MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

Friday, May 22, 2026
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

REGION 3 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
4009 6TH 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
   Dennis Tegtman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call
   Roll Call was taken by Jean Starman.

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

3. Review of Open Meetings Act
   The Open Meetings Act sign is posted in the meeting room. Two weeks prior to the May 22, 2026 Regional Governing Board meeting, advanced publicized notice was listed in the Kearney Hub, the Grand Island Independent and the Hastings Tribune.

4. Comments from the Public
   There were no individuals from the public in attendance.

5. Approval of Agenda
   Bill Maendele motioned to approve the May 22, 2026 meeting agenda, seconded by Tammy Kleeb, motion carried.

6. Approval of March 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Theresa Puls motioned to approve the March 13, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Jerome Zulkoski, motion carried.

7. Executive Committee Report
Dennis Tegtman reported that the Executive Committee met on May 22, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. The Executive Committee approved revisions of General Policy 2: Input from Persons Served. Dennis shared that Tiffany Gressley provided updates on the Region 3 Strategic Planning process which will be shared with everyone at this meeting during the Regional Administrator's Report.

8. 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 – April 30, 2026*. Mental Health services expended $6,324,991 or 75% of the budgeted amount with 83% of the fiscal year elapsed.

    Kerry noted that Crisis Stabilization paid out 96% of the budgeted amount. The service is split between Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder so there are two line items. Funds were recently transferred into this service. Previously, Social Detoxification was combined with Crisis Stabilization. The services are provided the same way; however, the Division of Behavioral Health now requires the budgeting piece to be separated. Kerry stated that the split of the two services has created many challenges. Crisis Stabilization is an expense-based service and Social Detoxification is a rate-based service, which adds to the complications.

    Emergency Protective Custody expended 74% of the budgeted amount.

    Inpatient Post Commitment Treatment Days show 98% expended. Most of the expenditures were related to one individual who is no longer receiving this service.

    Regional Coordination budgets show expenditures within 83% paid out.

    Supported Housing can appear misleading in the report. The true data: Supported Housing Transition Age expended 36% and Supported Housing Adult expended 75% of the budgeted amounts.

    Substance Use Disorder services expended $2,606,622 or 67% of the budgeted amount with 83% of the fiscal year elapsed.

    Halfway House expended 31% of the budgeted amount. Capacity has been increased, however, the individuals using the service are Medicaid paid rather than Region 3 paid. Region 3 continues to be in close contact with the provider, Friendship House.

    Supported Housing shows 100% expended. Women with Children expended 55% and Supported Housing Adult expended 83% of the budgeted funds.

    Therapeutic Community spent 24% of the budgeted funds which are federal funds and can only be used for Therapeutic Community services.

    Grand Total Paid Out for July 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026, was $8,931,613 or 73% of the budgeted amount with 83% of the fiscal year elapsed. We are not allowed to keep unspent state and federal funds. Unspent county funds are rolled over for services. Some of the Region 3 unspent funds are restricted funds which can be used only for a particular service and not transferred to other 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 March 13, 2026. 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.

Kerry reported that no contracts have been received since the last Regional Governing Board Meeting on March 13, 2026. Kerry explained that the budget shifts involved moving funds between the Professional Partner Program Transitional Age and the Professional Partner Program Youth Age as needed, Intensive Outpatient Services due to an increase in utilization and shifts related to Social Detoxification and the Crisis Stabilization Unit.

Jerry Grove motioned to approve the Region 3 Contract and Shift Ratifications as presented by Kerry Slaymaker, seconded by Jeff Bash. Motion carried. A roll call vote commenced.

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

c. FY27 Regional Budget Plan Status
Kerry Slaymaker shared that little communication has been provided by the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) regarding the FY27 Regional Budget Plan. Region 3 has been explaining the Crisis Stabilization Unit budget at Mid-Plains Center to DBH to help them understand it and provide budget approval.

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 April 30, 2026.*

Total Grant Funds Received: $2,168,901.07
Total Funds Expended: $833,218.62
Funds Remaining: $1,335,682.45
Unobligated Funds Remaining: $1,097,902.20

Region 3 receives quarterly reports from awarded grantees, conducts audits, and has processes in place to monitor the Opioid Settlement Funds.

Tiffany Gressley explained that, based on feedback from law enforcement and first responder organizations, the original grant application does not fit their needs. Tiffany explained that the application is being revised to allow these organizations an opportunity to access Opioid Settlement Funds to make positive contributions within our communities. These organizations would like to use funds for one-time purchases, such as personal protection gear, fentanyl testing equipment or training opportunities, instead of implementing a year-long program. The revised form simplifies the narrative area and includes intended purpose and Exhibit E compliance. A

reimbursement form will be included. Recipients can make purchases and submit expenses with receipts to Region 3 for payment.

Tiffany shared that Region 3 submitted a proposal to the Division of Behavioral Health for funding to expand Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for law enforcement officers in our area. This training would equip officers with the skills to train other officers in the Region 3 area. Currently, law enforcement officers must travel to the eastern part of the state to receive Crisis Intervention Training.

9. Region 3 Quality Improvement Report
    a. FY26 Third Quarter Network QI Report
    Kayl Dahlke referred to a handout, *FY2026 Network Quality Improvement Plan: Performance Measurement and Reporting, Third Quarter Report, January 1, 2026 – March 31,2026*. Kayl reviewed all Satisfaction, Access Measures and Performance Measures.

10. Region 3 Compliance Officer Change
Tiffany Gressley explained that based on research of other organizations and best practices, the Compliance Officer is typically a function in the Human Resource Department, rather than the Fiscal Department. This provides better separation of responsibilities and allows for improved checks and balances. Tiffany recommended that Tammy Burgeson, Region 3 Operations and Human Resources Director, replace Kerry Slaymaker, Fiscal Director, as the Region 3 Compliance Officer. Motion made by Donna Steckel to appoint Tammy Burgeson as the Region 3 Compliance Officer, seconded by Theresa Puls, motion carried.

11. Professional Partner Program Wraparound Fidelity Index Six Month Report
Jill Schubauer shared a Power Point presentation, *FY2026 Six-Month Report July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025 - Wraparound Fidelity Index - Professional Partner Program*. Wraparound is a team-based method designed to support children with mental health needs and their families. It focuses on creating individualized plans that are tailored to the unique needs of each youth and family, promoting effective support systems. When implemented well, wraparound has been shown to produce better outcomes and involves a much lower cost compared to out-of-home placements. Jill explained that the Region 3 Professional Partner Program serves approximately one hundred families each month. Apart from Blaine County, the program serves youth in all counties of Region 3. Each professional partner spends a significant amount of time getting to know each family, as each family is unique. Jill reviewed the referral process, eligibility, wraparound teams, wraparound plans, and the excellent outcomes achieved by the Region 3 Professional Partner Program. Jill commended the Region 3 professional partners for their quality work with youth and families.

12. Alternative Compliance Request
Suzanne Davis referred to a letter written to the Division of Behavioral Health regarding a request for a final alternative compliance extension for FY2027 for Revive, Inc in Hastings, Nebraska.

The Division of Behavioral Health maintains that all providers within the Region 3 Behavioral Health Services network are required to hold national accreditation status or be actively working toward it, with completion expected within two years of becoming a Region 3 Network Provider. If a provider is not nationally accredited an Alternative Compliance must be approved by DBH. Region 3's Provider Network is also CARF accredited which requires all providers to be nationally accredited.

Region 3 will continue to provide oversight with the expectation that Revive, Inc. must complete the CARF survey process by December 10, 2026.

Revive is aware of the accreditation requirement and Suzanne continues to work with the organization on their progress.

13. Regional Administrator's Report

a. Legislative Update – Interim Studies
Tiffany Gressley reviewed a handout, *Interim Studies of Interest*, which lists Legislative Resolutions. The six behavioral health regions monitor the Legislative Resolutions for any potential impact on our behavioral health system.

b. Opioid Grant Update
Tiffany Gressley provided the Opioid Grant Update earlier in the meeting with the fiscal reports.

c. FY26 Services Purchased Expense Reimbursement Verification
Tiffany Gressley referred to a handout, *FY26 Services Purchased Expense Reimbursement Verification for Region 3 Behavioral Health Authority*. The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) conducted an audit for the months of August 2025 and November 2025. All expenses billed to DBH for the months reviewed were verified. All appropriate documentation was provided. No expenses were found unallowable under the contract.

Tiffany shared that Region 3 has sound processes in place and is proud of all staff who consistently perform their responsibilities. She complimented the fiscal team for their diligence, competency and efficiency in ensuring that public dollars are appropriately tracked.

d. Region 3 Strategic Planning Process
Tiffany Gressley referred to a handout that included information about the Region 3 Strategic Plan and explained that we are working with Prairie Fire Consulting on the process. Prairie Fire developed a survey for all staff to complete in November 2025. Prairie Fire met with the Region 3 Leadership Team in December 2025. Strategic reference points identified include a Final Purpose Statement, Agreed-Upon Core Behaviors, Primary Organizational Functions, Final Strategic Anchors, Three-Year Aspirational Goals and Initiatives for 2026. Prairie Fire is scheduled to meet with Region 3 several more times to continue the process.

e. 2027 Legislative Session
Tiffany Gressley shared that the upcoming legislative session will likely have some challenges. Talking Points of the Behavioral Health Regions include:

- No further reductions to the behavioral health system and efforts to protect the current allocated base funding.
    - Newly implemented Medicaid Work Requirements and their potential impact on the behavioral health system.
    - The need for services continues but restricted funds can only be used in certain areas. Education continues to ensure the understanding that some Region 3 funds are restricted, which can limit our expenditures.

- The passing of LB 901 is related to the Mechanical Amusement Device Tax Act. The bill involves keeping some of the tax revenue for behavioral health services within the region where a gaming machine/device is located. This new money would provide the opportunity to expand services however, the regions are concerned that the dollars could be viewed as replacement dollars to State General Funds. Revenue from LB 901 would be an unreliable, inconsistent and unsustainable funding source to replace State General Funds.

- Protecting the independence of the behavioral health regions and maintaining local control. The Division of Behavioral Health continues to make unrealistic and demanding requests from our Network Providers that are not written in their contracts.
    - New service definitions include changes that will inhibit flexibility and increase service costs. There is concern that the Division of Behavioral Health Administration

lacks understanding of the system, the roles of each partner, and the importance for us to be responsive to the needs of the people in our area. One example is the Rural Health Transformation Funds. All initiatives funded at this point have been to out-of-state providers where grants were awarded rather than the use of an RFP process. A significant amount of money has left the state of Nebraska.

Tiffany shared that she will begin meeting with senators and senator candidates to explain the role of Region 3 Behavioral Health Services and the importance of our efforts. Tiffany may ask Regional Governing Board members to join her to advocate for the importance of local control in the next legislative session. Tiffany expressed her appreciation for the support provided by the Regional Governing Board members.

14. Other Business
No Other Business was discussed.

15. Date of Next Meeting
August 28, 2026
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
4009 6th Avenue, Suite 65
Kearney, NE

Remaining Meetings for 2026

- October 30, 2026
  - Meeting times are 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

16. Adjourn
Motion made by Jeff Bash to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Maendele, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.