



Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare
Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2025

Advisory Members Present:

Jeff Leach
John Brady
Chris Kelly
John Sheehan
Medjine Desgraves
Amy Zimmer
Michelle Gerdes

Advisory Members Absent:

Cameron Soester
Julie Nielsen

Region 6 Staff Present

Patti Jurjevich
Taren Petersen
Crystal Fuller
Jennifer Sanders
Miles Glasgow

Recorder:

Bev Jackson

1. Welcome

The regular monthly BHAC meeting was called to order at 9:00am. Jeff Leach, Chair, welcomed new member Michelle Gerdes.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of the December 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes

John Brady made the motion to approve the December 4, 2024 meeting minutes.
John Sheehan seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

4. Approval of the January 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Amy Zimmer made the motion to approve the January 3, 2025 meeting minutes.
John Sheehan seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

5. Approval of the February 5, 2025 Agenda

Chris Kelly made the motion to approve the February 5, 2025 agenda.

Amy Zimmer seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

6. Administrator's Report – Patti Jurjevich

Patti shared that the Legislature is back in session. She stated that there are no reduction in the Behavioral Health budget, at this time.

Patti updated the committee on LB454, a printout of which was included in everyone's packets, stating that this is a bill from the Regional Administrators that seeks to:

- Strike the requirement for a public bidding process
- Would allow a provider in the network, that is already providing services, to have services added without having to bid it out
- Would allow persons with a primary substance use diagnosis to qualify for housing assistance vouchers

Patti stated that the hearing for this bill has not yet been scheduled. More to come.

Medjine Desgraves arrived at 9:12.

7. Opioid Settlement Funding for Additional Projects – Jennifer Sanders

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

a. Review of Funding Plan

Jennifer said that the eleven-member committee met on November 11, 2024 and each member reviewed the applications independently, discussed their evaluations and finalized their scores. The committee recommended initial funding for four applicants based on the established criteria and expressed interest in funding additional applicants, contingent upon further review and analysis by Region 6.

Then, following the initial recommendation process, Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare staff conducted further review and analysis of the additional applications recommended for potential funding by the Review Committee in November. Based on this analysis, Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare recommends the following agencies also receive funding:

- Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln NECPA
- University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Douglas and Sarpy County Corrections
- Bonsai Healthcare LLC

Jennifer then shared the budget and plan for each of the agencies.

She asked if there were any questions and John Sheehan asked if UNL was just the Lincoln campus, and Jennifer answered that no, it is for campuses in all 5 counties. He then asked if the information-sharing system is a computer program, and Jennifer replied yes, it is computer software.

Amy Zimmer asked how would this software usage have a connection with opioids? Jennifer replied if a consumer is a substance user, their treatment could be continued if incarcerated, and would follow them in either of the jails, so that their treatment wouldn't lapse. She shared it is also a useful tool if there is a situation with the person in the community.

b. BHAC Recommendation to the Regional Governing Board

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

Medjine Desgraves seconded the motion.

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

8. Request for Letters of Interest (RFL) for the Community Violence Intervention Pilot – Jennifer Sanders

Jennifer referred to the printout that was included in everyone's packet.

a. Review of the RFL Process and Funding Recommendations

Jennifer stated that Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare issued a Request for Letters (RFL) to seek a qualified, interested party for the development and implementation of a pilot program related to acts of violence. This pilot, as outlined in Nebraska LB1412 (2024), is scheduled to last until September 30, 2025. The program aims to assess the degree of community exposure to acts of violence, identify treatment services, use evidence-supported assessment procedures and intervention strategies, build a sustainable and accessible program beyond the pilot community, and conduct evaluations for post-traumatic stress disorder assessment and treatment services within a three-mile radius of the Omaha airport. Jennifer stated that the review committee members reconvened on February 3, 2025 to discuss the provided clarification, and at this time it is recommended that OMNI Inventive Care be awarded the contract for the Community Violence Intervention Pilot. OMNI Inventive Care will be awarded \$499,840.00 through September 30, 2025.

b. BHAC Recommendation to the Regional Governing Board

John Sheehan made the motion to recommend to the Regional Governing Board. Medjine Desgraves seconded the motion. A roll call vote was done, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Request for Letters of Interest (RFL) for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant – Crystal Fuller

Crystal directed everyone to the printout that was included in everyone's packets, for reference.

a. Review of the RFL Process and Funding Recommendation

Crystal stated that there are 2 Community Impact Priorities that will be focused on. They are focused on impacting Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) use among youth ages 8-20 and continuing to raise community awareness, screening, and promotion of protective factors that minimize risk of alcohol use for adults 19 years and older. Based on the focus of the RFL Community Impact Priorities, the review committee highlighted the need to ensure all five counties were reached through the selected proposals and that both of the Community Impact Priorities were addressed in recommended proposals. The review committee is recommending American Lung Association for the total funding requested for its comprehensive proposal. Two additional proposals were identified for funding, at a reduced allocation. Region 6 communicated these proposed allocations with each applicant and received confirmation that they agreed to the lower amount and each submitted revised proposals and budgets.

b. BHAC Recommendation to the Regional Governing Board

Medjine Desgraves made the motion to recommend to the Regional Governing Board. Amy Zimmer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was done, and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Partnership for Success (PFS) Year 3 – Crystal Fuller

Crystal referred everyone to the printout that was included in their packets.

a. Review of Funding and Budget Narrative

Crystal stated that Region 6 was selected to focus on high-risk drinking in Cass, Dodge, Sarpy and Washington Counties, and suicide prevention in Cass, Douglas, and Sarpy Counties.

Project Extra Mile and Coalition Rx were approved for funding and implementation for the high-risk drinking priority and Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare is implementing the mental health and suicide prevention priority. The term for year 3 of 5 will be from

September 29, 2025 through September 30, 2026. The total budgeted amount is for \$345,424.00.

b. BHAC Recommendation to the Regional Governing Board

Medjine Desgraves made the motion to recommend to the Regional Governing Board.

Amy Zimmer seconded the motion.

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

11. Introduction to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) – Patti Jurjevich and Taren Petersen

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

Taren gave an overview of what a CCBHC is and why they are needed. She stated that CCBHC clinics emerged as a result of the *Excellence in Mental Health Act*, signed into federal law in 2014 as part of an effort to improve the nation's mental health system. The clinics are designed to ensure access to comprehensive behavioral health care. Each clinic is required to serve anyone who requests care for mental health or substance use, regardless of their ability to pay, place of residence, or age. States that have fully implemented CCBHCs report reductions in law enforcement involvement, hospital emergency department usage and admissions to inpatient care.

The Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Act (2023), LB276, passed in the Nebraska Legislature to establish CCBHCs with an implementation deadline of January 2026. In addition to required services, the legislation mandates the development of a prospective payment system that allows providers to be reimbursed based on anticipated costs of providing the required services.

Taren then shared a timeline, explained coverage areas, and required services.

There were many questions and comments, to which Patti and Taren answered.

12. Review of the BHAC Bylaws – Patti Jurjevich

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

She then stated that we are in the process of updating the bylaws, and asked everyone to review them, and to come back to the April BHAC meeting with any changes, suggestions, or concerns.

There were no questions or comments.

13. Status Reports for Period Ending December 31, 2024

Reports were included in the packets for everyone to review.

a. Contract Service Report - Taren Petersen

Taren gave an update of the December 2024 Contract Service Reports. This is the halfway mark of the fiscal year 2025, and the drawdown target is expected to be at 50%. Mental Health is at 40.49% and Substance Use is at 47.55%.

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

There were no 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.

Miles stated Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) is at 123, the lowest it has ever been. He also shared that Mobil Crisis Response (MCR) had 63 calls in December. This number is also low.

Social Detox had 141 consumers, of which about half were involuntary.

He also shared that the Crisis Response Center had 11 consumers in December, and 24 in January, 2025. He pointed out that the Omaha Police Department is the largest utilizer of this program.

The Focus Page this month was on Acute Psychiatric Hospitalization. Miles broke the data down and stated that the total occupancy for December was 82.79%, with an overall average of 80%.

There were no questions or comments.

14. Public Comments

John Sheehan stated that this is his last meeting. Everyone wished him well and thanked him for serving on the committee.

There were no further public comments.

15. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by John Brady.

Medjine Desgraves seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Prepared By: Beverly S. Jackson Date: 3/12/25

Approved By: [Signature] Date: 3/12/25