



Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare
4715 S. 132nd Street, Omaha, NE 68137
Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 4, 2025, 9:00AM

The Behavioral Health Advisory Committee convened today at 9:05 AM and was called to order by Chair Jeff Leach at Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare, 4715 S. 1032nd Street, Omaha, NE 68137. Advance notice of this meeting was published in the Omaha Daily Record on May 30, 2025, electronically transmitted to all committee members and posted on the nepublicnotices.com website. Said notices contained the date, time and location of the meeting.

Advisory Members Present:

Jeff Leach
Cameron Soester
John Brady
Julie Nielsen
Amy Zimmer
Michelle Gerdes

Advisory Members Absent:

Chris Kelly
Medjine Desgraves
Michaelle Vega-Hernandez

Region 6 Staff Present

Taren Petersen
Amy Wolf
Melissa Schaefer

Recorder:

Bev Jackson

1. Welcome

The regular monthly BHAC meeting was called to order at 9:05am.

2. Roll Call

Roll call of the members determined that there was a quorum.

3. Approval of the March 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Julie Nielsen made the motion to approve the March 12, 2025 meeting minutes.

John Brady seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Soester, Brady, Nielsen, Zimmer, and Gerdes

Nays: none

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the June 4, 2025 Agenda

Cameron Soester made the motion to approve the June 4, 2025 agenda.

Amy Zimmer seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Soester, Brady, Nielsen, Zimmer, and Gerdes

Nays: none

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Professional Partner Program Update – Amy Wolf

Amy gave an overview of the Professional Partner Program (PPP) and the services they provide to families.

She shared that there are 3 program tracks, utilizing Wraparound principles and that it is Strengths-based.

- Traditional, serving youths ages 3 to 21. This track focuses on improving youth functioning without the need for out of home placement. Referrals can come from the person served, family, providers, etc.
- Rapid Response, serving youth ages 3 to 19. This track focuses on stabilizing the youth and home environment to minimize involvement in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems. Referrals are from the County Attorney, hospitals, and Mobil Crisis Response.
- Transition, serving youths ages 16 to 26. This track focuses on developing supports and services to ensure successful transition into adulthood. Referrals can come from person served, family, providers, etc.

6. Update on Nebraska Strong - Taren Petersen

Taren shared a printout, a copy of which was included in everyone's packet for review. She gave a brief wrap-up of the Nebraska Strong Program, pointing out that it had come to a close on May 31, 2025. Taren stated that the Immediate Services Program (ISP) phase began May 3, 2024 and ended July 2, 2024, with an extension through August 31, 2024. Region 6 is a subrecipient of the grant as the service provider along with University of Nebraska-Lincoln Public Policy Center who provides data and outcome management, training, and quality assurance. The amount awarded was \$67,386.83, with \$33,819.01 expended.

The next phase was the Regular Services Program (RSP) with began September 1, 2024 and ended May 31, 2025. The amount awarded in this phase was \$2763,448.63, with a total of \$150,000.00 being expended.

Region 6 originally hired four Crisis Counselors to provide outreach to the Elkhorn, Bennington, Blair, and surrounding impacted areas. Staffing has varied between one and four Crisis Counselors at any given time. The Nebraska Strong Crisis Counselors have organized and attended community outreach and education events, participated in long-term recovery groups, canvassed impacted neighbors, and worked with schools to provide support to teachers, students, and families. The team held regular outreach opportunities to engage with the community at COPE (Christian Outreach Program—Elkhorn) and First Lutheran Church in Blair. Recently, they have focused efforts on ensuring 988 materials are readily available and visible across the impacted areas.

Total contacts made for the period of time from May 3, 2024 through April 30, 2025 were as follows:

- Individual Contacts: 413 persons served
- Group Contacts: 483 contacts
- Materials Distributed: 1,753 materials

7. Nurturing Healthy Behaviors – Melissa Schaefer

a. Review of Funding and Budget Narrative

Melissa shared a PowerPoint, a copy of which was included in everyone's packets. She gave an overview of the services offered, along with the goals, workplan and expected outcomes. She went on to explained the budget and how it would be dispersed.

Melissa also pointed out that there was a copy of the FY24 Evaluation Report included in everyone's packets for their viewing.

b. BHAC Recommendation to the Regional Governing Board

Melissa asked for the Committee's recommendation to the Regional Governing Board.

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

John Brady seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Soester, Brady, Nielsen, Zimmer, and Gerdes

Nays: none

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Request for Proposals (RFP) for Assistance with Start-up Costs for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) – Taren Petersen

Taren shared a printout, a copy of which was included in everyone's packet for review.

a. Review of RFA Process

Taren stated that Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) which was intended to help support Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) as they start-up and/or expand behavioral health services in our region. Eligible CCBHCs are those that have an application with the State of Nebraska with a January 2026 start-date and will be operating in the Region 6 area. These dollars are one-time funds and not intended to be considered sustainable.

Taren reported that the recommendation is to fund Lutheran Family Services \$429,749.04, Heartland Family Service \$375,692.77 and Community Alliance \$385,436.76, which are the dollar amounts approved by DHHS-DBH.

b. BHAC Recommendation to the Regional Governing Board

Taren asked for the committee's recommendation to the Regional Governing Board.

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

Amy Zimmer seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call

Yeas: Leach, Soester, Brady, Nielsen and Zimmer

Nays: None

Abstained: Gerdes

The motion passed.

9. Review of the Region 6 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) Bylaws – Taren Petersen

Taren pointed out various sections of the bylaws, with suggested changes.

Discussions and suggestions in regard to the following items:

- Article III – Membership, Section 1 - Committee Composition: remove "The BHAC shall number a minimum of eleven members."
- Article III - Membership, Section 1 - Committee Composition: It was questioned if the use of the wording "at all times" is the ideal, or if it is indeed required. It was decided to defer to the Region 6 attorney for an answer to this.

- Article III - Membership, Section 2 – Terms: BHAC members asked if the Regional Governing Board(RGB) bylaws could be checked in regard to requiring an RGB member to serve on the BHAC.
- Article III - Membership, Section 2 – Terms: Language to be added that states a member must vacate their position after 3 consecutive 3-year terms, however, if there is an unfilled vacancy for second position, they may re-apply for said position, so that there is representation in that group.

All other suggested changes were agreed upon by the Committee.

A new draft will be written up and shared once again at the next BHAC meeting. Once those changes are all agreed upon, the bylaws will then be presented to the Region 6 attorney for his review and approval. The bylaws will again come before the BHAC for an approval and recommendation to present to the RGB for final approval.

10. Status Reports for Period Ending April 30, 2025

Reports were included in the packets for everyone to review.

a. Contract Service Report - Taren Petersen

Taren gave an update of the April 2025 Contract Service Reports. The drawdown target is expected to be at 83%. Mental Health is at 81.13% and Substance Use is at 68.23%. She then drew everyone's attention to the additional Contract Drawdown Sheet which gives the information at a quick glance.

b. Emergency Service Report – Taren Petersen

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

Taren stated Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) numbers are up at 183.

11. Public Comments

Arrow Caryl, Region 6 Board of Mental Health Coordinator, shared updates of the Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES).

There were no further public comments.

12. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Julie Nielsen.

Cameron Soester seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call


Yeas: Leach, Soester, Brady, Nielsen, Zimmer, and Gerdes

Nays: none

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 AM.

Prepared By:  Date: 9/3/25

Approved By:  Date: 9/3/25