



Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare
4715 S. 132nd Street, Omaha, NE 68137
Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Behavioral Health Advisory Committee convened today at 9:04 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 August 31, 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
John Brady
Katlynn Osborn
Medjine Desgraves (joined at 9:30)
John Sheehan
Amy Zimmer
Michelle Gerdes

Advisory Members Absent:

Cameron Soester
Chris Kelly
Julie Nielsen
Michaelle Vega-Hernandez

Region 6 Staff Present

Crystal Fuller
Ramey Stillman
Tad Spencer

Recorder:

Bev Jackson

1. Welcome

The regular monthly BHAC meeting was called to order at 9:04 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 June 3, 2026, Meeting Minutes

John Sheehan made the motion to approve the June 3, 2026, meeting minutes.
Amy Zimmer seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Brady, Osborn, Sheehan, Zimmer and Gerdes

Nays: None.

Absent: Soester, Desgraves, Kelly, Nielsen and Vega-Hernandez

Abstained - None

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Partnership for Success (PFS) – Ramey Stillman

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

a. Review of Funding and Budget Narrative

Ramey shared that this is year 4 of a 5-year grant, with a term of September 30th, 2026 through September 29th, 2027, for the amount of \$345,424.00. Ramey proceeded to outline the activities and the budget. The focus will be on high-risk drinking in Cass, Dodge, Douglas and Sarpy 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.

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.

John Sheehan seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Brady, Osborn, Sheehan, Zimmer and Gerdes

Nays: None

Absent: Soester, Desgraves, Kelly, Nielsen and Vega-Hernandez

Abstained: None

The motion passed unanimously.

5. State Opioid Response (SOR) – Ramey Stillman

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

a. Review of Funding and Budget Narrative

Ramey shared that this is the last year of a three-year grant. She stated that the funding allocation for the grant is \$187,923.00. The priority is to reduce the impact of opioid misuse and opioid overdose through prevention, treatment, and recovery strategies in Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties.

b. BHAC Recommendation to Regional Governing Board

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

Michelle Gerdes made the motion to recommend to the Regional Governing Board for approval.

Jeff Leach seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Brady, Osborn, Sheehan, Zimmer and Gerdes

Nays: None

Absent: Soester, Desgraves, Kelly, Nielsen and Vega-Hernandez

Abstained: None

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Suicide Prevention – 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 the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition, in collaboration with the Nebraska Public Policy Center, received the CDC Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Grant to implement and evaluate a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention, with a focus on populations that are disproportionately affected by suicide. The long term, 4-year goal for this program is a 10% reduction in suicide morbidity and a 10% reduction in suicide mortality in men aged 25 to 64.

The Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition is partnering with each of the six Regional Behavioral Health Authorities to implement local programs and activities to help impact the overall grant goal. Region 6 has been allocated \$30,000 for activity implementation from September 15, 2026 to September 14th, 2027.

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.

Katlynn Osborn seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Brady, Osborn, Sheehan, Zimmer and Gerdes

Nays: None

Absent: Soester, Desgraves, Kelly, Nielsen and Vega-Hernandez

Abstained: None

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Status Reports for Period Ending July 31, 2026

Reports were included in the packets for everyone to review.

Medjine Desgraves arrive at the meeting at 9:30.

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 expected utilization is 8.33%. He shared that Bonsai Health has transitioned people as they have become a network provider. Other updates that Tad pointed out are that A Different Approach to Sober Living now has onsite assistance, Goldfinch Health has had a 41% reduction in opioid prescriptions for surgery, and lastly, he shared that Region 6 has distributed over 1000 units of Narcan.

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

Crystal gave an update on the July 2026 Contract Status Reports. The drawdown target is expected to be 8.33%. Mental Health is at 7.35% and Substance Use is at 8.2%.

c. Emergency System Report – Crystal Fuller

Crystal gave a FY26 year-end recap of the Emergency System Report. Year-end totals for EPC were 1,917 consumers; that's up from 1,768 in FY25, with an average of 160 EPCs per month. Mobil Crisis Response had 1,178 crisis response calls. Hospitals offering acute psychiatric services had an average general bed occupancy rate of 69.51%, and an average ICU bed occupancy rate of 91.37%. The average total occupancy rate was 75.24% for FY26.

The Crisis Center Triage had 40% of consumers as walk-ins and they are continuing to see a rise in the utilization, with over 72% of those accepting Emergency Community Support.

8. From your Perspective – Crystal Fuller

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

In January, she asked what makes you hopeful? So now, eight months later, she asked, what has brought you hope?

The answers were quite varied, as they shared that they feel that collaboration is better. They see more community-based meetings and feel that the system is more proactive rather than reactive. They have noticed a drop in suicide rates and the new Children's Hospital is bringing hope to families.

9. Holiday Luncheon Discussion

Members will bring ideas for a location to the October 7, 2026, meeting.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Jeff Leach noted that the next meetings are scheduled for October 7, 2026, and November 4, 2026.

11. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Medjine Desgraves

John Sheehan seconded the motion.

Voting was done by roll call.

Yeas: Leach, Brady, Osborn, Desgraves, Sheehan, Zimmer and Gerdes

Nays: None

Absent: Soester, Kelly, Nielsen and Vega-Hernandez

Abstained: None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 AM.

Prepared By: Beverly S. Jackson Date: 10/7/26
Approved By: [Signature] Date: 10/7/26