

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 16, 2023**  
**Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE**  
**9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes DRAFT**

## **I. Open Meeting**

Call to Order/Welcome – Tim Heller, Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Chair Heller welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the Vice Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services, Heather Bird, who was acting in Chair Beau Boryca’s absence. Vice Chair Bird welcomed all attendees as well. Chair Heller announced the officers of the Mental Health Committee, and Vice Chair Bird introduced the officers of the Substance Use Committee. 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 Mental Health Services (Mental Health Committee). Roll call was conducted and a quorum was determined to exist for the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services (Substance Abuse Committee) at 10:20.

#### State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services

Members in Attendance: Ashley Berg (late arrival), Heather Bird (late arrival), Heather Crawford (late arrival), Kelli Means, Michael Sheridan, Gage Stermensky, Mike Tefft.

#### State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services

Members in Attendance: Verdell Bohling, Margaret Damme, Roger Donovanick, Ingrid Gansebom, Victor Gehrig, Timothy Heller, Tracy Jordan (late arrival), David Kass, Kristen Larsen, Kyle Long, Diana Meadors (late arrival), Angela Miles, Jennifer Reyna.

#### DHHS Staff

In Attendance: Ahmad Arraseef, Karen Harker, Thomas Janousek, Jeri Keller-Heuke, Jessica McDevitt, Jess Russell Bering, John Trouba, Betty Jean Usher-Tate, Linda Wittmuss, Todd Stull (guest speaker).

## **II. Membership Business**

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

Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2022, and April 20, 2023 (SA committee took up this item upon attaining a quorum) —

Substance Abuse Committee Vice Chair Bird presented the November 17, 2022, and the April 20, 2023 meeting minutes for review. Vice Chair Bird asked if there were any corrections or comments. Hearing none, Vice Chair Bird asked for a motion to accept the November 17, 2022, and the April 20, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Motion was made by Mike Tefft and seconded by Heather Crawford to accept the November and the April minutes as written. Roll call vote was conducted, and minutes approved, with the following results:

Yea: Ashley Berg, Heather Bird, Heather Crawford, Kelli Means, Michael Sheridan, Gage Stermensky, Mike Tefft.

Nay: none.

Abstain: none.

Meeting Minutes from August 24, 2023 (both committees – SA committee took up this item upon attaining a quorum)—

Mental Health Committee Chair Heller presented the August 24, 2023, meeting minutes for review. Chair Heller asked if there were any corrections or comments. Hearing none, Chair Heller asked for a motion to accept the August 24, 2023, meeting minutes as written. Motion was made by Jennifer Reyna and seconded by Margaret Damme to accept the August 24, 2023, minutes as written. Roll call vote was conducted, and minutes approved, with the following results:

Yea: Verdell Bohling, Margaret Damme, Roger Donovan, Ingrid Gansebom, Victor Gehrig, Timothy Heller, David Kass, Kristen Larsen, Angela Miles, Jennifer Reyna, Ashley Berg, Heather Bird, Heather Crawford, Kelli Means, Michael Sheridan, Gage Stermensky, Mike Tefft.

Nay: none.

Abstain: Kyle Long.

2024 Meeting Schedule Dates—

Mental Health Committee Chair Heller presented possible dates for the calendar year 2024 Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) meetings. Several potential dates were reviewed. Dates selected for CY2024 JAC meetings are April 18, August 22, and November 14, 2024. The locations of the 2024 meetings have yet to be determined.

Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2024—

Mental Health Committee Chair Heller asked for nominations of officers for the Mental Health Committee. Chairperson: Victor Gehrig, Jennifer Reyna and Tim Heller were nominated for Chairperson. Hearing no further nominations, Chair Heller asked for a motion to close nominations. Motion was made by Kyle Long and seconded by Margaret Damme to close nominations. Chair Heller opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, secret ballot vote was conducted. Tim Heller received the majority of votes and was therefore declared to be the elected Mental Health Committee Chairperson for CY2024.

Vice Chairperson: Jennifer Reyna and Victor Gehrig were nominated for Vice Chairperson. Hearing no further nominations, Chair Heller asked for a motion to close nominations. Motion was made by Kristen Larsen and seconded by Kyle Long to close nominations. Chair Heller opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, secret ballot vote was conducted. Jennifer Reyna received the majority of votes and was therefore declared to be the elected Mental Health Committee Vice Chairperson for CY2024.

Secretary: Margaret Damme was nominated for Secretary. Hearing no further nominations, Chair Heller asked for a motion to close nominations. Motion was made by Victor Gehrig and seconded by Jennifer Reyna to close nominations. Chair Heller opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, by vote by acclimation, Margaret Damme was declared to be the elected Mental Health Committee Secretary for CY2024.

These officers will begin serving in their respective capacity on January 1, 2024.

Substance Abuse Committee Vice Chair Bird took up this item upon attaining a quorum and asked for nominations of officers for the Substance Abuse Committee.

Chairperson: Heather Crawford, Mike Tefft and Heather Bird were nominated for Chairperson. Hearing no further nominations, Vice Chair Bird asked for a motion to close nominations. Motion was made by Ashley Berg and seconded by Kelli Means to close nominations. Vice Chair Bird opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, secret ballot vote was conducted. Mike Tefft received the majority of the votes and was therefore declared to be the elected Substance Abuse Committee Chairperson for CY2024.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson: Ashley Berg, Kelli Means and Heather Bird were nominated for Vice Chairperson. Hearing no further nominations, Vice Chair Bird asked for a motion to close nominations. Motion was made by Michael Sheridan and seconded by Heather Bird to close nominations. Vice Chair Bird opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, secret ballot vote was conducted. Heather Bird received the majority of the votes and was therefore declared to be the elected Substance Abuse Committee 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson for CY2024.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson: Heather Crawford and Kelli Means were nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson. Hearing no further nominations, Vice Chair Bird asked for a motion to close nominations. Motion was made by Gage Stermensky and seconded by Kelli Means to close nominations. Vice Chair Bird opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, secret ballot vote was conducted. Kelli Means received the majority of the votes and was therefore declared to be the elected Substance Abuse Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson for CY2024.

These officers will begin serving in their respective capacity on January 1, 2024.

### **III. Public Comment**

Tom Hightower and Shane Reilly gave an overview of their organizations, 50th Street Landing Reentry Program and The 1212 House Safe and Structured Sober Living for Men in Recovery in Omaha, and the services that they offer.

### **IV. Break**

### **V. 2023 SAMHSA Block Grant Implementation Report**

Expenditure Reports—Karen Harker, DBH Deputy Director, reviewed the FFY2022 Block Grant Report. As of November 2023, Medicaid expenditures in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder activities for SFY2023 were not available. COVID and ARPA fund expenditures in both areas will run through September 2025 and then be discontinued. The MHBG FFY22 Award has a new category for Crisis Set Aside, which includes the 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline. The Maintenance of Efforts (MOE): the state is required to maintain the amounts of state funds utilized for behavioral health services in the state fiscal year.

There are four MOE to report for authorized services. The MOE for state expenditures on Mental Health services reports expenditures for community-based services provided to individuals with SMI/SED. This includes state funds for Medicaid expenditures which are not yet available, as shown in the table. The amount of state funds for Medicaid to meet this MOE is identified in the table. The MOE for state expenditures on Children’s Mental Health reports expenditures for community-based services for children with SED; DBH has met this MOE. The MOE for Substance Use Disorder spending reports state expenditures for community-based services to prevent and treat Substance Use Disorders, and to provide recovery support services. This includes state funds for Medicaid expenditures which are not yet available. The amount of state funds for Medicaid to meet this MOE is identified in the table. The MOE for Substance Use Disorder services for Pregnant Women & Women with Children reports state expenditures for authorized community-based services for this subpopulation. This includes state funds for Medicaid expenditures which are not yet available. The amount of state funds for Medicaid to meet this MOE is identified in the table. Members’ discussion focused on the Maintenance of Effort need for the state funded Medicaid behavioral health services. Members thanked Karen Harker for the presentation. There were no recommendations from the committee.

Priority Area and Annual Performance Indicators - Progress Report—Dr. Betty Jean Usher-Tate, DBH Data & QI Administrator, presented the Priority Area Review FY2022-FY2023 for the SAMHSA Block Grants. Dr. Usher-Tate clarified that the 23,909 persons served in FH23 is an unduplicated number that does not include individuals being served at the regional centers. This number is a decrease from 25,231 served in FY22. This decrease is due

in part to Medicaid expansion, COVID and workforce issues. Priority #1: Alcohol Use Among Youth & Young Adults- Year 2 outcome of 26.2% for Prevalence of Binge Drinking achieved the Target 30.0%. Although the prevalence binge drinking reported by youth and young adults in Nebraska has dropped to 26.2%, it is still 5.2 percentage points higher than the national average of 21.0%. Priority #2: Increase Use of Evidence-Based Prevention Strategies – Year 2 outcome of 48.8% of funded strategies use evidence-based strategies achieved the Target 38.6%. Priority #3: Consumers in Stable Living Arrangements – Year 2 outcome of 87% of consumers discharged from residential services report residing in a stable living arrangement achieved the Target 65%. The target would have been only 60.7% if the Crisis Service Mental Health Respite, which is not a Residential Service, had been included in this measure. Priority #4: Consumer Employment – Year 2 outcome of 66% for percentage of consumers in the labor market who are employed at discharge from any DBH funded service achieved the Target 58%. Priority #5: Access for Priority Populations to SUD Services – Year 2 outcome of 74.0% of persons reported as injecting drugs were admitted to Short Term Residential Services within 14 days of seeking treatment did not achieve the Target 85%. DBH have begun corrective actions to ensure this is being addressed, including training and a review of the active alert notification process. Priority #6: First Episode Psychosis (FEP)—Year 2 outcome of 38 statewide admissions in service FEP Coordinated Specialty Care treatment into FEP programs achieved the Target of 20 admissions. Priority #7: Tuberculosis – Year 2 outcome of maintaining the contract requirement with Regional Behavioral Health Authorities for Tuberculosis screening provided to all persons entering a substance use treatment service was achieved. Lastly, a reminder the next block grant two-year planning period will include a new priority measure for Crisis Response. This measure will focus on 988 and Mobile Crisis Response data. There were no recommendations from the committee.

## **VI. 988 Dashboard Presentation**

Ahmad Arraseef, DBH Statistical Analyst II, and Dr. Betty Jean Usher-Tate, DBH Data & QI Administrator, presented a prototype of the planned 988 dashboard. This dashboard will give breakdowns of 988 contacts across the state for selected periods of time. This will eventually be available to the public. 988 data will potentially become a priority area for SAMHSA Block Grant reports.

## **Lunch—Lunch & Learn Presentation**

Dr. Todd Stull, Chairperson of the Nebraska Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee, gave an overview of the committee’s purpose and current focuses on disbursing funds received from the pharmaceutical distributors as part of the opioid settlement.

## **VII. Public Comment**

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

## **VIII. Director’s Update**

Dr. Thomas Janousek, DBH Deputy Director, thanked committee members for their attendance, and gave updates on several items occurring in the Division of Behavioral Health.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)—CCBHCs are clinic models designed to ensure access to coordinated comprehensive behavioral health care. CCBHCs are required to serve anyone who requests care for mental health or substance use, regardless of their ability to pay, place of residence, or age - including developmentally appropriate care for children and youth. DBH, Medicaid and Public Health are in the initial kick-off and preliminary stages of project planning. A large part of the plan is engaging community providers for feedback about the state’s model, clinic requirements, and payment plan.

LB 1173 Workgroup and Behavioral Health—This workgroup is wrapping up the planning stages of transforming child and family well-being in Nebraska. Education to the judicial systems about behavioral health will be a big

focus for DBH. Opportunities for SMI waivers will be developed. Opportunities for regional behavioral health authorities to be larger partners for child-related services will be explored. Reports and relevant information can be found at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/LB-1173-Child-and-Family-Well-Being-Working-Group.aspx>.

Recovery Friendly Workplaces—The Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative gives business owners the resources and support they need to foster a supportive environment that encourages the success of their employees in recovery. A coordinator position has been hired and DBH is working on developing preliminary content and re-engaging feedback groups. Progressive roll out of the program will begin with DHHS, who already supports employees in recovery. Trainings and resources will focus on such items as recovery-friendly policies, Mental Health First Aid, bias training, and stigma busting. The U.S. Department of Labor has a “Recovery-Ready Workplace Toolkit” which can be found at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/RRW-hub/Toolkit>.

#### **IX. For the Good of the Order Roundtable**

Committee members shared their organizations’ recent developments and upcoming events. Discussion also centered around the growing recognition among providers of the need for additional services addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

#### **X. Meeting Wrap Up**

The next Joint Advisory Committee meeting will be Thursday, April 18, 2024, with location to be determined. Members suggested additional agenda items for upcoming meetings, including Outpatient Competency Restoration data and opioid settlement funded projects.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

The meeting agenda having been completed, Chair Heller asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Victor Gehrig and seconded by Mike Tefft. The motion to adjourn passed with unanimous voice votes, and the meeting was declared adjourned at 1:33 p.m.