



Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare
Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2024
10:00 AM

Advisory Members Present:

Jeff Leach
John Brady
Medjine Desgraves
John Sheehan
Julie Nielsen
Amy Zimmer
Michealle Vega-Hernandez

Advisory Members Absent:

Cameron Soester
Chris Kelly

Region 6 Staff Present

Patti Jurjevich
Taren Petersen
John Murphy
Crystal Fuller
Jennifer Sanders
Miles Glasgow

Recorder:

Bev Jackson

1. Welcome

The regular monthly BHAC meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM.

2. Roll Call

Roll call of the members was done, and it was determined that there was a quorum.

3. Approval of the October 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

John Sheehan made the motion to approve the October 2, 2024 meeting minutes.
Julie Nielsen seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

4. Approval of the Agenda

John S. made the motion to approve the December 4, 2024 agenda.
Julie seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

5. Annual Site Visit Summary FY24 - John Murphy

John referred to the printout that was included in everyone's packet. John stated that it is the responsibility of the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) and Regional Behavioral Health Authorities to monitor, review, and perform programmatic, administrative, and fiscal accountability and oversight functions on a regular basis with all subcontractors. Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare conducts reviews with all contracted providers per the requirements of the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services (NBHS) Audit Manual. Reviews conducted include services purchased verification and program fidelity, as well as review of prevention coalitions and substance abuse prevention treatment block grant requirements.

John then shared with the committee that the providers' performance during FY24 reviews remained consistent. There were no exceptional patterns or trends identified during reviews. Providers continue to reflect positively on the site visit process. In FY24, Region 6 review staff worked with providers to implement updates to the Division of Behavioral Health's Audit Manual. In FY25, Region 6 will work to update and standardize review summaries. There were no questions or comments.

6. Update on the Tobacco Free Nebraska (TFN) Reallocation – Crystal Fuller

Crystal referred to the printout that was included in everyone's packet. This printout included a budget and workplan. She stated that Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare serves as fiscal agent for the Tobacco Free Nebraska-Communities of Excellence Grant for Douglas County, in partnership with MOTAC (Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition). The grant is in its second year of a two-year grant cycle, with five subcontract organizations serving the Douglas County tobacco prevention and control activities.

Creighton University, a long standing TFN grant subcontractor, communicated to Region 6 through a formal letter requesting contract termination. The organization had a full-time staff person funded by this grant who resigned in July and Creighton University determined that they would not be rehiring the position and phasing out their work with MOTAC.

Crystal then shared where these leftover dollars will be reallocated to.

John S made the motion to recommend to the Regional Governing Board.

Julie seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Application - Jennifer Sanders

Jennifer referred to the printout that was included in everyone's packets. This printout included a budget, workplan and timeline. Jennifer stated that eligible entities were invited to submit applications for initiatives for up to two years in duration that aligned with one of four identified priority areas: Awareness, Education, and Prevention; Community Connection and Support; Enhanced Crisis Response; or Expanded Access to Treatment Services.

A review committee was formed to evaluate and score applications based on the criteria outlined in the opioid settlement funds grant application requirements. The committee consisted of eleven individuals, including community stakeholders, Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare Advisory Committee members, Region 6 staff, and a consumer.

The review committee met on November 11, 2024 to discuss the applications and submit their scores. Each of the committee members received copies of the applications, scoring instructions, and a scoring rubric. All committee members independently reviewed the applications.

At the end of the meeting, the committee recommended awarding funding to four applicants.

a. Recommendations from the Review Committee

The committee recommended awarding funding to the following four applicants.

Community Alliance Rehabilitation Services, Methodist Fremont Health, OneWorld Community Health Centers and Three Rivers Public Health Department.

John S. asked if the amount being awarded to Community Alliance was for just one person, Jennifer replied no, there will be 2 peer navigators, over an 18 month period.

Amy Zimmer asked in regard to pain management, wouldn't that involve opioids? John Brady added that they would be initiating safe prescribing practices and other methods of pain management. John S. asked how much money is available? Jennifer stated that there is 5.7 million available, but not all of it is sustainable. She also stated that there will be 1.3 million available annually. There were no further questions or comments.

b. BHAC Recommendation to the regional Governing Board

Julie made the motion to recommend to the Regional Governing Board.

Amy seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. 2025 Officers

a. Report from Nomination Committee

Michaelle Verga Hernandez stated that she did not have anything to report. Chris Kelly, the other member of the nomination committee was absent.

Chair Jeff Leach recommended tabling agenda item 8, until he received a text message from absent Committee member Cameron Soester.

9. Status Reports for Period Ending October 31, 2024

Reports were included in the packets for everyone's review.

a. Contract Service Report - Taren Petersen

Taren gave an update of the October 2024 Contract Service Reports. The drawdown target is expected to be at 33.33%. Mental Health is at 26.82% and Substance Use is at 31.35%.

Taren stated that part of the reason for the low drawdown is dollars have not been drawn for the Crisis Stabilization & Resource Center, as this is in the final planning stages. Medjine Desgraves asked if there is a building in mind, and Taren replied yes, option 1 was a building that would cost over 10 million dollars with renovations. The second option is a building currently owned by HFS. This building would also need renovations, but far less, at approximately 3 million. John B. asked if Sarpy County and HFS were working on option 1 and Taren replied no, it is only Sarpy County. Taren said that she would have more information to share after an upcoming meeting to be held on December 6. Patti also wanted to point out that when money like this is obligated, but not being drawn down, it could jeopardize future funding.

Taren then drew everyone's attention to the additional Contract Drawdown Sheet which gives the Contract Status Report information at a quick glance.

There were no further questions or comments.

b. Emergency Service Report – Miles Glasgow

Miles gave everyone an update on the current progress in the emergency systems. A copy of the report was included in everyone's packet for review.

He also shared data updates in Emergency Protective Custody (EPC), stating that the numbers have been steady in FY25.

He stated that Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) were down on their number of beds in August and September, but that in October, they got most of those beds back, so the numbers are looking better.

Miles then highlighted the numbers for Acute Inpatient, with 69% in General Care, 86.3% in ICU for a total average of 72.6%.

Miles stated that there has been an increase youth calls for Mobil Crisis Response (MCR). He shared that they are really trying to not always have law enforcement on scene for these calls.

Medjine asked if there is support in the schools for the youth, why would there be an increase. Miles said that it is primarily the schools that are calling MCR for additional help for the students.

Overall, there is continued reduction of the number of EPCs.

There were no further questions or comments.

It was decided to return to tabled agenda item 8.

8. 2025 Officers

b. Election of Officers

There were discussions by the members on what is expected of a Vice Chair.

John Brady was nominated for Vice Chair

Jeff Leach was nominated for Chair.

Voting was done via voice vote, and all were in favor.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Adjourn

Jeff reminded everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for New Years Day.

Taren stated that there will be an Request for Letters that will need the Committee's approval to move forward to the Regional Governing Board.

Taren stated we could conduct the meeting via ZOOM as that would be the only agenda item.

Bev will send out a Doodle Poll to find a date and time that would work for the Committee members, and then once a date and time are selected, she will send out a ZOOM invite.

A motion to adjourn was made by Medjine.

John B seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Prepared By: Beverly S. Jackson Date: 2-5-25

Approved By:  Date: 2/5/25