



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

March 20, 2025

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions
Grace Mims welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were conducted.
 - Gary Quandt, Hall County Regional Governing Board Member
 - Tiffany Gressley, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
 - Jen Puls, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
 - Grace Mims, Ph.D., UNK Counseling and School Psychology
 - Kayl Dahlke, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
 - Kerry Slaymaker, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
 - Suzanne Davis, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
 - Hayley Jelinek, Two Rivers Health Department
 - Karla Bennetts, Families CARE
 - Kam Rathjen, Family Member
 - Jeremy Jones, Hall County Sheriff Department
2. Posting of Open Meetings Act
Tiffany Gressley reviewed the intent of the Open Meetings Act with the Behavioral Health 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 has 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 January 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Gary Quandt made a motion to approve the minutes. Hayley Jelinek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Presentation of the FY26 Regional Budget Plan
 - a. Overview, Network Management and System Coordination
Tiffany Gressley provided an overview of the purpose of the Regional Budget Plan process including laying the foundation or groundwork, overall purpose, and the components considered during the planning process to support the overarching system goal and mission of Region 3. She described how informed decisions were being made with our balanced array of services, throughout the Network Management and System Coordination. Tiffany reviewed the timeline where they began working on the FY26 budget plan in December 2024, process that has

happened so far, along with presenting to the Regional Governing Board tomorrow, and remaining steps between now and approximately July 15, 2025.

b. FY25 Network Expenditures

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed the Network Expenditures report through February 28, 2025 of the fiscal year, which is 67%, listing all services through the state contract, including budgeted amount and percentage paid out. Mental Health services have paid out 57% and Substance Use Disorder funds have paid out 62%. Kerry reported that overall 60% of the budget has been paid. Services are monitored monthly and funds are able to be transferred on a monthly basis as needed. Other reinvestment projects through the ARPA Grants are at 25% paid and we were through 84% of the contract period.

c. National Opioid Settlement Funds

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed the National Opioid Settlement Funds Report as of February 28, 2025. This report is different than other fiscal reports, as there had been a one-time payment of funds in June 2023 and at various times depending on the settlement, more funds trickle in. This report covers the whole timeframe of the Opioid Funds. Overall funds received are \$1,734,585.44 with \$1,377,037.08 funds remaining and \$674,906.10 are unobligated funds where a portion would be used for next round of grants. In July of each year, Region 3 is to receive approximately \$329,000 as an annual allocation from the state. Listed at the bottom of the report are counties and municipalities that have reallocated settlement funds to Region 3 Behavioral Health Services, each city/county could keep funds or reallocate to Region 3.

d. FY26 Budget Information

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed the timeline and how they got to these numbers by looking at the complete Fiscal Year 2024 expenses, the projection of expenses for FY25, and the trending of services up or down, so far during the current year. Kerry described the planning process and adjustments that were made after the requests from the Network Providers were \$1.2 million over the budgeted amount for the FY26 Budget Plan. Kerry reviewed the FY26 Budget Plan, which shows all services in alphabetical order to be funded in the FY26 Regional Budget Plan. The columns on the report show the amount budgeted in FY25, the proposed amount for FY26 and the last column shows the difference between the two amounts as either increased or decreased.

Kerry highlighted a few substantial increase or decreases in the proposed FY26 Budget Plan. Assertive Community Treatment has had an increase in utilization due to Medicaid eligibility changes. Crisis Response services have decreases due to the upcoming implementation of CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Center) which covers emergency services under the CCBHC rate through Medicaid, so not as many services would be billed to Region 3. Crisis Stabilization is being funded at approximately the same amounts but is shifting from Mental Health to Substance Use Disorders and separating by category to Social Detoxification for clarity per the Division of Behavioral Health request. Kerry explained the Plans for One line item which is for anyone coming out of the Lincoln Regional Center. The Region has one of these plans in place for an individual to go to a rehabilitation home with 24-hour supervision. Additional funds have been requested from DBH to support this service through FY26. SOAR Program through Goodwill which helps people to sign up for Social Security Benefits will receive an increase as it was not fully funded in FY25 due to budget constraints. Supported Employment for Transition Age Youth has a decrease to zero, as DBH ended that service as of February 28, 2025. Youth served under this program will transition to Vocational Rehabilitation for continued services. The grand total of the budget for FY26 has an increase of \$75,565. These funds are other Region reserve funding to help balance the budget for FY26.

Budget amounts do not always come through as actual, so there may not be a need to dip into the reserve funds to cover the shortage. There was an additional \$85,000 received for Supported Housing funds during FY25 which will continue into FY26. Region 3 asked for the funds to be used for Substance Used Disorders, however the funds are currently only able to be used for Mental Health. Kerry asked if there were any questions about services or changes. Discussion was held regarding the fluctuation of Emergency Protective Custody and who pays for those services.

e. Motion to Approve FY26 Regional Budget Plan

Grace Mims motioned to approve the FY26 Budget Plan. Karla Bennetts seconded the motion. Roll call vote was held: Grace Mims – approved, Karla Bennetts – approved, Kam Rathjen – approved, Hayley Jelinek – approved, Jeremy Jones – approved, and Gary Quandt – approved. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Regional Administrator Report

a. Legislative Update

Tiffany Gressley provided an update on LB 454 introduced by Senator Dan Quick. The legislative bill expands the authority and responsibilities of the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities. The bill changes statute language that will allow the regions, with the permission of the Division of Behavioral Health, to expand services within the existing provider network instead of being required to release a Request for Proposal (RFP). However, the legislation does not prohibit the regions from releasing an RFP. Additionally, LB 454 changes language around the use of the housing program funds to allow for the use of funds for individuals with a primary substance use disorder. Currently, funds can only be used for primary mental health disorders. On February 28, 2025, Tiffany Gressley, Patrick Kreifels, Region 5 Regional Administrator; Dr. Thomas Janousek, Division of Behavioral Health; Chase Franci, Mid Plains Center; and Annette Dubas, NABHO; testified in support of LB 454 with no one testifying in opposition.

7. Networking and Other

- Hayley Jelinek, Two Rivers Public Health, said she testified at the legislature on February 28, 2025. She said there was a bill from Senator Merv Riepe trying to make tianeptine a scheduled four controlled substance. Senator Bob Hallstrom asked to roll the tianeptine in with LB230 regarding kratom regulatory framework, which is good news. Hayley said tianeptine is the drug that led to her son's death.
- Karla Bennetts, Families CARE, said tonight from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. is their free will donation Chili/Soup and Cinnamon Rolls Fundraiser at American Legion in Kearney.
- Grace Mims, UNK Counseling and School Psychology, said she is retiring and this is her last year of teaching. She has a possible replacement for this committee, Dr. Matt Mims.
- Tiffany Gressley asked to contact her if members knew of additional individuals who might be interested in participating in Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. Meetings are held four times per year, two of which are virtual and two are in person.

8. Date of Next Meeting:

The next Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting will be in-person only on Thursday, July 17, 2025 from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Region 3 Behavioral Health Services, 4009 6th Ave Suite 65 in Kearney. The last 2025 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee meeting will be held in-person on October 16, 2025 at Region 3 Behavioral Health Services.

9. Adjourn
Grace Mims adjourned the meeting.