

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bob Workman, Chair
Bernie Heier, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Deb Schorr
Ray Stevens

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk
Melissa Koci, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Follow-Up Letter to the Governor Regarding Juvenile Services
- b. Request from 2015 Vision

MOTION: Heier moved and Schorr seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Stevens, Schorr, Heier and Workman voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

**1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FROM THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 29, 2007**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Stevens seconded approval of the staff meeting minutes of November 29, 2007. Schorr, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Heier abstained. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Hudkins entered the room at 8:34 a.m.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Follow-Up Letter to the Governor Regarding Juvenile Services

Eagan indicated he spoke with Todd Landry who spoke with the Governor regarding the County Board's letter. Eagan said if the Board still wants to meet with the Governor it can be arranged for some time next week.

It was agreed that Schorr, Heier and Michelle Schindler, Youth Services Center Director, will attend the meeting.

3 PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINIC STAFFING FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE PATIENTS - Judy Halstead, Resource and Program Development Coordinator; Kris Saunders, Andrea Mason and Bernice Afuh, Public Health Nurses

Judy Halstead, Resource and Program Development Coordinator, distributed documentation regarding *ED (Emergency Department) Bills Approved Over Client's First Year of GA Participation* (Exhibit A).

Kris Saunders, Public Health Nurse, provided a brief overview of the chronic medical needs of the General Assistance population.

Andrea Mason, Public Health Nurse, gave a brief overview of Exhibit A. She said the study tracks two different groups of individuals. After one year, costs were 82% less than when clients entered the GA program. She feels very strongly that this program is saving the County money. Clients are urged to call anytime, 24 hours a day, before using the emergency services.

Halstead indicated staff now tries to match General Assistance patients with the same physician and the same GA Case Management nurse. Doing so has allowed nurses to perform more intensive case management which, in turn, helps decrease costs as more patients are enrolled in the medication assistance program.

Halstead said 519 general assistance patients are currently being handled by 2.25 public health nurses. These are high-need clients and at least 3/4 of them also having a co-existing mental health need. She requested an additional nurse to assist with case management.

Gary Chalupa, County General Assistance, appeared and reported since the program has been in place, the GA budget has already decreased. Additionally patients are encouraged to use urgent care facilities as opposed to emergency room facilities, which also saves money.

Bernice Afuh, Public Health Nurse, agreed that it is difficult for 2.25 nurses to handle that many clients. She added they are doing a good job case managing those individuals, but it will be difficult to maintain this pace without additional help.

Halstead also noted about 80% of the GA clients have Type II Diabetes. She said many of these clients could be impacted through health education and promotion if additional resources were available.

4 (A) INTRODUCTION OF SARA HOYLE, JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATOR; (B) USE OF KENO PREVENTION FUND ENDOWMENT FOR COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES; AND (C) CRIME COMMISSION GRANT APPLICATIONS - Kit Boesch, Human Services Director

Kit Boesch, Human Services Director, introduced Sara Hoyle, the new Juvenile Justice Coordinator. Boesch discussed a proposal for the Keno Endowment Fund with the potential to take some funding from the endowment fund annually and put it together with about \$80,000 of other funds from the community to do some collaborative pass and go. She said the anticipated result of that process is an investment of a collective \$120,000, by only contributing \$10,000, which should bring in over \$8 to \$10 million of discretionary money over the next 2 years.

Boesch noted some of the concerns on the City side were that they wanted to take some of the endowment money and build roads and pay salary increases. What she is proposing keeps the \$1 million in the fund, but it just builds up a little slower. She outlined how the proposal could work.

Stevens said the Mayor has spoken against using this funding at this time. He noted it would take both the City Council and County Board to agree on this expenditure.

Workman suggested using JBC funds instead of the endowment.

Hudkins supported building the endowment and spending the interest once it is accrued.

Heier suggested this item be reviewed at mid-year to see if an extra \$10,000 is available. The City would also need to invest \$10,000 in the program.

Eagan said the Board needs to ask, "What is the purpose of the endowment?". He noted the Board would still have control of the funds. He believed projects like this are why the endowment was created.

Hudkins disagreed and referenced an Endowment Board which failed after promises were made and money was spent ahead of time.

Heier said if this is such an important program, the Board will find a way to do it without using the endowment.

Boesch distributed documentation regarding Juvenile Justice Funding and the Nebraska Crime Commission (Exhibit B) and briefly discussed the funding for 2008-09. She asked for approval of Number 1, the County Aid Funding Plan in the amount of \$190,868.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Schorr seconded approval of request Number 1. Stevens, Workman, Schorr, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Boesch discussed items 2 through 6 and indicated they also need approval.

Heier asked about the City only contributing \$35,000 to pre-trial diversion services.

Boesch said the City was probably at their budget, however if they needed more money from the pre-trial diversion services they probably would have asked for it.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded approval of items 2 through 6 regarding the Crime Commission grants. Hudkins, Heier, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

11 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- b. Handicap Door Opener Estimate (Community Mental Health Center East Entrance)

Don Killeen, Public Building Commission, appeared and indicated the Board approved the handicap door to come out of the Public Building Commission budget, however, it should come out of the Public Building Fund.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded approval of the \$1,820 coming out of the Public Building Fund. Schorr, Stevens, Heier, Hudkins and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

5 JUVENILE COURT ATTORNEY - Gary Lacey, Lancaster County Attorney

Gary Lacey, Lancaster County Attorney, appeared and distributed documentation regarding the salaries for the Deputy County Attorney's in his office and outlined which ones are not paid by Lancaster County (Exhibit C). He also distributed a list of attorneys in his office and discussed what types of cases they handle (Exhibit D). Lacey said because of a new Juvenile Court Judge, he is short an attorney and feels his office is running in chaos. He said Douglas County has 5 Juvenile Court Judges and 10 attorney's along with a Supervisor whereas Lancaster County has 4 Judges and 4 Deputy County Attorneys.

Alicia Henderson, Deputy County Attorney, appeared and discussed the step-by-step process for each Juvenile Attorney. She said they have a system where once an Attorney has started working with a child, they will continue to work with that child and not push them onto another Attorney. Attorneys typically stay with a child while they go through the system.

Henderson distributed a *Summary of New Initial Assessments from Health and Human Services Protection and Safety* (Exhibit E). She receives this type of printout from HHS on a weekly basis and does extensive background checks on these children as time permits.

Judge Linda Porter appeared on behalf of all Juvenile Court Judges and indicated the need for another Deputy County Attorney in the Juvenile Division. Porter said the cases need to be heard in a timely manner and Attorneys are finding it difficult to keep up. This causes hearings to be delayed, thus, taking up more time. She also noted Juvenile Judges decide whether a child should become a ward of the state, and, if so, then the Judges and Attorneys sit down and make a "plan" for that child.

Carol Stitt, State Foster Care Review Board Director, appeared and distributed documentation regarding Nebraska's Foster Care System (Exhibit G). She reported her office tracks and reviews all children without home care. Stitt said what Alicia Henderson does with regard to intakes is so important because children get stuck in care if an appropriate petition is not given in the beginning. She said in Lancaster County 545 children have 4 or more HHS caseworkers and 342 of the same children have had 6 or more workers. She believes if children's needs and problems aren't handled in the beginning, they will probably end up in jail. She wholeheartedly supported the request.

Dennis Keefe, Public Defender, appeared and indicated he does not need another attorney at this time.

Boesch also urged the County to hire another Deputy County Attorney.

Lacey reported they have a S.M.A.R.T. (School Multiple Agency Resource Teams) Program in place which establishes a contact between the County Attorney's office, the child welfare system and the schools. He said they used to have Attorneys that would meet with schools on a regular basis to tell them who is in court and gather information about who might be getting ready to go to court. Lacey said Attorneys are now so busy that they cannot get to these meetings.

Bess Scott, McPhee Elementary School Principal, appeared and gave a brief overview of some general juvenile cases. She said she could not believe how many unattached and unbonded children there are in the school system today. She strongly recommended revitalizing the S.M.A.R.T. Program as the S.M.A.R.T. Team gives schools an avenue to have better and stronger collaboration, to have consistent messages to parents and/or guardians and to get the kids much better outcomes.

Workman asked how much an extra attorney would cost.

Lacey estimated \$120,000, which includes all benefits. He added he is in a crisis situation and cannot wait until mid-year for another attorney.

With regard to the budget, Dennis Meyer, Budget & Fiscal Director, appeared and told the Board they need to set priorities as it is likely many departments will be asking for increased personnel or increased funding. When it comes time to plan for next year's budget the Board might need to ask departments for 5% cuts to help balance the budget.

Heier indicated the Board should take a long, hard look at non-mandated services. He added he is not a huge advocate for continuing these services when there are kids that need help.

Stevens asked Meyer to provide a list within the next week of all the budget increases the Board has approved since the beginning of the fiscal year.

Stevens asked Lacey if he could move another Attorney to the Juvenile Division.

Lacey said he was headed in that direction until he decided to ask the Board one more time for another attorney. He said he could move an attorney from Federal Court, but the County would lose \$80,000 in funding. His office could also quit processing bad checks, get rid of the Diversion Program or change the amount in theft cases from \$1,000 to \$1,500, however none of these are good options.

Henderson distributed documentation regarding *Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative* (Exhibit H) and indicated there is a statewide mandate on improving outcomes for children in juvenile court. The State Court does realize kids have become lost in the system.

Hudkins commended Henderson for doing a wonderful job and asked her if the State could help with these functions.

Henderson said the County Attorney is the only agent that can bring these cases to court.

- 6 LONGTERM CARE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** - Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager; Sue Eckley, County Risk Manager; Don Taute, Personnel Director; Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer; Vince Mejer, Purchasing Agent; Bill Thoreson, Benefits Specialist; Paula Stutheit, Personnel Department

Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager, appeared and stated there were three firms that submitted proposals on the RFP for longterm care insurance. The committee recommended Prudential Insurance. Kostner said there would be no cost to Lancaster County, however, there would be a cost to the employee. He said they would initiate the paperwork with the County Board's approval.

The Board agreed the item would go on Tuesday's agenda.

- 8 (A) MID-YEAR BUDGET LETTER; (B) DESIGNATION OF PROJECTS UNDER SECTION 23-120(3)(b); (C) MID-YEAR BUDGET RETREAT DATE; AND (D) BOND CONSULTANT CONTRACT** - Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

The Board agreed the Mid-Year Budget meeting would be held on Thursday, January 31, 2008 at a time and location to be announced.

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, reiterated the Board really needs to prioritize funding.

Hudkins asked to see what the budget has been doing the last three years including what the money has been spent on along with the contingency.

Meyer said Section 23-120(3)(b) addresses the 5.2 cents that is able to be levied for buildings and bonds. He said on Tuesday there will be a resolution setting how much of the 5.2 cents the Board will be using.

Meyer also noted the financial consultant agreement with Ameritas is coming up for renewal in January. He recommended renewing the contract for another four years.

Heier indicated he had a few people contact him who were interested in submitting an RFP or having the opportunity to bid on the agreement. He noted he doesn't have a problem with Ameritas' performance, but would like to see others have the opportunity to submit RFP's.

Eagan noted there is a lot of work that is done by the existing contractor for bonds that are going to be issued in the near future.

Heier indicated he would like a public hearing.

Hudkins agreed.

Schorr suggested the renewal be placed on next Tuesday's agenda, whereby, people would have the opportunity to address the issue.

The Board agreed the contract renewal for financial consulting with Ameritas will go on Tuesday's agenda.

Heier also noted he is not dissatisfied with the service Ameritas has provided, he is just getting phone calls regarding the contract that he needed to address.

7 PENDING AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION - Sue Eckley, Risk Manager; Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to enter into Executive Session at 10:56 a.m. for the purpose of discussing pending and potential litigation. Heier, Schorr, Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded to exit Executive Session at 11:08 a.m. Heier, Schorr, Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

10 ACTION ITEMS

- a. Notice of Termination to Omnicare of Nebraska

Eagan noted the request was from Tom Fox and there has been an RFP that has gone out for the services which will be on Tuesday's agenda.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize the County Board Chair to sign the letter. Heier, Stevens, Workman, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

11 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- a. Proposal from Segal Advisors for Negotiation Services

Eagan reported \$6,000 is what Segal Advisors wants to perform negotiations with Nationwide to renew the 401A Pension and 457 Deferred Compensation which was originally agreed to be done by February 1, 2008. Eagan asked the Board if they wanted to do an addendum to the existing services contract with Segal because this will be an additional fee that was not quoted in the original contract.

- c. Request from Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission to Post Survey on County Website

Thorpe reported the survey is on the I-80 Corridor and she asked the Board if they wanted the link on the Commissioners home page.

The Board agreed not to put it on the web page.

- d. District Energy Corporation Ex Officio Representative on Jail Design RFP Committee

Eagan said at the District Energy Corporation meeting it was discussed that maybe a technical person regarding geothermal should be evaluating the design proposals, however not have the power to vote.

Vince Mejer, Purchasing Agent, appeared and said the only thing left on the architectural engineering side is the interview and to make the final selection. He suggested District Energy be part of selecting the Construction Manager at Risk.

MOTION: Hudkins moved to allow the District Energy Corporation to review the finalists and sit in on the committee decisions, however not vote.

Motion failed from a lack of a second.

e. Review Team for Construction Manager at Risk RFP

Mejer said the Board created a committee to review the architectural engineers and the construction manager at risk. He wanted to know if a committee should be set up to review the construction manager, and if so, who should be on it. He believed that himself, Mike Thurber and Dennis Meyer for sure should be on the committee.

Hudkins suggested Don Killeen.

Mejer noted Thurber has a transition team, as well as Bob Jarrett, a construction manager, who he is planning on being the main liaison.

Schorr suggested Hudkins.

Hudkins agreed to be on the committee.

Stevens said he isn't sure if they need a construction manager at risk or maybe they need a project manager.

Hudkins said he likes the construction manager at risk because there needs to be someone knowledgeable enough to know how low is low.

Workman said there needs to be a discussion at a later staff meeting regarding the construction manager at risk and/or project manager.

MOTION: Heier moved and Schorr seconded to accept the 5 recommendations as the Review Team for Construction Manager at Risk RFP. Schorr, Hudkins, Heier, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

f. Correspondence from State Probation Regarding Two Additional Probation Officers

Eagan noted the letter needs to be reviewed by the County Attorney and Mike Thurber to make sure the figures and benefits are all okay.

g. Correspondence from Steve Rowoldt, Chief Probation Officer, Regarding Trabert Hall

The Board agreed that Steve Rowoldt can proceed with the movement, however he needs to coordinate it with Don Killeen and Community Corrections.

h. Level 3 Right-of-Way Permit

Eagan noted there was a temporary easement originally done for Level 3 which Planning never finished. He said the City's part was completed, however the County's wasn't and it needs to be signed by the Board. He recommended referring it to the County Attorney before it is signed.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- b. Request from 2015 Vision

Schorr reported she went to a meeting with 2015 Vision who is preparing a presentation to go before the Ag Committee and they would like a letter of support from the County Board. She said they discussed their vision for the City of Lincoln and specifically a co-location of the State Fair.

13 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- a. **Lancaster Manor Advisory Board Meeting** - Hudkins

Hudkins reported there are 260 regular members and 13 new medicare members. He noted there will also no longer be a tree of life so there is a need for gifts at the Manor.

- b. **Joint Budget Committee Meeting** - Stevens, Schorr

Schorr reported C.J. Johnson is a new member on the committee due to the large funding dollars that go through the Regions and the State and he gave a presentation on the budget.

- c. **Juvenile Justice Review Committee Quarterly Meeting** - Heier

Schorr reported they discussed the Nebraska Crime Commission and Juvenile Justice Funding which was discussed earlier today by Boesch.

- d. **Chamber Legislative Consensus Meeting** - Stevens

Stevens reported they were supposed to come up with some topics to take to the Legislature this year. He said they came up with roads and infrastructure, the arena in the West Haymarket area and the UNL Innovation Park. Stevens believed the UNL Park should be the highest priority because it can have the biggest impact on Nebraska 25 years from now.

14 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the staff meeting at 11:43 a.m. Heier, Workman, Stevens, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk