



Behavioral Health Services

MEETING OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

FRIDAY, May 27, 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 9:30 a.m.
2. Roll Call
• Roll Call was taken by Jean Starman.

Present:

Adams – Lee Hogan
Custer – Tammy Kleeb
Furnas – Dennis Tegtman
Garfield – Diana Hurlburt
Greeley – Jordan Foltz
Hall – Karen Bredthauer
Howard – Dave Boehle
Phelps – Theresa Puls
Sherman – Kenneth Kaslon
Valley – Helen Cullers

Absent:

Blaine – Craig Thompson
Franklin – Neil Meiner
Harlan – Anthony Gulizia
Kearney – Larry Landstrom
Loup – Donald Brown
Nuckolls – James Keifer
Webster – Trevor Karr

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
Jean Starman – Region 3 BHS

Excused:

Buffalo – Bill Maendele
Clay – Ivan Fintel
Hamilton – Richard Nelson
Merrick – Carolyn Kucera
Wheeler – Travis Heinz

- 3. Review of Open Meetings Act
• Tammy Kleeb directed the Governing Board members to the Open Meetings Act sign posted in the room.
4. Approval of Agenda
• Motion by Theresa Puls to approve the agenda, seconded by Diana Hurlburt, motion carried.

5. Approval of March 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes
  - Motion by Karen Bredthauer to approve the March 25, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Kenneth Kaslon, motion carried.
6. Executive Committee Report
  - Tammy Kleeb reported that the Executive Committee met on May 27, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. The committee reviewed expenditures from March 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022. They reviewed and approved the following Region 3 polices:
    - HR I-7: Inclement Weather/Emergency Closings.
    - H&S 13: Communicable Viruses/Bacterial Infection-Free Work Environment
    - H&S 13 Communicable Virus Form

7. Region 3 Fiscal Reports

a. FY22 Year-to-Date Program Summary July – April Report

Kerry Slaymaker reviewed the handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Network Expenditures July 1, 2021 - April 30, 2022*. Mental Health services expended 61% of the budgeted amount for FY22 with 83% of the fiscal year elapsed. Kerry noted that some services show 0% paid out, such as Crisis Inpatient Youth, Emergency Community Support-Youth, Housing Landlord Risk Management and Mental Health Respite. Some of these services are being used; however, Region 3 is not the payer source.

Some services show more than 83% expended, such as Crisis Stabilization and Day Support, which are Expense-Based services. Outpatient Psychotherapy – First Episode Psychosis (FEP) expended 100%, which is a budget line item change. A process change in October 2021 moved all amounts into the Coordinated Specialty Care line item. Coordinated Specialty Care expended 32% of the allotted budget.

Regional Coordination services are approximately 80% expended. Insurance renewals and cyber liability insurance premiums will be paid in the next month.

Unallocated Available – MH shows a budgeted amount of \$111,071 with 0% paid out. These funds are Cost Model Funds that are not available to be transferred unless it is to one of the services that was approved for Cost Model Rate Funding. Region 3 has adequate funding in those services so the unallocated funds remain.

Kerry reported that Crisis Stabilization - SUD services expended 59% of the FY22 budgeted amount with 83% of the fiscal year elapsed.

Substance Use Disorder Services – Adult expended 88% of the budget. It is paid on an expense reimbursement basis.

The unit-based SUD services are lower than in the past due to Medicaid expansion and some services with limited capacity due to COVID-19 in previous months.

Unallocated Available – SUD \$57,537.

Grand Total - \$8,221,916 or 60% of the FY22 budget has been expended from July 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022.

Beth Baxter stated that there has been a National Emergency Declaration due to COVID-19 pandemic. Presumptive eligibility for Medicaid has been implemented to streamline service access making it much easier for someone to be deemed Medicaid eligible. Once the federal government removes the emergency declaration for COVID-19 the presumptive eligibility will no longer be in place and it is believed that some individuals may drop off Medicaid and transition back to Region 3 as a payer source.

Motion by Helen Cullers to approve the Region 3 Fiscal Report as presented, seconded by Dave Boehle, motion carried.

b. FY22 RGB Contract Budget Shift Ratifications

Kerry Slaymaker referred to a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Contract Ratifications by Regional Governing Board*. No Contracts were received since the last Regional Governing Board meeting so the handout shows only Budget Shifts.

- Budget Shift 4/6/22 (Emergency for Federal Funds) \$151,331  
Women's Set Aside – Therapeutic Community Service (federal funding) – Region 3 paid for one person this year because most individuals accessing Therapeutic Community are now Medicaid eligible. Region 3 has a *Maintenance of Effort* requirement that states we are to use a certain amount of the federal funds for specific women's services. Region 3 used as much funding as allowed by the Division of Behavioral Health in other services such as the Halfway House and Short Term Residential services. This will help Region 3 spend down these federal funds.
- Budget Shift 4/20/22 - \$117,936. Funds were moved from various services into the Vali-Data Outcomes-Post Discharge Tracking, Re-Engagement and Support Project, a post discharge program.
- Budget Shift 5/18/22 (Emergency Shift for Professional Partner Program \$26,000)  
The shift is related to age changes. When a youth turns 19 years of age they move from the youth line item to the adult line item.

Motion by Theresa Puls to approve all Budget Shifts listed above, seconded by Helen Cullers.

A roll call vote commenced:

Lee Hogan	Yes
Craig Thompson	Absent
Bill Maendele	Excused
Ivan Fintel	Excused
Tammy Kleeb	Yes
Neil Meiner	Absent
Dennis Tegtman	Yes
Diana Hurlburt	Yes
Jordan Foltz	Yes
Karen Bredthauer	Yes
Rich Nelson	Excused
Anthony Gulizia	Absent
Dave Boehle	Yes
Larry Landstom	Absent
Donald Brown	Absent
Carolyn Kucera	Excused
James Keifer	Absent

Theresa Puls	Yes
Kenneth Kaslon	Yes
Helen Cullers	Yes
Trevor Karr	Absent
Travis Heinz	Excused

The motion passed to approve the three Budget Shifts listed above.

c. FY23 Regional Budget Plan Status

Kerry Slaymaker stated that the initial FY23 Regional Budget Plan submitted to DBH on April 1, 2022 was approved by the Division of Behavioral Health with Region 3 receiving the approval on May 24, 2022.

1) Increase in Nebraska Behavioral Health System Expectations and Responsibilities

Region 3 has actively participated in statewide planning efforts to identify services and initiatives that will enhance the behavioral health system, improve support and technical assistance for communities, and provide services to individuals and families in need. Additional expectations and responsibilities have been placed on Region 3 to support a variety of statewide initiatives. All six Behavioral Health Regions are preparing proposals to add additional Network and Coordination staff positions.

2) Region 3's System Enhancement Proposal

Beth Baxter referred to a handout, *System Enhancement Initiative*. The handout is a condensed version of the proposal Region 3 submitted to the Division of Behavioral Health based on our goals, responsibilities, and our plans to implement statewide initiatives within the Region 3 area.

The Region 3 Enhancement Plan identifies three key Network and System Coordination positions that will enable Region 3 to meet additional demands and responsibilities. These include a Network Project Director, a Justice Behavioral Health Specialist, and a 988/Suicide Prevention Coordinator. Region 3 submitted a proposal to the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) on February 4, 2022 and a revised plan on May 17, 2022. Region 3 received approval of these positions from the Division of Behavioral Health on May 20, 2022.

Beth Baxter reviewed the goals of the Region 3 System Enhancement Initiative.

Staff positions to be implemented at Region 3 include:

- ✚ Network Project Director – Will be responsible for overall management of Region 3 service development and delivery strategies.
- ✚ Justice Behavioral Health Specialist – Will work with the Emergency Community Support Program and focus on those who are involved in the justice system.
- ✚ 988/Suicide Prevention Coordinator – Will oversee and support the continued development, implementation, and promotion of the 988 Crisis System Plan.

Funding for the three positions will include a combination of state general funds and county match funds. The state funds for these positions will be included in the FY23 contract with the Division of Behavioral Health.

Theresa Puls thanked Beth Baxter and the Region 3 team for their work on the System Enhancement Initiative.

3) FY23 County Match

i. FY23 15% Network Provider Rate Increase

Beth Baxter reported that the 2022 Legislature included in its 2023 budget a 15% rate increase for behavioral health services. This was initially vetoed by Governor Ricketts; however the Legislature overrode this veto and the budget passed with the 15% rate increase intact. Beth referred to a handout, *15% Rate Funding Distribution – May 10, 2022 DBH/RA Meeting*, which includes additional information such as the Region 3 total contract amount and the 15% Rate Increase amount. These figures will be included in our FY23 contract with the Division of Behavioral Health.

Beth reported that the dollars to be used for the 15% Provider Rate Increase are funds that are projected to not be unspent this current fiscal year. These funds will carry over to next fiscal year and have already been matched this fiscal year with the required county funds. The funds that will be allocated for the 15% rate increase will not have to be matched a second time. The county match amounts approved at the March 25, 2022 RGB meeting stand.

Vicky Miigerl will send information to county clerks regarding the required county match for FY23 along with a certification form. The letter requests that the County Board Chairperson sign the match certification form and return it to Region 3.

ii. County Match Return on Investment

Beth Baxter explained how county match dollars leverage to support the behavioral health system. For every \$7.50 of matchable State General Funds the Regional Behavioral Health Authority provides \$1.00 in county funds. Certain State General Funds are exempt from county match requirements. Beth explained that Region 3 Behavioral Health Services:

- Is a nationally accredited Network that manages 14 behavioral health providers and 7 prevention community coalitions.
- Contracts with organizations to serve those who are indigent, uninsured, or underinsured and experience a mental health and substance use disorder.
- Facilitates system coordination efforts to assure the behavioral health system works in a coordinated and integrated manner including the emergency psychiatric system, prevention system, youth service system, consumer and family inclusion, housing assistance, and network management.
- Provides care coordination for youth and adults who experience behavioral health challenges and their families.
- Provides follow-up, continuity of care, and coordination of services for adults who experience a psychiatric crisis.
- Provides rental assistance for individuals who have extremely low income and experience a mental illness and/or substance use disorder.
- Coordinates with statewide and local emergency response personnel to address the behavioral health needs of individuals and communities in a large-scale disaster.

During FY 2021, 5,425 individuals were served through the Region 3 Behavioral Health Provider Network at the cost of \$11,909,267 averaging \$2,195.26 per person. The vast

majority of persons served participated in multiple services due to the complexity of their behavioral health needs.

FY 2021 Expenditures:

Direct Services: \$10,070,067 – 84.56%

System Coordination and Enhancements: \$1,336,950 – 11.23%

Regional Administration and Network Management: \$502,250 – 4.21%

Total: \$11,909,267

d. FY23 Contract Process Update

- Draft Contract Template

Kerry Slaymaker stated that the initial FY23 Budget Plan was approved May 24, 2022. Since that time, a 15% Rate Increase was passed so Region 3 will resubmit the final FY23 Budget Plan in July 2022. It is necessary to wait until June 30, 2022 when all bills have been submitted to know the remaining amount of unspent funds. The \$10,008,099 (15% Rate Increase earmarked for the Behavioral Health Regions) will be added to Network Provider contracts across the six Behavioral Health Regions. Region 3 is currently reviewing the draft contract with the Division of Behavioral Health. Network Provider contracts will be sent at the end of June 2022. Contract amendments with Network Providers will likely be completed when final allocations are received.

8. Regional Administrator's Report

a. Region 3 Employee Compensation

Beth Baxter referred to a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Workforce Retention Strategy*, and explained that in light of the behavioral health workforce shortage and Region 3's desire to implement proactive measures in retaining our current workforce, protect our investment in employees' training and skill building, protect our ability to meet our contractual obligations, generate income for Region 3, and continue to meet our mission to serve individuals and families who experience a behavioral health challenge, Randy McCall completed an extensive comparative analysis of our employee compensation and benefits package in December 2021. Region 3's salaries and benefits were compared to four of the other Regional Behavioral Health Authorities in Nebraska, Region 3 Network Providers, and similar positions employed with the state of Nebraska. Based on this analysis of employee compensation, benefit packages, and the cost of living increases, Region 3 increased employee salaries by 4% across the board effective 2/28/22.

Region 3's benefits package is competitive with the market; therefore, no changes were made to our benefits package.

b. FY22 One-Time Emergency Funding for Network Providers

Beth Baxter reviewed a handout, *Draft FY22 Region 3 Behavioral Health Services One-Time Emergency Funding for Network Providers*. Payment will be based on provider billings for services provided during January 1 through June 30 of this current fiscal year. The handout includes the Region 3 Network Providers and their locations.

The January – March actual billings are listed as well as projected billings for the remainder of FY22. The total emergency funding amount is projected to be \$707,545. Kerry Slaymaker explained that Region 3 is collecting information from each Network Provider regarding their efforts to retain and recruit qualified staff such as salary increases, increased benefits, and other organizational changes. Network Providers are to complete and submit a worksheet and/or board meeting minutes as documentation. This information will be submitted to the Division of Behavioral Health by the

end of the business day June 8, 2022. The Regions are to provide a worksheet by service, provider and service level, regarding the amount of the Emergency Funding.

The One-Time Emergency Funding payments will be included in the June 2022 and July 2022 payments to Network Providers.

Kerry added that this will require a Budget Shift as funds will be pulled from services with ample funding. The Budget Shifts will be brought to the next Regional Governing Board meeting.

c. Detoxification Services Request for Interest

Tiffany Gressley shared that Region 3 received a Request for Interest from The Bridge Behavioral Health in Lincoln. Since they are a member of the Region V Systems Provider Network, it will be a fairly simple process for Region 3 to add them to our Network. The Bridge Behavioral Health will not have a physical location in Region 3. Region 3 will purchase a specific amount of capacity from them. Tiffany added that Region 3 previously participated in a solid grass roots effort with organizations in the Grand Island area who see a need for detoxification services for individuals struggling with opioid addiction. Region 3 will organize a community meeting with interested groups in the Grand Island area so The Bridge representatives can better understand the needs in our area and discuss how to access and utilize the service.

d. 988 Crisis Response System

Beth Baxter referred to a handout, *Region 3 Behavioral Health Services 988 Crisis Service Delivery System 4.01.22*.

The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) has identified the tenants of *Somewhere to Call, Someone to Respond* and *Somewhere to Go*. The three tenants and the Crisis System Coordination and Enhancements are mandatory items by DBH. Discussion with DBH has included that Mobile Crisis Response be available across the 93 counties in Nebraska. Responding virtually through secure video conferencing is an alternative to in-person outreach is not possible. *Somewhere to Go* includes Crisis Receiving and Crisis Stabilization programs. DBH is working on a process for bed registry availability for referrals. Discussions continue to take place to determine a plan in rural areas. Region 3 is exploring a Same Day Access model to expand access region-wide via in-person and secure video conferencing paid on an expense reimbursement basis. Beth Baxter reviewed the *System Components for Nebraska's Behavioral Health Crisis Services* that shows 988 services in place in Region 3. This information has been submitted to the Division of Behavioral Health. The 988 System is having a dedicated phone line for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis, which will divert them from the 911 system. Project implementation is July 1, 2022.

e. Region 3 Transition Process

Beth Baxter referred to a handout, *Regional Administrator Transition Process Applying Change-Capable Leadership Principles*. Beth Baxter announced her retirement date is June 30, 2023. The handout is an overview of the process and timeline to transition to the next Regional Administrator.

An open search for a Network Project Director (NPD) internal position will begin June 13, 2022. Beth will provide updates as the transition process develops. The transition process includes the hiring of the NPD, working closely with Beth, finalizing responsibilities for the position and a shadowing process of approximately one year to acclimate to the Regional Administrator position. Beth will keep the Board informed of this transition process.

9. Other Business

No Other Business was discussed.

10. Date of Next Meeting

August 26, 2022  
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Region 3 Behavioral Health Services  
4009 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 65  
Kearney, NE

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