

01/07/2026 | Meeting Called to Order at 1:07 p.m. by Amanda Booth

In Attendance

RIBHAC Members: Amanda Booth, Bob Davis, Pam Goding, Don Lease and Carrie Howton

Via Zoom: Susanna Batterman

A quorum was established at the January meeting.

Region 1 Staff: Lisa Simmons, Holly Brandt, Jeanne McKerrigan, Michelle Fries and Irene Guerrero

Introduction

N/A

Approval of January Agenda (motion) Voice Vote

A motion to approve January Agenda made by Carrie Howton with a second motion by Don Lease. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Approval of November Minutes (motion) Voice Vote

A motion to approve November minutes made by Carrie Howton with a second motion by Don Lease. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

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.

FY27 Budget Planning (Informational)

Lisa Simmons presented the budget update, and allocation was shared with the providers. Since then, several changes have been made, and the necessary internal meetings have been completed.

Crisis Stabilization Update (Informational)

Holly Brandt presented the update on the Crisis Stabilization Center. Following media coverage and complaints from unsuccessful applicants.

Additional and changing requirements imposed by the State, including:

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

Previously approved funding match sources were later questioned by the State.

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)

Utilization (Informational)

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

Questions from members and non-members

N/A

*A motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. was made by Carrie Howton and seconded by Don Lease. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting 02/05/2026 at 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Region 1 South Conference Room