



MEETING OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

Friday, March 21, 2025
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

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
Furnas – Dennis Tegtman
Garfield – Jerome Zulkoski
Greeley – Jordan Foltz
Hall – Gary Quandt
Hamilton – Richard Nelson
Howard – Jessie Urbanski
Phelps – Theresa Puls
Sherman – Ken Kaslon
Wheeler – Roy Plugge

Absent:

Adams – Lee Hogan
Blaine – Craig Thompson
Custer – Tammy KleeB
Franklin – Josh Johnson
Kearney – Jeff England
Loup – Donna Steckel
Merrick – Carolyn Kucera
Valley – Max Magiera

Also Present:

Robert Meyer – RJ Meyer & Associates
Tiffany Gressley – Region 3 Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Kerry Slaymaker – Region 3 BHS
Jean Starman – Region 3 BHS

Excused:

Clay – Jesse Mohnike
Harlan – Jeff Bash
Nuckolls – Jerry Grove
Webster – Trevor Karr

3. Review of Open Meetings Act

The Open Meetings Act sign is posted in the meeting room. Two weeks prior to the March 21, 2025 Regional Governing Board meeting, advanced publicized notice was ran 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

The meeting agenda was approved and seconded. Names of the individual board members who made the motion and seconded the motion were inadvertently unrecorded.

6. Approval of January 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Motion by Gary Quandt to approve the January 24, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Jordan Foltz, motion carried.
7. Executive Committee Report
Rich Nelson reported that the Executive Committee met on March 21, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. The committee reviewed Region 3 expenditures from January 2025 – February 2025. The committee reviewed, discussed and approved a new policy, Suicide Prevention/Procedures. The committee recommended that Region 3 employees provide their signature indicating that they read the policy.
8. Region 3 Fiscal Reports
 - a. FY25 Year-to Date Network Expenditures
Kerry Slaymaker reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Network Expenditure Report July 2024 – February 2025*. Mental Health services expended 59% of the budgeted amount with 67% of the fiscal year elapsed.

Assertive Community Treatment expended 72% of the budget and a budget shift will likely be done.

Plans for One began in March 2025 and is a new line item.

Post Discharge Tracking expended 100% of the budget. This is a one-time annual payment and has been paid for the year.

SOAR expended 97% of the budget. Goodwill Industries will request a budget increase in April 2025 which will likely be approved.

Tiffany Gressley explained that SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) is an evidenced based program. Case managers help individuals with complex behavioral health needs with the application process for Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance. They help determine if individuals are eligible for Medicaid, and if so, help connect them to appropriate services and benefits. The case managers have a high case load. The SOAR program has been very beneficial to individuals. With the help of case managers, the acceptance rate for individuals applying for the first time for SSI/SSDI has increased considerably.

Supported Employment Youth Transitional Age expended 100% of the budget. The program ended 02.25.25.

Substance Use Disorder services expended 62% of the budgeted amount.

Halfway House is trending up and expended 72% of the budget.

Outpatient Psychotherapy shows -33% expended which reflects a Medicaid refund.

Short Term Residential CAD (Capacity Access Development), a service in place last year, expended 0% of funds. A payback of \$18,125 was received.

Supported Housing WC (Women and Children) Housing Vouchers expended 72%. This involves women coming out of treatment and involves apartments, often with several bedrooms which drives up costs quickly.

Grand Total Paid Out for July 2024 - February 2025 was \$7,039,196 with 67% of the fiscal year elapsed.

Kerry stated that at this time, we are looking at being potentially 7% or approximately \$500,000 under budget at the end of FY25. However, things could change. Tiffany added that if our projections hold true, this is the least amount of funding left unspent in several years. Unused funding can make us vulnerable to future funding cuts.

Kerry explained that part of the unspent funds is attributed to restricted services such as the Supported Housing program and the First Episode Psychosis service where funds cannot be used anywhere else. Another contributing factor involves the Crisis Stabilization Unit expansion where funds were set aside and then the project took a different direction. In addition, Revive, a new short term residential service, has taken longer than expected to open.

Kerry and Tiffany discussed the possibility of bringing on additional outpatient services that would be funded with unspent FY25 funds. There is an ongoing need and waitlist for outpatient services. Kerry stated that the challenge is working with the Division of Behavioral Health and moving through their proper channels to receive funds in time to make a difference.

Kerry reviewed the Other Reinvestment Projects. Kerry noted that the total funds that DBH allocated for Mobile Translation Devices and Contingency Management was significantly more than needed. Region 3 is allowed to move some of those funds into the Crisis Response Youth area which will likely show billings next month. The Outreach/Education for Faith Partners program was unable to be implemented and the funds have expired.

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 January 24, 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.

- FY25 Budget Shift 02.12.25 - \$165,000
- FY25 DBH Amendment 2 – this is to add \$85,000 in housing funds which brings our contract amount to \$11,107,004.
- FY25 Budget Shift 03.13.25 - \$88,677.

The budget shifts cover gaps in high utilization areas and include Plans for One.

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

c. National Opioid Settlement Funds

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services National Opioid Settlement Funds Report as of February 28, 2025*.

Total Funds Received: \$1,734,585.44

Total Grant Awards: \$247,869.02

Total Funds Expended \$357,548.36

Funds Remaining: \$1,377,037.08

Kerry explained that we anticipate accepting a new round of grant applications this summer. Requests to continue current projects will also be considered. Unspent funds will go into the pool of funds to be awarded during the next grant application period.

A question was asked regarding how the programs that received grant funding are going. Tiffany explained that it varies; programs with more infrastructure are up and running and programs with less experience are in the beginning stages. Norah Renner is responsible for monitoring and auditing grant recipients and Shyanne Adams is responsible for reviewing programming pieces.

Tiffany said the current application worked well but would like to fine-tune the scoring sheet to make it easier and more concrete for reviewers. Tiffany shared the idea of doing targeted outreach to areas of need such as law enforcement, county jails and other justice behavioral health related organizations. Exhibit E includes many opioid remediation opportunities and strategies focused on the justice system.

9. Presentation of the FY26 Regional Budget Plan

a. Overview, Network Management and System Coordination

Tiffany Gressley reviewed a handout, *Regional Budget Plan July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026*. The purpose of the Regional Budget Plan is to ensure that the Region 3 Behavioral Health System promotes accountability, maintains adequate capacity, and focuses on delivering effective trauma-informed, co-occurring capable mental health and substance use disorder services. Development of the Budget Plan includes the four areas of Performance, Effective Services, Data, and Allocation of Resources. Funding decisions were made in support of a comprehensive array of services and activities. Tiffany reviewed the Region 3 System Priorities and stated that Region 3 conducted a Planning Session with Network Providers in January 2025. System priorities were developed based on their input. Tiffany stated that the Medicaid system and the Regional Behavioral Health system are different. Both systems are needed and are complimentary to each other. Region 3 maintains regional administrative and network management functions to ensure our system accountability, management and effectiveness.

Tiffany reviewed the FY25 Budget Planning Process; a timeline of events from December 31, 2024 through July 15, 2025.

b. FY26 Budget Information

Kerry Slaymaker stated that the Region 3 FY26 state funding allocation from the Division of Behavioral Health remained the same as last year. Kerry reviewed a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services FY26 Regional Budget Plan, FY25-FY26 Comparison, March 20, 2025*. Figures in parentheses represent a budget decrease. Figures without parentheses represent a budget increase. Services with one asterisk denote Medicaid eligible services. Services with two asterisks denote designated/restricted state or federal funds. For example, Housing funds are to be used for housing services only. Coordinated Specialty Care - First Episode Psychosis is a federally funded program and funds can only be used for this service.

Kerry stated that the FY26 budget information was distributed to network providers in December 2024. Network providers were asked to submit their FY26 funding requests to Region 3. Funding requests came in \$1.2 million over the amount available to allocate. Kerry and Tiffany held discussions with providers and made reductions. One provider said there was a discrepancy with a projected funding amount so approximately \$75,000 of Region 3 funding reserves was added for use if needed.

Kerry reviewed the FY26 budget amounts for Mental Health services and Substance Use Disorder services and noted some larger variances. Overall, the Mental Health services budget decreased by

\$632,229 and Substance Use Disorder budget increased by \$707,794. All changes were based on utilization, trends observed from providers' billings and last year's spending patterns.

Assertive Community Treatment increased \$67,435 based on last year's need and our history of shifting funds to the service.

Crisis Response MH decreased \$131,118. This is related to the creation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC). Two providers are designated as a CCBHC and are required to provide Crisis Response MH. It is anticipated that Medicaid will pick up some of the costs. Under the direction of the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), Region 3 was told to reduce the budgets of the two network providers for this service.

Crisis Stabilization MH decreased \$611,770. This is not an actual decrease as there is an increase in Crisis Stabilization SUD. The change involves the billing process and individuals who come in for a mental health bed versus a detoxification bed.

Emergency Protective Custody increased \$35,986.

Medication Management increased \$162,895. A provider is looking to set up an opioid treatment program that is still in progress. It will be a new offering in Region 3.

Outpatient Psychotherapy decreased \$61,247. This shows a \$0 budget because the service was discontinued during FY25. The discontinuation was at the direction of the Division of Behavioral Health because of the amount of utilization and the lack of data to support it.

Plans for One decreased \$80,000 and shows a \$0 budget. This involves individual plans to move people out of the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC). Region 3 has a plan in place to move one individual out of LRC. A budget shift to move funds was completed. The individual will go to a rehabilitation home. Plans for One will likely continue in FY26. Region 3 told DBH that there are funds to pay for this in FY25 but not in FY26. DBH has allowed Region 3 to request additional funding and DBH agreed to pay for this service in FY26.

The Supported Employment program (SOAR) increased \$60,989.

Supported Employment Youth Transitional Age decreased \$38,875. This shows a \$0 budget as DBH discontinued the program during FY25.

Supported Housing decreased \$12,750. Region 3 received \$85,000 in additional housing funds and 15% of those funds can be used toward coordination. The amount of \$12,750 (15%) will go to the coordination budget which allows us to move some general state funds to cover other services.

Substance Use Disorder increased \$707,794.

Crisis Stabilization SUD increased \$147,443 and Social Detoxification increased \$363,018. This is in connection with the decrease shown in Crisis Stabilization Unit MH and at the request of DBH to bill Social Detoxification services separately from the Crisis Stabilization Unit.

Halfway House increased \$144,415. Utilization has been high and a budget shift will likely be done.

Short Term Residential increased \$95,907. Revive, a new network provider in 2024, offers the service, which will provide additional capacity as there is a consistent waitlist.

Grand Total FY25 is \$11,757,975 which includes the \$85,000 added for housing funds. Budgeted amount for FY26 is \$11,833,540 which is an increase of \$75,565 (the amount of Region 3 reserve funds added).

- c. Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Recommendation
Gary Quandt reported that the Region 3 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) met on March 20, 2025 where Tiffany Gressley and Kerry Slaymaker presented the Region 3 Behavioral Health Services FY26 Budget Plan. Gary stated that the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee unanimously voted to adopt the FY26 Regional Budget Plan as presented and recommended it to the Region 3 Regional Governing Board.
- d. FY26 County Match Contributions
Kerry Slaymaker referred to a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services FY26 County Tax Match, Based on July 1, 2024 Estimated U.S. Census Population Figures*. Funding allocations are based on the population of each county and adjusted annually based on census data.

Kerry added that Buffalo County provides \$25,000 for the Buffalo County Jail Diversion Program and Hall County contributes \$18,000 for a Substance Use Prevention Program. This funding is applied first, which reduces the county match for each county.

Resolution 2 was read aloud by Jean Starman.

RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS, the Regional Governing Board for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services met on March 21, 2025 for the purpose of conducting the business of the Governing Board and reviewing and approving the FY 2026 Region 3 Budget Plan for behavioral health services.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Regional Governing Board that the behavioral health services in Region 3 be enhanced through the utilization of a balanced system of behavioral health services and supports that are responsive to the needs of and accessible to children, adults and families residing and/or working in the Region 3 service area and communities who are implementing substance use prevention activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Governing Board for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services approves the total county tax match for FY 2026 in the amount of \$650,971, which is the same as the amount requested for FY 2025.

DATED and approved this 21st day of March 2025.

BY

Rich Nelson
Chairperson, Region 3 Governing Board

Motion made by Bill Maendele to approve the FY26 Region 3 Budget Plan Resolution #2, seconded by Dennis Tegtman, motion carried. A roll call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan - Absent
Craig Thompson - Absent
Bill Maendele - Yes
Jesse Mohnike - Excused
Tammy Kleeb - Absent
Joshua Johnson - Absent
Dennis Tegtman - Yes

Jerome Zulkoski - Yes
Jordan Foltz - Yes
Gary Quandt - Yes
Rich Nelson - Yes
Jeff Bash - Excused
Jessie Urbanski - Yes
Jeff England - Absent
Donna Steckel - Absent
Carolyn Kucera - Absent
Jerry Grove - Excused
Theresa Puls - Yes
Ken Kaslon - Yes
Max Madiera - Absent
Trevor Karr - Excused
Roy Plugge – Yes

- e. Motion to Approve FY26 Regional Budget Plan
Resolution 1 was read aloud by Jean Starman.

WHEREAS, the Regional Governing Board for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services met on March 21, 2025 for the purpose of conducting the business of the Governing Board and reviewing and approving the FY 2026 Region 3 Budget Plan for behavioral health services.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Regional Governing Board that the behavioral health services in Region 3 be enhanced through the utilization of a balanced system of behavioral health services and supports that are responsive to the needs of and accessible to children, adults and families residing and/or working in the Region 3 service area and communities who are implementing substance abuse prevention activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Governing Board for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services approves the attached Region 3 FY 2026 Budget Plan for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

DATED and approved this 21st day of March 2025.

BY _____
Rich Nelson
Chairperson, Region 3 Governing Board

Motion made by Theresa Puls to approve the FY26 Region 3 Budget Plan Resolution #1, seconded by Ken Kaslon, motion carried. A roll call vote commenced.

Lee Hogan - Absent
Craig Thompson - Absent
Bill Maendele - Yes
Jesse Mohnike - Excused
Tammy Kleeb - Absent
Joshua Johnson - Absent
Dennis Tegtman - Yes
Jerome Zulkoski - Yes
Jordan Foltz - Yes
Gary Quandt - Yes
Rich Nelson - Yes
Jeff Bash - Excused

Jessie Urbanski - Yes
Jeff England - Absent
Donna Steckel - Absent
Carolyn Kucera - Absent
Jerry Grove - Excused
Theresa Puls - Yes
Ken Kaslon - Yes
Max Madiera - Absent
Trevor Karr - Excused
Roy Plugge – Yes

10. FY24 Independent CPA Audit

Robert Meyer, Certified Public Accountant with RJ Meyer & Associates, provided the FY24 Audit Report. Robert reviewed assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures and stated nothing unusual was noted. Robert stated that Region 3 purchased \$70,000-\$80,000 in vehicles, which is typical.

Robert mentioned that the Pass-Through-recipients (Network Providers receiving federal funds) are listed and said it is important to continue to monitor the recipients. Proper insurance is in place.

Robert stated that he is very pleased with how the year went and that Kerry and the team is very helpful with getting information to Robert and providing accurate reports. Robert asked if there were any questions. There were no questions about the Region 3 FY24 Independent CPA Audit Report.

The single audit has been submitted to the federal audit clearinghouse regarding monitoring of federal funds.

Kerry added that the Region 3 fiscal team performs expense audits for each network provider every year and the Region 3 CQI/Network team performs unit audits annually and programmatic audits for every network provider every three years to verify that quality services are being provided and ensure adherence to contracts.

11. Regional Administrator's Report

a. Legislative Update

- Tiffany Gressley provided an update on Legislative Bill 454 introduced by Senator Dan Quick. Tiffany stated that she, and the following people, testified February 28, 2025 in support of the bill: Patrick Kriefels, Regional Administrator, Region 5; Chase Francel, Director, Mid-Plains Center; Annette Dubas, Executive Director, NABHO; and Dr. Tom Janisiek, Director, Division of Behavioral Health.

The bill would allow Behavioral Health Regions more flexibility to work with the Division of Behavioral Health to expand capacity with current network providers without the requirement of a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The RFP process would be an option to the Behavioral Health Regions. Tiffany stated that she thought the testimonials went well and a good team effort was involved. The bill moved out of committee and Speaker Arch designated LB 454 as a priority bill. 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.

- Tiffany stated that there is no indication of another budget reduction to the regions for FY26. She shared that Health and Human Services (HHS) had a budget hearing and DBH asked for an additional \$3 million to go to the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC). They are transitioning out of using contract nursing staff and the additional funding would allow them to continue doing so. DHHS-DBH requested to use \$10 million of existing funds to re-appropriate back to them for a 1915i waiver program to connect individuals coming out of LRC which would provide federal match funding to serve those individuals with ongoing, complex needs.

- Tiffany reported that making connections and developing relationships with legislative candidates and senators prior to the legislative session was worthwhile and beneficial. She plans to continue the practice.

12. Other Business

No Other Business was discussed.

13. Date of Next Meeting

May 23, 2025

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Region 3 Behavioral Health Services

4009 6th Avenue, Suite 65

Kearney, NE

Remaining Meetings for 2025

- August 22, 2025
- October 31, 2025

14. Adjourn

Motion by Gary Quandt to adjourn the March 21, 2025 meeting, seconded by Ken Kaslon, motion carried.

Rich Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.