

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 14, 2024**  
**Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE**  
**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 a.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes DRAFT**

## **I. Open Meeting**

Call to Order/Welcome – Mike Tefft, Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Chair Tefft welcomed attendees to the meeting. Victor Gehrig, State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services member officiated in Chair Timothy Heller’s absence. Chair Tefft 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 Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) website identified on the agenda. Chair Heller informed attendees there would be an opportunity for Public Comment later in the meeting as identified on the agenda.

### **Quorum for Committees**

Roll call was conducted but quorum was not met for the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services (Mental Health Committee), with 9 members present. Roll call was conducted but quorum was not met for the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services (Substance Abuse Committee), with 4 members present.

#### State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services

Members in Attendance: Heather Bird, Heather Crawford, Gage Stermensky, Mike Tefft.

Members Absent: Ashley Berg, Jill Gregg, Leah Harms, Kelli Means, Daniel Rutt.

#### State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services

Members in Attendance: Mary Ann Borgeson, Micki Charf, Ingrid Gansebom, Victor Gehrig, David Kass, Kristen Larsen, Diana Meadors, Angela Miles, Jennifer Reyna.

Members Absent: Verdell Bohling, Margaret Damme, Roger Donovick, Lindy Foley, Timothy Heller, Susan Jensen, Tracy Jordan, Kyle Long, Melody Sandona, Carisa Schweitzer Masek, Danielle Smith, Paul Zeiger.

#### DHHS Staff

In Attendance: Jessie Case, Reecha Dixit, Jacob Grell, Zack Hicks, Thomas Janousek, Jeri Keller-Heuke, Payton Shreves, John Trouba, Betty Jean Usher-Tate.

## **II. Membership Business**

- a) All attendees introduced themselves.
- b) Because there was no quorum for either committee, the business item of approving the November 16, 2023 and August 22, 2024 meeting minutes could not be addressed.

- c) Substance Abuse Committee Chair Tefft presented possible dates for the calendar year 2025 Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) meetings. Several potential dates were reviewed. Dates selected for CY2025 JAC meetings are April 17, August 7, and November 13, 2025. The locations of the 2025 meetings will be determined at a later time.
- d) Election of officers for calendar year 2025 could not be held due to lack of quorum for both committees. Elections will be held at the April 17, 2025 meeting.

### **III. Public Comment**

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

### **IV. Break**

### **V. Director's Update**

Dr. Thomas Janousek, DBH Director, gave updates on current projects within the Division of Behavioral Health.

As the newly appointed director, his vision is for a more holistic behavioral health system that works closely with Medicaid and has fewer barriers to accessing healthcare. Making the publicly funded healthcare system more appealing should also be considered. Hiring is currently underway for the two vacant Deputy Director positions.

Olmstead Updates – Hiring for SMI Coordinators is wrapping up. 1915i waivers for services will be managed by DBH.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) – Seven providers have been chosen as the initial CCBHCs: CenterPointe, Community Alliance, South Central Behavioral Services, Lutheran Family Services, The Well, Heartland Family Services, and Heartland Counseling Services. DBH is currently involved in trainings on cost models and services. Other details of the program are being finalized.

### **VI. Review of Committee Bylaws**

Chair Tefft noted that while there wasn't a quorum to address a review of the committees' bylaws, he encouraged all members to review their respective committee's set of bylaws and bring any recommendations to the next meeting.

### **VII. Office of Consumer Affairs Update**

Jessie Case, Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) Administrator, introduced herself as the new OCA Administrator, shared her background, and gave updates on current projects. The Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative (RFWI) is rolling out under the guidance of Payton Shreves, RFWI Coordinator. The Certified Peer Support Specialist recertification process is being reworked and updated. There are plans to restart the People's Council after being on hiatus since 2022.

### **VIII. Public Comment**

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

## **IX. Review of SAMHSA Block Grant Implementation Reports**

- a. Expenditure Reports: John Trouba, DBH Federal Aid Administrator, presented the FY2025 Block Grant Reports for SAMHSA. Comparisons were made between SFY2024 and SFY2023. Please see the “SAMHSA FY 2025 MHBG & SUPTRS BG Reporting” document attached.
- b. FY24-25 Annual Performance and Data Indicators: Dr. Betty Jean Usher-Tate, DBH Data & QI Administrator, reviewed the priority areas for the SAMHSA Block Grant.

Priority Areas are focused on critical areas for treatment and recovery success, including stable housing outcomes, employment, person-centered care, and access to treatment and support systems in one’s community. The eight Block Grant Priority Areas are: #1-Prevention of binge drinking among youth and young adults; #2-Increase the use of Evidence-Based Strategies employed by prevention coalitions; #3-Consumers in Stable Living Arrangement at discharge from residential services; #4-Percentage of consumers in the labor market who are employed at discharge; #5-Access for Priority Populations to SUD services; #6-Increase utilization of treatment programs for first-episode psychosis; #7-Referral to services for persons with tuberculosis; and #8-988 Crisis Response Dashboard public access. It was noted that on Priority #1: Alcohol Use Among Youth and Young Adults, the goal of 27% was not met. Based on the 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS), Nebraska came in at 29.0%. Priority #6: First Episode Psychosis (FEP) was also not met. For SFY2024, there were 12 admissions; goal was 20 admissions. Although the goal was interpreted as new admissions, another data perspective is that there were 32 youth were in admitted status / received CSC services within the two FEP programs for FY24.

- c. Annual Synar Report: Zack Hicks, DBH Epidemiologist, reviewed the FFY 2025 Annual Synar Report for Nebraska. The Synar program conducts annual compliance checks of a random sample of retail tobacco outlets for the sale of tobacco-related products to minors. DBH contracts with the Nebraska State Patrol to conduct the annual random, unannounced compliance checks from May to September; checks are done year-round by other agencies as well. If a retailer is discovered to be selling tobacco products to a minor, law enforcement must cite an individual, (i.e. clerk, manager, or owner) for the criminal violation, as opposed to alcohol violations, which cite the business. For 2024, Nebraska’s statewide retailer violation rate was 14.7%, down 1.0% from 2023. Violation rates were compared across the country and by State Patrol regions across Nebraska. Number of retailers and their locations were reviewed. It was announced that beginning in 2025, the tobacco licensee list will be compiled by the Nebraska Department of Revenue per a modification to LB1204.

No recommendations were placed before the committee. Chair Tefft thanked staff for their presentations on the SAMHSA Block Grant Implementation Reports.

**X. For the Good of the Order Roundtable**

The DBH Prevention team provided medication lock boxes, Deterra pouches, and Narcan and 988 promotional items for committee members to take back to their organizations.

**XI. Meeting Wrap Up**

The next Joint Advisory Committee meeting will be April 17, 2025, with location to be determined. Members were reminded that officer elections and approval of the November 16, 2023 and August 22, 2024 minutes will be conducted during this meeting.

**XII. Adjournment**

Chair Tefft and Acting Chair Gehrig declared the meeting adjourned at 1:47 P.M.

# SAMHSA FY 2025 MHBG & SUPTRS BG REPORTING

Consists of the FFY 2022 Block Grant Award for  
Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and  
Recovery Support Services Block Grant (SUPTRSBG)  
and  
Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG)

Financial Information

November 2024

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# Maintenances of Effort – Preliminary SFY 2024

Mental Health Spending						
SFY 2022	SFY 2023	Average	SFY 2024	Medicaid	Amount needed	
\$85,696,832	\$114,941,835	\$100,319,334	\$59,845,566	TBD SFY 2023 \$51,371,425	\$40,473,768	
Substance Use Disorder Spending						
SFY 2022	SFY 2023	Average	SFY 2024	Medicaid	Amount needed	
\$19,827,849	\$31,213,508	\$25,520,678.50	\$10,935,220	TBD (SFY 2023 \$7,004,989)	\$14,585,613	
Pregnant Women & Women With Children (WSA Set Aside)						
1994 base	SFY 2022	SFY 2023	SFY 2024	Medicaid	Amount needed	
\$753,713	\$328,571.24	\$ 2,038,637.38	\$910,024	TBD (SFY 2023 \$1,669,737)	\$1,128,613	
Children’s Mental Health						
1994 base	SFY 2022	SFY 2023	SFY 2024			
\$620,801	\$6,995,428	\$8,330,044	\$8,684,161			

# Valerie Standeven

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