



Behavioral Health Services

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

October 17, 2024

**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
- Elaine Anderson, Vocational Rehabilitation
- Kayl Dahlke, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
- Suzanne Davis, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
- Grace Mims, Ph.D., UNK Counseling and School Psychology
- Jenny Dolence, Families CARE
- Jean Starman, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services

2. Posting of Open Meetings Act

Tiffany Gressley referred to the Open Meetings Act sign posted in the room and reviewed the intent of the Open Meetings Act. 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 January 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The January 18, 2024 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee meeting minutes were not reviewed because there were not enough attendees to have a quorum.

5. Region 3 Quality Improvement

a. FY24 Network Quality Measures Annual

Kayl Dahlke reviewed all areas of a handout, *FY2024 Network Quality Improvement Plan: Performance Measurement and Reporting; FY24 Annual Report*. Tiffany Gressley explained that after lengthy discussions between Region 3 and the Division of Behavioral Health, it was decided to discontinue two services, the Vets for Vets program provided by Lutheran Family Services (LFS) and the ValiData program.

The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) expressed concerns that the Vets for Vets program was too costly per person and results from Region 3 audits revealed that the services being provided did not meet established service definition standards. Region 3

offered that LFS could provide Peer Services, which they declined. Tiffany stated that veteran services are important and Region 3 tried to provide technical assistance to LFS but they were unable to produce acceptable outcomes.

Tiffany explained the Post Discharge Tracking program provided by ValiData was intended to be a network-wide service. The program will be discontinued, with the exception of use by the Region 3 Professional Partner Program. The decision to discontinue the majority of the program was a matter of cost versus benefit.

Tiffany stated that the Transitional Age Coordinated Employment (TACE) Program, offered by Goodwill, is an important, individualized service tailored to a specific age group. The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) is questioning the value of the program. Region 3 is working hard to continue the program as it meets local needs. Data will be collected for DBH to review.

Discussion took place.

- b. FY25 Region 3 Network Quality Measures Plan  
Kayl Dahlke reviewed a handout, *FY2024 Network Quality Improvement Plan: Performance Measurement and Reporting, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025*. New goals are in place for FY25 in the area of Strategic Opioid Response because Region 3 has exceeded the previous goals. The new goals involve Community Coalitions promoting and dispersing drug disposal packets and lockboxes as well as Region 3 and Community Coalitions hosting opioid events.
- c. FY24 Agency Audit and Review Report  
Kayl Dahlke stated that he and Suzanne Davis completed Provider Network audits for FY24. Kayl reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services FY24 Annual Service Purchased Verification Unit Audit Report* listing all Region 3 Network Providers and their audit scores for FY23 and FY24. Kayl said this type of audit is completed each year for all Region 3 Network Providers and he explained the process. Kayl and Suzanne check that the required forms are completed and for documentation that shows services were provided for the units billed. A minimum score of 95% for each service is required. A Corrective Action Plan is put in place if an organization receives below a score of 95% and Region 3 completes a re-audit.

Kayl explained that the Division of Behavioral Health completes the Region 3 audit for services provided by Region 3.

Fidelity Audits, which are more in-depth, are conducted every three years.

Suzanne said that overall, the FY24 Network Provider audits went well and that Network Providers adapted well to the new process.

Tiffany Gressley added that Kayl and Suzanne sent a pre-audit survey to Network Providers to gather feedback on their preferences, such as remote or on-site audits, days of week that work best for them and other questions to help the process be most effective. A post-audit survey was sent to gather feedback on the FY24 process and ask for improvement suggestions. Tiffany commended Kayl and Suzanne for their hard work.

- 6. Regional Administrator Report
  - a. FY24 Recap of Network Expenditures

Tiffany Gressley reported that Region 3 spent approximately \$11.9 million of the \$13.8 million budget in FY24. A total of 86% of the funds were drawn down in FY24 which is 14% more than the previous fiscal year. Tiffany said our expenditures show the need for behavioral health services. The behavioral health work force has improved, COVID limitations are no longer a factor and Medicaid expansion unwinding has taken place.

The FY25 first quarter drawdown was 23.5% of the budget with 25% of the fiscal year elapsed. Tiffany explained that Region 3 is monitoring expenditures very closely as we are projecting a 105% drawdown in FY25 and look to be potentially over-budget. Region 3 discussed the matter with the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) and were told that we will be able to serve individuals in need. Region 3 will request additional funding from DBH if needed. Tiffany stated that the drawdown data will be helpful to show that our funding is being expended to provide needed services to individuals. This will be helpful in the future if budget reductions are being considered. Tiffany added that other Regions are experiencing the same situation.

Discussion took place and a question was asked about FY25 budget reductions.

Tiffany explained that a state-wide behavioral health reduction of \$15 million was made. Region 3 saw a decrease in funding of approximately \$2.2 million for FY25. Region 3 adjusted provider allocations and reductions were made across the board, including Region 3. Staff reductions were made at Region 3 equivalent to five full time positions. Region 3 staff is being asked to do more work with fewer people. Responsibilities of the positions eliminated or reduced were absorbed by other staff.

#### Informal Candidate Meetings:

Tiffany shared that several informal meetings with legislative candidates have taken place and have gone well. Tiffany and some Network Providers visited with the candidates to share information about the public behavioral health system and the importance of funding.

Tiffany would like to later meet with elected officials to strengthen established relationships of individuals involved in making legislative decisions.

#### b. Region 3 Opioid Settlement RFP

Tiffany Gressley reviewed a handout, *Opioid Settlement Grant Overview, Round One, August 2024* that listed all applicants and the nature of their application. A total of \$600,000 was budgeted to be awarded in Round One. There were a total of eleven applicants in which ten applicants were awarded funding. A total of \$1,362,119.70 in funding was requested. Application projects included prevention, treatment and recovery strategies and programs. All twenty-two of the Region 3 counties were included.

Grant funds awarded will be distributed through a reimbursement process, as grantees will submit monthly reimbursement requests from Region 3. Quarterly reporting will be required and annual audits will occur.

Region 3 intends to release Round Two of Grant Applications in the spring of 2025.

#### c. FY24 Region 3 Training Report

Tiffany Gressley reviewed a listing of all no-cost trainings that took place July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 that Region 3 coordinated or facilitated. A total of 4,612 people were trained and a

total of 142 trainings were conducted. The total people trained could represent a duplicate count as some individuals may have attended several different trainings.

Region 3 will not receive funding in FY25 from BHECN Omaha as they are changing their focus toward practitioners writing scholarship applications to attend trainings. Some funding opportunities may be available from Kearney BHECN. Some listed trainings will continue to take place.

7. Network Update – New Provider

Suzanne Davis shared that Revive, Inc. in Hastings, NE is a new Region 3 Network Provider. Revive, Inc. responded to a Request for Proposal and completed the process to become a Network Provider. Revive, Inc. is renovating a former hotel. They are contracted with Region 3 to provide Short Term Residential Treatment services, Assessment services, Outpatient Therapy and Intensive Outpatient Therapy in FY25. Tiffany added that there has been, and continues to be, a consistent waitlist for Short Term Residential services and this will help provide an option for individuals in our area to receive services closer to their homes. Revive, Inc. plans to add additional services to be phased in over time.

8. Networking and Other

- Grace Mims, UNK Counseling and School Psychology, explained that it is difficult for UNK practicum students to find clients to meet the requirement of forty direct client hours. There are thirteen students in the Fall 2024 Semester and there will be eighteen students in the Spring 2025 Semester. The students need practice at no cost and the sessions are required to be videotaped for supervision purposes.

Ideas discussed to help the situation included posting student informational flyers on bulletin boards at Region 3 and other organizations, such as the Village and the Help Care Clinic.

- Jenny Dolence, Families CARE, shared that there is an opening for a PT Front Desk Administrative Assistant position and a Family Peer Support position. Additional information is listed on the Families CARE Facebook page and website. Interested individuals can contact Jaime Legates or Karla Bennetts.

Some Families CARE staff are looking forward to attending out-of-state conferences and training opportunities.

Parent Wellness Café Sessions via Zoom take place Monday evenings.

Young Adult Group takes place every other Tuesday evening in person. Meal served at 5:30 p.m. Attendees have an opportunity to share a meal, build skills and meet friends.

A person was hired to serve people in the Region 4 area.

- Elaine Anderson, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), shared that VR has been collaborating with ESUs to educate parents and field questions about services. Elaine explained the Project Search Program, which is a partnership involving VR, public schools and CHI. Project Search typically involves students with a developmentally disability and in their last year of high school eligibility. Students complete three rotations at CHI and learn skills in resume building, interviewing and work readiness as well as develop relationships with friends and mentors. A teacher and job coach are located at CHI. VR allocates funding toward the job coach. Elaine said Project Search is an exciting and successful program that

has been in place for fifteen years. Many students participate throughout the school year and a graduation is held in May.

VR is looking to start a Business Advisory Council to provide direction and feedback and offer experiences to students to help them transition from school to gainful employment.

VR is busy with many referrals and is fully staffed.

9. Date of Next Meeting:  
January 16, 2025 (via Zoom)  
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

2025 Meeting Dates:  
March 20, 2025 (tentative, via Zoom)  
July 17, 2025  
October 16, 2025

10. Adjourn  
Grace Mims adjourned the meeting.