

**Virtual Meeting of the Nebraska Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee**  
**June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Offices, 1335 H Street, Lincoln, NE**  
**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call Meeting to Order:**

Chairperson Todd Stull called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed all attendees to the meeting. In accordance with § 84-1411(2)(b) of the Open Meetings Act, a copy of all documents being considered at the meeting, an electronic copy of this agenda, and a current copy of the Open Meetings Act are available at the Nebraska Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee's webpage at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Opioid-Settlement-Workgroup.aspx>. The Open Meetings Act is also located at the front of the meeting room.

- a) Chairperson Stull reminded Committee members that for virtual meetings, Committee members may attend virtually or be physically present at the meeting site to be counted for quorum, and to vote.
- b) Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was determined to exist, with 9 voting members present.

Voting Members

Members in Attendance: Ann Anderson-Berry, Mary Ann Borgeson, Amy Holman, Brandon Kelliher (late arrival), Cory Schmidt, Jason Scott, Riley Slezak, Todd Stull, Paul Vrbka, Christa Yoakum.

Members Absent: Christopher Kratochvil, Mike Tefft.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Amy Reynoldson.

Non-Voting Members Absent: Susanna Batterman, Kevin Borchert, Rick Hickstein, Sara Howard, Jerome Kramer, Paul Lambert, John Massey, Charity Menefee, Paul Price, Kevin Spencer, Bill Tielke.

Others in Attendance: Thakur Bais, Holly Brandt, Reecha Dixit, Ingrid Gansebom, Tiffany Gressley, Thomas Janousek, Delainie Johnson, Trinia Janis, Patrick Kreifels, Katie McCarthy, Jessie McDevitt, Rachel Meier, Payton Shreves.

- c) Chairperson Stull stated that on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, a notice of this meeting with the agenda and other materials were provided to the public and all members of the Committee. Notice of this meeting with the agenda and other materials were available for public inspection at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), 301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor in Lincoln, Nebraska. An electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and a link to the current version of the Open Meetings Act were posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Opioid-Settlement-Workgroup.aspx>.
- d) Chairperson Stull informed attendees about the location of the Open Meetings Act, which is accessible to members of the public in the meeting room, and at

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Opioid-Settlement-Workgroup.aspx>, along with a copy of all reproducible written materials to be discussed at this meeting.

- e) Public Comment: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, the Chair of the Committee reserves the right to limit comments on agenda items. Chairperson Stull stated that public comments will be heard on agenda items 8 and 9. Each commenter will have five minutes to speak. Pursuant to § 84-1412(3), any member of the public desiring to address the body shall identify their name, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person. Public members may sign up on the list at the front of the room or submit their name via the virtual chat box if attending virtually.

## **2. Consider a motion to approve the minutes from November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

On the original agenda presented to the committee, the date was incorrect and showed November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The year should be 2024.

Chairperson Stull opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting.

Motion was made by Cory Schmidt seconded by Paul Vrbka to approve the minutes as written. Chairperson Stull opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, the motion to approve the November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024, minutes passed with the following results:

Yay=9: Ann Anderson-Berry, Mary Ann Borgeson, Amy Holman, Cory Schmidt, Jason Scott, Riley Slezak, Todd Stull, Paul Vrbka, Christa Yoakum.

Nay=0

Abstain=0

Absent=3: Christopher Kratochvil, Brandon Kelliher, Mike Tefft.

## **3. Consider a motion to approve the minutes from November 26<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

On the original agenda presented to the committee, the date was incorrect and showed November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The year should be 2024.

Chairperson Stull opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting.

Motion was made by Mary Ann Borgeson seconded by Amy Holman to approve the minutes as written. Chairperson Stull opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, the motion to approve the November 26<sup>th</sup> 2024, minutes passed with the following results:

Yay=9: Ann Anderson-Berry, Mary Ann Borgeson, Amy Holman, Cory Schmidt, Jason Scott, Riley Slezak, Todd Stull, Paul Vrbka, Christa Yoakum.

Nay=0

Abstain=0

Absent=3: Christopher Kratochvil, Brandon Kelliher, Mike Tefft.

**4. Please accept the resignation of Dr. Chris Kratochvil who fills the role of physician or a representative of a medical association in Nebraska.**

Dr. Chris Kratochvil was not present to speak following his resignation. Dr. Thomas Janousek also mentioned that Charity Menefee, a non-voting member of the committee, is no longer with DHHS and therefore will not be present at these meetings. An agenda item on her departure may be discussed in a future meeting.

**5. Consider a motion to acknowledge the following Committee members recently appointed to fill vacancies:**

- a. Amy Reynoldson, Executive Vice President of the Nebraska Medical Association, to fill the role of physician or a representative of a medical association in Nebraska.

Chairperson Stull opened the floor for a motion to approve the nomination for Amy Reynoldson to fill the role of Physician or a representative of a medical association in Nebraska.

Motion was made by Ann Anderson-Berry seconded by Amy Holman and Mary Ann Borgeson to approve Amy Reynoldson's nomination, Chairperson Stull opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, the motion to approve the nomination of Amy Reynoldson passed with the following results:

Yay=9: Ann Anderson-Berry, Mary Ann Borgeson, Amy Holman, Cory Schmidt, Jason Scott, Riley Slezak, Todd Stull, Paul Vrbka, Christa Yoakum.

Nay=0

Abstain=0

Absent=2: Brandon Kelliher, Mike Tefft.

**6. Consider a motion to elect chair.**

Chairperson Stull stated that based on the bylaws, the chair and vice-chair positions for the advisory committee are due and the voting members may choose to elect a new chair and vice-chair.

Voting member Mary Ann Borgeson asked whether the election referred to the terms in total or the terms for this year for chairmanship. With the committee starting in 2022, elections are meant to occur every 2 years. Many changes occurred in the last year, which is why this agenda item was pushed to the June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting.

Voting member Mary Ann Borgeson moved to nominate Chairperson Stull as chair for this new term, 2024-2026. Ann Anderson-Berry seconded the motion. Chairperson Stull opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, the motion to approve the nomination of Todd Stull passed with the following results:

Yay=9: Ann Anderson-Berry, Mary Ann Borgeson, Amy Holman, Amy Reynoldson, Cory Schmidt, Jason Scott, Riley Slezak, Paul Vrbka, Christa Yoakum.

Nay=0

Abstain=1: Todd Stull.

Absent=2: Brandon Kelliher, Mike Tefft.

## **7. Consider a motion to elect vice-chair.**

Voting member Amy Reynoldson motioned for the nomination of Mary Ann Borgeson as vice chair of the Advisory Committee. Amy Holman second the motion. No other nominations were provided for the vice chair position. Chairperson Stull opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, the motion to approve the nomination of Mary Ann Borgeson passed with the following results:

Yay=9: Ann Anderson-Berry, Amy Holman, Amy Reynoldson, Cory Schmidt, Jason Scott, Riley Slezak, Todd Stull, Paul Vrbka, Christa Yoakum.

Nay=0

Abstain=1: Mary Ann Borgeson.

Absent=2: Brandon Kelliher, Mike Tefft.

## **8. DHHS Director of Behavioral Health Updates - Dr. Thomas Janousek**

DBH Director Dr. Thomas Janousek provided an update on the distribution of infrastructure funds. A presentation was presented on the new grant opportunity, Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Cash Fund Request for Application (RFA), created by the Division of Behavioral Health.

Following the presentation, Chairperson Stull asked attendees if there were any questions for Dr. Janousek.

Joseph Hall, member of the public, asked about the timing of the RFA and the distribution of settlement funds. He briefly mentioned how the public may not know how catastrophic it was for families with the lack of funds following the litigation of Mallinckrodt's second bankruptcy in 2023. He would like to know what the mechanisms are in place for opioid abatement.

Dr. Janousek discussed LB1355 and how it's protecting this pot of funds for the state and devoting it to opioid remediation and any activities defined in exhibit E from the opioid settlement. The funds are being utilized to go to prevention and treatment issues.

The funds which go to the Regions (Behavioral Health Regional Authorities), are going to ongoing prevention and treatment initiatives while the one for this grant from the states portion is going to infrastructure.

Separately there are opioid settlement funds going to local counties, where they are conducting their own activities.

The state receives a grant, the State Opioid Response grant, which goes to: funding our free Narcan in the state, treatment initiatives to stand up opioid treatment programs, program to integrate with correctional facilities, and a number of other treatment options across the state.

Medicaid, with the Division of Behavioral Health funds, pays for opioid treatment programs and Medicated Assisted Treatment.

Joseph Hall asked whether the OSRAC meetings are open to the public. Chairperson Stull stated these meetings are open to public attendance and added that the committee was created because of the settlement agreement through the attorney general's office with the Division of Behavioral Health. Attendance is encouraged.

Chairperson Stull encourages an examination of exhibit E, which gives a scope of what can be done with the funding. Chairperson Stull also acknowledges Region 6's, the Behavioral Health Region in the eastside of the state, proactivity with the settlement dollars. He encouraged Joseph Hall to reach out to the Region for their funding opportunities.

Dr. Janousek added that the RFA is also following Exhibit E and all applications must comply with the exhibit.

Chairperson Stull, in connection with this, mentions the potential plans to develop a detox center in North Platte with an existing building. Region II is also in talks to support it. Chairperson Stull mentions the idea of intent and asked how funding may be possible if the crisis in Nebraska is not severe as it is in other states.

Dr. Janousek mentions how all patients must have access to Medicated Assisted Treatment and the services must have the ability and capability to treat individuals.

Chairperson Stull asked how much money the state will be getting for the infrastructure. Dr. Janousek stated that the state has been receiving funds since 2022 and will be receiving a total of \$170-\$178 million dollars until 2038. About 15% goes to municipalities. The early years of the funds will provide a higher percentage of the overall funds the state will receive. As the state gets closer to 2038, the amount of funds tapers off. The Division of Behavioral Health is looking to utilize the funds with efficiency and ration it for sustainability. About \$4 million is being put in the account which will with the sustainability of the funds.

There is currently \$9 million in the account with the state and some in the larger pot of the opioid settlement funds.

Chairperson Stull asked if the grant is running for 2 years. Dr. Janousek said no and stated the funds will be contingent on how much is in the account following each awarding and depending on the legislator's designation of funds to the account for the RFA.

Chairperson Stull asked if DAS and Procurement are aware of the grant and the issues in the past. Dr. Janousek confirmed that they are, and this is why the process has been created this way.

Chairperson Stull asked if the Division of Behavioral Health has entertained the idea of having a member of the advisory committee review applications. Dr. Janousek stated it is a possibility and will communicate about this later.

Chairperson Stull asked for clarification on the slide pertaining to the indirect funds in connection to the infrastructure project. Dr. Janousek clarified that persons not connected to the

project will not be funded under this grant opportunity. The grant will mainly be focused on capital expenditures and construction.

Vice-Chair Borgeson asked how much was in the larger opioid fund. Dr. Janousek could not confirm the amount in the larger fund.

Chairperson Stull stated a financial update on the funds may be an agenda item in the next meeting.

## **9. Nebraska Regional Behavioral Health Authorities update.**

Chairperson Stull presented a reminder to avoid duplication of services and treatment between the Regions and how they could potentially work together to achieve a goal to help address the crisis.

Regional updates on fund-provided activities and possible future goals were given.

Holly Brandt, Regional Administrator for Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority, reported they have not received any new opioid funds since the last report. Currently, they have \$676,233 of their opioid settlement funds obligated. Their grant application opened for applicants occupied or provided services in their designated area. Application was completed in May 2024. From the opportunity, 5 grants were awarded to 5 different agencies. Of the grant processes, 2 of them have been completed. Another 2 of the organizations' activities are ongoing, and adjustments need to be made for the other one. Region 1 has also obligated \$400,000 to bring up a crisis stabilization and medical managed detox center in western Nebraska. They have submitted an intent to propose to DBH and once that is approved, they will begin their RFP process to bring services to the area. Funds are being utilized for capacity access development to hire staff and buy equipment for services. The next round of funding will commence in June or July.

Katie McCarthy, Regional Administrator for Region II Human Services, reported they had received \$516,475 dollars in the first round of opioid settlement funding. Last July they received \$153,000 dollars through LB1355. Region II is hoping to develop a detox center or something similar in the Region. They have a meeting with committee member Brandon Kelliher to begin this process. The region is hoping to utilize their settlement dollars for this opportunity. In addition, a Family and System Navigator in the Region has been hired to help anyone in the community and those struggling with substance use to connect to services and resources, answer questions, and work with providers. Both closed and open groups for education and resources, as well as for families and friends looking for have been created. A mini-grant process was just closed in May. Funds will be awarded following their evaluation process this month.

Tiffany Gressley, Regional Administrator for Region 3 Behavioral Health Services, reported that \$643,788 were obligated to projects. Many of the awarding of funds occurred during a grant process they conducted last year which will finish up this summer. They received 11 applications. One year of funding was provided through the grant. They asked applicants to review Exhibit E and identify what strategies they could address in their program. The region is getting ready to release another application, round 2, in July as a complement to the state's release of the RFA in

July as well. Funds have been obligated to Mid-Plains for the expansion of their services in Region 3. They are hoping to expand their crisis stabilization center in the Region to increase patient capacity. There is potential to add detox services in the center as well. Another round of funds from LB1355 for this year is expected to come in soon as they embark on these activities. Focus will be on law enforcement, EMT, and first responders for this new application cycle.

Chairperson Stull acknowledge the efforts the Regions are doing to focus on the need of the community. Chairperson Stull asked whether law enforcement training center was still in Grand Island, Tiffany Gressley confirmed that it is.

Ingrid Gansebom, Regional Administrator for Region 4 Behavioral Health Systems, which covers 22 counties in the northern and northcentral part of the state, reported that the Region received \$257,499.06 from LB1355. An award process/grant opportunity began in November 2024 and has since been closed. \$467,500 were obligated to individuals in the community. They provided funds to 2 providers looking to create a crisis stabilization unit in the Region. They awarded funds to expand Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) services in the Region. The region is also funding the Connection Project, which is a peer-run project to help individuals in the Region. \$17,000 was awarded to a Warming Center which would help individuals with opioid issues who have nowhere to go in the winter. Another application process is planned for summer 2025 in anticipation for this years' monies they will be receiving from LB1355. The priorities from the application will be determined soon.

Ingrid Gansebom acknowledged the working relationship amongst the Regions to help coordinate efforts to combat the opioid crisis and support each other's activities.

Patrick Kreifels is the Regional Administrator for Region 5 Systems. Region 5 covers 16 counties in southeast Nebraska. Trina Janis, Region 5's Opioid Project Manager, provided updates to the committee. Region 5 completed a needs assessment and have created a brief and full needs assessment document which compiles their findings. Findings will be presented to each county as the data includes county-specific information. They have provided funding to 3 organizations so far. The Nebraska's Pharmacist Association was provided an additional \$5,000 with their original funding to help supply another Narcan vending machine. Funds were provided for a pilot program for police departments to purchase spectrometers for trained individuals. They recently funded Whispering Anchors who approached the Steering Committee for a funding opportunity. Obligated grants to entities so far have totaled \$1,256,481. The next anticipated grant announcement will go live on June 13, 2025.

Patrick Kreifels added that the needs assessment and information about the funds are on their Region 5 Systems website.

Chairperson Stull provided information on the new Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) in Omaha called Bonsai. Chairperson Stull mentioned that the number of fatalities have dropped in the state, and it could potentially be due to the available Narcan, Naloxone, and treatment centers.

Patti Jurjevich, the Regional Administrator for Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare, was not present at this meeting. Vice-Chair Mary Ann Borgeson provided updates for Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare. Region 6 so far has received \$5,757,745 in opioid settlement funds. This number would include the initial payment of \$4,365,123.12 from fiscal year 2023 plus the LB1355 payment from 2024 which equated to over \$1 million dollars, with the funds from Washington county which equated to over \$67,000. As of May 31, 2025, Region 6 has spent and obligated total of \$2,141,305.30 This includes Region 6 personnel expenses and projects with their RFP process. There is an additional \$442,086 reserved for the development of the enhanced detox services. The first application process has been concluded, with focuses on prevention, treatment, and recovery of opioid use disorder. Funding proposals were reviewed by the Opioid Settlement Review Committee and approved by the Region 6 Governing Board. A total of 9 organizations were approved for funding. The next steps are to monitor the projects and monthly status reports will be presented to the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee and the Governing Board. Another RFP process will be initiated, and Region 6 is anticipating another allocation of funding as required by LB1355.

Amy Holman asked about receiving a copy of Region 6's report. Vice-Chair Borgeson confirmed it will be added to the meeting minutes.

#### **10. Public Comments.**

No comments were presented.

#### **11. Consider a motion to adjourn.**

The meeting agenda having been completed, Chairperson Stull asked a confirmation on when the next meeting is. The next meeting will be in-person on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm. An informal roll call for the September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 meeting was conducted to establish whether there would be quorum. It was confirmed there was quorum.

Chairperson Stull asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Mary Ann Borgeson and seconded by Amy Reynoldson. Roll call vote was conducted. The motion passed with the following results.

Yay=10: Ann Anderson-Berry, Mary Ann Borgeson, Amy Holman, Brandon Kelliher, Amy Reynoldson, Cory Schmidt, Riley Slezak, Todd Stull, Paul Vrbka, Christa Yoakum.

Nay=0

Abstain=0

Absent=2: Jason Scott, Mike Tefft.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.