



**MEETING OF THE  
REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD**

**Friday, January 23, 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 and Introductions  
Rich Nelson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Posting of Open Meetings Act  
The Open Meetings Act sign is posted in the meeting room. Two weeks prior to the January 23, 2026 Regional Governing Board meeting, advanced publicized notice was listed in the Kearney Hub, the Grand Island Independent and the Hastings Tribune.
3. Comments from the Public  
There were no individuals from the public in attendance.
4. Roll Call  
Roll Call was taken by Jean Starman.  

<p><b>Present:</b>  Adams – Lee Hogan  Clay – Jesse Mohnike  Franklin – Josh Johnson  Furnas – Dennis Tegtman  Garfield – Jerome Zulkoski  Greeley – Jordan Foltz  Hall – Gary Quandt  Hamilton – Rich Nelson  Howard – Jesse Urbanski  Nuckolls – Jerry Grove  Phelps – Theresa Puls  Sherman – Ken Kaslon  Valley – Max Magiera  Wheeler – Roy Plugge</p> <p><b>Excused:</b>  Buffalo – Bill Maendele  Custer – Tammy Kleeb  Merrick – Carolyn Kucera</p>	<p><b>Absent:</b>  Blaine – Craig Thompson  Harlan – Jeff Bash  Kearney – Jeff England  Loup – Donna Steckel  Webster – Trevor Karr</p> <p><b>Also Present:</b>  Rober Meyer – R.J. Meyer and Associates  Tiffany Gressley – Region 3 Behavioral Health Services (BHS)  Kerry Slaymaker – Region 3 BHS  Kayl Dahlke – Region 3 BHS  Jill Schubauer – Region 3 BHS  Jean Starman – Region 3 BHS</p>
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5. Approval of Agenda

Jerry Grove motioned to approve the January 23, 2026 meeting agenda, seconded by Jordan Foltz, motion carried.

6. Approval of October 31, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Rich Nelson asked if there were any questions, comments or oppositions to the October 31, 2025 Regional Governing Board meeting minutes. There were no questions, comments or oppositions. Gary Quandt motioned to approve the October 31, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Dennis Tegtman, motion carried.

7. Executive Committee Report

a. Executive Committee Report

Rich Nelson reported that the Executive Committee met on January 23, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. He reported that Region 3 is fully staffed with all positions filled. The committee reviewed Region 3 expenditures for July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025. Rich explained that the Division of Behavioral Health requested that Region 3 submit the FY27 Budget earlier than planned so discussion will take place later in this meeting about possibly changing the March 27, 2026 RGB meeting to March 13, 2026 to allow all board members time to review the FY27 Budget before it is submitted.

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

8. Election of 2026 Regional Governing Board Officers

a. Comments by Current Officers

Rich Nelson

Rich shared that he has served as Chairperson and is ready for another person to fill the position. He said it is a great opportunity to better understand the financial aspects of the organization. Rich encouraged people to consider volunteering for a position on the Executive Committee.

Theresa Puls

Theresa shared that a position on the Executive Committee includes meeting at 8:30 a.m. before each Governing Board meeting. It is an opportunity to learn more and understand how the funds are spent. She recommended those with an interest to consider serving.

Bill Maendele

Bill Maendele was excused from this meeting as he was attending a NACO meeting. He informed Tiffany Gressley and the Executive Committee that he is willing to serve on the Executive Committee in any of the three positions.

b. Regional Governing Board Members to Express Interest in Serving as an Officer

No board members present at this meeting expressed an interest in serving as an officer.

c. Nominations from the Floor

Gary Quandt motioned to nominate Dennis Tegtman as Chairperson, seconded by Ken Kaslon. No other nominations were made for Chairperson.

Gary Quandt motioned to nominate Bill Maendele as Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Theresa Puls. No other nominations were made for Vice-Chairperson.

Theresa Puls motioned to nominate Lee Hogan as Secretary, seconded by Roy Plugge. No other nominations were made for Secretary.

Rich Nelson asked if there were any additional nominations. There were none. Rich Nelson motioned to close the nominations for the three Executive Committee positions, seconded by Gary Quandt.

A roll call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan – Yes

Craig Thompson – Absent

Bill Maendele – Excused

Jesse Mohnike – Yes

Tammy Kleeb – Excused

Josh Johnson – Yes

Dennis Tegtman – Yes

Jerome Zulkoski – Yes

Jordan Foltz – Yes

Gary Quandt – Yes

Rich Nelson – Yes

Jeff Bash – Absent

Jessie Urbanski – Yes

Jeff England – Absent

Donna Steckel – Absent

Carolyn Kucera – Excused

Jerry Grove – Yes

Theresa Puls – Yes

Ken Kaslon – Yes

Max Megiera – Not present at time of roll call vote

Trevor Karr – Absent

Roy Plugge – Yes

Gary Quandt added that Rich Nelson did an excellent job in the role of Chairperson and thanked him for his work.

d. Election of Officers

The Election of 2026 Regional Governing Board Officers is as follows:

Chairperson – Dennis Tegtman

Vice-Chairperson – Bill Maendele

Secretary – Lee Hogan

9. Conflict of Interest Policy Review and Statement

Tiffany Gressley referred to two handouts, *Conflict of Interest Statement for Region 3 Regional Governing Board Members* and *Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form*. The Conflict of Interest Policy and Statement is reviewed annually with the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee members and the Regional Governing Board (RGB) members. Tiffany asked the Regional Governing Board members to read the Conflict of Interest Statement and sign and date it. Tiffany asked the RGB members to complete the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form only if there are any potential conflicts of interest to disclose. The statement forms are collected from all members on an annual basis.

10. 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 – December 31, 2025*. Mental Health services expended \$3,668,763 or 44% of the budgeted amount with 50% of the fiscal year elapsed. Budget Shifts were completed for Community Support and Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation.

Substance Use Disorder services expended \$1,512,314 or 39% of the budgeted amount with 50% of the fiscal year elapsed. Kerry said the bulk of the SUD budget is in Residential Treatment and those individuals are typically Medicaid-funded, which impacts our utilization and budget. Short Term Residential expended 42% of the budget which may see additional utilization.

Grand Total Paid Out for July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025 was \$5,181,077 or 42% of the budgeted amount with 50% of the fiscal year elapsed.

Kerry noted that one asterisk denotes Medicaid eligible services. Two asterisks denote designated/restricted state or federal funds that cannot be moved between services.

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 October 31, 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 brought to the Regional Governing Board for ratification.

Two contract renewals were received from the Division of Behavioral Health.

DBH SOR Grant-State Opioid Response - \$160,945.

DBH Prevention Grant - \$83,351.

A Budget Shift was completed November 20, 2025 for \$20,024.

Kerry asked if there were any questions. No questions asked. Jesse Urbanski motioned to approve the Region 3 Contract and Shift Ratifications as presented by Kerry Slaymaker, seconded by Theresa Puls. Motion carried.

c. FY27 Regional Budget Planning Timeline

Kerry Slaymaker referred to a handout, *FY27 Regional Budget Plan (RBP) Timeline and Approval Process*, given to Region 3 by the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) and explained the dates and events. A Network Planning Meeting will take place February 2, 2026 with Region 3 and the Region 3 Network Providers. Region 3 will distribute FY27 funding allocations on February 6, 2026. Region 3 is to submit Part 1 of the FY27 RBP to DBH on February 13, 2026 and Part 2 on March 13, 2026. Because of the Part 1 and Part 2 budget submission dates, it would be beneficial for the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting to be changed from March 19, 2026 to March 12, 2026 and the Regional Governing Board Meeting to be changed from March 27, 2026 to better align with the FY27 Regional Budget Plan Timeline and Approval Process. Changing the meetings to earlier dates would allow committee members from both groups to review the budget and provide feedback. Once approved by both groups, the Budget Plan is submitted to DBH. Kerry said if there are changes made by DBH to the Region 3 FY27 Regional Budget Plan, there will be a presentation to the Regional Governing Board at the May 22, 2026 meeting. Contracts go into effect July 1, 2026.

Rich Nelson suggested that the Regional Governing Board meeting be moved from March 27, 2026 to March 13, 2026. Gary Quandt motioned to move the March 27, 2026 Regional Governing Board meeting to March 13, 2026, seconded by Josh Johnson. Motion carried.

d. National Opioid Settlement Funds

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed all areas of a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services National Opioid Settlement Funds Report as of December 31, 2025*.

Total Grant Funds Expended: \$689,526.85

Unobligated Funds Remaining: \$825,917.51

11. FY25 Independent CPA Audit

Robert Meyer, Certified Public Accountant with RJ Meyer & Associates, provided the FY25 Audit Report and stated that Region 3 was given a clean opinion audit as the information was found accurate and compliant. Robert reviewed assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures and stated nothing unusual was noted and everything looked as it should. Robert said that, from an audit standpoint, he is pleased with how things look and everything is in order. He complimented Kerry Slaymaker for her leadership and staying informed of current practices.

Robert asked if there were any questions. There were no questions asked. With board approval, Robert will submit the audit to the audit clearinghouse.

Theresa Puls motioned to approve the FY25 Independent CPA Audit as presented by Robert Meyer, seconded by Lee Hogan. A roll call vote commenced.

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

12. Presentation of the FY25 Region 3 Impact Report

Tiffany Gressley highlighted information from the FY25 Region 3 Impact Report. Final fiscal year data is received from the Division of Behavioral Health in mid-October. Region 3 then begins the process of developing the Impact Report.

Tiffany provided a Power Point presentation of highlights for Fiscal Year 2025, which is July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Total FY25 Expenditures were \$11,705,486. Area breakdown of total expenditures include:

- Direct Services - 83.0%
- System Enhancements - 5.0%
- System Coordination - 7.0%
- Regional Administration and Network Management - 5.0%

Tiffany described the Region 3 Fiscal Management responsibilities. Network Management and System Coordination of the Region 3 service area ensures contractual obligations of the Division of Behavioral Health, which includes 16 Community-Based Network Providers and 6 Community Coalitions for Substance Use Prevention Activities.

A total of 3,885 unique individuals were served with 87.1% being adults 19 and older and 12.9% being youth 18 and younger. Individuals often participate in more than one service a year as shown by the duplicate count of 6,837 people.

Tiffany shared information and highlights of the Prevention System Coordination, the Youth System of Care, Behavioral Health Consumer and Family Coordination, the Emergency Psych System, Region 3 Housing Assistance Program, Region 3 Network Access and Performance Outcomes, Region 3 Emergency Community Support, and the Region 3 Professional Partner Program.

The Impact Report was emailed to Network Providers, RGB members and other system stakeholders and is posted on the Region 3 website.

13. Region 3 Risk Management Plan Approval

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Organizational Risk Management Plan November 2025*. Kerry leads the team comprised of staff members representing all areas of the organization. The plan lays out the possible risks, action plans, action steps being completed, and individuals responsible for the tasks. Print in red font shows updated information from last year's plan. Kerry noted that in addition this year includes the development of an Artificial Intelligence Policy, which is currently being written. Kerry noted the other updates in red font.

The plan was reviewed by the Region 3 Risk Management Team in November 2025. The plan is brought to the Regional Governing Board each year for approval. Kerry asked if there were any questions and none were asked.

Jesse Urbanski motioned to approve the Region 3 Risk Management Plan as presented by Kerry Slaymaker, seconded by Jerome Zulkoski. Motion carried.

14. CDC Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Grant

Jill Schubauer reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Health Services – CDC Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Grant Program*. The grant is in its third year. Region 3 received \$30,000 this year, which is a portion of the suicide prevention funds. It allows Region 3 to enhance and expand services to our twenty-two counties with the vision of *no lives lost to suicide*. Jill shared data for the suicide rate of Nebraska men from 2017-2022 along with the grant goals, strategies, educational opportunities, and safe storage initiatives. Discussion took place regarding safely securing or safely removing potential harmful items, including firearms. Jill shared information about the Central Nebraska LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors) Teams and the Region 3 Zero Suicide Group.

Jill can be contacted for suicide data and questions about suicide prevention and available programming.

15. Regional Administrator Report

a. Legislative Update

a. LB722

Tiffany Gressley shared that LB722 was introduced by Senator Quick on behalf of the regions. This bill is to clean up the language to last legislative session's bill (LB454) which added flexibility to the Region Housing Program. Tiffany explained that LB454 allowed housing funds to be utilized for individuals who have a primary Substance Use Disorder (SUD) diagnosis instead of requiring a primary Mental Health (MH) diagnosis to access the funds. Senator Quick's office, the regions and the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) worked together on the bill but statute language was not changed in the section that discusses the Landlord Mitigation funds. The Landlord Mitigation funds help to cover the cost of damage above and beyond normal wear and tear to a landlord's property. Because of this error, currently, the Mitigation Funds can be used for individuals with a primary Mental Health diagnosis only. The proposed bill, LB722, would clean up the language to include both SUD and MH diagnoses. The regions and Senator Quick's office worked with DBH again on the language and have support from DBH. Tiffany said there is no fiscal note attached to this bill so the hope is that it will move out of committee quickly. The public hearing for LB722 is scheduled on January 30, 2026. Region 5 will be testifying on behalf of the regions in support of the bill. Dr. Thomas Janousek with DBH is checking to see if he can testify in support of it as well.

b. NACO HHS Committee

Tiffany Gressley attended the Nebraska Association of County Official (NACO) HHS Committee meeting in December 2025 that was held in Kearney. Representatives from NACO, the behavioral health regions, developmental disabilities and aging were in attendance. Much of the time was spent discussing the revised Behavioral Health Service Definitions proposed for both Medicaid and the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH). The service definitions were released for public comment at the beginning of December and comment was originally scheduled to close on January 2, 2026. The committee decided to take action by sending a letter to both Medicaid and DBH requesting a 30-day extension for public review. Public comment has since been extended twice and the current end date is now January 31, 2026.

c. NACO Senator Breakfast

The NACO sponsored Senator Breakfast is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2026 at the NACO office. Tiffany Gressley will be in attendance. The regions worked together to develop talking points

around (1) LB722, (2) service definition changes and the potential impact to the behavioral health system, (3) continued access issues with the Lincoln Regional Center, and (4) the importance of maintaining the current level of funding to the public behavioral health system.

d. Service Definition Revisions

The state released revised definitions governing community-based mental health and substance use services for Nebraska Medicaid and the Division of Behavioral Health. There are no rate reductions proposed that we are aware of but the new language narrows eligibility criteria, adds restrictive prior authorization requirements, adds additional required licensed staff and supervision and limits clinical flexibility. Providers have raised serious concerns that the new definitions will reduce access to services, particularly for individuals with very complex needs. The Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations (NABHO) identified and anticipate four key consequences for counties: increased detention and jail utilization as individuals who previously qualified for treatment lose eligibility or experience delays in service approval; reduced availability for crisis services creating greater reliance on emergency response systems; pressure on correctional, court-based and diversion programs because of delays in authorizations and access to services; increases in provider costs to deliver services and potentially loss of lower intensity services as a result.

e. Stakeholder Survey

Nathan Canfield sent the Region 3 2026 Stakeholder Survey via email. All Regional Governing Board members should have received the link to complete the survey. If board members did not receive the email, contact Tiffany Gressley so we can work to resolve the issue. A few paper copies were available at the meeting for individuals to complete if they prefer a paper copy.

16. Other Business

No Other Business was discussed.

17. Date of Next Meeting

Regional Budget Plan Presentation

**March 13, 2026** (Previously March 27, 2026)

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Remaining 2026 Meeting Schedule

- May 22, 2026
- August 28, 2026
- October 30, 2026
  - Meetings are 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

18. Adjourn

Rich Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.