



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

October 16, 2025

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

- Elaine Anderson, Vocational Rehabilitation
- Gary Quandt, Hall County Regional Governing Board Member
- Tiffany Gressley, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
- Jen Puls, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
- Kayl Dahlke, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
- Karla Bennetts, Families CARE
- Blake Huelsnitz, Hall County Sheriff Department
- Sharyl Gilles, NAMI and Family to Family

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 March 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Gary Quandt made a motion to approve the minutes. Karla Bennetts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Region3 Fiscal Update

a. FY25 Year-End Network Expenditures

Tiffany Gressley thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. There are four meetings a year two meetings are on Zoom and two meetings are in-person. She said the fiscal year is from July 1st through June 30th. Tiffany said that historically funds were drawn down consistently until COVID hit. She reported 94.75% of state and federal funds were drawn down in FY25. Region 3 was allocated \$11,107,004.00 and drew down \$10,524,311.00 leaving a balance of \$582,693.00 including restricted or designated funds that can only be spent on the specific programs of Housing Program, First Episode Psychosis (FEP), Secure Residential and Women's Set Aside (WSA). Tiffany said FY21 would have been the first year with the expansion of Medicaid during COVID. Tiffany reported there have been conversations with the Division of

Behavioral Health to see if some of the federal WSA funds allocated to Region 3 could be redirected to a different region and non WSA funds could be directed to Region 3 so that we are able to utilize in a different service where there is a gap or need. Each month on the contract call with DBH, Region 3 continues to ask if this is a possibility with no response from the Division of Behavioral Health. Tiffany reviewed the drawdown percentages FY21 81%, FY22 79%, FY23 72%, FY24 88%, and FY25 94.75%. Tiffany said that while, with the previous fiscal year \$2.5 million budget cut means there are less funds to draw down, the high draw down for FY25 demonstrates the need for services within our system.

b. FY26 1st Quarter Expenditures

Tiffany Gressley said the current amount spent for the first quarter of fiscal year 26 was 21.3% for 25% of the year. She said we are on track for this fiscal year.

6. Regional Administrator Report

a. Region 3 CARF Accreditation

Tiffany Gressley shared a copy of the letter received from CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) International stating Region 3 Behavioral Health Services was awarded a 3-year accreditation from the June 2025 site survey. She said there were 100's of standards reviewed for Region 3 Behavioral Services, the network providers, including our case management programs Professional Partner Program and Emergency Community Support. Tiffany said files were audited, drills and inspections reviewed by surveyors that are completed throughout each year at the office. The surveyors interviewed Region 3 staff, persons served, Governing Board chair, referral sources, and funding sources. This survey demonstrates how Region 3 is providing services that meet the CARF standards. Tiffany is proud to say that Region 3 has received a three-year accreditation each survey since 1997.

b. Region 3 Opioid Grant Application

Tiffany Gressley said we have released another round of grant awards out of LB1355 opioid settlement legislation. She referred to the handout listing information regarding the Region 3 National Opioid Grant Awards reviewing information about each applicant totaling \$301,897.92. Grant awards were given to the following applicants: Billion Pill Pledge, Buffalo County Community Partners, Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska- Lincoln and its Nebraska Collegiate Prevention Alliance (NECPA), Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, and Loup Basin Public Health Department. The one applicant was not funded Region 3 is going to provide technical assistance to help them provide a stronger application in the future. Tiffany provided additional information on the process including target populations.

c. Legislative

Tiffany Gressley said she is focused on gearing things up for the next legislative session which begins in January 2026. The upcoming legislative session is a short session. NARA (Nebraska Association of Regional Administrators) is working on messaging with and setting up a time to meet with senators. Tiffany will be scheduling times to meet, or at minimum have a phone call, with local senators to remind them of the importance of the work that Region 3 and its network of providers do to service their constituents.

7. Quality Improvement Report

a. FY26 Network Performance Measures plan

Kayl Dahlke reviewed the handout FY26 Network Quality Improvement Plan: Performance Measurement and Reporting, July 1, 2025 -June 30, 2026. Kayl highlighted the changes of the plan from fiscal year 2025 including some of the measures that had an increased target

percentage and some goals were removed. He explained how the Division of Behavioral Health determines the targets and some of the measures.

b. FY24 Division of Behavioral Health Consumer Survey – Adult

Kayl Dahlke reviewed the comparison report created for FY20 through FY24 with the information provided from the Division of Behavioral Health Consumer Survey for adults. The areas surveyed are access, quality and appropriateness, outcomes, participation in treatment planning, general satisfaction, functioning, and social connectedness. The *Region 3 Adult Consumer Survey Comparison from FY20 to FY24* handout contains detailed information and graphs.

c. FY24 Division of Behavioral Health Consumer Survey – Youth

Kayl Dahlke reviewed the comparison report created for FY20 through FY24 with the information provided from the Division of Behavioral Health Consumer Survey for youth. The areas surveyed are access, family involvement, cultural sensitivity, satisfaction, improved functioning, social connectedness, and positive outcomes. The *Region 3 Youth Consumer Survey Comparison from FY20 to FY24* handout contains detailed information and graphs.

d. FY25 Waitlist Report

Kayl Dahlke said Nathan Canfield put this report together. Kayl reviewed the primary funding source, waitlist service type, priority waitlist by priority population, average days on waitlist by service types, and waitlist removal reasons. The *Region 3 CDS Waitlist Report July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025* handout contains detailed information and graphs.

e. FY25 Compass EZ Report

Kayl Dahlke reviewed the comparison report covering the domains of program philosophy, program policies, quality improvement and data, access, screening and identification, recovery-oriented integrated assessment, integrated person centered planning, integrated treatment/recovery programming, integrated treatment/recovery relationships, integrated treatment/recovery program policies, psychopharmacology, integrated discharge/transition planning, program collaboration and partnership, general staff competencies and training and specific staff competencies. The *Comparison of Region 3 Providers' COMPASS -EZ from FY 19 to FY25* handout contains detailed information, mean percentages, and the change from FY23 to FY25.

f. FY25 TIC Tool Report

Kayl Dahlke reviewed the comparison report covering the domains program procedures and settings, safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, empowerment, formal services policies, trauma screening, assessment, and service planning, administrative support for program-wide trauma-informed services, staff trauma training and education, and human resources practices. The *Comparison of Region 3 Providers' Trauma-Informed Care Assessment from FY19 to FY25* handout contains detailed information, mean percentages, and the change from FY23 to FY25.

8. Networking and Other

- Karla Bennetts, Families CARE, said they are working on fundraising efforts, this week with the help of Nebraska Counseling at Annual Meeting. Karla said they meet people where they are at which is why they are fundraising more than usual as auto expenditures are not reimbursable. Karla said the parent support group continues to meet weekly online. Two times a month in Kearney at the office youth ages 16-24 meet as a support group. She said four people have consistently met over a year and have asked to facilitate the meeting.

- Elaine Anderson, Vocational Rehabilitation, said they work with youth who have a disability or IEP in high school on job readiness and self-advocacy. Elaine shared a success story of a young person who had been in and out of treatment and has received services through Region 3 and is now stabilized and looking forward to a wonderful year.
- Sharyl Gilles, NAMI and Family to Family, said they are struggling to connect with someone at the national NAMI office to provide support for the Hastings chapter. Tiffany and Karla said they had contact information for someone at NAMI who Sharyl could contact. Karla also said she was going to meet with Sharyl after the meeting to provide more information about the upcoming Families CARE conference and support opportunities.

9. Date of Next Meeting:
The next Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting would be on Thursday, January 15, 2026 from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Zoom. The 2026 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee meetings will be March 19, 2026 on Zoom, 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
Gary Quandt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Karla Bennetts seconded the motion. Elaine Anderson adjourned the meeting.