – Donna Steckel  
Merrick – Carolyn Kucera  
Wheeler – Roy Plugge

3. Review of Open Meetings Act

The Open Meetings Act sign is posted in the meeting room. Two weeks prior to the March 13, 2026 Regional Governing Board meeting, advanced publicized notice was listed in the Kearney Hub, the Grand Island Independent and the Hastings Tribune.

4. Comments from the Public

There were no individuals from the public in attendance.

5. Approval of Agenda  
Jeff Bash motioned to approve the March 13, 2026 meeting agenda, seconded by Jesse Urbanski, motion carried.
  
6. Approval of January 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes  
Gary Quandt motioned to approve the January 23, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Rich Nelson, motion carried.
  
7. Executive Committee Report  
Dennis Tegtman reported that the Executive Committee met on March 13, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. During the meeting, January and February expenses were reviewed and Tiffany Gressley provided an update on the Region 3 Strategic Planning process being completed. There were no Region 3 policies to review.
  
8. Region 3 Fiscal Reports
  - a. FY26 Year-to-Date Network Expenditures  
Kerry Slaymaker reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Network Expenditures Report July 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026*. Mental Health services expended \$4,402,323 or 52% of the budgeted amount with 58% of the fiscal year elapsed.  
  
Kerry explained that in recent years, utilization of Inpatient Post Commitment Treatment Days has been very low. This year has been unique as 100% of the budgeted amount has been spent. One person was hospitalized for several months while waiting to enter the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC). Region 3 has ended the agreement to continue payment for the hospital stay. The individual is now at LRC. If the hospital receives retro Medicaid payments, they are to be refunded to Region 3.  
  
The Professional Partner Program-Transition Age expended 88% of the budgeted amount. This is due to the age of the consumers served and funds will be transferred from the other Professional Partner Program line item.  
  
Supported Employment and Supported Housing show 0% spent and 100% spent in some areas, which is misleading. The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) changed their process in how they are requiring the Regions to record expenses in the Electronic Billing System. They created new line items to collect additional information required from the Regions. The true data:  
Supported Employment – 21% spent  
Supported Housing Transition Age – 30% spent  
Supported Housing Adult MH – 55% spent  
  
Substance Use Disorder services expended \$1,818,776 or 46% of the budgeted amount with 58% of the fiscal year elapsed.  
  
Halfway House expended 22% of the budgeted amount which is less than in past years. Capacity has been increased and beds are available and being used. It appears that the individuals currently receiving the service are Medicaid paid or have a different payor source other than Region 3.  
  
Intensive Outpatient-Adult has been paid out at 68% of the budgeted amount and funds have been shifted into this service.  
  
The Division of Behavioral Health created new line items for SUD Supported Employment and Housing. The true data:  
Supported Employment – 3% spent  
Supported Housing SUD Adult – 52% spent  
Supported Housing Women with Children Housing Vouchers – 32% spent

Grand Total Paid Out for July 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026 was \$6,221,099 or 51% of the budgeted amount with 58% of the fiscal year elapsed.

b. FY26 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 meeting on January 23, 2026. 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 brought to the Regional Governing Board for ratification.

- DBH Partnership for Success (PFS) Amendment (contract language update)
- Budget Shift completed February 12, 2026 - \$32,000.
- DBH Mental Health First Aid Contract Renewal - \$11,468.

Rich Nelson motioned to approve the Region 3 Contract and Shift Ratifications as presented by Kerry Slaymaker, seconded by Theresa Puls. Motion carried.

c. National Opioid Settlement Funds

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed all areas of a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services National Opioid Settlement Funds Report as of January 31, 2026*. Some grant recipients requested an extension and were given a six-month extension. A new grant cycle will begin this summer. Kerry shared that numerous applications were received for the first grant cycle and fewer applications were received for the second grant cycle.

Total Grant Funds Expended: \$726,509.10

Unobligated Funds Remaining: \$1,091,843.69

Region 3 receives quarterly reports from awarded grantees, conducts audits, and has processes in place to monitor the Opioid Settlement Funds.

9. Presentation of the FY27 Regional Budget Plan

a. Overview, Network Management and System Coordination

Tiffany Gressley reviewed a handout, *Regional Budget Plan July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027*. The purpose of the Regional Budget Plan is to ensure that the Region 3 Behavioral Health System promotes accountability, maintains adequate capacity, and focuses on delivering effective trauma-informed, co-occurring capable mental health and substance use disorder services. Development of the Budget Plan includes the four areas of Performance, Effective Services, Data, and Allocation of Resources. Funding decisions were made in support of a comprehensive array of services and activities. Tiffany reviewed Region 3 System Priorities and the role of Network Management and System Coordination Planning. Region 3 maintains regional administrative and network management functions to ensure system accountability, management and effectiveness in the twenty-two-county area of Region 3.

Tiffany reviewed the FY27 Budget Planning Process, including a timeline of events from December 19, 2025 through July 15, 2026. A Planning Meeting with Network Providers was held at Region 3 on February 2, 2026, to gather their input regarding utilization and trends. Many discussions took place between Region 3, the Division of Behavioral Health and Network Providers and numerous revisions were made before the final budget was completed. Tiffany thanked Kerry and her team for their diligent and detailed work in developing the FY27 Budget Plan.

b. FY27 Budget Information

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services FY27 Regional Budget Plan, FY26-FY27 Comparison, March 13, 2026*. Figures in red font and parentheses represent a budget decrease. Figures in black font without parentheses represent a budget increase. Kerry said the FY27 Budget was based on the same amount of State funding as FY26 as there has been no indication of a budget reduction. The County Tax Match portion has not increased. There is a decrease of \$75,000 in the overall budget due to Other Region Funds that were included in the FY26 budget earmarked for a new MAT (Medically Assisted Treatment) Program that was not implemented.

Mental Health services increased \$252,967. Kerry explained the rationale for funding increases and funding decreases for some services.

- Assertive Community Treatment decreased \$50,000 based on current utilization.
- Crisis Response increased \$141,490 (an expense-based reimbursement service) - Plans include the addition of another Co-Responder position. DBH to begin a flat rate for Crisis Services starting July 1, 2026, regardless of the number of times follow-up occurs with a person. Fiscal will monitor.
- Crisis Stabilization MH increased \$241,939 - deals with DBH changes in Social Detox and Crisis Stabilization Unit. (Crisis Stabilization SUD decreased \$63,685 and Social Detox SUD decreased \$242,421 so Crisis Stabilization decreased in total.
- Emergency Community Support increased \$48,775 (expense-based reimbursement service) No change in service capacity, but increase is related to hospitals that were to receive DSH Funds (Disproportionate Share Hospital Funds), a match through Medicaid and the federal government. We were recently notified that our hospitals no longer qualified for DSH payments, so Region 3 had to support the full cost of one of the ERCS programs that is located at a hospital.
- Inpatient Post Commitment Treatment Days decreased \$89,814 - Related to an individual who was in the hospital and now at LRC. We don't usually have expenses for this service, so budget reduced to typical amount.
- Medication Management decreased \$54,428 - Related to \$75,000 for MAT (Medically Assisted Treatment) Program that was not implemented.
- Outpatient Psychotherapy decreased \$49,064 - related to the MAT (Medically Assisted Treatment) Program that was not implemented.
- Outpatient Psychotherapy Youth increased \$65,011 - partly due to a new planned partnership with Children's Behavioral Health Urgent Care in Kearney.
- Plans for One decreased \$91,705 - service is used for individuals coming out of LRC with unique needs.
- Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation increased \$47,583 - Kerry anticipates the need to shift funds into this service.
- Regional Administration decreased \$56,997 (Regional Administration SUD increased \$64,291 for a net increase of \$7,294).
- Regional Housing Coordination increased \$40,401 due to changes in Electronic Billing System processes made by DBH that causes additional Region 3 staff time for data entry.

Substance Use Disorder services decreased \$328,532.

- Crisis Stabilization decreased 63,685.
- Halfway House decreased \$163,262 - fiscal will monitor.
- Medication Management increased \$10,000 for new MAT (Medically Assisted Treatment) Program.
- Prevention (five line items) - coalition budgets decreased approximately \$5,700 to limit travel and attendance at national trainings.

- Social Detoxification decreased \$242,421- FY27 is the first year to separate Crisis Stabilization from Social Detoxification.
- Supported Housing decreased \$10,000.

Total FY27 Budget: \$12,232,135 which is a decrease of \$75,565 from FY26 due to the Other Region funds for MAT Program that was not implemented.

c. Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Recommendation

Gary Quandt reported that the Region 3 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) met on March 12, 2026 where Tiffany Gressley and Kerry Slaymaker presented the Region 3 Behavioral Health Services FY27 Budget Plan. Gary stated that the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee unanimously voted to adopt the FY27 Regional Budget Plan as presented and recommended it to the Region 3 Regional Governing Board.

d. FY27 County Match Contributions

Kerry Slaymaker referred to a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services FY27 County Tax Match (Preliminary), Based on July 1, 2024 Estimated U.S. Census Population Figures, As of March 12, 2026*. The latest census data is not available at this time. Kerry said we hope to have the most recent census data by the end of March 2026.

Tiffany Gressley reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Return on Investment by County*. The handout shows each county's return on their tax match investment based on the FY2025 cost per individual served and the number of individuals served by county of residence. Tiffany explained that of the 3,885 individuals served, county residence data is not available for 297 people. Most of these individuals received crisis services which makes it difficult to obtain data. Governing Board members can share the handout with their county officials. Tiffany stated that Region 3 makes every effort to be fiscally responsible and efficient with funds entrusted to us.

e. Motion to Approve FY27 Regional Budget Plan

Motion made by Teresa Puls to approve the FY27 Regional Budget Plan, seconded by Jerry Grove, motion carried. A roll call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan - Excused  
 Craig Thompson - Absent  
 Bill Maendele - Yes  
 Jesse Mohnike - Excused  
 Tammy Kleeb - Yes  
 Joshua Johnson - Absent  
 Dennis Tegtman - Yes  
 Jerome Zulkoski - Yes  
 Jordan Foltz - Absent  
 Gary Quandt - Yes  
 Rich Nelson - Yes  
 Jeff Bash - Yes  
 Jessie Urbanski - Yes  
 Jeff England - Yes  
 Donna Steckel - Excused  
 Carolyn Kucera - Excused  
 Jerry Grove - Yes  
 Theresa Puls - Yes  
 Ken Kaslon - Yes  
 Max Madiera - Absent  
 Trevor Karr - Yes  
 Roy Plugge - Excused

Kerry Slaymaker explained Resolution #1 which includes the approval of the FY27 Region 3 Budget Plan.

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS, the Regional Governing Board for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services met on March 13, 2026 for the purpose of conducting the business of the Governing Board and reviewing and approving the FY 2027 Region 3 Budget Plan for behavioral health services.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Regional Governing Board that the behavioral health services in Region 3 be enhanced through the utilization of a balanced system of behavioral health services and supports that are responsive to the needs of and accessible to children, adults and families residing and/or working in the Region 3 service area and communities who are implementing substance abuse prevention activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Governing Board for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services approves the attached Region 3 FY 2027 Budget Plan for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

DATED and approved this 13th day of March 2026.

BY

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Dennis Tegtman  
Chairperson, Region 3 Governing Board

Motion made by Rich Nelson to approve Resolution #1. Roll call was inadvertently taken before the motion was seconded. The roll call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan - Excused  
Craig Thompson - Absent  
Bill Maendele - Yes  
Jesse Mohnike - Excused  
Tammy Kleeb - Yes  
Joshua Johnson - Absent  
Dennis Tegtman - Yes  
Jerome Zulkoski - Yes  
Jordan Foltz - Absent  
Gary Quandt - Yes  
Rich Nelson - Yes  
Jeff Bash - Yes  
Jessie Urbanski - Yes  
Jeff England - Yes  
Donna Steckel - Excused  
Carolyn Kucera - Excused  
Jerry Grove - Yes  
Theresa Puls - Yes  
Ken Kaslon - Yes  
Max Madiera - Absent  
Trevor Karr - Yes  
Roy Plugge - Excused

Kerry Slaymaker explained Resolution #2 which includes the approval of the FY27 County Tax Match.

RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS, the Regional Governing Board for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services met on March 13, 2026 for the purpose of conducting the business of the Governing Board and reviewing and approving the FY 2027 Region 3 Budget Plan for behavioral health services.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Regional Governing Board that the behavioral health services in Region 3 be enhanced through the utilization of a balanced system of behavioral health services and supports that are responsive to the needs of and accessible to children, adults and families residing and/or working in the Region 3 service area and communities who are implementing substance use prevention activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Governing Board for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services approves the total county tax match for FY 2027 in the amount of \$650,971, which is the same as the amount requested for FY 2026. Actual amounts for each county will be sent to the Regional Governing Board members and county clerks in the first week of May 2026 after determination of population estimates as published by the US Census Bureau. If no such US Census Bureau data is available by that time, the counties will be notified that actual amounts for each county will be based on the July 1, 2024 Estimated Census.

DATED and approved this 13th day of March 2026.

BY

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Dennis Tegtman  
Chairperson, Region 3 Governing Board

Motion made by Rich Nelson to approve Resolution #2, seconded by Jeff Bash, motion carried. A roll call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan - Excused  
Craig Thompson - Absent  
Bill Maendele - Yes  
Jesse Mohnike - Excused  
Tammy Kleeb - Yes  
Joshua Johnson - Absent  
Dennis Tegtman - Yes  
Jerome Zulkoski - Yes  
Jordan Foltz - Absent  
Gary Quandt - Yes  
Rich Nelson - Yes  
Jeff Bash - Yes  
Jessie Urbanski - Yes  
Jeff England - Yes  
Donna Steckel - Excused  
Carolyn Kucera - Excused  
Jerry Grove - Yes  
Theresa Puls - Yes  
Ken Kaslon - Yes  
Max Madiera - Absent  
Trevor Karr - Yes  
Roy Plugge – Excused

10. Region 3 Quality Improvement Report

a. FY26 Second Quarter Network QI Report

Kayl Dahlke referred to a handout, *FY2026 Network Quality Improvement Plan: Performance Measurement and Reporting, Second Quarter Report, October 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025*. Kayl

reviewed all Satisfaction, Access Measures and Performance Measures. Performance Measure 7 includes Crisis Services data. Kayl explained that the EPC (Emergency Protective Custody) numbers are somewhat skewed because some individuals have recently had multiple EPCs in a short amount of time. Kayl noted that the Division of Behavioral Health raised our FY26 target goal based on our past success. However, other regions have a lower goal.

b. FY26 YTD Waitlist Data

Kayl Dahlke referred to a handout, *Region 3 CDS Waitlist Report, July 1, 2025 – January 15, 2026 (FY26 YTD)*. A total of seven individuals were placed on the waitlist with all seven individuals waiting for Short Term Residential SUD services. Medicaid was the Primary Funding source of the seven individuals. Kayl reviewed data for the Priority Waitlist by Priority Population, Average Days on Waitlist by Service Type and Waitlist Removal Reasons. Kayl said the average number of days on the waitlist has significantly decreased in the last few years. Currently, the Average Days on the Waitlist is 3.4 days. Tiffany Gressley said the Priority Populations noted in the report are federally designated. Interim services are offered to individuals while on the waitlist.

11. Regional Administrator's Report

a. LB722 Update

Tiffany Gressley shared that the hearing for LB722 took place January 30, 2026. The bill involves changing statute language to allow for the use of Landlord Risk Mitigation Funds for individuals in the housing program with a primary substance use disorder in addition to mental health disorders. Landlord Mitigation funds help to cover the cost of any damage above and beyond normal wear and tear to a landlord's property. Use of these funds to repair any damages to an apartment helps Region 3 maintain good relationships with landlords. There is no fiscal note attached to LB722, which is nearing final reading. Tiffany is optimistic that it will be signed into law this legislative session.

b. NABHO Legislative Day

Tiffany Gressley attended the NABHO (Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations) Legislative Breakfast and Lobby Day in Lincoln on March 6, 2026. The breakfast and capitol visit were opportunities to promote the importance of behavioral health and highlight the good work being done in Nebraska. The event allowed attendees to connect with senators and remind them about the importance of behavioral health funding. Region 3 has been a member of NABHO for many years.

c. Rural Health Transformation Funds

Tiffany Gressley shared that Nebraska has received \$218 million in federal funding as part of the Rural Health Transformation Program. A total of \$13.8 million is designated to Rural Emergency Behavioral Health Initiatives.

The four behavioral health priorities include:

1. Integrated Primary Care Sites to integrate behavioral health services into rural clinics across the state.  
Funded allocated: \$1.5 million
2. Provide renovation/modification funds to existing Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Centers. A Request for Applications for Crisis Stabilization Unit modifications will be available.  
Funding allocated: \$4.5 million
3. Expand access to Telehealth Crisis Responders for Law Enforcement for 24/7 access to counselors for triage. Tiffany explained that this model is currently occurring but the funds will allow for expansion. Funds will also be available for CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) to train law enforcement officers when responding to behavioral health situations. Currently, law enforcement officers must travel to Omaha to receive CIT. Tiffany requested funds to train local trainers in Region 3 so that CIT can be offered within our region.  
Funding allocated: \$6 million
4. Behavioral health nursing homes pilot to provide enhanced payments for nursing homes to take individuals with complex care needs. The enhanced payment identified is an extra \$30

per day. Tiffany questioned if this was an adequate payment to encourage nursing homes to accept individuals with moderate or severe behavioral health needs.

Funding allocated: \$1.8 million

Tiffany shared that a SIM (Sequential Intercept Model) Summit will take place in Lincoln on June 30 and July 1, 2026. The summit is a statewide planning opportunity to learn current Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) processes and discuss challenges in accessing beds. Attendees invited include staff from LRC, the State of Nebraska, emergency systems and behavioral health regions, as well as law enforcement, county attorneys, sheriffs, and judges. Regional Governing Board members are invited to attend. Board members are to contact Tiffany if they are interested in attending.

12. Other Business

No Other Business was discussed.

13. Date of Next Meeting

May 22, 2026

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Region 3 Behavioral Health Services

4009 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 65

Kearney, NE

Remaining Meetings for 2026

- August 28, 2026
- October 30, 2026

📅 Meeting times are 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

14. Adjourn

Dennis Tegtman adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.