

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 17, 2022
Lancaster Extension Education Office, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, NE
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes DRAFT

I. Open Meeting

Call to Order/Welcome – Danielle Smith, Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Chair Smith welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services, Beau Boryca. Chair Boryca welcomed all attendees as well. John Trouba, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) Federal Aid Administrator, informed attendees that the joint meeting follows the **Open Meeting Act**, which was posted near the meeting room entrance, and can be found on the DBH website identified on the agenda. Attendees were reminded that there would be two allotted time periods for public comment, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

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) at 10:36.

State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services

Members in Attendance: Ashley Berg, Heather Bird, Beau Boryca, Heather Crawford, Diana Meadors, Kelli Means, Michael Sheridan, Mike Tefft.

State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services

Members in Attendance: Margaret Damme, Roger Donovick, Lindy Foley, Timothy Heller, Robert Hutt, Thomas Janousek, Tracy Jordan, Kristen Larsen, Ashley Pankonin, Jennifer Reyna, Carisa Schweitzer Masek, Athena Sherman, Danielle Smith.

DHHS Staff

In Attendance: Sheri Dawson, Karen Harker, Jennifer Ihle, Jeri Keller-Heuke, Dina Mekic, Heather Nelson, John Trouba, Betty Jean Usher-Tate, Linda Wittmuss.

II. Membership Business

Member Introduction—

Following committee member introductions, the committees took up membership business items.

Meeting Minutes from November 4, 2021 (MH committee took up this item upon attaining a quorum)—
Mental Health Committee Chair Smith presented the November 4, 2021 meeting minutes for review. Chair Smith asked if there were any corrections or comments. Hearing none, Chair Smith asked the Mental Health Committee for a motion to accept the November 4, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Motion was made and seconded by Mental Health committee members to accept the November 4, 2021 minutes as written. Motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2022 (MH committee took up this item upon attaining a quorum)—
Mental Health Committee Chair Smith presented the April 14, 2022 meeting minutes for review. Chair Smith asked if there were any corrections or comments. Hearing none, Chair Smith asked the Mental Health Committee for a motion to accept the April 14, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Motion was made and seconded by Mental

Health committee members to accept the April 14, 2022 minutes as written. Motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2022 (both committees - MH committee took up this item upon attaining a quorum)—

Substance Abuse Committee Chair Boryca presented the August 18, 2022 meeting minutes for review. Chair Boryca asked if there were any corrections or comments. Hearing none, Chair Boryca asked for a motion to accept the August 18, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Motion was made and seconded to accept the August 18, 2022 minutes as written. Motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mental Health Committee Chair Smith asked for a motion to accept the August 18, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion was made and seconded to accept the August 18, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

2023 Meeting Schedule Dates—

Substance Abuse Committee Chair Boryca presented possible dates for the calendar year 2023 Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) meetings. Several potential dates were reviewed. Dates selected for CY2023 JAC meetings are April 20, August 24 and November 16, 2023. The locations of the 2023 meetings have yet to be determined.

Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2023—

Substance Abuse Committee Chair Boryca asked for nominations of officers for the Substance Abuse Committee. Beau Boryca was nominated for Chairperson, Heather Bird was nominated for Vice Chairperson, and Ashley Berg and Kelli Means were nominated for Second Vice Chairperson. The motion to elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson as nominated passed with unanimous voice votes. Ashley Berg was elected for Second Vice Chairperson by voice vote. These officers will begin serving in their respective capacity on January 1, 2023.

Mental Health Committee Chair Smith took up this item upon attaining a quorum, asked for nominations of officers for the Mental Health Committee. Tim Heller was nominated for Chairperson, Jennifer Reyna was nominated for Vice Chairperson, and Margaret Damme was nominated for Secretary. 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, 2023.

III. Break

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments received during the morning Public Comment opportunity.

V. 2022 SAMHSA Block Grant Implementation Reports

Karen Harker, DBH Deputy Director of Finance, reviewed the 2023 Block Grant Reports. Expenditures reports were broken down by Mental Health Block Grant funding and Substance Abuse Block Grant funding. Some Maintenance of Efforts spending is not being met due to the increase in Medicaid and Affordable Care insurance coverage of consumers. Discussion was entertained. The committees did not propose any recommendations.

Betty Jean Usher-Tate, DBH Data & QI Administrator, presented the 2023 Block Grant Reports Table 1. Priority Areas and Performance report. Data supporting each of the seven (7) priority areas were reviewed for the reporting report. Also, consumer surveys conducted this year resulted in a 15% response rate, which is low compared to recent years, even with additional venues for completing the survey. Discussion was entertained. The committees did not propose any recommendations.

VI. Medicaid Unwinding

Carisa Schweitzer Masek, Deputy Director of Population Health for the DHHS Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care, gave an overview of Medicaid's current status since its expansion in October 2020. With the onset of the pandemic, Congress had required Medicaid programs to keep people continuously enrolled through the end of the month in which the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) ends. When the PHE ends, states will begin review of Medicaid eligibility. This is referred to as the Medicaid unwinding period. The review of Medicaid eligibility will be a 12-month long unwinding period that will review Medicaid enrollees eligibility based on their month of enrollment.

VII. Lunch—Lunch & Learn Presentation

Jennifer Ihle, DBH Program Coordinator with the Office of Consumer Affairs, led a discussion on the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative.

VIII. Director's Updates

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.

Information on the newly-elected governor's transition process and announced cabinet appointments were highlighted. The Governor-elect's team officially takes office on January 5, 2023. The Governor-elect's announcements of appointments can be found on his Twitter account <https://twitter.com/TeamPillen>.

The DBH FY24-25 budget proposal includes three priority budget requests that may be of particular interest to the committees. The DBH FY24-25 budget proposal is part of the Agency 025 – Dept. of Health & Human Services document titled "Operations and Aid Budget Request" PDF document on URL <https://das-nebs.ne.gov/public/faces/brdIndex.jsp>.

- Budget line-item funding for the Nebraska 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Call Center (\$4.0M).
- We are working with DHHS Medicaid Long Term Care on a memorandum of understanding for funding of crisis services to support 988.
- Budget line-item to continue support for provider service delivery (\$6.1M).

The U.S. Department of Justice is in Nebraska reviewing civil rights compliance. Some members may have been contacted. DHHS is not part of this activity.

We continue to develop crisis services and early intervention resources across RBHAs available through the Nebraska 988 Call Center.

DHHS Division of Public Health (DPH) has \$2.5M in federal ARPA funding to assist with capital costs of expanding access to behavioral acute care beds in rural areas. DPH planning and discussion with hospitals continues.

Planning for a central Nebraska location for a youth and children's service facility continues. This part of the LB1014 federal ARPA funded pediatric mental health urgent care centers associated with Omaha's Children's Hospital & Medical Center.

The Department of Economic Development created the Building Mental Health Treatment Facilities Program (BMHF) to support construction of mental health treatment facilities through a granting of capital construction grants. The application period was in October.

The Legislative Interim study (LR366) this fall is examining Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CBHC) established through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's demonstration program.

Opioid Settlement – there are now four different multi-state settlements from which Nebraska will receive funds. Funds are to be allocated to three “buckets:” local, geographical region (not RBHA regions), and state. The Nebraska Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee was created and is operated by the Attorney General office. This committee only has the activity related to the State Bucket of funds as its purview. The role of DBH set out in statute is to be the mechanism to disburse the State Bucket funding as identified by the committee. However, we anticipate the committee will ask DBH to develop, track, and report on outcomes for the funding disbursed. More information can be found on their website <https://ago.nebraska.gov/nebraska-opioid-settlement-remediation-advisory-committee> and the DHHS website <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Opioid-Settlement-Workgroup.aspx>.

The work of the Integrated Health Partnership led by the Nebraska Medical Association continues. The goal of this project is to expand integrated healthcare practices in Nebraska and provide start-up funding for clinics to add behavioral health professionals.

DBH continues our partnership with the Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA), working on the transition of care between hospitals and other levels of care.

The Open Beds Project continues its progress in the Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare service area. As DBH works to support its rollout for other areas, we are working with the Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) on providing for the interoperability of the Open Beds software and software used by hospitals.

We continue to study how we can best address the workforce and service shortages experienced across the state. We cannot simply “bed out” or “workforce out” our way to meet these needs. For example, we can encourage the behavioral health workforce to work toward the top of their credentials and review the core competencies process. And we must be part of the discussion on broadband issues and access in order to leverage technology in service delivery. The Connect Nebraska broadband initiative’s work to improve broadband access can be viewed at their website <https://broadband.nebraska.gov/Home>.

IX. Public Comments

There were no public comments received during the afternoon Public Comment opportunity.

X. Meeting Wrap Up

The next Joint Advisory Committee meeting will be Thursday, April 20, 2023 at the Lancaster Extension Education Office, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, NE.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting agenda having been completed, Chairs Boryca and Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.