

REGION 1 GOVERNING BOARD

March 12, 2026

Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority, Scottsbluff, Nebraska MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Chair Susanna Batterman called the meeting to order at 11:32 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. Introduction: Kim Burry

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
Steve Burke	(Box Butte County)	Present
Rich Flores	(Kimball County)	Present
Vic Rivera	(Dawes County)	Present
Laif Anderson	(Banner County)	Present
Ken Meyer	(Scotts Bluff County)	Absent
Darrell Johnson	(Cheyenne County)	Absent
Hal Downer	(Sioux County)	Absent
Terry Krauter	(Garden County)	Absent

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

*Quorum was established at the start of the meeting.

5. Approve March 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 Laif Anderson and seconded by Bill Klingman. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

6. Approve February 2026 Meeting Minutes (Voice Vote)

February 2026 meeting minutes were emailed to commissioners and included in their meeting packets. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Steve Burke and seconded by Laif Anderson. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

7. R1BHAC Membership Application (Motion) Voice Vote

An application from Lisa Simmons to serve on the Region 1 Advisory Committee was presented.

- Lisa is currently working with Region 1 on a contractual basis for training.
- She cannot officially serve on the board until her contract work is complete.
- The application was presented for approval with the understanding that her membership will begin once her employment ends.

Motion to accept the R1BHAC membership application made by Steve Burke with a second by Bruce Messersmith. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

8. Extension Letter From CARF (Informational)

An extension has been received regarding the required survey:

- Original timeframe: April–May
- Updated extension: May–June
- The administrator has been summoned for **jury duty**, which may overlap with the survey timeframe.
- A request was sent asking for the survey not to be scheduled in May.
- The agency responded that May will be avoided and 30 days' notice will be provided, likely scheduling in June.

The board was informed that all documentation for the survey is prepared and ready when requested.

9. 2025 Region 1 – Panhandle Worksite Wellness Survey (Informational)

The annual Panhandle Worksite Wellness Survey results were shared with the board.

Highlights:

- Survey compares Region 1 to other organizations in the Panhandle.
- A staff member (randomly selected) completed this year's survey.
- Strong areas:
 - Emergency response planning
 - Health insurance availability
 - Mental health and substance use policies
 - Tobacco cessation policies
 - Stress management resources
 - Culture of appreciation

- Areas for improvement:
 - Wellness activities
 - Physical activity awareness (staff unaware of existing walking path)

The survey was provided for informational purposes.

10. 2nd Reading Of By-Laws (Motion) Roll Call

Proposed bylaw updates included:

- Majority defined as five governing board members
- Removal of the section allowing the board to appoint the fiscal director
- Minor formatting corrections identified during discussion

The board agreed to waive the second reading.

Motion to waive the second reading was made by Bruce Messersmith and seconded by Rich Flores. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion to approve By-Laws with the proposed updates made by Bill Klingman and seconded by Steve Burke. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

11. Regional Administrator Job Description (Motion) Roll Call

One change was proposed:

- Add “or relevant experience” under the education qualifications.

Motion to approve Regional Administrator Job Description as presented was made by Steve Burke seconded by Rich Flores. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

12. Regional Administrators Report (Informational)

Holly Brandt presented her report to the board which was provided in each Governing Board member’s packet and is available for review if requested.

Final review of the budget was completed and will be submitted to DBH.

Key points:

- Extension granted for submission deadline until March 27.
- State initially reduced the allocation by \$94,000 without notification.
- After discussions with the state, the funding was restored but restricted to federal substance use services.
- Total budget: \$4,591,053 (only \$1 difference from last year).

Crisis Stabilization Project Update

- Updates on the facility project:
- Demolition phase is nearly complete.
- Asbestos remediation is currently underway.

- Naming of the facility is still pending due to conflicts with existing organization names.

Grants

- A grant was requested for \$100,000 for a mobile unit.
- \$30,000 was awarded.
- Approximately \$30,000 still needed to fully purchase the mobile unit.
- Additional \$380,000 needed for equipment and furnishings.
- Possible funding sources include:
 - Rural Health Transformation Funds
 - County opioid settlement funds
- Presentations about the project will be given at:
 - NACO meeting in Bridgeport (March 25)
 - County Commissioners' Monthly meeting to ask for any Opioid settlement funds they are not using.

13. Financials

A. January - February 2026 Shift (Motion) Roll Call

- Jeanne McKerrigan requested board approval for the January – February 2026 shift. A motion to approve the January – February 2026 shift was made by Bill Klingman and seconded by Laif Anderson. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

*** The Regional Governing board approves financials in one motion (items 13B – 13D) ***

B.C.D. (One Motion) Region 1 Income Statements; Accts Payable & Open Invoices; and Check Registers
February 2026 financials were reviewed and presented to the board. A motion to approve was made by Bill Klingman with a second by Laif Anderson. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Jeanne McKerrigan presented the February 2026 bank balances and balance sheet.

Questions, Members' Comments and Non-Members

N/A

14. Adjourn – All agenda items were addressed; Chair Susanna Batterman adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

15. Next Regional Governing Board is scheduled for April 9, 2026.





Respectfully submitted by:

_____ Date: _____

Irene Guerrero, Region 1 Administrative Assistant

_____ Date: _____

Bruce Messersmith, Sheridan County Commissioner

