

03/05/2026 | Meeting Called to Order at 1:00 p.m. by Don Lease

In Attendance

R1BHAC Members: Susanna Batterman, Don Lease, Pam Goding, Valerie Coop, Amanda Booth
via zoom: Carrie Howton

A quorum was established at the March meeting.

Region 1 Staff: Holly Brandt, Jeanne McKerrigan, Kim Burry and Irene Guerrero

Introduction

Introductions: Jim Cowser and Kendall Hickmsn with Nebraska Panhandle Counseling Center

Approval of March Agenda (motion) Voice Vote

A request was made by Holly Brandt, Regional Administrator, to move item #7 (Crisis Stabilization Update) immediately after the approval of February meeting minutes. Motion made by Susanna Batterman with a second by Carrie Howton. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Approval of February Minutes (motion) Voice Vote

A motion to approve February minutes made by Susanna Batterman with a second motion by Pam Goding. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Crisis Stabilization Update (Informational)

Presented by: Jim Cowser and Kendall Hickman – Nebraska Panhandle Counseling Center
Construction and Facility Update

- Construction is currently **one month underway** at the former Kimball Hospital site.
- The building has been **fully gutted**, and final fire marshal approvals are underway.
- The facility will include:
 - **12 Adult Crisis Stabilization Beds**
 - **5 Adolescent Crisis Stabilization Beds**
 - **14 Residential Treatment Beds**
- Residential treatment will support **co-occurring disorders**, allowing individuals with psychiatric conditions to receive substance use treatment.

Services to be Offered

- **Subacute crisis care (voluntary)**
- **Medical withdrawal management** for substances including:
 - Alcohol
 - Opiates

- Amphetamines
- Kratom-related withdrawal

Outpatient linkage and stabilization services

- Focus on **diverting individuals from emergency departments, detention, and law enforcement involvement** when possible.
 - **Timeline**
 - Expected operational opening: **November** (timeline may fluctuate by approximately five weeks).
 - The **adult crisis unit may open earlier** if construction phases allow.

Law Enforcement Partnership

- A **law enforcement outpost** will be located at the facility.
- Deputies will not be present 24/7 but will be available **on-call** to assist with detainment or transport if necessary.

Emergency Department Diversion

- Collaboration with **Regional West Medical Center** is underway.
- Approximately **30 individuals per month** present to the emergency department needing detox services with limited placement options.

Mobile Treatment Unit

- Nebraska Panhandle Counseling Center is developing a **Mobile Treatment in Place Unit**, expected to launch within weeks.
- Services will include:
 - Psychiatric home health-style support
 - Medication management assistance
 - Case management
 - Crisis response
 - Telehealth appointments with providers
 - Mobile Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Initial service areas:
 - Garden County
 - Cheyenne County
 - Kimball County
 - Morrill County
- The mobile unit will also respond to crises and conduct assessments to potentially prevent hospitalization.

Review Reading of By-Laws (Motion)

Proposed changes to By Laws were reviewed with a change from and virtual to or virtual. Motion made to accept by-laws with change by Don Lease with a second by Valeric Coop. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion to waive the second reading of the by-laws made by Susanna Batterman with a second by Don Lease. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Extension Letter From CARF (Informational)

Holly reported that Region 1 received notice that CARF accreditation has been extended again.
The survey is now expected between April 30, 2026 – June 30, 2026
The delay is reportedly due to a shortage of surveyors

Questions from members and non-members

N/A

*A motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:54 p.m. was made by Don Lease and seconded by Valerie Coop. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting 04/02/2026 at 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Region 1 South Conference Room