



Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare
4715 S. 132nd Street, Omaha, NE 68137
Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 3, 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. 132nd Street, Omaha, NE 68137. Advance notice of this meeting was published in the Omaha Daily Record on May 27, 2026, for one week, 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
Katlynn Osborn
Medjine Desgraves
Chris Kelly
Julie Nielsen
John Sheehan
Amy Zimmer
Michelle Geredes
Michaelle Vega-Hernandez

Advisory Members Absent:

John Brady

Region 6 Staff Present

Patti Jurjevich
Crystal Fuller
Tad Spencer
Miles Glasgow

Visitors Present:

Dr. Kenneth Zoucha
Beth Kramer

Recorder:

Bev Jackson

1. Welcome

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

2. Roll Call
Roll call of the members determined that there was a quorum.
3. Approval of the May 6, 2026, Meeting Minutes
Julie Nielsen made the motion to approve the May 6, 2026, meeting minutes.
Katlynn Osborn seconded the motion.
Voting was done by roll call.
Yeas: Leach, Soester, Osborn, Kelly, Nielsen, Sheehan, Zimmer, Gerdes and Vega-Hernandez
Nays: None.
Absent: Desgraves and Brady
The motion passed unanimously.
4. UNMC Addiction Medicine Residency Training – Dr. Kenneth Zoucha
Dr. Zoucha introduced himself and shared his background. He presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the education of medical residents in treatment of addiction. Medjine Desgraves joined the meeting at 9:12.
Dr. Zoucha shared that from July 2023 to June of 2026, 39 Executive Fellows were trained. He stated that over 50% will finish their residency in Nebraska. He continued to share information and answered questions from committee members.
5. At EASE Presentation – Beth Kramer
Beth shared a PowerPoint, a copy of which was in everyone's packet.
She gave an overview of the history of At EASE and shared that they serve military-connected individuals and their family members in the Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy, National Guard and Reserves. Beth stated that a three-pronged approach is used, which includes therapy, wellness and peer support, and they don't turn anyone away.
6. Rural Health Transformation Project (RHTP) – Crisis Intervention Training – Miles Glasgow
Miles shared a printout, a copy of which was in everyone's packet.
 - a. Review of Funding and Budget Narrative
Miles stated The Rural Transformation Fund outlined in H.R.1, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill (OB³), 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.
Miles outlined the activities and the budget.
One objective in the Nebraska plan is to enhance the crisis behavioral health system. To achieve this goal, the Division of Behavioral Health sought proposals from each Regional Behavioral Health Authority for a plan to support increased capacity of crisis intervention training for law enforcement.
Region 6 received \$66,112.50 for activities for the period of May 2026 through October 2026.
 - b. BHAC Recommendation to Regional Governing Board
Miles asked for the Committee's recommendation to the Regional Governing Board for approval.

Katlynn Osborn 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, Soester, Osborn, Kelly, Nielsen, Sheehan, Zimmer, Desgraves and Vega-Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Brady

Abstained: Gerdes

The motion passed unanimously.

7. FY27 Budget Plan Update – Crystal Fuller

Crystal referred everyone to the updated budget that was included in their packets for review. She stated that on Thursday, May 7, 2026, The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) agreed that no programmatic changes would be made to the services in the Heartland Family Service Sarpy Crisis Center. This determination allows for the continued use of the Crisis Response service definition for the Triage program (up to 24-hour walk-in service), on expense reimbursement. DBH asked for a reassessment of the Crisis Stabilization Capacity Access Development (CAD) funds; reducing the projected remaining FY26 expenditures from the FY27 budgeted CAD allocation. This reduced allocation total was then moved into Crisis Stabilization, eliminating a CAD allocation for Crisis Stabilization. The reduced portion was moved to Unallocated to be shifted into Crisis Stabilization later or to another service if the Crisis Center has lower utilization. This will be monitored closely in FY27.

There have been no further questions or edits requested from DBH. All other budget allocations remain the same as presented at the May 6, 2026, BHAC meeting.

8. Status Reports for Period Ending April 30, 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. He stated that Bonsai had some dollars shifted to them and that OneWorld has been approved for year two.

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

Crystal gave an update of the April 2026 Contract Status Reports. The drawdown target is expected to be 83.33%. Mental Health is at 67.32% and Substance Use is at 66.47%.

c. Emergency System Report – Miles Glasgow

Miles gave an update on the current progress in Emergency Systems. He shared that EPCs are at 161. The Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) has been meeting the target for length of stays, with 78% of consumers' length of stay at less than 24 hours. Crisis Center Triage had 25 consumers, with 72% that were discharged accepting a referral for Emergency Community Support.

The focus for the month is Mobil Crisis Response, which received 119 calls in April.

The data was broken down by activation source, age group and county.

9. From your Perspective – Crystal Fuller

Crystal asked the following questions and asked for feedback from the Committee members:

How do you define success in your work with individuals experiencing mental health challenges?

What measures do you use to monitor success?

Jeff Leach responded that in Probation, there is a risk assessment tool that is used.

Cameron Soester stated that in the school system, they too have a process that is used to track progress.

Amy Zimmer added that in her line of work, a lot of times it is the small things that are a measure of success and improvement, such as showing up to appointments and better hygiene.

Chris Kelly said that following through helps to facilitate success, such as when help is needed, to follow through with the student to guide them into the counselors.

Chris Kelly left the meeting at 10:30

Katlynn Osborn shared that her definition of success is her client's definition of success, adding that she does use evidence-based assessments.

Julie Nielsen responded that getting inmates back on their meds is a step towards success and that they also work with inmates on making re-entry plans.

Michelle Gerdes stated that for her, the measures are minute, as the goal with crisis calls are that the person is better than when they made the call.

Michaelle Vega-Hernandez said the measurement of progress is when the clients maintain a health lifestyle, and if they "stumble" that they have the resources to reach out to, so that they can stay on the path to success.

Michelle Gerdes left the meeting at 10:34.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Jeff Leach noted that the next meetings are scheduled for July 1, 2026 and August 5, 2026.

11. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Julie Nielsen

Cameron Soester seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Soester, Osborn, Desgraves, Nielsen, Sheehan, Zimmer and Vega-Hernandez

Nays: None.

Absent: Brady, Kelly and Gerdes

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.

Prepared By: Beverly S. Jackson Date: 9-2-26

Approved By: [Signature] Date: 9/2/26