





NABHO

Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

www.nabho.org

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NABHO MEMBERS

ARCH, Inc.
Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska
Behavioral Health Specialists, Inc.
Blue Valley Behavioral Health
Boys Town
The Bridge Behavioral Health
The Bridge, Inc.
Bryan Health
Catholic Charities
CenterPointe
CHI Health
Child Saving Institute
Children's Hospital
Community Alliance
Completely KIDS
Counseling and Enrichment
Douglas County Community Mental Health Center
Faith Regional Health Services
Fillmore County Hospital
The Friendship House
Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska
Heartland Family Service
HopeSpoke
Houses of Hope
The Kim Foundation
Liberty Centre Services
The Link
Live Well Counseling
Lutheran Family Services
Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital
Mental Health Association of Nebraska
Methodist
Mid-Plains Center for Behavioral Healthcare Services
NAMI Nebraska
Nebraska Counseling Association
Nebraska Psychiatric Society
Nebraska State Suicide Coalition
Northpoint Recovery
NOVA Treatment Community
Omaha Home for Boys
Project Harmony
Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority
Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
Region 4 Behavioral Health System
Region V Systems
Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare
The Salvation Army
Santa Monica House
Siena Francis House
South Central Behavioral Health Services
St. Monica's
The Wellbeing Initiative
Wholeness Healing Center
Women's Empowering Life Line

Incoming Members:
Heartland Counseling
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
Integrated Behavioral Health Services

COMMITTEES & STAFF

Executive Committee



Katie McLeese
Stephenson
HopeSpoke
President



Brenda Mueller
Houses of Hope
Past - President



Heather Kirk
Santa Monica House
President - Elect



Danielle Smith
Wellbeing Initiative
VP of Consumer
Affairs



Pegg Siemek Asche
NOVA Therapeutic
Community
VP of Children's
Services



Heather Bird
Heartland Family
Service
VP of Adult
Services



Dave Miers
Bryan Health
VP of Acute Care



Topher Hansen
CenterPointe
Treasurer



Bob Shueey
South Central
Behavioral Health
Secretary



Shirley Terry
Lutheran Family
Services
Mentee



Stephanie McLeese
Griffin
Bryan Health
Mentee

Planning Committee

Beth Baxter, Region 3
Brenda Mueller, Houses of Hope
Danielle Smith, Wellbeing Initiative
Julia Hebenstreit, The Kim Foundation
Sadie Thompson, Wellbeing Initiative
Pegg Siemek-Asche, NOVA Therapeutic Community
Jessie McDevitt, Houses of Hope
Kasey Parker, Mental Health Association of NE

Finance Committee

Topher Hansen (Treasurer), CenterPointe
Donny Larson, Women's Empowering Life Line
Bob Shueey, South Central Behavioral Services
Mike Vance, Children's Hospital
Natalya Young, St. Monica's

Membership Committee

Heather Kirk (Chair), Santa Monica, Inc.
Brenda Mueller, Houses of Hope
Topher Hansen, CenterPointe
Jessie McDevitt, Houses of Hope
Jesica Vickers, Live Well Counseling Center
Holly Brandt, Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority

Nominating Committee

Dennis Vollmer (Chair), Boys Town
Stephanie Knight, Fillmore County Hospital
Tara Lesiak, Friendship House
Pegg Siemek-Asche, NOVA
Natalya Young, St. Monica's
Julie Fisher-Erickson, Lutheran Family Services

Legislative & Regulatory Review Committee

Pat Connell (Chair), Boys Town
Dave Miers, Bryan Medical Center
Stephanie Knight, Fillmore County Hospital
Dennis Vollmer, Boys Town
Katie McLeese Stephenson, HopeSpoke
Robin Conyers, CHI Health
Kristen Rose, Nebraska Counseling Association
Jessie McDevitt, Houses of Hope
Julia Hebenstreit, The Kim Foundation
Lori Scharff, Boys Town
Patrick Kreifels, Region V Systems
Tami Lewis-Ahrendt, CenterPointe
Lisa Blunt, Child Saving Institute
Kim Kern, Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital

Managed Care Committee

Topher Hansen (Chair), CenterPointe
Brenda Mueller, Houses of Hope
Heather Bird, Heartland Family Service
Jackie Meyer, Counseling & Enrichment Center
Tami Lewis-Ahrendt, CenterPointe
Bob Shueey, South Central Behavioral Services
Kenneth McCartney, CHI Health

NABHO Staff

Annette Dubas, Executive Director
Anne Hajek, Administrative Assistant
Halley Horne, Communications Coordinator
Julie Erickson, American Communications Group, Lobbyist

LETTER FROM NABHO LEADERS

Dear Friends,

This past year NABHO celebrated a major milestone: a silver anniversary of sorts. Twenty-five years ago on July 11, 1997, the Community Mental Health Providers and the Substance Use Disorder Providers began to talk about bringing their two groups together. They both believed in the power of advocacy and felt that joining forces would mean more voices and stronger messaging, leading to the adoption of more policies to better support services for those with mental illness and addictions. At the time, Nebraska was a leader in uniting the separate advocacy organizations into one Association. Twenty-five years later, the wisdom of that foresight is clear. NABHO is recognized as the voice in our state for both behavioral health providers and consumers.

A lot has changed over the years in the way mental illness and addictions are viewed and treated. Yes, stigma still exists, but more and more people are understanding that mental illness is nothing to hide or be ashamed of. Seeking treatment and care for a mental illness or addiction is no different than going to the doctor for help with high blood pressure or diabetes. Yet there are many things that remain a challenge. As I did research into NABHO's history, I found a 1999 guest editorial in the Omaha World Herald by Terry Davis, a psychiatrist and then president of the Nebraska Psychiatric Society, regarding care for the mentally ill. He speaks to the shortage of beds for those "seeking emergency psychiatric services" with a "42% reduction in the number of adult psychiatric beds in the Omaha area." He stated that there is no single reason that has caused the situation, rather he mentions myriad factors including reduced rates from managed care and insurance companies, the closing of beds at regional mental health centers, and rising numbers of individuals in need of services but unable to pay for them.

He concludes with a message similar to what we continue to emphasize today: "Continuing to provide treatment services or, in some cases, to create them requires money as well as trained professionals to deliver them. This is money we cannot afford not to spend. We are at a critical moment, a turning point, a crisis in the provision of medical health care in our community. It is unacceptable for us to have to tell a depressed and suicidal woman or a disturbed and psychotic man or a drug addict desperate to get off cocaine or methamphetamines that we know he or she needs treatment, but we are sorry, there is no hospital bed, no room at the inn."

Despite challenges, NABHO has persevered and made a difference. In the report that follows, you will read about our most recent successes and the ways in which we continue to work toward fulfilling our mission to "build strong alliances which ensure quality behavioral health services, including substance use and mental health services, are available to everyone in our state." We are particularly thrilled with the passage of legislation to support Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, treatment will be more readily available, especially for those in crisis. We are investing in the mental wellbeing of Nebraskans.

NABHO can be proud of a commendable twenty-five-year history. We are recognized as an Association that embodies professionalism and integrity while being committed to advocating for a system of care that believes, "there is no health without mental health."

Sincerely,



Annette Dubas
NABHO Executive Director



Katie McLeese Stephenson
NABHO President

About Us



Since its establishment in 1983, The Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations (NABHO) has grown into an organization that responds to the ever-changing needs of the behavioral health community and its consumers. We strive to educate the public and policy makers to remove the stigma associated with mental illness and substance use disorders. NABHO works hard to be a trusted voice, relentlessly advocating on behalf of both providers and consumers.

CORE VALUES

Expertise

Advocacy

Alliances

Integrity

Quality



Mission

NABHO exists to build strong alliances which ensure quality behavioral health services, including substance use and mental health services, are available to everyone in our state.



Vision

Our vision is for quality substance use and mental health services to become a central part of accessible healthcare in our state.

NABHO Members Represent...

54 Member Organizations that serve consumers state-wide

2,500+ Employees, including more than **1,200 providers**



25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

To celebrate our 25th anniversary, we hosted a luncheon at the Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln, Nebraska on September 16, 2022. Dave Griek guided us through the day as our Master of Ceremonies. Dave is a NTV anchor who helped create a non-profit organization known as the Central Nebraska LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors) team in the Kearney area. Following lunch, some of the earliest members of NABHO joined



us for a fireside chat. They discussed the organizations past and future opportunities for advocacy. The panelists (pictured to the left) included Pat Connell, Boys Town; Topher Hansen, CenterPointe; Jay Conrad, Houses of Hope; Dave Griek, MC; Beth Baxter, Region 3; and Susan Henrie, South Central Behavioral Health Services.



LOBBY DAY

MARCH 29, 2023

We hosted this year's lobby day with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention on March 29, 2023. The day started off with networking over breakfast at Billy's. Following breakfast, attendees visited the Nebraska State Capitol and were introduced to all the senators. All members also had the chance to meet with a senator one-on-one and discuss behavioral health needs.





ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS CEREMONY

JUNE 16, 2023

Our first-annual in-person meeting took place at Project Harmony in Omaha, Nebraska on June 16, 2023. We held our business meeting in the morning where members voted on a bylaws change, approved the budget for the next fiscal year, and elected our officers.



Following the business meeting, Senator John Fredrickson provided a keynote



presentation over lunch. He is a father, husband, mental health professional and represents District 20 in the Nebraska Legislature.

We wrapped up the day with our annual awards ceremony. View all the 2023 award recipients below.

2023 NABHO AWARD RECIPIENTS

President's Award

Mary Barry-Magsamen
St. Monica's

Legislator of the Year

Senator John Fredrickson



Citizen of the Year

Pony Express Ride

Provider of the Year

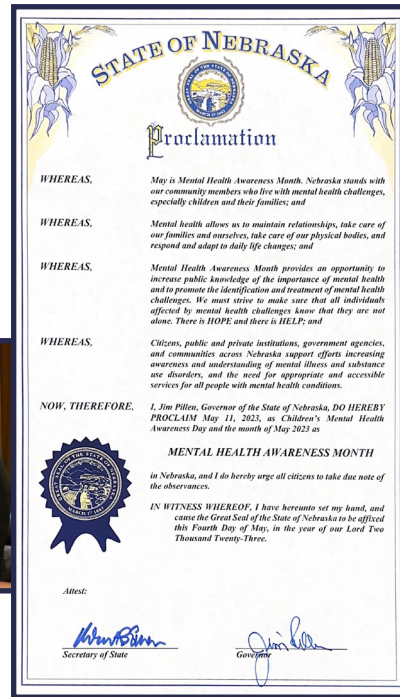
Lulu Rangel - Completely KIDS



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION SIGNING

MAY 4, 2023

NABHO members and Executive Director Annette Dubas met with Governor Pillen for a formal proclamation signing on May 4, 2023. The proclamation declared May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Nebraska to increase awareness and promote treatment for mental health challenges.



LB276 (CCBHC) SIGNING

MAY 25, 2023

Governor Pillen signed LB276 into law on May 25, 2023. The bill supports the adoption of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Act which increases access and expands capacity for behavioral health services. Special thanks to Senator Wishart for introducing the bill and all 46 senators who voted to pass it on final reading.





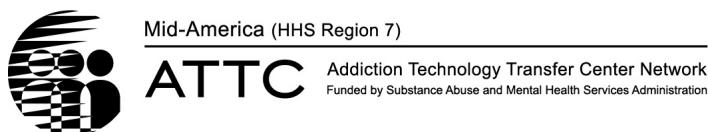
ALLIANCES PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

In 2021, NABHO proudly launched the Alliances Partnership Program, opening avenues for sponsors to actively support our work. This program proved to be a resounding success, as it attracted the participation of several organizations that recognized the significance of our mission. We are delighted to showcase our growing list of dedicated alliances partners.

ALLIANCES PARTNERS:



NEW ALLIANCES PARTNERS:





LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The 2023 Legislative Session ushered in a new Administration, a number of new senators, new Committee leadership, and many new faces in the legislature's overall staff. At the end of 2022, long-time Clerk of the Legislature Patrick O'Donnell retired after over 40 years, and one of the fiscal analysts we worked closely with, Liz Hruska, retired after 39 years. Many legislative committee staff, including legal counsels and clerks, were also new to the world of the Unicameral! The session was one for the books, with an unprecedented number of filibusters, motions and amendments filed; late nights and shortened lunch hours; and amending 291 individual bills into 52 bills passed on final reading. Despite these challenges, NABHO enjoyed a successful session and made great progress getting to know new senators and staff and a new Governor. Here is a summary of our advocacy efforts in 2023.

2023 Priority Successes

LB 276 was our main priority this session. It defined Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) and required a Medicaid State Plan Amendment to implement the program and new PPS payment system. After 2 ½ years of hard work, not only did the legislature unanimously approve the bill, but the Governor stepped up and showed his strong support for the legislation. Many thanks to Senator Wishart for her unwavering commitment to get this bill across the finish line and to Senator Arch for designating it a Speaker Priority.

LB 300 (Linehan), which exempted sales tax for nonprofits contracting with the Division of Behavioral Health or region that provide community behavioral health services, was amended into LB 727 ([AM 1152](#)) and signed by the Governor.

LB 256 (Brewer) which provided parity in the private insurance market for telehealth services was amended into LB 296 ([AM 1179](#)) and was also approved.

LB 552 (J. Cavanaugh) which extended the termination date for the Legislature's Mental Health Care Capacity Strategic Planning Committee by one year to November 1, 2025 with a report due by November 1, 2024 was amended into LB 254 ([AM 1461](#)).

2023 Appropriations Successes

LB 227 was the health committee's priority bill and had several of our key bills contained in the final version. A key issue included in LB 227 was LB 419 ([AM 1989](#)), which extended postpartum coverage in the Medicaid program from 60 days to 6 months.

LB 352 (Dorn) increased behavioral health provider rates in Medicaid for the behavioral health regions and probation by 5% over the biennium budget ([fiscal note](#)). Overall, the bill invested \$10.5M in state general funds, drawing down \$8.5M in federal match dollars for a total of almost \$20M of new money in the system. The Appropriations Committee supported the rate increase, spreading it out over the two years with a 3% increase in FY 23-24 and another 2% increase in FY 24-25.

Additionally, intent language in LB 433 (Jacobson) ([AM 1734](#)) was included in the budget, allowing Behavioral Health Regions the flexibility needed to adjust their budgets during the fiscal year if needed. This language is similar to language added last budget cycle that was not followed.

LB 50 (Wayne) was the Judiciary Committee criminal justice bill that passed at the very end of the legislation session. LB 50 with [AM 1436](#) included a pilot project for residential housing with counseling services for parolees who have committed technical violations and amends language for previously established Problem Solving Courts to at least be established in every Judicial District. Also contained in the bill is LB 314 which required suicide prevention materials be provided to firearm purchasers and was contained in an amendment ([AM 68](#)). Also, LB 337 [AM 1796](#) was included in the final bill to allow mental health providers to share information on an individual for continuity of care when consent cannot be obtained and to align with HIPAA guidelines.

LB 326 provided continuous 12-month eligibility for children and youth in the Medicaid system; it will be implemented next year per recent federal legislation.

Bills Remaining in Committee

[LB 525 \(Fredrickscon\)](#) to increase funding for Med Management services remains in Appropriations Committee. NABHO will work with the senator over the interim to garner a better understanding of what is needed for action next session.

LB 149 (Jacobson) seeks to rebase rates for inpatient and outpatient psychiatric facilities. NABHO will support the Nebraska Hospital Association's work on this bill.

LB433 adds needed budget flexibility for regional behavioral regions to allow local needs to be met. It requires that any appropriation to the behavioral health regions via the division of behavioral health aid be allowed to be used within approved annual budgets or by activities identified through need as demonstrated by the region through out the year.

Bills on General or Select File

LB 307 (Hunt) allows for local jurisdictions to authorize Safe Syringe Programs to reduce the spread of infectious diseases.

Connie Barnes Memorial Mentor Program

Connie Barnes served as the President of NABHO from 2014 through 2016. While in that role, she saw a need to build our leadership team and bring new voices to the table. Under her guidance, NABHO created a mentor program that invited two individuals per year onto the Executive Committee to help people understand its roles and responsibilities. Many of the past program participants have gone on to become full members of the Executive Committee.

In 2020, we re-christened the program the Connie Barnes Memorial Mentor Program to honor the passing of our former President. This program was conceived out of the desire to ensure that NABHO grows in its ability to advocate on behalf of our members. We want to be a trusted voice and resource for policy makers and behavioral health stakeholders. Institutional knowledge and experience are important, and we realized we needed a way to “pass the baton” on to interested members. Establishing a mentor program was a means of encouraging our members to feel involved and take ownership of their organization.

Past mentees include: Natalya Young, St. Monica’s; Heather Bird, Heartland Family Service; Tami Lewis-Ahrendt, CenterPointe; Jessie McDevitt, Houses of Hope; Stephanie Knight, Fillmore County Hospital; Heather Kirk, Santa Monica; Dennis Vollmer, Boys Town; Kristen Neuhalfen, The Link; Bob Shueey, South Central Behavioral Services; Brenda Mueller, Bryan Medical Center; Chase Francl, Friendship House.

2022 - 2023 Participants



Shirley Terry
Lutheran Family Services
July 2022 – June 2023

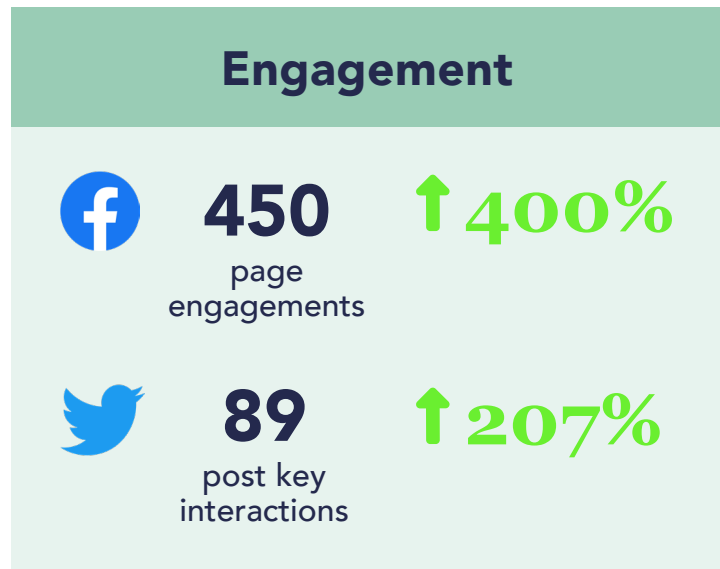
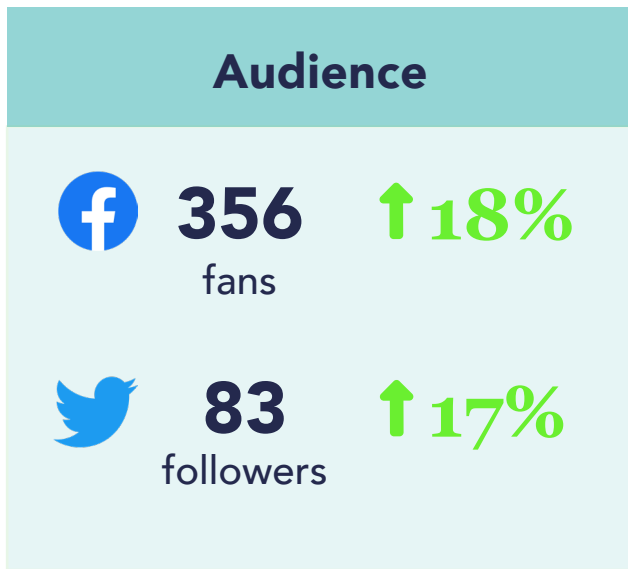


Stephanie McLeese Griffin
Bryan Health
January 2023 – December 2023



Podcast & Social Media Report

Comparison between Jul 01, 2022 - May 30, 2023 and Jul 01, 2021 - Jun 30, 2022



Behavioral Health Matters Podcast Overview

37
episodes

146
plays

22
followers




The first episode of the Behavioral Health Matters podcast was released on September 20, 2022. New episodes are released every Tuesday on a variety of behavioral health topics.



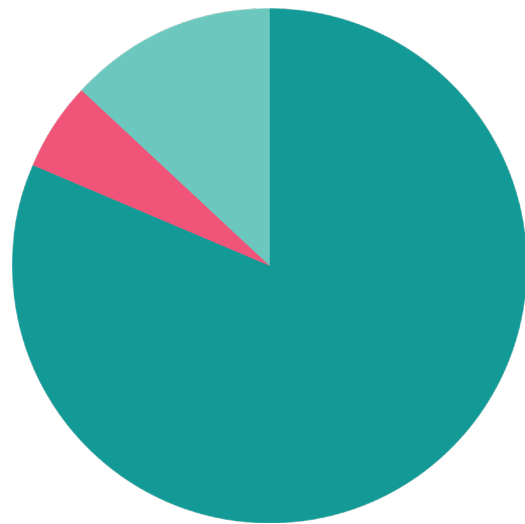


Finance Report






Revenue

Membership Dues	\$224,010.00	
Alliances Partnership	\$15,000.00	
Events & Activities	\$35,825.00	

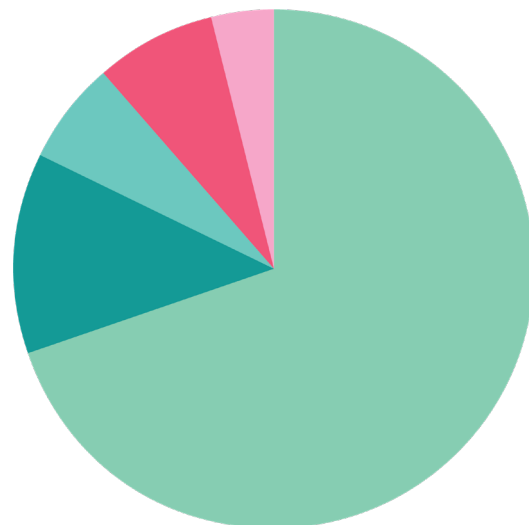
Total Revenue
\$274,835.00



Expenses

Contracts & Payroll	\$182,243.06	
Events, Membership Activities, & Support	\$32,302.32	
Professional Memberships	\$16,418.00	
Office & Technology	\$19,699.96	
Insurance, Banking, & Accounting Fees	\$9,915.41	

Total Expenses
\$260,578.75





WE ARE NABHO



CONNECT WITH US



Annette Dubas, NABHO Executive Director

✉ annette.dubas@nabho.org

☎ 308 - 550 - 0614



@caring.provider



@caring_provider



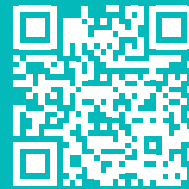
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