I. Open Meeting:
Call to Order/Welcome – Victor Gehrig, Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services called the meeting to order. Chair Gehrig welcomed virtual attendees to the meeting and introduced Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services, Danielle Smith. Gehrig informed attendees that the joint meeting follows the Open Meeting Act which can be found on the DBH website identified on the agenda. Smith welcomed virtual attendees.

Quorum for Committees
Roll call was conducted and a quorum was determined to exist for the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services (Substance Abuse Committee). Roll call was conducted and a quorum was determined to exist for the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services (Mental Health Committee).

State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services
Members in Attendance: Mary Ann Borgeson, Margaret Damme, Lindy Foley, CJ Johnson, Kristen Larsen, Angie Ludemann, Ashley Pankonin, Jennifer Reyna, Carisa Schweitzer Masek, Danielle Smith, Mary Thunker, Tamara Gavin.

State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services
Members in Attendance: Ashley Berg, Heather Bird, Kenneth Boryca, Victor Gehrig, Jill Gregg, Diana Meadors, Daniel Rutt, Randy See.

DHHS Staff
In Attendance: Sheri Dawson, Tamara Gavin, Linda Wittmuss, Betty Jean Usher-Tate, Karen Harker, Lisa Neeman, Brenda Moes, Jennifer Ihle, John Trouba, Jeri Keller-Heuke.

II. Membership Business:
Election of Officers—Chair Gehrig asked for nominations of officers for the Substance Abuse Committee. Victor Gehrig was nominated for Chairperson, Heather Bird was nominated for Vice Chairperson, and Kenneth Boryca was nominated for Second Vice Chairperson. Motion was made to close nominations. The motion to elect new officers as nominated passed with unanimous voice votes. These officers will serve in their respective capacity through the end of this calendar year. Regular elections for CY 2022 will be held at the November meeting.
Chair Smith asked for nominations of officers for the Mental Health Committee. Currently, officers are Danielle Smith as Chairperson, Jacob Hausman as Vice Chairperson, and Wendy Kaiser as Secretary. Motion was made and seconded to vote the slate of officers. The motion to elect new officers as nominated passed with unanimous voice votes. These officers will serve in their respective capacity through the end of this calendar year. Regular elections for CY 2022 will be held at the November meeting.

Current Roster of Members—
SA: Vacancies by membership type—Consumer/Substance Abuse Services; this is the only opening. Two people not seeking reappointment because of term limits per the Governor’s decision: Jay Jackson and Randy See. A reappointment by member type for Ashley Berg (application confirmed from Governor’s office), Kenneth Boryca
(application confirmed from Governor’s office), Jill Gregg, Kelli Means and Daniel Rutt. The last three have not been confirmed. Jill Gregg has submitted her application. Daniel Rutt has not submitted yet, but plans to.

MH: Vacancies by membership type—Consumer/Mental Health Services, Family Member of Adult with SPMI, Family Member of Child with SED, and Provider of Mental Health Services. Applications have been received for all positions except Provider of Mental Health Services. Reappointment by membership type: Jennifer Reyna (application confirmed from Governor’s office), Meg Damme, Susan Jensen, Ashley Pankonin, and Mary Thunker. Ashley Pankonin and Mary Thunker are reaching term limits in November and will not be eligible for reappointment. Not seeking reappointment is Jacob Hausman, Angela Sattler, and Tamara Gavin. People who may be interested in serving can submit an application to the Governor’s office. Suggestion was made to consider using a recruitment email blast to solicit applications.

Meeting Minutes—
Substance Abuse Committee Chair Gehrig presented the April 18, 2021 meeting minutes for review. Mental Health Committee Secretary Wendy Kaiser confirmed her review of the minutes and had no corrections. Chair Gehrig asked if there were any corrections or comments. Hearing none, Chair Gehrig asked for a motion to accept the April 8, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Motion was made and seconded to accept the April 8, 2021 minutes as written. Vote by acclimation to approve the minutes was carried.

Mental Health Community Chair Smith asked for a motion to accept the April 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion was made and seconded to accept the April 8, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Vote by acclimation to approve the minutes was carried.

III. Public Comments:
There was no public comment received.

IV. Strategic Plan 2022-2024 Update:
Linda Wittmuss, Deputy Director, discussed the work behind the upcoming Strategic Plan for 2022-2024, which includes DHHS CEO Dannette Smith’s five pillars of transformation. Suggested activities for each objective were solicited from committee members, with good feedback received. These objectives are posted on the DHHS website at https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/behavioral-health-public-participation.aspx. Suggestions for possible activities can be submitted to DHHS.BehavioralHealthDivision@nebraska.gov.

V. Break

VI. SAMHSA Block Grant Applications:
Karen Harker, Deputy Director, presented follow-up information on the Covid 19 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Block Grant Funding that was discussed at the previous JAC meeting. These two funding sources are separate grants that overlap. Covid Supplemental Funding for both Mental Health and Substance Abuse areas are awarded for the time period March 15, 2021 through March 14, 2023. APRA Funding for both Mental Health and Substance Abuse areas will be for the period September 1, 2021 through September 29, 2025. While Mental Health will see an increase in funding, Substance Abuse will see a decrease in funding. Details on dollar amounts and covered activities are posted on the DHHS website at https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/behavioral-health-public-participation.aspx.

Betty Jean Usher-Tate, Administrator for Data Quality and Excellence, reviewed the eight priority need areas for the FY2022-FY2023 Block Grant Application, along with new data to support these priority areas. Use of Evidence-Based Programs are supported in the priority areas, as they have been in the past. Suggestions and questions were solicited from the committees. No additional ideas were received. Both Substance Abuse and
Mental Health committees commended DBH for their efforts on the Block Grant application. Details on priority needs areas and supporting data are posted on the DHHS website at https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/behavioral-health-public-participation.aspx.

Karen Harker, Deputy Director, reviewed the FY2022 and FY2023 Block Grant Application financial information. This required information is more complicated this year due to the close timing of several grant award periods. In addition to traditional fund sources, this application also includes Covid 19 Relief Funds and ARPA Funds estimated funds, which are one-time funds. No additional suggestions or comments were offered. Both Substance Abuse and Mental Health committees commended DBH for their work on the Block Grant application. Details on funding breakdown, dollar amounts and covered activities are posted on the DHHS website at https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/behavioral-health-public-participation.aspx.

VII. Lunch

VIII. Public Comments:
There was no public comment received.

IX. Director’s Update:
Sheri Dawson, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), welcomed members of the committees.

The 988 Mental Health Hotline planning is underway. Per the 988 planning grant, the draft plan is due by the end of September. LB247 created the task force for this hotline, which will include Director Dawson and Boys Town, will outline how grant funds will be used. Recommendations will be forwarded to DHHS CEO Dannette Smith and Governor Pete Ricketts.

The DHHS Strategic Plan’s goal is to move away from the department being in silos, and becoming more of an integrated, collaborative team. The five pillars will involve all five divisions working together towards common goals.

Nebraska could see upwards of $110 million from various multi-state opioid settlements. These are one-time funding opportunities. Some of these funds may go directly to counties instead of the state. The Nebraska Attorney General has formed a workgroup to develop recommendations for fund utilization focused on prevention, treatment, and recovery purposes related to the opioid crisis, substance use and co-occurring needs across Nebraska. The use of these funds must be sustainable over time. Full details are yet to come.

Title 206 Behavioral Health Regulations were signed by the Governor in June. As a part of these regulations, some service definitions are being updated and processed.

Workforce initiative continues with a focus on the integration of mental health and medical care. DHHS is currently participating in a workgroup with the Nebraska Medical Association on building workforce.

The 2022-2024 Strategic Plan has been a major focus of DBH work efforts this summer.

Legislature resolutions were proposed during their break to move eight behavioral health-related bills through their next session.

Director Dawson has plans to tour the behavioral health regions of the state. She is working on potential dates and schedules.
X. 988 Grant Update:

Denise Bulling, PhD, Senior Research Director at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, reviewed the progress of Nebraska’s 988 Hotline planning. In response to Federal legislation mandating the creation of the 988 mental health hotline, LB247 put this planning into action. Eight core areas of this plan have been identified. This hotline is mandated to be operational by July 2022. Boys Town will be operating this hotline. Details on this plan, core areas and progress are posted on the DHHS website at [https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/behavioral-health-public-participation.aspx](https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/behavioral-health-public-participation.aspx).

Questions or comments regarding the 988 hotline can be directed to Dr. Denise Bulling at dbulling2@nebraska.edu or to Director Sheri Dawson at sheri.dawson@nebraska.gov.

XII. Meeting Wrap Up

Committee Announcements—There were no additional announcements from the committees. Next meeting date is November 4, 2021. Meeting place and time to be determined. No additional business was identified by members. Suggestions for agenda items can be emailed to dhhs-behavioralhealthdivision@nebraska.gov.

XIII. Adjourn – 1:15 p.m.

The meeting agenda having been completed, Chairs Gehrig and Smith declared the meeting adjourned.
Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health – Joint Meeting

State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services - (§ 71-814)
State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services (§ 71-815)

November 4, 2021
Country Inn and Suites, 5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, NE
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

I. Open Meeting:
Call to Order/Welcome – Victor Gehrig, Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services called the meeting to order. Chair Gehrig welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services, Danielle Smith. Gehrig informed attendees that the joint meeting follows the Open Meeting Act, which was posted at the meeting room entrance, and can be found on the DBH website identified on the agenda. Smith also welcomed all attendees.

Quorum for Committees
Roll call was conducted and a quorum was determined to exist for the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services (Substance Abuse Committee). Roll call was conducted but quorum was not met for the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services (Mental Health Committee). Due to no quorum for the Mental Health Committee, several items on the Membership Business agenda could not be addressed.

State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services
Members in Attendance: C.J. Johnson, Danielle Smith.

State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services

DHHS Staff
In Attendance: Sheri Dawson, Linda Wittmuss, Karen Harker, Brenda Moes, Zack Hicks, Valerie Standeven, John Trouba, Jeri Keller-Heuke, Michelle Nunemaker.

II. Membership Business:
Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2021—
Substance Abuse Committee Chair Gehrig presented the August 12, 2021 meeting minutes for review. Mental Health Committee Chair Danielle Smith confirmed her review of the minutes and had no corrections. Chair Gehrig asked if there were any corrections or comments. Hearing none, Chair Gehrig asked the Substance Abuse Committee for a motion to accept the August 12, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Motion was made and seconded by Substance Abuse committee members to accept the August 12, 2021 minutes as written. Vote by acclimation to approve the minutes was carried.

Mental Health Chair Smith tabled the vote due to no quorum present for Mental Health.

2022 Meeting Schedule Dates—
Possible dates for 2022 JAC meetings (April, August and November) were distributed to all committee members in attendance. Due to no quorum present for the Mental Health Committee, final dates could not be voted on. DBH will email a poll to all committee members instead, with a closing date of November 11, 2021 to vote. Selected dates for Calendar Year 2022 identified by the preference of committee members are April 14th, August 18th and November 17, 2022. Meetings in 2022 will be held at the Lancaster County Extension Office at 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528.
Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2022—
Chair Gehrig asked for nominations of officers for the Substance Abuse Committee. Kenneth Boryca was nominated for Chairperson, Heather Bird was nominated for Vice Chairperson, and Diana Meadors was nominated for Second Vice Chairperson. Motion was made to close nominations. The motion to elect new officers as nominated passed with unanimous voice votes. These officers will begin serving in their respective capacity on January 1, 2022.
Chair Smith tabled the nominations and election of officers for the Mental Health Committee due to no quorum being present.

Review of Committee By-Laws—
By-Laws for the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services and the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services were previously sent to all respective committee members for review and suggested changes. Members did not identify any changes to their respective By-laws to be considered, therefore it was declared that both sets of By-laws will continue to stand as-is. Chair Gehrig and Chair Smith will sign their respective By-laws.

III. Public Comments:
There was no public comment received at the morning Public Comment opportunity.

IV. Director’s Update:
Sheri Dawson, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), thanked members of the committees for attending today’s meeting.

Director Dawson has been conducting listening tours and webinars to gather constituent input on the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan. Director Dawson will be in Scottsbluff on Friday, November 12, 2021 for input from Region 1. Each of the five pillars from the strategic plan were reviewed, along with the respective objectives and strategies for each pillar. Committee members made suggestions and offered help with several of the objectives.

V. Break

VI. 988 Update:
Sheri Dawson, DBH Director, reviewed the current status of the 988 Mental Health Hotline planning. This hotline will go into effect on July 1, 2022. Stakeholder webinars are held monthly to garner feedback on the implementation plan.

Director Dawson introduced Michelle Nunemaker, DBH’s new System of Care (SOC) Administrator. Michelle is involved with work on the 988 hotline as well.

A key 988 advisory group needs to be in place by January. This group will initially meet monthly for six months, then move to quarterly meetings. Discussion was held to determine the types of stakeholders that would be beneficial to this group.

The 988 action plan outline can be viewed at:
https://dhhs.ne.gov/Behavioral%20Health%20Documents/988%20Goals-Actions-Final.pdf

VII. 2021 SAMHSA Block Grant Implementation Report:
Karen Harker, Deputy Director, reviewed the expenditure reports for the SAMHSA Block Grants. Each of the Mental Health Services Block Grant and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant awards run on 24 month periods that overlap previous awards by 12 months. In turn, there is more than one block
grant award that can be spent in any 12 month period. Each block grant award includes the requirement of an annual report.

Reporting for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 Block Grant reports, which includes reporting on expenditures of the FFY 2019 Block Grants period of October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2021, identifies expenditures for both block grants. Also, reporting tables include expenditures for the most recent completed State Fiscal Year 2021 and actual expenditures for both block grants do not meet the Maintenance of Efforts requirements for this period, though the amount Medicaid funding has not yet been identified which will add to total state expenditures.

At least twenty percent of the SA block grant award must be spent on primary prevention activities; these expenditures for prevention activities represented over 20% of the SA block grant award in the reporting period.

Committee members engaged in a discussion about the expenditures and Maintenance of Effort. No recommendations were made by committee members.

Linda Wittmuss, Deputy Director, reviewed the Annual Performance and Data Indicators Report for the 2021 SAMHSA Block Grant. The state is required to report whether or not the performance targets outlined in the FFY20-21 Application and Plan were achieved. The Block Grant Priority Areas and Annual Performance Indicators were reviewed.

i. Reduce prevalence of binge drinking among youth and young adults;
ii. Increase the use of evidence-based strategies employed by prevention coalitions to reduce alcohol and substance use;
iii. Consumers to secure and maintain permanent housing in the community;
iv. Consumers in the labor market have competitive employment;
v. Priority populations are admitting to substance use disorder services in a timely manner;
vi. Improve access to First Episode Psychosis Coordinated Specialty Care treatment for youth and young adults who have experienced a first episode of psychosis;
vii. Regional Behavioral Health Authorities’ compliance with contract requirements for Tuberculosis screening to be provided for all individuals entering a substance use disorder treatment service;

All priority area targets were met or exceeded. However, the prevalence of binge drinking among youth and young adults target measure was within the measurement confidence interval though its midpoint was below the target. The suggestion was made that DBH work with outside housing providers to garner more data regarding Supported Housing efforts.

VIII. Lunch

IX. Public Comments:
At the afternoon Public Comment opportunity, Brad Muerrrens, Public Policy Director with Disability Rights of Nebraska introduced himself, shared information about his organization, and offered feedback on the Strategic Plan.

X. Olmstead Update:
Linda Wittmuss, Deputy Director, reviewed the Nebraska Olmstead Plan history and the state’s current status for implementing this. LB570 outlined the need for a Steering Committee, an Advisory Committee, and three Workgroups to be formed. DBH is looking for input on strategies, activities and progress measures.

XI. Nebraska Epidemiological Profile:
Zack Hicks, Behavioral Health Epidemiologist, reviewed highlights on the 2020 Nebraska State Epidemiological Profile. The presentation indicated that Nebraska middle and high school students have lower prevalence of
underage alcohol use, binge drinking, and marijuana use compared to peers in other states based on data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Young adults in Nebraska, however, report higher prevalence on the same indicators relative to other states (National Survey on Drug Use and Health). Data were also presented on alcohol- and marijuana-impaired driving, alcohol-related deaths, overdose hospitalizations, overdose deaths, and suicides. Questions were asked about impaired driving and mapping overdose hospitalizations.

The Epidemiological Profile is an output of the Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) – a requirement of the Partnership for Success (PFS) grant of 2018. The report compiles survey and administrative data related to substance use and mental health for years 2011 through 2020. The report can be found on the DBH website at https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Statewide-Epidemiological-Outcomes-Work-Group.aspx.

XII. Office of Consumer Affairs-Recovery Month:
Brenda Moes, Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) Administrator, discussed National Recovery Month in September, and offered thanks to all who participated in various activities throughout the state. The question was raised as to whether there would be state funding available for providers to host Recovery Month activities. It was suggested that providers may try reaching out to their respective Regional office to inquire about any potential funding available for this purpose.

Global Peer Support Celebration Day was October 21st. DBH hosted a Face Book Live to highlight the importance of Peer Support workers and also hosted a virtual Facebook event to recognize the contributions made by our Peer Support workforce.

The Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) certification process has been in place for 2 ½ years now, with 125 people being certified so far. OCA plans to sponsor two CPSS trainings by the end of FY22. Comment was received to commend the OCA on the quality of training that has been established for CPSSs.

OCA People’s Council continues to meet quarterly to provide state and regional leadership feedback and suggestions from council members who utilize their lived experience to advocate for systems transformation, identify areas of need and advocate for a recovery-oriented system of care. There are currently two Transition-Age Youth positions and one At-Large position vacant. It is suggested that recruitment for these positions can occur by Regional Consumer Specialist outreach and postings on relevant websites.

The DBH policy statement on employment of individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) has been drafted with input from Regional Consumer Specialists (RCS) and People’s Council.

“The state of Nebraska recognizes the potential for persons who are living with an SMI to be able to fully participate in the workforce. Persons who live with a SMI are recognized to have the capacity to engage and participate in the workforce and are able to make positive contributions to the business or organization for whom they are employed. Person’s with an SMI are capable of learning new skills, having a strong work ethic, and can be strong leaders in whichever field they choose to be employed. By including persons with an SMI in all aspects of the workforce, they gain a sense of purpose and community which can aid in their overall wellbeing. The DBH calls upon employers to practice affirmative action in training and employing people in recovery in all professional career fields.”

This statement will tie in with the block grant goal of supported employment, and the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative. Discussion was held on the goal of this statement and how this will be beneficial to citizens of Nebraska. Some minor wording changes were suggested for consideration including the following: changing the first sentence to read ‘The state of Nebraska wishes to promote individuals who are living with an SMI…’, defining what an SMI is, and defining ‘recovery’ to include persons with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Committee members voiced support for this statement.
OCA is working with UNL’s Public Policy Center (PPC) to provide various trainings which have included the following to date: Motivational Interviewing, Language Matters, Trauma Informed Care, and Ethics and Boundaries. Past trainings were recorded and are available through the UNL website. Suggestions for other topics and target audiences were made. The question was posed if continuing education units (CEUs) could be made available for watching the recorded trainings in the future. Brenda will follow up with UNL PPC to see if this is possible. All recorded and upcoming training information can be found at the following website: https://dhhs-dbhtraining.unl.edu/

XIII. Meeting Wrap Up
Committee Announcements—There were no additional announcements from the committees. No additional business was identified by members.

Selected meeting dates for Calendar Year 2022 identified by the preference of committee members by Google Poll are April 14th, August 18th and November 17, 2022. Meetings in 2022 will be held at the Lancaster County Extension Office at 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528. Suggestions for next meeting agenda items can be emailed to DHHS.BehavioralHealthDivision@nebraska.gov.

XIV. Adjourn-2:30 p.m.
The meeting agenda having been completed, Chairs Gehrig and Smith declared the meeting adjourned.
Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health – Joint Meeting
State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services - (§ 71-814)
State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services (§ 71-815)
November 4, 2021
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Members in Attendance: C.J. Johnson, Danielle Smith.

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V. Break

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The DBH policy statement on employment of individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) has been drafted with input from Regional Consumer Specialists (RCS) and People’s Council.

“The state of Nebraska recognizes the potential for persons who are living with an SMI to be able to fully participate in the workforce. Persons who live with a SMI are recognized to have the capacity to engage and participate in the workforce and are able to make positive contributions to the business or organization for whom they are employed. Person’s with an SMI are capable of learning new skills, having a strong work ethic, and can be strong leaders in whichever field they choose to be employed. By including persons with an SMI in all aspects of the workforce, they gain a sense of purpose and community which can aid in their overall wellbeing. The DBH calls upon employers to practice affirmative action in training and employing people in recovery in all professional career fields.”

This statement will tie in with the block grant goal of supported employment, and the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative. Discussion was held on the goal of this statement and how this will be beneficial to citizens of Nebraska. Some minor wording changes were suggested for consideration including the following: changing the first sentence to read ‘The state of Nebraska wishes to promote individuals who are living with an SMI…’, defining what an SMI is, and defining ‘recovery’ to include persons with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Committee members voiced support for this statement.
OCA is working with UNL’s Public Policy Center (PPC) to provide various trainings which have included the following to date: Motivational Interviewing, Language Matters, Trauma Informed Care, and Ethics and Boundaries. Past trainings were recorded and are available through the UNL website. Suggestions for other topics and target audiences were made. The question was posed if continuing education units (CEUs) could be made available for watching the recorded trainings in the future. Brenda will follow up with UNL PPC to see if this is possible. All recorded and upcoming training information can be found at the following website: https://dhhs-dbhtraining.unl.edu/.

XIII. Meeting Wrap Up
Committee Announcements—There were no additional announcements from the committees. No additional business was identified by members.

Selected meeting dates for Calendar Year 2022 identified by the preference of committee members by Google Poll are April 14th, August 18th and November 17, 2022. Meetings in 2022 will be held at the Lancaster County Extension Office at 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528. Suggestions for next meeting agenda items can be emailed to DHHS.BehavioralHealthDivision@nebraska.gov.

XIV. Adjourn-2:30 p.m.
The meeting agenda having been completed, Chairs Gehrig and Smith declared the meeting adjourned.