



## MEETING OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

**Friday, May 23, 2025**

**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 and Introductions

Rich Nelson 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  
Kearney – Jeff England  
Merrick – Carolyn Kucera  
Nuckolls – Jerry Grove  
Phelps – Theresa Puls  
Sherman – Ken Kaslon  
Valley – Max Magiera  
Webster – Trevor Karr  
Wheeler – Roy Plugge

**Excused:**

Clay – Jesse Mohnike  
Greeley – Jordan Foltz

**Absent:**

Adams – Lee Hogan  
Blaine – Craig Thompson  
Franklin – Josh Johnson  
Howard – Jesse Urbanski  
Loup – Donna Steckel

**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

3. Review of Open Meetings Act

The Open Meetings Act sign is posted in the meeting room. Two weeks prior to the May 23, 2025 Regional Governing Board meeting, advanced publicized notice was listed in the Kearney Hub, the Grand Island Independent and the Hastings Tribune.

4. Comments from Public

There were no individuals from the public in attendance.

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Gary Quandt to approve the May 23, 2025 meeting agenda, seconded by Tammy KleeB, motion carried.

6. Approval of March 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes  
Motion by Bill Maendele to approve the March 21, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Theresa Puls, motion carried.
7. Executive Committee Report  
Rich Nelson reported that the Executive Committee met on May 23, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. The committee reviewed Region 3 expenditures and reviewed and approved the following Region 3 policies: Onboarding and Engagement, Promotions (new policy), Outcomes and Quality Improvement, Personnel Safety On-or-Off Site, Contracts, Flex Funds, Flex Time and Insurance.

Rich asked if there were any questions for the Executive Committee. No questions were asked.

8. Region 3 Fiscal Reports
  - a. FY25 Year-to-Date Program Summary Report  
Kerry Slaymaker reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Network Expenditures July 1, 2024 –April 30, 2025*. Mental Health services expended 76% of the budgeted amount with 83% of the fiscal year elapsed. Kerry explained that some of the budgeted amounts change throughout the year as budget shifts are completed.

Several services have expended well over 80% of the budgeted amount and budget shifts will likely be done for these services. Service utilization and expenditures are reviewed on a monthly basis and funds are transferred as needed with the required paperwork. Our budget shift flexibility with the Division of Behavioral Health has improved compared with prior years.

Some services show 100% of the budgeted funds expended. Post Discharge Tracking shows 100% expended. A one-time payment was made and no additional charges will follow. Supported Employment Youth-Transitional Age shows 100% expended. This service ended in February 2025 and there will be no additional billed amounts. Therapeutic Consultation Youth shows 97% expended. This involves consultation in some area schools and service utilization typically decreases in the summer months.

Substance Use Disorder services expended 73% of the budgeted amount. Kerry mentioned some of the services with higher expenditures. Halfway House expended 85% of the budgeted amount. Outpatient Psychotherapy Youth shows -33% which reflects a refund received from a Network Provider. Regional Administration, for the coordination piece, expended 100% of the budget. When funds are drawn down, funds will be used from the Mental Health Regional Administration line. Supported Housing expended 79% and Supported Housing Women and Children expended 86%. Funds may be needed to be moved into these areas. Therapeutic Community shows 0% expenditure. Typically, the individuals receiving this service are Medicaid eligible.

Total Paid Out: \$8,850,837 which is 75% of the budgeted amount with 83% of the fiscal year elapsed. Kerry explained that in March 2025, it was estimated that approximately \$500,000 could remain unspent. Currently, it is estimated that we may have approximately \$900,000 of unspent funding. Expenditures can fluctuate greatly from month to month as it depends on the number of individuals served and the type of service they are receiving.

Kerry reviewed the Other Reinvestment Projects. The ARPA Grants were slated to run through September 2025, however, notice was received that the federal government cut the funding to be effective immediately. Any services or amounts billed through the ARPA Grants ended as of 03.26.25. Region 3 spent 25% of the ARPA Grant funds. All of the services or initiatives were given to Region 3 from the Division of Behavioral Health and the budgeted amount for some services far exceeded the need.

- Sequential Intercept Model took place in Hall County and expended 98% of the budget.
- Mobile Translation Devices were distributed to Network Providers and expended 20% of the budget. DBH budgeted for internet and data plans. However, data plans were included with the purchased devices so much of the budgeted amount remained unspent.
- Contingency Management involved providing inexpensive incentives for youth to help them achieve their goals. Incentive amounts were small so the large budgeted amount was not needed; 16% of the budget was expended.
- Expand Youth Substance Use Disorder Treatment – Additional youth crisis service was brought up in February 2025 at Mid Plains Center in Grand Island. ARPA grant funds were cancelled March 26, 2025. The project will continue through September 2025 using a different funding stream. Very little ARPA funds were able to be drawn down for this project due to timing.
- Mental Health First Aid involved train the trainer trainings and expended 100% of the funding.
- Signs of Suicide (SOS) Curriculum expended 28% of the budgeted amount. Five schools implemented the curriculum and several other schools planned to implement it. We plan to continue with this project using funds from a different suicide prevention grant.
- Outreach/Education for Faith Partners – Organizations were interested in the project but did not need funding so no ARPA funds were used. Region 3 provided many presentations and formed positive partnerships.

b. FY25 RGB 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 March 21, 2025. 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.

- FY26 DBH Mental Health First Aid Renewal - \$11,468 – the contract has been renewed to provide Mental Health First Aid trainings in communities. The amount includes paying for workbooks and stipends for trainers.
- FY25 Budget Shift 04.10.25 - \$60,189
- DHHS Medicaid Data Sharing Agreement – this involves a new agreement about sharing data between Medicaid, the State and Region 3. No funds are involved.
- FY25 Budget Shift 05.12.25 - \$269,104 – related to the Crisis Stabilization Unit
- FY25 Budget Shift 05.13.25 – 65,699 – related to short-term residential services

Motion made by Theresa Puls to approve the Contract and Shift Ratifications, seconded by Ken Kaslon, motion passed.

c. FY26 Regional Budget Plan Status

The Region 3 FY26 Budget Plan was reviewed and approved by the Regional Governing Board (RGB) at the March 21, 2025 RGB meeting. It was submitted to the Division of Behavioral Health within the deadline. The Division of Behavioral Health verbally approved the Region 3 FY26 Budget Plan and the official approval letter is to be received soon. Region 3 is moving forward with next steps. Kerry said the FY26 Budget Plan process went fairly smoothly. Last year, Region 3 provided feedback and some of the suggestions were implemented which improved this years' process.

d. National Opioid Settlement Funds

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services National Opioid Settlement Funds Report as of April 30, 2025*.

Total Funds Received: \$1,740,261.94

Prior Year Funds Expended (02.01.23 - 08.31.24): \$72,706.14

2024/2025 Total Grant Awards: \$315,211.71

Total 2024/2025 Grant Year Funds Expended \$364,672.71

Funds remaining: \$1,302,883.09 – Of this amount, \$350,000 has been obligated for infrastructure for expansion of the Crisis Stabilization Unit in Grand Island.

A new grant cycle will be released July 1, 2025. If organizations do not use awarded funding by a certain date, funds will go back into a pool of available funds to be awarded during the next grant application period. If there is a specific reason for the unspent funding, they can apply for an extension.

9. Quality Improvement Report

a. CQI Summary of Results - July 2024 - December 2024

Kayl Dahlke typically reviews Quality Improvement Reports for network providers. At this meeting Kayl reviewed the Region 3 internal plan, which was shared on a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services CQI Results, July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024*. Areas include Network Management, System Coordination, Professional Partner Program, Emergency Community Support and Business Function. The report tracks goals and objectives, progress made and next steps as needed. The report is helpful to assess and improve our agency operations and to achieve on-going excellence in service delivery.

b. Region 3 Active Individuals Served Trended

Kayl Dahlke reviewed a handout that shows service utilization for the past seven months. Overall, service utilization remained fairly steady during this time. Individuals receiving services who receive Medicaid benefits are not shown on this report.

10. Regional Administrator's Report

a. Legislative Update

Tiffany Gressley briefly reminded the RGB of the purpose of LB 454, which was introduced by Senator Dan Quick on behalf of the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities. The bill would allow Behavioral Health Regions more flexibility to work with the Division of Behavioral Health to expand capacity and add additional existing services within the current network of providers without the requirement of completing a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to do so. However, the RFP process would still be an available option to Regions. The bill would also allow the use of housing dollars for individuals with a primary diagnosis of substance use disorder. Currently, housing funds can be used for individuals with a primary diagnosis of a mental health disorder only. On February 28, 2025, Tiffany and the following people testified in support of the bill: Patrick Kriefels, Regional Administrator, Region 5; Chase Francl, Director, Mid-Plains Center; Annette Dubas, Executive Director, NABHO; and Dr. Tom Janisiek, Director, Division of Behavioral Health. No one testified in opposition. The bill is moving forward and has advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment.

b. FY25 Services Purchased Expense Reimbursement Verification

Tiffany Gressley referred to a letter from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding fiscal audits conducted at Region 3 Behavioral Health Services. All expenses billed to the Division of Behavioral Health for the months reviewed were verified in the financial records. All appropriate documentation was provided as requested or needed. No expenses were found to be unallowable under the contract.

Tiffany added that she appreciates the year-round work of the fiscal team as well as the extra effort involved with the audit process. Kerry commended her fiscal staff for their excellent work. Their work is especially impressive considering that the three employees have been employed at Region 3 for two years or less.

c. CARF Survey Dates

CARF surveyors will be at Region 3 June 23-24, 2025 to conduct a two-day survey for accreditation purposes. Region 3 Behavioral Health Services has been nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International since 1998. The Region 3 Professional Partner Program, Emergency Community Support Program and Network are accredited. The highest level of accreditation is a 3-year accreditation of which Region 3 achieved during our first accreditation process in 1998 and has since maintained this status.

Tiffany Gressley explained that Region 3 has an active CARF/Safety Team consisting of staff members from various programs and departments who work year-round to ensure that Region 3 is complying with national standards appropriate for the scope of work we perform.

d. Opioid Grant RFP Update

Tiffany Gressley shared with the RGB members that Region 3 is in the process of making revisions to the Opioid Grant Application. Region 3 is on track to release another round of Opioid Grants July 2025. The identified priority area for this round of applications is on law enforcement, first responders and the justice system. Schools and Educational Service Units (ESUs) will also be given priority.

The grant application will be available on the Region 3 website, Region 3 Facebook page and there will be a press release. Tiffany will send information to the Regional Governing Board members for them to share with appropriate individuals and organizations in their counties.

Tiffany explained that the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) is also working on an Opioid Grant Application to be released in July 2025. At the state level there is a significant amount of opioid settlement funds available for organizations to access through the RFP. The focus of the DBH grant is building infrastructure/and or capital expenditures as they would like to see more treatment facilities or Crisis Stabilization Units brought up across Nebraska. There will be a match required and applications that include a letter of support from a Regional Behavioral Health Authority will be awarded additional points in the scoring.

11. Other Business

Rich Nelson reminded Regional Governing Board members that a Region 3 County Match Letter was sent to all members to be completed and returned to Region 3.

Kerry Slaymaker reminded Regional Governing Board members that a Mileage Reimbursement Direct Deposit Form was sent to all members to be completed and returned.

Rich Nelson recognized the upcoming Memorial Day holiday as it is a day to honor those who have died in service to our country and to recognize those who continue to serve to protect our freedom.

12. Date of Next Meeting

August 22, 2025

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 2025

- October 31, 2025

13. Adjourn

Motion by Gary Quandt to adjourn the May 23, 2025 meeting, seconded by Jeff Bash, motion carried. Rich Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.