



**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD**

Friday, August 26, 2022
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 and Introductions
 - Tammy Kleeb called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.
2. Posting of Open Meetings Act
 - Tammy Kleeb directed the Governing Board members to the *Open Meetings Act* sign posted in the room.
3. Comments from the Public
 - There were no comments from the public.
4. Roll Call
 - Roll Call was taken by Jean Starman.

Present:

Adams – Lee Hogan
Buffalo – Bill Maendele
Clay – Ivan Fintel
Custer – Tammy Kleeb
Furnas – Dennis Tegtman
Garfield – Diana Hurlburt
Hall – Karen Bredthauer
Hamilton – Richard Nelson
Howard – Dave Boehle
Phelps – Theresa Puls
Sherman – Kenneth Kaslon

Excused:

Kearney – Larry Landstrom
Webster – Trevor Karr
Wheeler – Travis Heinz

Absent:

Blaine – Craig Thompson
Franklin – Neil Meiner
Greeley – Jordan Foltz
Harlan – Anthony Gulizia
Loup – Donald Brown
Merrick – Carolyn Kucera
Nuckolls – James Keifer
Valley – Helen Cullers

Also Present:

Beth Baxter – Region 3 Behavioral Health Services (Region 3 BHS)
Kerry Slaymaker – Region 3 BHS
Tiffany Gressley – Region 3 BHS
Beth Reynolds Lewis – Region 3 BHS
Kayl Dahlke – Region 3 BHS
Caleb Davis – Region 3 BHS
Jean Starman – Region 3 BHS

5. Approval of May 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes
 - Motion by Diana Hurlburt to approve the May 27, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Dave Boehle, motion carried.
6. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion by Rich Nelson to approve the agenda, seconded by Karen Bredthauer, motion carried.
7. Executive Committee Report
 - Tammy Kleeb reported that the Executive Committee met on August 26, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. Financial documents were thoroughly reviewed and discussed. The committee also conducted Beth Baxter's annual performance review. Tammy shared that all members of the Executive Committee expressed much satisfaction with Beth's performance and are very pleased with her work. Beth and the Executive Committee discussed preparations for transitions that will take place at Region 3 when Beth retires in June 2023.
8. Region 3 Fiscal Reports

- a. FY22 Year-End Network Expenditures

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Network Expenditures July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022*. Mental Health services expended 82% of the budgeted amount for FY22 with 100% of the fiscal year elapsed. Kerry noted that there was a wide range of service utilization and that some Budget Shifts were completed.

BH Workforce MH – Adult paid out 99% of the budget. This line item represents emergency funds for service providers to help with workforce issues, inflation, and COVID-19.

Crisis Stabilization – MH – Adult paid out 100%. Crisis Stabilization is an Expense Paid service. Many of the services showing 100% paid are Expense Reimbursement services.

Medication Management – MH – Adult paid out 94%. Kerry said the reduced budget amount is due to Medicaid expansion.

Substance Use Disorder Services expended 75% of the budgeted amount for FY22 with 100% of the fiscal year elapsed.

BH Workforce – SUD – Adult paid out 94% of the budget. This line item represents emergency funding for service providers to help with workforce issues, inflation and COVID-19.

Grand Total paid out for FY22 - \$10,846,413 or 80% of the budgeted amount.

Kerry added that FY22 was a unique year. The Division of Behavioral Health will use remaining funds and apply them to the 15% Rate Increase that helps cover County Match requirements. Additional County Match funds are not needed for FY23.

- b. FY22 RGB Contract and Budget Shift Ratifications

Kerry Slaymaker referred to a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Contract Ratifications by Regional Governing Board*, which includes contracts signed by Beth Baxter since the last Regional Governing Board (RGB) meeting on May 27, 2022. Beth Baxter receives the contracts electronically, signs them and returns 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.

- FY23 DHHS Division of Behavioral Health Contract \$12,303,889.02
Region 3 signed the initial contract and there will be ratifications to come. The final contract amount will be \$14.7 million.
- FY23 Budget shift 8/08/22 (Emergency Shift for Secure Residential) \$18,625.00
- FY23 Behavioral Health Education Center (BHECN) Contract \$36,000.00

Motion by Rich Nelson to approve all Contract Ratifications listed above, seconded by Karen Bredthauer. A Roll Call vote commenced:

Roll Call for Ratification:

Lee Hogan	Yes
Craig Thompson	Absent
Bill Maendele	Yes
Ivan Fintel	Yes
Tammy Kleeb	Yes
Neil Miner	Absent
Dennis Tegtman	Yes
Diana Hurlburt	Yes
Jordan Foltz	Absent
Karen Bredthauer	Yes
Rich Nelson	Yes
Anthony Gulizia	Absent
Dave Boehle	Yes
Larry Landstrom	Excused
Donald Brown	Absent
Carolyn Kucera	Absent
James Keifer	Absent
Theresa Puls	Yes
Ken Kaslon	Yes
Helen Cullers	Absent
Trevor Karr	Excused
Travis Hein	Excused

Motion passed to approve the three Budget Shifts listed above.

c. FY23 County Match Status

Kerry Slaymaker reported that Region 3 received 15 out of 22 County Match Agreements and we are waiting on some Emergency Protective Custody Agreements to be returned. Final County Match Certification is due October 1, 2022.

d. FY23 Provider Contract Amounts

Kerry Slaymaker referred to a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services FY23 Contracted Services*, which shows budget amounts by Network Provider. Due to a 15% Rate Increase, contract amounts are higher for most Network Providers. Kerry said The Bridge Behavioral Health (Lincoln) is a new contract and they will provide Medically Monitored Withdraw Management services. ValiData is a reinvestment project that involves outcome tracking and reengagement.

The amount of \$14,862,452 has been contracted out.

Unallocated:

Mental Health Unallocated Available: \$443,511 – approximately \$276,000 to be applied toward re-investment projects and some funds for Budget Shifts will be needed.

Substance Use Disorder Unallocated Available: \$84,625 – approximately \$43,000 to be applied toward new projects. Approximately \$41,000 may be used for Budget Shifts.

FY23 Grand Total: \$15,390,588 – this amount includes state funds, county funds, and federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Region 3 received \$166,000 in ARPA funds.

9. Region 3 Safety Upgrades and Protocol

- Caleb Davis, Emergency Community Support Supervisor and Disaster Behavioral Health Coordinator, shared that Officer Pat McLaughlin, Kearney Police Department, conducted an Active Shooter Training and Office Assessment in September 2021 at Region 3. The Office Assessment identified vulnerabilities and safety issues. According to Officer McLaughlin, in the event of an active shooter situation, Region 3 was vulnerable with our office set-up. A Region 3 team was formed to address office safety and research was conducted. Officer McLaughlin recommended controlling access and controlling movement. Safety plastic was applied to all glass doors so the glass does not break without tools and if the glass is shattered, the glass will remain in the door. One-way mirror tint was applied so people cannot see through the glass from the outside. A coded lock was installed on the reception door that leads to the office suite to limit access and movement. The two desks in the office near the reception area have a remote button to unlock the door for guests. Numbers and letters have been placed above all office doors as recommended by law enforcement. If a person is sheltered in a room or office during an event, the person can communicate with law enforcement regarding his/her location so they can provide assistance. A map of the Region 3 office that had been included in consumer orientation packets is no longer included. Caleb said there are no cameras outside our building as cameras show what happened rather than serve as a preventative measure. Region 3 is continuing to make office safety upgrades and work to improve front desk safety.

In September 2022, University of Nebraska at Kearney Police Officers will conduct a Region 3 office tour and provide feedback regarding building safety. They will also provide Active Shooter Training for Region 3 staff.

Dave Boehle shared that cameras could be used if someone says they slipped on an icy sidewalk or other situation in which camera footage could be helpful.

10. Region 3 Training Partnership

a. Region 3 Training Partnership

- Tiffany Gressley referred to a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Training Partnership, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022*. Tiffany explained that Region 3 provides a variety of training sessions related to mental health topics through a partnership with the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) and other system partners. Tiffany reviewed the Training Menu, which includes comprehensive, integrated, mental health, suicide prevention, and trauma informed care consultation and training for system partners and community members. Some trainings continue to be provided via a webinar-based platform and some trainings are provided in-person.

b. FY22 Training Report

- Region 3 Behavioral Health Services has developed an annual training plan and calendar to address the various training needs that our system partners have identified to enhance the system of care. It is important to unify the various initiatives into one comprehensive training plan as the topics support various stakeholders in their work with individuals, families, and communities. Due to the continuing impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the majority of trainings were provided virtually.

Tiffany Gressley referred to a handout, *Annual Training Report, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022*. The handout includes the types of trainings provided each month and the number of attendees. A total of 2,028 individuals participated in 70 training workshops.

Beth Reynolds Lewis added that Crisis Intervention Training will take place October 31 – November 4, 2022 at the Law Enforcement Training Academy in Grand Island. Two training days will involve scenario training and peer evaluations.

11. Designation of Compliance Officer

- The Region 3 Governing Board requires approval of the Region 3 Compliance Officer on an annual basis. Beth Baxter recommended that Kerry Slaymaker, Region 3 Fiscal Director, assume the role of Compliance Officer. Motion made by Theresa Puls to approve Kerry Slaymaker as the Region 3 Compliance Officer, seconded by Diana Hurlburt, motion carried.

12. Quality Improvement Report

a. Region 3 Continuous Quality Improvement Report

Kayl Dahlke reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement) Results January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022*. The handout includes Goals and Objectives, Minimum Goals, Progress Made, Goal Completion, and Next Steps for the areas of Network Management, System Coordination, Professional Partner Program, and the Emergency Community Support Program. Kayl noted that an accreditation survey of Region 3 was conducted August 11-12, 2022 by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International. Region 3 is waiting to hear from CARF regarding any recommended areas of improvement.

b. FY22 Region 3 Network Performance Measures Annual Report

Kayl Dahlke reviewed a handout, *FY22 Network Quality Improvement Plan: Performance Measurement and Reporting – FY22 Annual Report*. This tool is designed to improve and sustain identified satisfaction, access and performance measures for the Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Network. The FY22 initiative includes the timeframe of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Kayl noted that the “N” number has been added to the report to show the number of individuals applicable for each of the measures. Kayl reviewed all areas and noted the Performance Measures listed below.

Performance Measure 4

Increase the quarterly proportion of consumers ages 19 and older who are employed at discharge from any service excluding emergency and assessment services. Target is 65%. Region 3 achieved 69.9%. Kayl said it was good to see that our score exceeded the target, as this has been a difficult area in the last few years.

Performance Measure 7.f.

Average days between Emergency Protective Services admissions (for persons with at least one additional EPC in the past 13 month) will be at least 110 days or more. Region 3 was short of meeting the goal. Beth Baxter added that it is challenging to meet some of the Crisis Services

goals with the complexity and acuity levels of consumers. Their mental illness is much greater than previous years.

Performance Measure 7.g.

Increase the number served in Crisis Response in FY22 by 10% over the number serviced in FY21. Region 3 did not meet the goal as we lack the therapists to do so. South Central Behavioral Services is no longer providing Crisis Response Services in Kearney.

13. Region 3 Emergency System

a. Region 3 Crisis Response Flowchart and 988 Implementation

Beth Reynolds Lewis referred to a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Crisis Response System*, which outlines the Crisis Response process.

b. Region 3 Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) Report

Beth Reynolds Lewis referred to a handout, *Emergency Protective Custody – Region 3 Behavioral Health Services*, that shows the Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) orders in all twenty-two counties in Region 3 between July 2021 and June 2022. The orange line represents dropped EPCs, which indicates Law Enforcement felt the need to EPC someone but once the person arrived at the hospital, or within the first 36 hours, the person was willing to voluntarily admit to a hospital or the crisis was resolved. Beth explained that we look at strategies to engage a person in crisis to help resolve the issue or figure another means to get them the level of care needed without involving law enforcement.

The gray line represents Inpatient Commitments issued by a Mental Health Board if someone is non-compliant with treatment recommendations. This includes people who return to acute psychiatric care because they were non-compliant with the Mental Health Board order for care. The majority of Inpatient Commitments are for individuals who need hospitalization.

The yellow line represents Outpatient Commitments, which are low compared to EPCs.

The dark blue line represents Outpatient Warrants. Hospitals say individuals who are Outpatient Warrants likely need to go in front of a Mental Health Board. This could include individuals who have been in and out of the hospital and are not seeing improvement so further assistance is likely needed.

The graph shows EPCs slightly trending upward. Beth added that we have seen a large influx of people to central Nebraska, which has affected our homeless shelters. To help with this, we have assigned Emergency Community Support workers to work with individuals in homeless shelters in Kearney, Grand Island, and Hastings.

c. Crisis Response Request for Proposal

i. Review of Proposal

Beth Reynolds Lewis reviewed a handout, *Description of Response to the RFP for Crisis Response Services*.

Region 3 received a proposal from Lutheran Family Services (LFS) to provide Crisis Response Services to Buffalo, Furnas, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps, Hall, Custer, Greeley, Merrick, Howard, Garfield, Hamilton, Blaine, Loup, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler Counties. LFS met all stated requirements of the proposal. The focus of the service is to serve as a resource to law enforcement and other community agencies to respond to behavioral health crises.

The primary goals of the program are to decrease the number of individuals placed in emergency-protective custody, increase diversions from jail or unnecessary hospitalization, provide timely access for consumers and law enforcement, reduce the number of calls from consumers identified as over-utilizing law enforcement or first responders, and to provide proactive outreach and engagement with consumers to assist with removing barriers to receiving needed resources and services.

Total Annual Program Cost: \$252,643. LFS is requesting \$245,837 for an annual budget with the balance covered by Medicaid revenue. The annual budget includes \$22,080 for a two-month start-up phase. Region 3 anticipates that a contract will be in place by October 3, 2022 resulting in nine months of program costs projected at \$165,485.

Beth Baxter added that it was necessary for Region 3 to go through the RFP Process. Normally we would send the proposal to the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) for their review and then bring it back to the Regional Governing Board. Because time did not allow us to do this, we are requesting RGB approval for the proposal so we can move it forward to DBH for their approval. Region 3 will bring this back to the Regional Governing Board October 28, 2022 for ratification.

- ii. Motion to Approve Proposal, Forward the Proposal to the Division of Behavioral Health for Approval, and enter into Contract Negotiations with Prospective Provider
Motion by Ken Kaslon to approve the Crisis Response Services Proposal submitted by Lutheran Family Services, forward the proposal to the Division of Behavioral Health for approval and enter into contract negotiations with Lutheran Family Services, seconded by Dennis Tegtman, motion carried.

14. Region 3 Risk Management Report

- Kerry Slaymaker referred to a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Organizational Risk Management Plan October 2021*. The Risk Management Plan is reviewed annually by the Risk Management Team. The Region 3 Risk Management Team addressed our exposure and our liabilities in October 2021 and the changes are listed in red print on the handout. The plan includes the areas of *Identified Loss/Risk Exposure, Action Steps to Reduce/Eliminate the Loss/Risk Exposure, Progress Made, Region 3 Person(s) Responsible, and Region 3 Person Responsible to Monitor*.

Kerry said much of the red print includes language changes or updates. IT updates included moving encryption and email threat protection to cloud based storage and implementing a multi-factor authentication code. Backups are completed every hour, every day. Data is stored at an off-site secure data center.

Employee Liability items include personal safety items. Many implemented updates are related to Region 3 accreditation requirements.

Motion made by Ivan Fintel to approve the updated Organizational Risk Management Plan, seconded by Dave Boehle, motion carried.

15. Regional Administrator's Report

- a. Regional Behavioral Health Statewide System Enhancement Proposal

Beth Baxter referred to a handout, *Regional Behavioral Health Recovery Oriented System of Care, August 18, 2022*. Beth explained that we have been striving to strengthen the partnership between the Behavioral Health Regions and the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH). Meetings have taken

place to identify challenges and areas that we would like to see changed to create more of a partnership with collaborative decision-making. RAs met with Sheri Dawson, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health, and presented the Regional Behavioral Health Statewide System Enhancement Proposal to her. The RAs are proposing to implement a much more complimentary system between payer sources and the Behavioral Health Regions so as to maintain continuity of treatment and recovery.

Beth explained that currently, an individual's services get interrupted because they may be eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid is a medical model so services are required to be medically necessary. Our individuals, over time, are engaged in a recovery process. Managed care companies may discontinue coverage when individuals are unstable and still in need of assistance. We believe the partnership with DBH can be complimentary where an individual's treatment and support is not interrupted because of a payer source. Currently, the payer source drives the system rather than peoples' needs. Our proposal includes treating people and meeting their needs so they are not recycled back into the emergency system, which can be the most expensive care.

Beth will provide updates on the proposal when they are available.

b. National Accreditation Site Survey – August 11-12, 2022

Beth Baxter referred to a handout, *Accreditation Survey of Region 3 Behavioral Health Services, August 11 – 12, 2022*. 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 maintained this status ever since. Our latest accreditation survey was conducted as a Digitally Enabled Site Survey on August 11 and 12, 2022. Tammy Kleeb participated in an interview with the Administrative CARF surveyor.

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

During the recent CARF survey, a total of 1,625 standards were reviewed by a three-person survey team assigned to Region 3 who completes the review, develops a report, and then forwards it to CARF leadership to render a decision regarding accreditation. We look to hear from CARF by October 15, 2022 as to the outcome of the Region 3 accreditation survey.

This year was the first year the review was conducted virtually. Region 3 participated in an exit interview at the end of the two-day review where the surveyors gave feedback and recommendations. Beth reported that the exit interview went very well.

c. FY22 Region 3 Services Purchased Unit Review by the Division of Behavioral Health

Beth Baxter reported that the Department of Health and Human Services conducted a Region 3 FY22 Services Purchased Unit Review on June 27, 2022. Services reviewed included Emergency Community Support, Professional Partner Program Youth, and Professional Partner Program Transition. All services reviewed scored 100% compliance.

16. Other Business

Cheryl Huttman of Modern Woodmen presented Beth Baxter with the Hometown Hero Award in recognition of her decades of work and support in mental health services in local communities. The Hometown Hero Award recognizes individuals for their dedication, volunteerism, accomplishments, and

contributions to communities. In addition to the recognition, Beth received a certificate, plant, Eileen's cookie, and \$100 to be donated to the charity of Beth's choice.

17. Date of Next Meeting

October 28, 2022

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Region 3 Behavioral Health Services

4009 6th Avenue, Suite 65

Kearney, NE

18. Adjourn

Motion by Dave Boehle to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Maendele, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.