



## REGION 1 GOVERNING BOARD

January 8, 2026

Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority, Scottsbluff, Nebraska

### MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Chair Susanna Batterman called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m. She acknowledged this meeting will follow the open meetings act, posted on the north wall of the South Conference room.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Introductions:
4. Roll Call: Roll was called with the following Board Members:

Susanna Batterman	(Morrill County)	Present
Bruce Messersmith	(Sheridan County)	Present
William Klingman	(Deuel County)	Present
Ken Meyer	(Scotts Bluff County)	Present
Vic Rivera	(Dawes County)	Present
Steve Burke	(Box Butte County)	Present
Rich Flores	(Kimball County)	Absent
Terry Krauter	(Garden County)	Absent
Laif Anderson	(Banner County)	Absent
Darrell Johnson	(Cheyenne County)	Absent
Hal Downer	(Sioux County)	Absent

Also, in attendance: Holly Brandt, Regional Administrator; Jeanne McKerrigan, Fiscal Director; Lisa Simmons, Director of Network Services, Michelle Fries, Office Manager-Disaster Coordinator and Irene Guerrero, Administrative Assistant.

\*Quorum was established at the start of the meeting.

5. Approve January 2026 Agenda (Voice Vote)

The agenda was emailed to commissioners and included in their meeting packets.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Bruce Messersmith and seconded by Ken Meyer.

All members voted aye. Motion carried.





6. Approve November 2025 Meeting Minutes (Voice Vote)

The minutes of November 2025 meeting were emailed to commissioners and included in their meeting packets. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Bruce Messersmith and seconded by Bill Klingman. Vic Rivera abstained, with all other members voting aye. Motion carried.

7. CARF Temporary Extension of Accreditation (Informational)

Michelle Fries reported that CARF has delayed the agency's accreditation survey due to a high volume of surveys statewide. The survey is now expected in April–May 2026, rather than February–March.

CARF has issued written confirmation extending accreditation until the survey is completed.

The Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) and Region leadership have been notified.

The survey will be conducted under 2025 standards, despite the release of 2026 standards.

\*Steve Burke attended the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

8. Regional Administrators Report (Informational)

Holly Brandt presented her report to the board, providing the following updates:

Summary of Crisis Stabilization Update

An update was provided regarding the stabilization facility project:

Following media coverage.

Additional and changing requirements imposed by the State, including:

- Architectural drawings and oversight (estimated cost: ~\$380,000)
- Electrical and other inspections
- Revised match requirements

Match funds that were previously approved are no longer approved and different match source had to be established.

Positive Update:

The State indicated that the contract is expected to be issued imminently. Once executed, it is anticipated that requirements can no longer be unilaterally changed.

Service Definition Changes (DBH & Medicaid Alignment)

The Board received an update on proposed changes to DBH and Medicaid service definitions:

Significant concerns were raised regarding:





- Increased staffing requirements (24/7 nursing, addiction specialists)
- Increased prior authorization requirements
- Concerns that changes disproportionately impact rural and smaller providers.
- Region 1 submitted formal written comments.
- Providers, NABHO representatives have also submitted feedback.
- A draft letter for Governing Board members to sign was distributed for submission to DBH and Medicaid.

#### **Budget & Staffing Updates**

- Budget planning is underway; some allocations may require revision.
- Lisa's departure was noted; Kim Burry has been hired and will begin February 2, 2026.

#### **9. Financials**

- A. Request to move money from PPP Restricted Account to Open a NPAIT Account  
Jeanne McKerrigan, Fiscal Director; identified excess PPP profits in the general operating account.

- Total to be transferred: \$299,004.09
- Funds will be moved to a PPP Restricted Account and invested in NPAIT to earn interest.
- Interest earnings will remain unrestricted.

Motion to approve transfer of PPP funds and establishment of a NPAIT account made by Steve Burke and seconded by Bill Klingman. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

- B. November / December 2025 Shift Motion (Roll Call)

- Jeanne McKerrigan requested board approval for the November 2025 & December 2025 shift. A motion to approve November and December 2025 made by Bill Klingman and seconded by Steve Burke. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

- C. Quarterly Utilization 2025 Review (Informational)

- Jeanne reviewed the State and Region utilization
- Providers through December 2025 is 50.00% through the year.
- Region 1 at 36.62%

\*\*\* The Regional Governing board approves financials in one motion (items 9D – 19F) \*\*\*

D.E.F (One Motion) Region 1 Income Statements; Accts Payable & Open Invoices; and Check Registers





December 2025 financials were reviewed and presented to the board. A motion to approve was made by Ken Meyer with a second by Bill Klingman. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

E. Region 1 Bank Balances/Balance Sheet (Informational)

Jeanne McKerrigan reviewed the December 2025 bank balances and balance sheet.

Questions, Members Comments and Non-Members

N/A

10. Adjourn – All agenda items were addressed; Chair Susanna Batterman adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

11. Next Regional Governing Board is scheduled for February 12, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

Irene Guerrero — Date: 2-18-2026  
Irene Guerrero, Region 1 Administrative Assistant

Bruce D Messersmith Date: 2-13-26  
Bruce Messersmith, Sheridan County Commissioner

