



**Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare  
4715 S. 132<sup>nd</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68137  
Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 9:00AM**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Committee convened today at 9:02 AM and was called to order by Chair Jeff Leach at Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare, 4715 S. 1032<sup>nd</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68137. Advance notice of this meeting was published in the Omaha Daily Record on August 29, 2025, electronically transmitted to all committee members and posted on the [nepublicnotices.com](http://nepublicnotices.com) website. Said notices contained the date, time and location of the meeting.

**Advisory Members Present:**

Jeff Leach  
Cameron Soester  
John Brady  
Medjine Desgraves  
Chris Kelly  
Julie Nielsen  
Amy Zimmer

**Advisory Members Absent:**

Katlynn Osborn  
John Sheehan  
Michelle Gerdes  
Michaelle Vega-Hernandez

**Region 6 Staff Present**

Patti Jurjevich  
Taren Petersen  
Lorie Thomas  
Crystal Fuller

**Recorder:**

Bev Jackson

**1. Welcome**

The regular monthly BHAC meeting was called to order at 9:02am.

Jeff Leach welcomed everyone.

Taren Petersen shared that this will be her last BHAC meeting, as she will be retiring, at the end of the month, after 35 years with Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare.

There were well wishes and gratitude for her years of service and dedication.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**3. Approval of the June 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Chris Kelly made the motion to approve the June 4, 2025 meeting minutes.

Amy Zimmer seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Soester, Brady, Desgraves, Kelly, Nielsen and Zimmer.

Nays: None.

Absent: Osborn, Sheehan, Gerdes and Vega-Hernandez.

The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Recognition of New Members John Sheehan – Sarpy County and Katlynn Osborn – Dodge County**

This item was tabled until the next meeting as both Katlynn Osborn and John Sheehan were unable to attend this meeting.

**5. Administrators Report – Patti Jurjevich**

Because of the anticipated \$95 million budget shortfall in Nebraska's upcoming budget cycle, the Governor has directed state agencies to identify budget cuts of 10% for fiscal year 2027. Division of Behavioral Health staff indicated that their recommendations for budget cuts do not include reductions to Regions' budgets but are looking at other areas within Program 038. There are efforts underway in DHHS to look for funding sources other than state general dollars for behavioral health services. Concern remains for the following budget biennium where the budget shortfall is projected at \$238 million. According to recent media reports, the state's budget shortfall may increase based on impact of the "One Big Beautiful Bill" and its effect on state tax collections.

Patti stated that there is an amendment that's been filed with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by Nebraska Medicaid that will allow payment for mental health services in facilities with 16 or more beds. This allowance already exists in Nebraska through an approved waiver for residential substance use services. More information will be shared when available.

Nebraska has been informed that \$500 million, over five years, will be available through the Federal Rural Health Transformation Fund. Division of Behavioral Health staff requested proposals for potential use of these funds. States have not yet been given specific information about the allowable use of the funds. More information will be shared when available.

**6. Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) Overview – Lorie Thomas**

Lorie changed the order of the agenda and presented her agenda item #7 Lincoln Regional Center Overview first.

Lorie asked everyone what do they think of first when they hear Lincoln Regional Center (LRC)? The answers varied from long waits and lengths of stay. She shared that the current census is at 23 at LRC and 5 at Norfolk Regional Center. The total Board of Mental Health (BOMH) consumers at LRC are 69, 26 of whom were flipped from legal to BOMH. There are 241 staffed beds, with a total of 11 consumers on the BOMH waitlist. The longest waitlist is currently 208 days.

**7. Plans for One Overview – Lorie Thomas**

This item was previously agenda item #6.

Lorie gave an overview of Plans for One (PF1), sharing that it has been beneficial for consumers. She shared that in FY25, there were 3 consumers in a longer term plan and of those, 2 were discharged and 1 consumer started, but was unable to complete the plan. In FY26, there is currently 1 consumer receiving services.

## **8. NeOne Presentation – Crystal Fuller**

Crystal shared a PowerPoint with everyone, a copy of which was included in everyone's packets.

She shared that NeOne is a Social Connectedness Movement promoting building better-connected communities throughout the Region 6 area.

A 2023 Surgeon General's Report raised an alarm on the social isolation epidemic in the United States and laid out an action plan framework for building social connectedness at multiple levels. While there are 6 pillars in the action plan. NeOne has chosen to focus on 2.

- Strengthening social infrastructure in local communities.
- Building a culture of connection.

The Key Components of NeOne are as follows:

- NeOne Pledges - Individuals and organizations that pledge to improve their social connection, opportunities and build their understanding of mental well-being.
- Important Ones - Transition points that can bring about big change, stressors and joy. The NeOne movement is looking to bring together all the people, places and things that reach these important parts of life to speak the same language around mental well-being and connectedness.
- NeOne Nods - Promotes the positive connection-building events occurring across our communities. Events will receive a NeOne nod-like a stamp of approval-to show that they are building social connectedness.

Crystal encouraged everyone to please sign up to become a part of this movement.

## **9. Final Review of the Region 6 Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) Bylaws – Patti Jurjevich and Taren Petersen**

A copy of the edited bylaws, with the changes made by the suggestions of the BHAC members at the June 4, 2025 meeting, was included in everyone's packets for review.

Taren pointed out the changes that were made.

- Article III – Membership, Section 1 - Committee Composition:
  - Removed language that specifies the number of members.
  - Removed the requirement of having a member of the RGB.
- Article VI – Meetings, Order of Business, and Quorums, Section 1, added the following language:
  - A meeting does not occur absent a quorum, the presence of a majority of the members of a public body is necessary for a meeting to occur.
  - A copy of the "Nebraska Open Meetings Act" is located in the meeting room as required.
- Article VI – Meetings, Order of Business, and Quorums, Section 5
  - Changed the Order of Business.
- Article IX – Public Protection, Section 4 – Conflict of Interest, added the following language:
  - Members shall complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Acknowledgement Form on an annual basis.
- Throughout the document, general clean-up and changed Chairman and Chairperson to Chair.

The members of the BHAC were agreement with the changes made. This new draft will be presented to the Region 6 attorney for his review. The bylaws will then come before the BHAC for an approval and recommendation to present to the RGB for final approval.

**10. Quarterly Health of the System Report – Taren Petersen**

Taren gave an overview of this report, a copy of which was included in everyone's packet for review. This report will be shared with the committee members on a quarterly basis. Taren highlighted some data, sharing that the data for this report is collected from The Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), the Centralized Data System (CDS) and the Electronic Billing System (EBS).

**11. Status Reports for Period Ending July 31, 2025**

Reports were included in the packets for everyone to review.

**a. Contract Status Report, Opioid Settlement Grant - Patti Jurjevich**

Patti gave an update, stating that the timeline for Opioid contracts is different from the Mental Health and Substance Use contracts and that they are collecting outcomes. She also shared that there will be upcoming RFP's and a listening session to be held later this month.

**b. Contract Status Report, Mental Health and Substance Use - Taren Petersen**

Taren gave an update of the July 2025 Contract Service Reports. The drawdown target is expected to be at 8.33%. Mental Health is at 6.71% and Substance Use is at 5.63%. She then drew everyone's attention to the additional Contract Drawdown Sheet which gives the information at a quick glance.

**c. 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 206.

**12. Public Comments**

Arrow Caryl, Region 6, thanked Taren for her years of service, and there were more well wishes for her.

There were no further public comments.

**13. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Julie Nielsen.

Medjine Desgraves seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call

Yeas: Leach, Soester, Brady, Desgraves, Kelly, Nielsen and Zimmer.

Nays: none

Absent: Osborn, Sheehan, Gerdes and Vega-Hernandez.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:096 AM.

Prepared By: Beverly S. Jackson Date: 10-1-25

Approved By: [Signature] Date: 10/1/25