

NEBRASKA HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

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Serving Those Who Serve

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 8, 2008

TO: Nebraska Health Care Association and Nebraska Assisted Living Association
Members

FROM: NHCA/NALA

SUBJECT: Available funding for Behavioral Health Services

NHCA/NALA has been working collaboratively with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the “Nebraska Behavioral Health Regions” to address existing shortcomings in the system of behavioral/mental health services.

The DHHS Division of Behavioral Health provides funding, oversight, and technical assistance to six Behavioral Health Regions (map attached). The regions contract with local programs to provide public inpatient, outpatient, and emergency services and community mental health, substance abuse, and gambling services. A larger percentage of funding comes from non-Medicaid state General funds although there are some Medicaid-approved services for Medicaid-eligible individuals.

The six behavioral health regions are in the process of developing plans to identify service delivery gaps and allocate funding to develop community-based services to fill these gaps. NHCA/NALA has been asked to make you aware of the planning and funding cycle for the behavioral health regions and to request your participation in this process.

One-Time-Only Funding

During the 2008 legislative session, the Legislature provided \$11.6 million to be distributed as grants for “one-time” projects aimed at developing new or expanded community-based behavioral health services. The “one-time” grants are being distinguished by the Legislature from “ongoing” funding. Ongoing funding is for existing operational costs of services and will finance ongoing costs of any new or expanded services. The governing bodies of each of the six Nebraska behavioral health regions have been given wide latitude in determining how the funds will be distributed.



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Examples of “one-time” projects include training for existing nursing facility or assisted living facility staff to serve residents with significant behavioral issues or capital costs to create a secure wing of a facility enabling expanded services to higher risk residents being discharged from a regional center.

Proposals that will be given priority by the behavioral health regions will likely include those that meet the following unmet needs in Nebraska:

- 1) service providers able to serve persons currently residing in a regional center but whose nursing needs are primary to their behavioral needs
- 2) additional placement options for persons who need emergency protective custody (EPC) placement for a temporary period
- 3) availability of culturally and linguistically competent services to address difficult-to-place immigrant populations unable to speak English
- 4) crisis respite services

These one-time funds are available now only to those who ask. Below are a number of suggested items to include in a proposal if you are interested in seeking a one-time grant of these funds. A map of the regions and each region’s contact information is shown below.

Drafting Your Facility's Proposal

Based upon conversations with state and regional behavioral health officials, we recommend including the following information in a proposal seeking funding. These are only suggestions; at this time there are no formally required proposal contents or format. We suggest that you organize your proposal in an outline format and submit with a brief cover letter on your organization's letterhead. Shortly after mailing your proposal to the appropriate regional director, contact the director by phone to discuss your proposal and offer to meet with the person if possible.

1. Facility name, address, administrator, contact information.
2. Description of your existing operations, number of beds, general description of residents, any specialized services or unique characteristics.
3. Provide a description of the proposed use of requested behavioral health "one-time" funding. For example, are you requesting funds to offset capital renovations or funding to enroll staff in training programs?
4. Describe the population you would be able to serve if you were selected to receive a grant. Remember, it is development of services for the difficult-to-place regional center residents or those needing EPC that will likely receive a preference.
5. Describe why this is important for your community or region including the need for the service and the problems that have resulted or could result if you do not implement your proposal.
6. Discuss what partnerships or support systems within the community your facility would utilize. For example, will you contract with existing behavioral health professionals to provide your services? The following link is to the state's "Purple Book," a directory of service providers of treatment for substance abuse, mental health disorders, and gambling addiction:
<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/beh/BHDirectory08.pdf>.
7. Provide a general budget for the proposal including on-time start-up costs, which will include the funds requested from the region. Also show ongoing costs, broken down by major cost centers (such as salaries, transportation, equipment, etc.). This should include any potential increase in FTE.
8. Explain how you intend to continue the service on a permanent basis and what ongoing services will be required by the behavioral health region to sustain your efforts. For example, development of additional team approaches to providing behavioral health services would enable more long term care facilities to provide services. An example of a team approach is the Behavioral Health Program at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings. That program brings together licensed mental health professionals including psychiatrists, psychologists, nurse practitioners, social workers, and counselors trained in providing services to individuals of all ages and offers outpatient clinics, day treatment, geriatric outreach, and psychiatric home health.

Questions regarding this memorandum may be addressed to Brendon Polt at brendonp@nehca.org or (402)435-3551.

Regional Contact Information

Region	Administrator	Address	Contact Information
Region 1	Sharyn Wohlers	4110 Avenue "D" Scottsbluff, NE 69361	Phone: (308) 635-3171 FAX: (308) 635-7026 Website: www.pmhc.net/reg1.html Email: swohlers@pmhc.net
Region 2	Kathy Seacrest	110 North Bailey Street P.O. Box 1208 North Platte, NE 69103	Phone: (308) 534-0440 FAX: (308) 534-6961 Email: kathy@r2hs.com
Region 3	Beth Baxter, M.S	4009 6th Avenue, Suite 65 P.O. Box 2555 Kearney, NE 68848	Phone: (308) 237-5113 FAX: (308) 236-7669 Website: www.Region3.net Email: bbaxter@region3.net
Region 4	Ingrid Gansebom	206 Monroe Avenue Norfolk, NE 68701	Phone: (402) 370-3100 x 120 FAX: (402) 370-3125 Website: www.region4bhs.org Email: igansebom@region4bhs.org
Region 5	C.J. Johnson	1645 "N" Street Suite A Lincoln, NE 68508	Phone: (402) 441-4343 FAX: (402) 441-4335 Web: www.region5systems.net Email: cjj@region5systems.net
Region 6	Patty Jurjevich	3801 Harney Street Omaha, NE 68131- 3811	Phone: (402) 444-6573 FAX: (402) 444-7722 WEB: www.Regionsix.com Email: pjurjevich@regionsix.com

Behavioral Health Regions

