



Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare  
4715 S. 132<sup>nd</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68137  
Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Behavioral Health Advisory Committee convened today at 9:00 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 December 26, 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  
Katlynn Osborn  
Medjine Desgraves  
Chris Kelly  
Julie Nielsen  
John Sheehan  
Michelle Geredes

**Advisory Members Absent:**

Amy Zimmer  
Michaelle Vega-Hernandez

**Region 6 Staff Present**

Patti Jurjevich  
Crystal Fuller  
Lorie Thomas  
Miles Glasgow  
Tad Spencer

**Recorder:**

Bev Jackson

**1. Welcome**

The regular monthly BHAC meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M.  
Jeff Leach welcomed everyone.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**3. Approval of the December 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

John Brady made the motion to approve the December 3, 2025 meeting minutes.  
John Sheehan seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Soester, Brady, Osborn, Kelly, Nielsen, Sheehan and Gerdes.

Nays: None.

Absent: Desgraves, Zimmer and Vega-Hernandez.

The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Administrative Report – Patti Jurjevich**

Patti reported that the legislators are back in session today for the second session of the biennium. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has recommended maintaining funding for Behavioral Health with no cuts. Patti noted that we should learn Governor Pillen’s decision within the next few days. She also shared that Region 6 received its FY26 budget allocation yesterday—a couple of months later than expected. Patti added that the overall budget remains unchanged, aside from adjustments to revenue sources.

**5. Request for Proposal (RFP) for Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Application – Tad Spencer**

Tad shared a printout, a copy of which was in everyone’s packet.

**a. Review of the RFP Process and Funding Recommendation**

Tad stated that on September 26, 2025, Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare issued an RFP for opioid prevention and mediation projects. Approximately \$2.5 million is currently available to be distributed through this grant application process. Region 6 received 13 proposals. A review committee was established to read and score the proposals based upon criteria in the RFP guidelines and met on November 24, 2025.

After completing reviews, the committee recommended the following for two years each:

- Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) for \$299,757.94 (two year total)
- Community Alliance for \$238,484.64 (two year total)
- Different Approach to Sober Living - \$510,760.00 (two year total)

**b. BHAC Recommendation to Regional Governing Board**

Tad asked for the Committee’s recommendation to the Regional Governing Board for approval.

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

Michelle Gerdes seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Soester, Brady, Osborn, Kelly, Nielsen, Sheehan and Gerdes

Nays: None

Absent: Desgraves, Zimmer and Vega-Hernandez

The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Update on the Nebraska Mental Health and Aging Coalition (NeMHAC) – Lorie Thomas**

Lorie shared a PowerPoint with everyone, highlighting who NeMHAC is and what they do. She pointed out that depression is the number one mental health diagnosis with dementia following at number two.

Some of the key facts in regard to Nebraska and their aging population that she pointed out are:

- The age demographic of 65+ is the fastest growing age group.
- By 2020, over 15% of the state were aged 65 and older (A 17% increase from 2017).
- A significant number of older adults live in rural areas.

There is a greater need for care, as the aging trend, especially the growth in those 80+ (projected 86% growth), highlights the rising demands for geriatric mental health, long-term care, and support services.

Medjine Desgraves joined the meeting at 9:30 A.M.

NeMHAC was initiated 10 years ago. They hold monthly meetings, an annual conference and have a membership of 85 persons. Lorie gave an overview of what the meetings focus on, challenges and their future initiatives. She also shared that they have a digital presence and invited anyone that is interested in joining to please reach out to her.

#### **7. FY27 Budget Timeline – Crystal Fuller**

Crystal shared the budget timeline, a copy of which was included in everyone's packets for review. She stated that she will be presenting the draft of the Regional Budget Plan to the committee for their review at the Wednesday, March 4, 2026 BHAC meeting.

#### **8. From your Perspective – Crystal Fuller**

Crystal shared a form that was in everyone's packets, asking everyone for their input for what they are most hopeful for when it comes to individuals facing mental health challenges in their county or professional sector. She stated that this will be a regular agenda item and that she looks forward to hearing their input.

#### **9. Status Reports for Period Ending November 30, 2025**

Reports were included in the packets for everyone to review.

##### **a. Contract Status Report, Opioid Settlement Grant – Tad Spencer**

Tad gave an update of the Contract Status Report for Opioid Settlement funds. He stated that some of the providers haven't been drawing down from their funds as expected, and that he will be reaching out to those providers.

##### **b. Contract Status Report, Mental Health and Substance Use – Crystal Fuller**

Crystal gave an update of the November 2025 Contract Status Reports. The drawdown target is expected to be at 41.67%. Mental Health is at 35% and Substance Use is at 33%.

##### **c. Emergency Service Report – Miles Glasgow**

Miles gave an update on the current progress in the Emergency Systems. He shared that EPCs are down at 154 and Mobil Crisis Response had 68 calls in November.

He also shared that 75.5% of consumers were discharged within the 24 hour window in the PES. The Crisis Center had 8 consumers, which is a distressingly low number and Social Detox had 117, of which half were involuntary.

Miles also stated that 62.55 of consumers discharged from triage have accepted a referral for Emergency Community Support over the last year.

#### **10. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **11. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Kelly.

Cameron Soester seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Leach, Soester, Brady, Osborn, Desgraves, Kelly, Nielsen, Sheehan and Gerdes

Nays: None.

Absent: Zimmer and Vega-Hernandez.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Prepared By: Beverly S. Jackson Date: 3-4-26

Approved By: [Signature] Date: 3/4/26