



**Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare**  
**4715 S. 132<sup>nd</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68137**  
**Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 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. 132<sup>nd</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68137. Advance notice of this meeting was published in the Omaha Daily Record on April 29, 2026, for one week, 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  
Katlynn Osborn  
Medjine Desgraves  
Chris Kelly  
Julie Nielsen  
John Sheehan  
Michelle Geredes  
Cameron Soester  
John Brady  
Amy Zimmer  
Michaelle Vega-Hernandez

**Advisory Members Absent:**

Medjine Desgraves

**Region 6 Staff Present**

Crystal Fuller  
Ramey Stillman  
Tad Spencer  
Miles Glasgow  
Lorie Thomas

**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 March 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

John Sheehan made the motion to approve the March 4, 2026, meeting minutes.

Amy Zimmer seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Osborn, Kelly, Nielsen, Sheehan, Soester, Brady, Zimmer, Vega-Hernandez. and Gerdes.

Nays: None.

Absent: Desgraves

The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Tobacco Free Nebraska (TFN) FY26 and FY27 Budget Reduction – Ramey Stillman**

Ramey shared a printout, a copy of which was in everyone's packet.

**a. Review of Funding and Budget Narrative**

Ramey stated that in March 2025, Region 6 submitted a Request for Applications proposal for \$1,243,172.28 based on the amount available to Douglas County to be spent over a 2-year period (\$649,214.84 in FY26 and \$593,957.44 in FY27).

In May 2025, Region 6 was notified of the reduction in the amount initially available to Douglas County to a total of \$1,026,435.68 (\$551,847.71 in FY26 and \$474,587.97 in FY27). These are the current contracted amounts.

Mid-biennium state budget revisions passed by the Legislature resulted in significant reductions to the Tobacco Free Nebraska program. On April 30, 2026, Region 6 was notified of the reduction in grant funding to a total of \$947,452.48 (\$491,848 in FY26 and \$455,604.48 in FY27).

Ramey then shared the plans for addressing the budget reductions for both FY26 & FY27.

She stated that Region 6 is currently working with subgrantee organizations to identify the needed \$7,549.26 to cut from the budget for the last two months of FY26. Proposed revisions from subgrantees are due back to Region 6 on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

Revised grant documents are due to Tobacco Free Nebraska on or before May 15, 2026.

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

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

John Brady made the motion to recommend to the Regional Governing Board for approval.

Julie Nielsen seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Osborn, Kelly, Nielsen, Sheehan, Soester, Brady, Zimmer, Vega-Hernandez. and Gerdes.

Nays: None.

Absent: Desgraves

The motion passed unanimously.

**5. FY27 Budget Planning – Crystal Fuller**

Crystal referred everyone to the updated Budget Narrative and spreadsheet that was included in their packets for review.

Crystal stated that Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare received notice from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)–Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) of the preliminary FY27 allocation of \$24,631,483 in federal and state funds. This is a \$500,000 reduction from the allocation amount received in FY26, reflecting the recent implementation of LB1087 (2024) Hospital Quality Assurance and Access Assessment Fund, which has eliminated DSH funding and therefore this revenue is no longer available to Region 6, resulting in a \$500,000 reduction in the FY27 budget. It is important to note that starting in FY27, Region 6 will no longer contract with LHRC, LHRC will no longer receive state general funds from DBH,

and the program will be solely funded by CHI with their Assessment Fund dollars. The future of the assessment and inpatient services are unknown.

In recapping the FY27 revenue, Region 6 is allocated \$24,631,483 from state and federal funds, and \$1,907,944 in county matching funds. The total FY27 revenue reflected in the Regional Budget Plan is \$26,539,427.

Crystal gave a brief overview of where the budget shifts have been made, stating that the budget should be final by the June 3, 2026 BHAC meeting.

Julie Nielsen left the meeting at 9:20.

**6. Rural Health Transformation Funds – Crystal Fuller**

Crystal shared that the Rural Transformation Fund outlined in H.R.1, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill (OB<sup>3</sup>), has provided states with funding to support rural health systems, including expanding services, workforce capacity and care delivery. Nebraska received approximately \$218.5 million in FY26 through the H.R.1 Rural Transformation Fund, with total funding projected at about \$1.1 billion over five years.

Nebraska's Rural Health Transformation Plan prioritizes behavioral health through expanding early and emergency mental health and substance use services, increasing rural access points, strengthening the behavioral health workforce and improving coordination of care for high-need populations. All counties in Nebraska are eligible, excluding Lancaster, Douglas, and Sarpy Counties.

**7. Blair and Fremont Familiar Faces Project – Miles Glasgow**

Miles shared that this was started in October, 2025 in Fremont and in November, 2025 in Blair, with the goal to provide care coordination for those persons with behavioral health issues that have frequent contact with hospitals, law enforcement, and/or the Board of Mental Health. He stated that it is almost like a mini clinical review team, with various stakeholders in the community, with a goal to reduce the need of involuntary placements.

**8. Lincoln Regional Center Complex Case Discussions – Lorie Thomas**

Lorie shared with everyone that earlier this year, a group was formed to review complex cases of consumers that have been Lincoln Regional Center and are deemed discharge ready, but have no viable discharge plan available.

**9. Status Reports for Period Ending March 31, 2026**

Reports were included in the packets for everyone to review.

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

Tad gave an update on the Contract Status Report for Opioid Settlement funds.

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

Crystal gave an update of the March 2026 Contract Status Reports. The drawdown target is expected to be at 75%. Mental Health is at 61.86% and Substance Use is at 60.45%.

**c. Emergency System Report – Miles Glasgow**

Miles gave an update on the current progress in Emergency Systems. He shared that EPCs are up at 172 and Mobil Crisis Response had 112 calls in March. The Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) has been meeting the target for length of stays, and Mobil Crisis Response received 112 calls in March. Miles stated that Triage had 21 consumers, and of those, 86% accepted a referral for Emergency Community Support. Acute Inpatient total occupancy for January was 78.1%. Social Detox had 137 consumers in March, and 67 of them were Civil Protective Custody.

The focus for this month's report was on Acute Psychiatric Hospitalization. Miles shared that hospitals offering Acute Psychiatric Services had an average general bed occupancy rate of 61.44%, an average ICU bed occupancy rate of 86.78%, and an average total occupancy rate of 68.08% in March of FY26. He also pointed out that there are 127 beds in the 5 county area.

**10. From your Perspective – Crystal Fuller**

Crystal asked the following questions and asked for feedback from the Committee members: If you could prioritize the elimination of one barrier to care for individuals experiencing mental health challenges, what would it be?

What is the first step to making it happen?

- Transportation – engage the city to help
- Insurance coverage, or the lack of – open conversations with insurance providers
- Eliminate the requirement of legal status to receive care – pass laws
- To get services in place for youths in need, including Social Workers in schools – funding and knowledge of available care
- Stigma – education and outreach
- Dementia and the enlarging demographic of an aging population – education, especially for businesses like gas stations/convenience stores and grocery stores, pilot funding for studies and educational outreach, giving doctors and caregivers the ability to weigh in on certain issues, like rescinding a drivers license.

Crystal thanked everyone for their input.

**11. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Jeff Leach noted that the next meetings are scheduled for June 3, 2026, and July 1, 2026.

**12. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by John Sheehan.

Michaelle Vega-Hernandez seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Kelly, Sheehan, Soester, Brady, Zimmer, Vega-Hernandez. and Gerdes.

Nays: None.

Absent: Desgraves, Nielsen and Osborn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 AM.

Prepared By: Beverly S. Jackson Date: 6-3-26.

Approved By: [Signature] Date: 6/3/26