

**MINUTES**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011**  
**COMMISSIONERS HEARING ROOM, ROOM 112**  
**FIRST FLOOR, COUNTY-CITY BUILDING**  
**5:00 P.M.**

Commissioners present:    Deb Schorr, Chair  
                                      Bernie Heier, Vice Chair  
                                      Larry Hudkins  
                                      Jane Raybould  
                                      Brent Smoyer

Others present:                Scott Gaines, Deputy County Assessor/Register of Deeds  
                                      Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
                                      Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
                                      Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney  
                                      Dan Nolte, County Clerk  
                                      Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk  
                                      Angela Zocholl, County Clerk's Office

The location announcement of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was given and the meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

1) **MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the Board of Equalization meeting held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011.**

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Raybould seconded approval of the minutes. Hudkins, Raybould, Heier, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

2) **ADDITIONS AND DEDUCTIONS: Approval of 11 additions and deductions to the tax assessment rolls per Attachment "A".**

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Raybould seconded approval of the additions and deductions. Raybould, Heier, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

3) **MOTOR VEHICLE TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS:**

**CenterPointe, Inc.**  
**Community Blood Bank of the LCMS**  
**Gentle Shepherd Baptist Church**  
**Lux Center for the Arts**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Heier seconded approval of the motor vehicle tax exemptions. Heier, Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

4) **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the Board of Equalization meeting at 5:02 p.m. Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

*Dan Nolte*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Dan Nolte**  
**Lancaster County Clerk**



**MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011  
COMMISSIONERS HEARING ROOM, ROOM 112  
FIRST FLOOR, COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE LANCASTER COUNTY  
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING**

Commissioners present: Deb Schorr, Chair  
Bernie Heier, Vice Chair  
Larry Hudkins  
Jane Raybould  
Brent Smoyer

Others present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney  
Dan Nolte, County Clerk  
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk  
Angela Zocholl, County Clerk's Office

The location announcement of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was given and the meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

1) **MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011.**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Raybould seconded approval of the minutes. Hudkins, Raybould, Heier, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

2) **CLAIMS: Approval of all claims processed through Tuesday, February 15, 2011.**

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Raybould seconded approval of the claims. Raybould, Heier, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

3) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **A contract between Lancaster County and Lexmark International, Inc., for the annual supply of computer equipment, peripherals and related services. The County will pay for products and services on an as needed basis according to State of Nebraska Contract No. 12561 OC. Term of the contract is February 1, 2011, to August 31, 2012. (C-11-0071)**

**MOTION:** Raybould moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the contract. Heier, Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

3) **NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

- B. **A contract between Lancaster County and Schmader Electric Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$90,312, for outdoor warning sirens and replacement. The work included in the contract will be completed no later than May 10, 2011. (C-11-0072)**

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, said the contract uses the hazard mitigation grant received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for five outdoor warning sirens to be placed in the County at select high population centers. In response to Hudkins' question, Ahlberg said he was satisfied with the conditions of the contract. He noted Lincoln and Lancaster County have 117 federal signals which are all the same make and model.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the contract. Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- C. **A contract between Lancaster County and OMNI Behavioral Health for the services of a Home Based Functional Family Therapist Provider as part of the Truancy Diversion Program. Term of the contract is two years from the date of execution. The County will use federal grant funds to pay for services in the amount of \$63,400 in year one and \$50,924 in year two. (C-11-0073)**

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the contract. Hudkins, Raybould, Heier, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- D. **A grant contract between Lancaster County and Lincoln Public Schools to provide funding in the amount of \$127,789 for the Truancy Diversion Program. Term of the grant contract is January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2012. (C-11-0074)**

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the contract. Raybould, Heier, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- E. **A grant contract between Lancaster County and Lincoln Literacy Council to provide funding in the amount of \$15,000 for employment related service to refugee men and women and assist them in assimilating into the community through the Targeted Assistance Grant Program. Term of the grant contract is October 1, 2010, to September 30, 2011. (C-11-0075)**

**MOTION:** Raybould moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the contract. Heier, Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- F. **A contract between Russ Shultz and Lancaster County, on behalf of the Lancaster County Weed Control Authority, to provide up to 50 hours of management consulting, budget development and assistance and consulting for all Lancaster County Weed Control Authority operations, procedures and duties. Term of the contract is January 1, 2011, to June 30, 2011. Cost to the County is up to \$1,700. (C-11-0076)**

Schorr noted Russ Shultz is the former Weed Control Director.

3) **NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Raybould seconded approval of the contract. Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**G. Determination regarding the necessity of a reduction in force at the Lancaster County Community Mental Health Center effective 11:59 p.m. on March 3, 2011.**

Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Executive Director, and Travis Parker, Community Mental Health Center Deputy Director, appeared to answer questions. Settle said the County will continue to see cuts in funding and adjustments need to be made to live within the budget. Hudkins asked if any official notices were given to employees being released. Settle said he met with every employee affected, various people served and the National Alliance for Mentally Ill (NAMI) chapter of Lincoln. Raybould asked how personnel cuts will impact services. Settle said medical services will continue for patients as before; however, the outpatient therapy department is being downsized, which could increase the patient waiting list. Smoyer thanked Settle and Parker for being proactive with the budget.

Sonya Wing read a letter stating her opposition to the staff cuts at the Mental Health Center (Exhibit A). Hudkins noted the State aid being cut to counties and asked Wing if she discussed the cuts with Settle and Parker. Wing said the cuts were discussed, which included her counselor of 12 years. Settle said case loads would be reassigned on February 22.

Deb Trainor expressed her concern over the staff cuts. She urged the Board to consider making budget cuts in other areas.

John Austin discussed mental illness. He encouraged veterans to get assistance from the Veterans Hospital rather than going through the County.

Raybould commended those who spoke for the Mental Health Center and discussed the difficulty in making decisions on staff cuts.

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Raybould seconded approval of the reduction in force. Hudkins, Raybould, Heier, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

4) **CONSENT ITEMS:** *These are items of business that are routine which are expected to be adopted without dissent. Any individual item may be removed for special discussion and consideration by a Commissioner or by any member of the public without prior notice. Unless there is an exception, these items will be approved as one with a single vote of the Board of Commissioners. These items are approval of:*

**A. A right-of-way contract between the County Engineer and James Block, in the amount of \$9, located at SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and W. Pella Road; Project No. CP-W-175. (C-11-0077)**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the consent items. Raybould, Heier, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

5) **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A. **A Class IB liquor license application from Michael and Tammy Roth, d/b/a Kramer Bar & Grill, located at 11365 W. Kramer Street, Kramer, Lancaster County, Nebraska.**

The Chair continued the public hearing from last week. Hudkins asked if the Clerk's Office received any public comments regarding the license. It was confirmed nothing was received. The Chair closed the public hearing.

B. **Lancaster Manor Proceeds.**

The Chair opened the public hearing.

John McHenry, Lancaster Manor Proceeds Committee, was administered the oath. He said the unanimous decision of the committee was to create a permanent endowment for low income elderly in Lancaster County. McHenry said the money could be moved into an endowment after paying any claims against Lancaster Manor or some funds could be set aside for those claims. He suggested continuing the RFP process to decide how the money could be managed.

Jan Gauger, Lancaster Manor Proceeds Committee, was administered the oath. She gave an example of using proceeds from the sale of Lincoln General Hospital for an endowment. Smoyer questioned holding the money for a while before placing it in an endowment. Gauger encouraged the Board to make a timely decision.

John Dittman, Lancaster Manor Proceeds Committee, was administered the oath. He felt the Board should take advantage of this opportunity to create an endowment, which could be used for such things as mental health needs for the elderly.

Heier discussed County money that is already budgeted to various departments and agencies: \$2,400,000 to General Assistance, \$2,100,000 to the Health Department, \$2,800,000 to Mental Health, \$415,000 to Aging Partners and \$23,000 to Rural Transportation. He noted the Homestead Property Tax Exemption as another example of assistance available to Lancaster County residents. Heier asked those testifying to state specific example of how they would like the money used.

Dennis Meyer, Budget & Fiscal Director, was administered the oath. He said the Lancaster Manor fund currently holds around \$2,900,000. It includes proceeds from the sale as well as a \$500,000 transfer from the General Fund to help offset certain ongoing costs, such as outstanding worker's compensation claims. The \$500,000 from the General Fund will need to be transferred back; however, it could not be done currently without tapping into the sale proceeds. Hudkins asked Meyer to review the sale figures. Meyer said the sale price was \$9,500,000. Subtracting the \$1,450,000 operational credit, \$4,300,000 depreciation recapture paid to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), County taxes, prorated rent, closing fees, title insurance and \$1,000,000 for capital improvement leaves \$2,600,000 deposited into the Manor fund. In response to Raybould's question, Meyer said interest is minimal and has earned around \$6,000.

Barbara Bartle, President of the Lincoln Community Foundation, was administered the oath. She read and submitted a letter supporting an endowment (Exhibit B). Hudkins discussed interest rates and fund growth with Bartle. Raybould noted the growth of the Community Health Endowment.

## 5) **PUBLIC HEARINGS CONTINUED:**

Carl Sjulín, West Gate Bank President and Lincoln Community Foundation Board Member, was administered the oath. He said the Board could retain involvement with endowment earnings by creating a donor advised fund at the Lincoln Community Foundation. Sjulín felt the needs for the money would change with time.

Crystal Sato was administered the oath. She read and submitted a letter supporting the creation of an endowment (Exhibit C). Hudkins commended Sato for her 30 years as a Lancaster Manor employee.

Danny Walker was administered the oath. He spoke in support of establishing an endowment and asked the Board to consider everyone when distributing funds, not just larger organizations.

Barb Baier was administered the oath. She discussed census data, noting the number of elderly and impoverished people in Lancaster County. Baier felt it was important to set parameters for an endowment, focusing on health and welfare of low income elderly, but leave it open enough to address future needs. She suggested funding a comprehensive needs assessment.

Christa Yoakum was administered the oath. She encouraged the Board to place the funds in an endowment to specifically address the needs of low income elderly in Lancaster County, which should cover a variety of needs as they change.

Maureen Ose was administered the oath. She supported the creation of an endowment and was interested in focusing on Alzheimer patients.

John Austin was administered the oath. He asked the Board to spend wisely and help everyone.

Diane Rolfsmeyer, Seniors Foundation Executive Director, was administered the oath. She discussed and submitted a case statement supporting Aging Partners (Exhibit D). She also discussed work in progress with the Department of Veterans Affairs. In response to Schorr's question, Rolfsmeyer said the next step is an interview with the Department of Veterans Affairs, but the whole process will take a long time. Raybould asked if there was a greater need for any particular service. Rolfsmeyer said the overall population is showing demand because of the growing number of elderly.

June Pederson, Aging Partners Director, was administered the oath. She discussed and submitted information on Aging Partners and growth of senior citizens in Lancaster County (Exhibit E). Raybould asked about budget cuts at Aging Partners. Pederson said programs have been cut that did not result in people being left hungry or unsafe. Smoyer asked Pederson if she had certain programs she would like funded. Pederson discussed Supportive Services, which is used for people who are borderline poverty. Schorr asked about a needs assessment, how decisions were made for Aging Partners and if endowment funds could be restricted to Lancaster County residents. Pederson said a large assessment had not been done in a long time. An Area Wide Advisory Council, made up of nine Lancaster County members and two members each from the other seven counties, helped make decisions for the agency. Funds could be restricted to Lancaster County.

5) **PUBLIC HEARINGS CONTINUED:**

Coby Mach, Lincoln Independent Business Association, was administered the oath. He urged the Board to be cautious with the use of the proceeds and to save for the future. Raybould noted the governor's desire to cut County budgets further. Smoyer asked Mach how he would feel about the endowment if the County's budget were in better shape. Mach said he would like to see the money set aside for three years; if the budget is better in the future, an endowment could be considered.

Heier submitted a letter from the Sheriff into the record (Exhibit F). He said several e-mails were received regarding the Lancaster Manor proceeds (copies on file).

Raybould asked Lori Seibel, Community Health Endowment President, to discuss her experience regarding the sale of Lincoln General and the endowment. Seibel was administered the oath. She said the overall consensus was that the endowment has well served the community. Heier asked how healthcare is encompassed in the health endowment. She said issues, such as chronic illness and updating the system to deal with current situations, are becoming more of a problem.

Smoyer thanked the Proceeds Committee and all that testified. He said he liked the idea of the endowment but felt it should be approached with caution. Smoyer clarified that the proceeds would not go into the General Fund. Hudkins thanked everyone for their attendance and for all their information and ideas. Raybould thanked everyone who appeared and the Proceeds Committee. She said she supports the endowment and noted the e-mails she received, around 50 in support of the endowment. Heier thanked the Committee and everyone who attended. He discussed the tough budget issues ahead for the County and his reluctance to designate the money to an endowment at this time. Schorr said she supports the endowment and felt using the interest would help fund many worthwhile programs. She proposed issuing an RFP in the next few weeks.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

6) **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

John Austin discussed the Mental Health Board and their evaluation procedure.

Danny Walker expressed concern over changes at the Veterans Hospital. Hudkins said the County has no authority over the Veterans Hospital; however, the Veterans Service Officer may be moved into the hospital, so the County is monitoring the changes.

7) **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. **The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold a Mid-Year Budget Retreat on Thursday, February 17, 2011, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA), 620 N. 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 205, Lincoln. The next staff meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2011, at 8:30 a.m., in Room 113 on the first floor of the County-City Building.**
- B. **The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 112 on the first floor of the County-City Building, with the Board of Equalization meeting immediately following.**



7) **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:**

C. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting is broadcast live. It will be rebroadcast following the meeting and on Saturday afternoon on 5 City-TV, Cable Channel 5. In addition, this meeting may be viewed on Nebraska On Demand Time Warner Channel 101 and is available on the internet 24 hours a day at [www.lancaster.ne.gov](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov). Click on 5 City-TV Video on Demand.

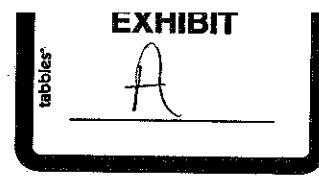
8) **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Smoyer seconded to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting at 7:12 p.m. Hudkins, Raybould, Heier, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

*Dan Nolte*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk





February 11, 2011

Sonya Kay Wing

(402)438-7389

wing.sonya@yahoo.com

Dear Commissioner Heier:

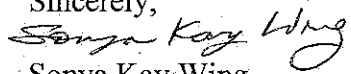
If you do not personally suffer from a diagnosed form of mental illness, such as depression, bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia, schizo-affective disorder, multiple personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder, chances are many people you know either have suffered, are suffering, or will suffer from at least one form of mental illness during their lifetime. Most of the time, you will never find out about it since mental illness is not something most people want to admit to or talk about. Even in this day and age, the stigma of mental illness can be very negative.

Fund reduction for assistance to the mentally ill will cause more problems and increase cost in other areas: funding for homeless shelters or budgets for the police departments, jails, prisons, emergency services, as well as overall healthcare expenditures. The money you are "saving," in essence, will just be spent in different areas of the budget with more severe consequences. It is better to effectively treat the mentally ill rather than deal with the numerous problems that can result in undiagnosed, unmedicated, mentally ill people lacking experienced counselors, education, or anyone to advocate for them.

I know this firsthand because I have been a client of the Lancaster Mental Health Center since June 19 of 1998. Their services provided to me have literally saved my life. Lancaster Mental Health Center's continued services have kept me sane, properly medicated, and have supported me through many tough years because of excellent counseling that provides me with invaluable tools to live and make progress in my daily life. I have gone from being depressed, suicidal, and unemployed to being a productive citizen gainfully employed with a part-time job in the real estate sector. I am an advocate for other mentally ill people and a resource for many people experiencing problems with mental illness. I am a responsible member of society who does volunteer work for causes I am passionate about and an active member of my church. All of this can be credited to the help and support I have received at the Lancaster Mental Health Center.

Cutting staff at Lancaster Mental Health Center will strain the center's ability to successfully treat the mentally ill. It will result in increased workloads for other staff, replace excellent counselors with less experienced staff, and, as Dean Settle predicted in the Lincoln Journal Star, "our lines for services will be longer." These cuts decrease the center's ability to service the mentally ill properly and efficiently.

It is imperative to our society that funding is not cut for the mentally ill. I would be happy to answer any questions or share more of my story if anyone is interested.

Sincerely,  
  
Sonya Kay Wing

**Lincoln/Lancaster County Commissioners  
Lancaster Manor Hearing  
Tuesday, February 15, 2011**

**Remarks by  
Barbara Bartle, President  
Lincoln Community Foundation**

**Good afternoon. I am Barbara Bartle, president of the Lincoln Community Foundation. For nearly 20 years, I have had the great privilege to lead a foundation in the community. Whether representing the Lincoln Public Schools or the community of Lincoln, I have seen the power of endowment.**

**Fifty-five years ago, the Founding leaders of the Lincoln Community Foundation were in a similar situation as you are today. The community chest, as the United Way was known then, continued to have greater and greater need. These Founders established the Foundation to build endowments to meet the ever increasing needs and opportunities in the community. Today this \$60M organization grants over \$4.8M annually to support the quality of life in Lincoln and Lancaster County.**

**The question before you today is "Do you expend or endow the \$2.6M in proceeds from the sale of Lancaster Manor?" I brought a visual that shows you the likely growth of an endowment of \$2.6M. The fund balance at the end of 25 years is projected to be nearly \$5M and over \$3.8M is distributed during that timeframe for needs and opportunities. This is the long-term power of endowment. The ultimate benefactors are the families in this county, because more funds will be shared.**

**The Lincoln Community Foundation has over 55 years of experience in professionally managing numerous funds according to varied instructions by donors. Your funds would be segregated from any other funds and used according to the unique instructions established by your board for the benefit of the county. We have lots of flexibility in how you design your fund, for example to be a field of interest fund with a defined purpose, or to be a donor advised fund with an advisory group appointed to review distributions for county needs. All of this would be established in an agreement between you and the Lincoln Community Foundation.**

**To expend or endow....that is the short-term or long-term choice. I strongly urge you to establish an endowment. In 50 years your grandchildren and great-grandchildren will see your wise decision in establishing this endowment. Your \$2.6M today could have a potential balance of nearly \$10M and an annual distribution of nearly \$400,000....and will continue to grow forever. That's the power of endowment.**

**For more information contact:**

**Barbara Bartle**

*President*

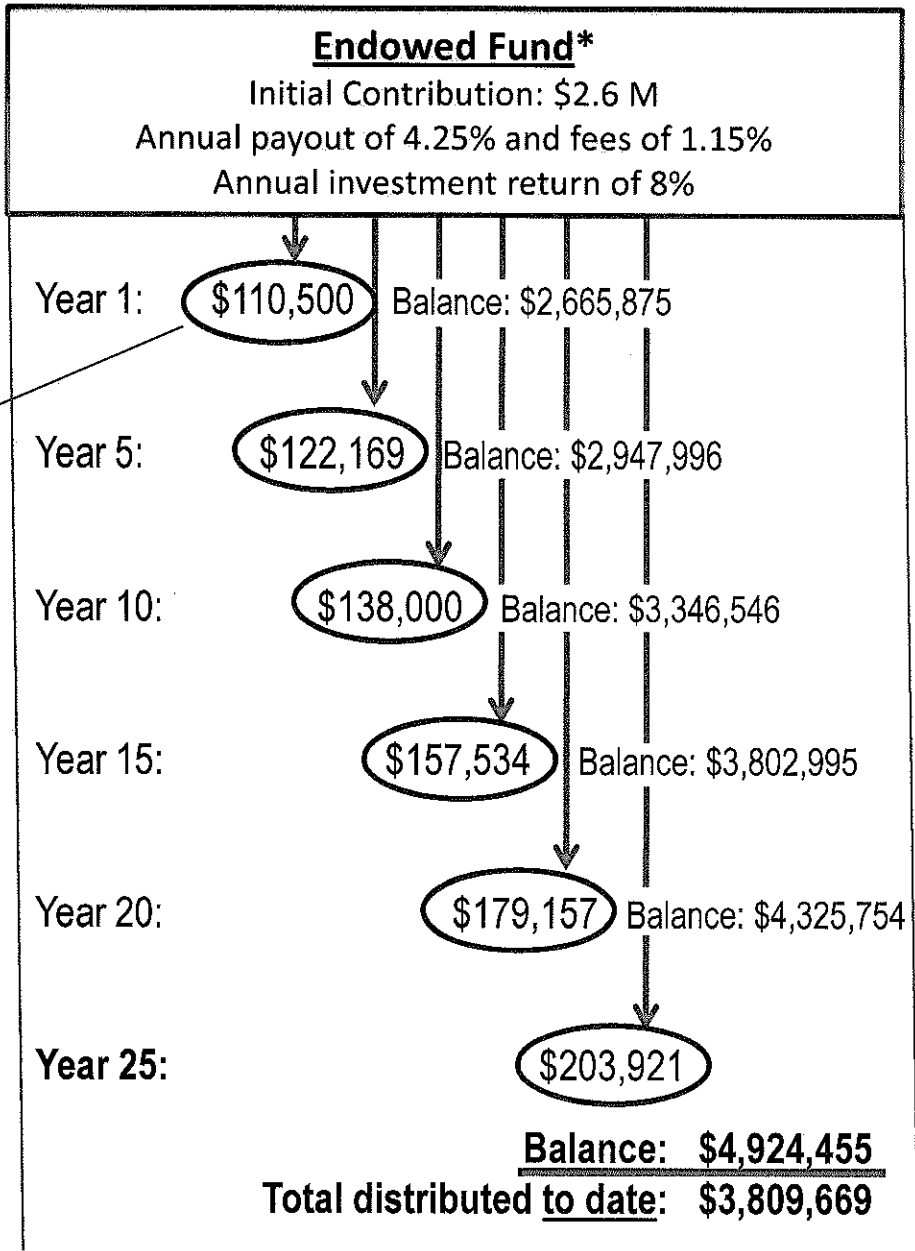
215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 402-474-2345 Fax: 402-476-8532 [www.lcf.org](http://www.lcf.org)

Email: [barbarab@lcf.org](mailto:barbarab@lcf.org)

# The power of endowment---

Amount distributed each year for needs and opportunities



---and this continues forever!

\*Lincoln Community Foundation payout, fees and earnings.

To the Lancaster County Board:

First of all I want to thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the discussion of the most appropriate use of the 2.6 million dollars from the sale of Lancaster Manor. Although the county no longer owns Lancaster Manor, this does not relieve the county of its responsibility to safeguard our elderly citizens in need.

I want to applaud you for your choice of appointees to the Proceeds Committee which included highly qualified individuals in government, banking and business and a high commitment to our community. I was pleased when I read that this blue-ribbon committee had unanimously recommended establishing a Lancaster Manor Proceeds Endowment Fund to address the unmet needs of our low-income elderly.

I wish the data and research on our elderly population and current community resources had been included in their report.

I believe it is imperative to look at the data on aging in Nebraska and be aware of the projected needs. According to the Nebraska AARP, the percentage of Nebraskans age 65 years and older is growing. In the year 2,000, this group made up 13 % of our population. It is projected to increase to 21% by the year 2030. More importantly according to this source, more than a quarter of older Nebraskans rely on Social Security as their only source of income. Poverty and old age is a real concern as the Economic Research Service of the USDA state that 9% of Nebraskans age 65 years and over are living below the poverty level. In addition the good life of Nebraska carries over to a higher life expectancy, as Nebraska is ranked 16<sup>th</sup> from the top. We have an average life span of 77.8 years.

Unfortunately living longer means stretching our financial resources further. The Center for Retirement Research of Boston College studied life time costs of retirees in good health compared to those in poor health. While those in poor health had higher annual costs the life time costs were higher for those in good health, simply because they lived longer. When they did experience changes in health these were often chronic conditions which led to eventual longer nursing home stays. In other words, we are living longer and also living poorer.

Reading the board minutes of the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, I was disappointed that the board did not whole-heartedly endorse the committee's recommendation.

Instead the discussion focused on the county's financial condition and possible change in its credit rating. This should be a separate matter. To use the manor funds for projected budget shortfalls would be a short-term solution and not solve the underlying budget problems.

It is clearly written and stated by the proceeds committee that they were fully aware of the county's financial condition. They also specifically noted they did not want the funds to be used for general obligations or to be placed in a savings or reserve account which current or future commissioners might use at their own discretion.

In 1997 our community faced a similar debate as the sale of Lincoln General Hospital was completed. The Mayor's taskforce on the sales proceeds provide a blue print for establishing a community endowment to "not only to benefit people in all parts of our community, but to assure that these funds be invested responsibly for future generations." with the goal of making Lincoln the healthiest community in the nation.

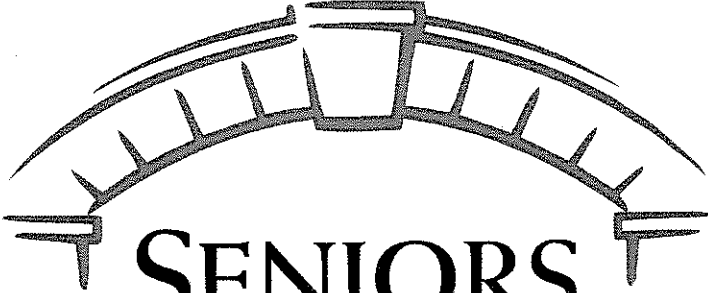
I envision the Lancaster Manor Endowment complementing the Community Health Endowment to safeguard the quality of life of our low-income elderly and to provide funding and job creation for service providers.

In closing I ask that your decision for the use of the Lancaster Manor Proceeds be based on the **wisdom** and **vision** of what is best for our community. You have the opportunity to create a legacy which can insure a safety net to our grandmothers, grandfathers, parents, and elderly neighbors who may outlive their financial resources. This is the most honorable use of the Lancaster Manor funds and a tribute to the past service the manor has provided to our elderly in need.

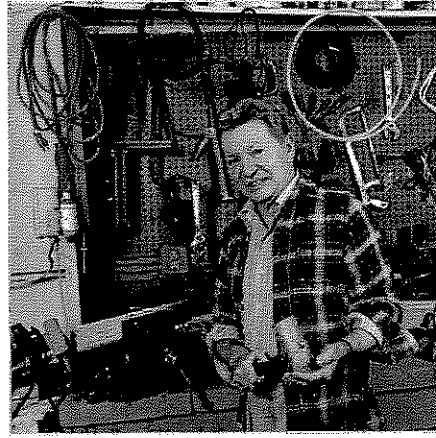
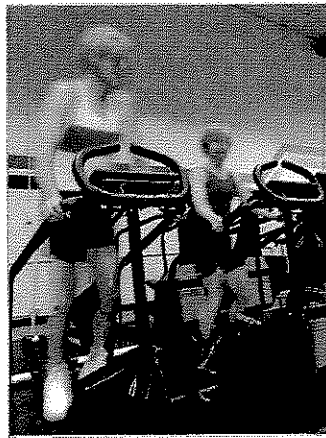
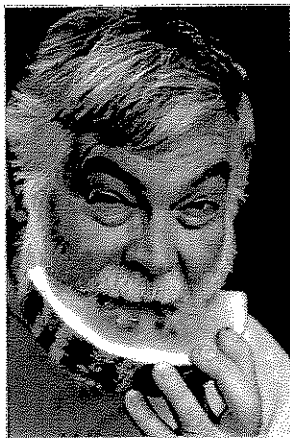
This is an opportunity to be courageous in your commitment to the role of local government in looking after our less fortunate citizens and planning ahead to meet the needs in a growing elderly population.

Thank you for your consideration.

Crystal Sato



**SENIORS  
FOUNDATION**  
*of Lincoln & Lancaster County*



**CASE STATEMENT**  
*supporting*  
**AGING PARTNERS**



---

# Summary

Aging Partners has a 38-year history of enhancing daily living, expanding personal choices, and educating communities in Southeast Nebraska. The agency has a service area of eight, primarily rural counties. Focusing effort on ensuring independence and promoting full living for its 60+ consumer base, the agency has grown substantially in scope and outreach. However if the agency is to remain vital and relevant to its consumers it must continue evolving to meet their needs.

For the first time in recorded history, according to a March 2007 joint report from the State Department, Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Health and the National Institute of Aging, people age 65+ will soon outnumber children under age 5 worldwide. The same report shows that increasing numbers of older adults are surviving to more advanced ages.

The oldest old have the highest population levels of disability, requiring more long-term care. The result is a disproportionate use of public funds in this age group.

An added dimension to this new reality in aging demographics is the growth of intergenerational relationships between as many as four generations in a single family. This new relational dimension could change the dynamic of traditional caregiver roles.

The next generation who will need aging services, those born between 1946 and 1964, express a desire for choice in all of their service interests. It is also a population group more technologically savvy than their parents. The consumer interests of this age group will shape service delivery for all industries, including the services provided by Aging Partners.

2000 Census shows that Lincoln, the area's urban hub, has a 65+ population of 23,000 and 17,000 65+ live in rural communities.

2005 population estimates from the Nebraska State Data Center place the 65+ population in Aging Partners service area at over 40,000—42% of these consumers live in rural communities.



Nebraska State Data Center 2030 population estimates project the agency's consumer base to double to more than 80,000 individuals with 35% of these consumers living in rural communities. The drop in rural consumers between 42% and 35% may indicate a migration to the urban hub of Lincoln to obtain better services.

Nebraska State Data Center projections show a 16% increase in rural residents and a 34% increase in urban residents by 2015. This 65+ population boom will only continue, culminating in a 49% increase in rural areas and a 128% increase in Lincoln between 2000-2030.

Existing service structures, especially in isolated rural areas will be incapable of meeting such increased demand. Faced with this new reality, Aging Partners is transforming publicly funded aging services in Southeast Nebraska by:

- Developing strong centralized leadership and support services in a One Campus Project located in the urban center of Lincoln, replicated in smaller, strategically located hubs in rural communities;
- Creating and promoting multiple consumer controlled points of entry into Aging Partners network of services;
- Systematically eliminating silos of information and service delivery within the agency;
- Creating consumer-focused teams of service professionals;
- Embracing technology as a means to increase efficiency and meet consumer demand.

In 1971 advocates for older adults in Lincoln, Nebraska pioneered aging services by establishing one of the first ten area agencies on aging. Now, almost 40 years later Aging Partners is once again demonstrating its pioneering spirit by creating a new public/private business model for its aging services. A model that will equip the agency with a sustainable future while still providing compassionate care for those individuals they serve.

# Introduction

Harold lives alone on his farm in southern Saline County, ninety minutes from Lincoln. Harold and Vera, his wife of 50 years, wanted to continue to live on the farm where Harold was born and raised. This was the farm they later owned and farmed. They wanted to die there.

Harold was 70 when he retired. His blood pressure was under control through medication and Vera worked hard to control her diabetes. They were active in their church and community. Both Harold and Vera were capable drivers, but they never enjoyed driving in 'the big city' of Lincoln and would avoid it if at all possible. They preferred receiving services in their own community.

They frequented their local Senior Center for meals, Harold's regular blood pressure monitoring, Vera's education on diabetes care, and social activities. After their retirement from farming, the Center became their social focus and hub. Their out-of-state children arranged for community open houses at the Center for both their 50th wedding anniversary and Harold's 70th birthday celebrations. The Center was **integral** to their ability to thrive in their community.



Harold's story is typical for many older adults in rural Nebraska. Aging Partners is the principal agency that plans, coordinates and advocates for older adults like Harold in an eight-county area in southeast Nebraska. Aging Partners' mission is to enhance daily living, expand personal choices, and educate the community in an effort to ensure the independence and full life of people 60 years of age and older.

Starting with services in the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County, the agency broadened its reach to seven additional counties: Butler, Fillmore, Polk, Saline, Saunders, Seward and York. Each county has one or more Senior Centers which are community focal points and the principal source of information, activities and opportunities related to aging. Centers are readily accessible to those who need services as well as those who have concerns regarding elderly parents, relatives, friends and neighbors. Centers are the places in each community where seniors may obtain information and

education, join fitness and health classes, enjoy recreational activities, share experiences and enjoy a nutritious noon meal.

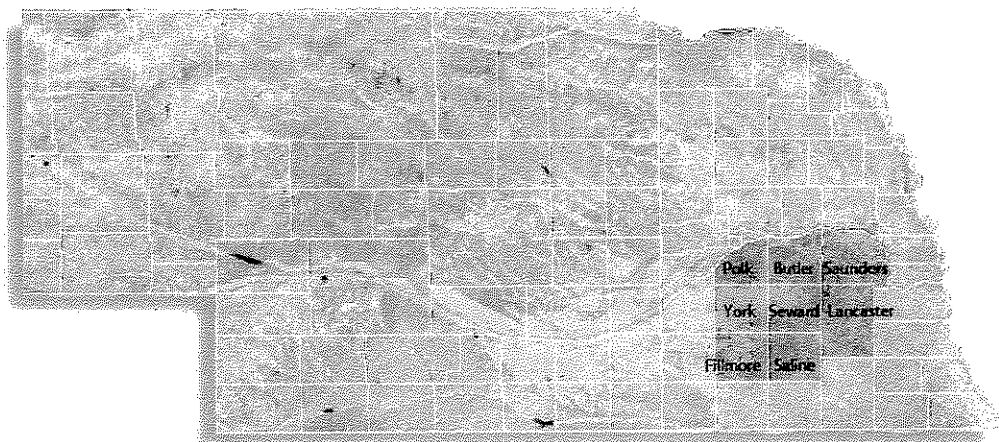
Over the years, Aging Partners has developed over ninety direct service programs meeting such basic needs as rural home delivered meal service, legal clinics, and handyman services. The agency has also developed programs that meet specialized needs such as services for hoarders and foot care clinics. Partnerships are integral to efficient and effective service delivery. As the primary agency that coordinates services for older adults in eight counties, Aging Partners has developed partnerships with a wide range of diverse groups in the public and private arenas.

The agency has long-standing relationships with all eight counties' senior service programs, low-income housing agencies, and minority community centers. This network of providers is always expanding. Currently, Aging Partners is seeking a new partner, the University of Nebraska, to provide technical assistance in the creation of distance learning opportunities at Senior Centers in rural communities.

---

**Aging Partners conducts a Needs Assessment every five years. The most recent survey was conducted in October 2005 with 529 anonymous paper surveys completed. This survey provided direct input from both existing and potential service consumers regarding existing community-based health and social services, the strengths and gaps of those services, needs of older adults residing in the project area, and potentially needed services. A strength expressed throughout the surveys was the value, availability and professional delivery of Aging Partner's services.**

---



# The Problem

When Harold was 75, his wife passed away and he slipped into depression. He could still drive but appeared less frequently at church and community events. He became a more frequent visitor at the Senior Center where he took most of his noon meals. He never expected to outlive his wife and was not prepared to live alone. He seemed lost and confused. He didn't know where to turn.

The manager at the Center was already a friend and quickly came to mind when Harold found himself at a loss. The manager did what she could to help Harold. She was frustrated by her reduced ability to help her clients more. Over time, budgeting required a shift in services at Harold's local Center. Not all the services were available daily, including the meal service.

Harold, in his state of depression, slept many hours and saw no need to eat more than a snack on the days the Center was not serving a meal. He began to forget which day meals were served and sometimes missed days the Center was open and serving. In this forgetfulness, Harold stopped monitoring his blood pressure regularly and was not consistent in taking his medications.

As the number of older adults increases due to population trends and increased longevity, Senior Centers will be asked to play a greater role in maintaining a safety net for seniors like Harold. However, budget cuts on all levels pull staff away from consumer needs.

This trend is amplified in rural communities where staffing is minimal and support services are limited, if they exist at all. With 42% of Aging Partners' consumer base living in rural communities, the agency has a significant challenge to bring a greater number and diversity of services to rural counties and their communities.

**Aging Partners seeks to address the barriers limiting older adults' ability to stay in their homes and communities as long as they are able.**





---

As part of the 2005 Needs Assessment, respondents were asked to list their concerns. Among the respondent's concerns were

- Outliving my money ..... (63%)
- Paying for health care ..... (56%)
- Finding affordable in-home care ..... (48%)
- Affordable transportation – medical ..... (40%)

The following unmet needs or gaps in services were cited by respondents

- Need to understand alternatives to nursing home care ..... (49%)
- Need to keep control of decisions affecting my life ..... (45%)
- Need to be in control of my environment ..... (43%).

Additionally, more than one third of respondents wanted to take part in health and fitness classes.

---

The 2005 Needs Assessment demonstrates that a significant portion of the aging population has serious concerns about their ability to remain independent as they age.

County Health Departments have cited major barriers for older adults wanting to remain at home in rural areas as lack of transportation, lack of contact with family members, few locally provided services, and a general lack of support. These challenges cause a greater number of rural older adults to either prematurely move into nursing homes or relocate to an urban area, usually Lincoln, in order to get the services they need.

Projections support this outward migration of older adults from rural communities. Nebraska State Data Center tables project that Lincoln's 65+ population will increase 128% between 2000 and 2030. At the same time the rural 65+ population in the eight surrounding counties is projected to increase by 49%.

Though significantly lower than Lincoln's increase, the county population increase will still impact rural communities. One area of impact is the potential creation of greater scarcity of resources if aging service delivery is not enhanced. Another may be in more rural older adults and their caregivers feeling forced to choose between remaining at home or receiving adequate services in Lincoln.

At the same time, Aging Partners is challenged to provide effective outreach to urban-based older adults who live in public housing or other older adult-centered housing within the City of Lincoln. As the 65+ population increases, so does the socio-economic and racial diversity of the population needing services. Included in this number are the multitudes of rural older adults who have migrated to an urban center to be closer to adequate services.

When Harold was unable to receive the services he sought in the manner he preferred, he became even more reclusive and slipped deeper into depression. He was not eating properly, never exercised, and rarely socialized. In fact, he slept most of the time. His health began to deteriorate rather severely. His children began to have difficulty reaching him by phone and when he did answer, he did not always seem to be completely aware of his surroundings.

Finally, a daughter took a day's drive from Denver, Colorado to check on his condition. She found him sitting unshaven in his recliner. His personal hygiene shocked her as did the fact that he didn't seem sure who she was.

The house clearly had not been cleaned in a long time. He was beginning to hoard newspapers; there were plates of spoiled food throughout and no food in the refrigerator. The daughter was frightened by what she found. Thinking there would be better care in a larger community, she called several nursing homes in the Lincoln area to see if space was available for her father. Within the week she had moved him out of his life-long home and into a nursing home miles away in Lincoln where she could guarantee he would receive the care he needed.

---

# Objectives

## In three years Aging Partners will:

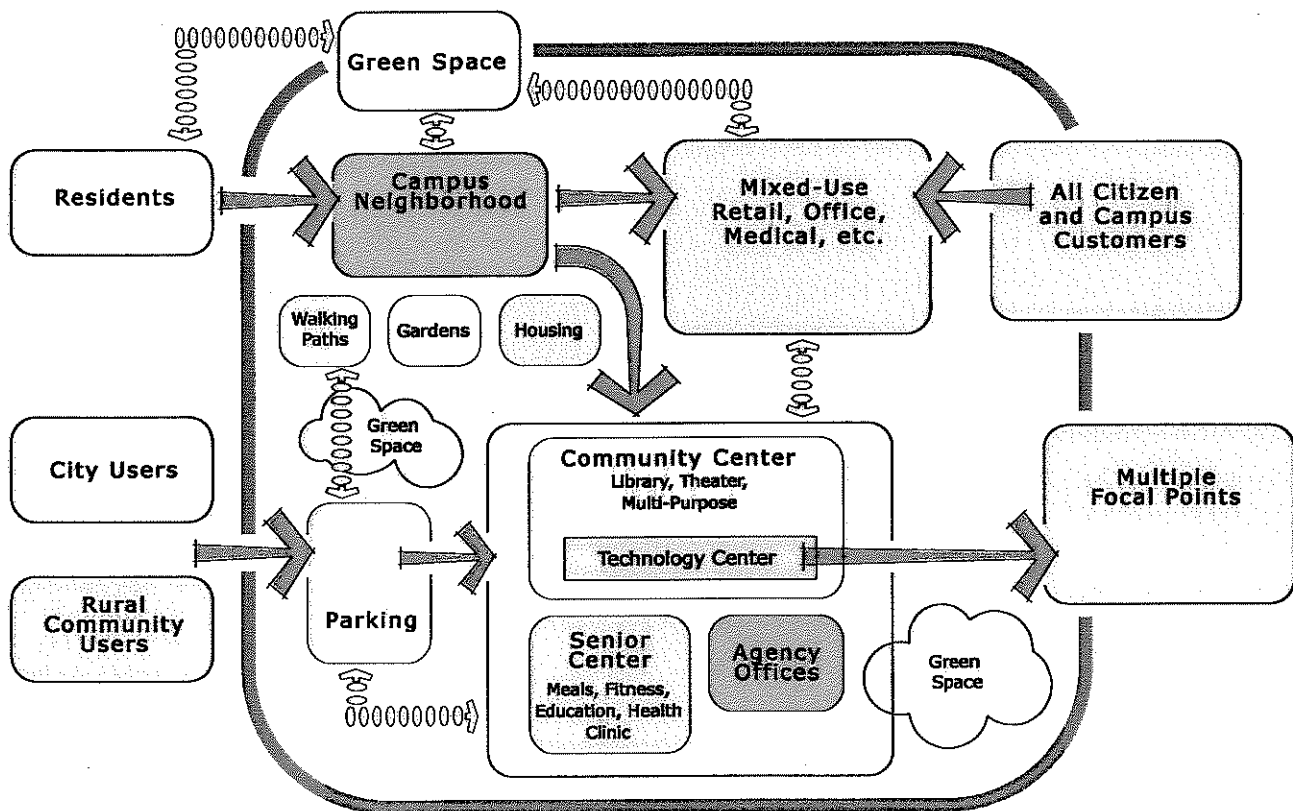
- Create an infrastructure that more effectively serves a dramatically increasing consumer base in both urban and rural settings;
- Create a consumer-focused service delivery method that supports consumer autonomy and choice;
- Set consumer-based performance measurement goals for staff teams;
- Advance public/private collaborations of service;
- Initiate program sustainability.



# Our Solution

Aging Partners remains solely dedicated to the needs of older adults in maintaining their independence. Our solution, already initiated, is simple and holistic in approach:

- Create a One-Campus concept both physically and organizationally;
- Empower the client by providing choice, interaction and control over the life decisions that he or she faces;
- Embrace technology, using it as a tool to improve service delivery and information sharing.





The project will focus on the services that older adults have expressly identified as a concern or an unmet need in the 2005 Needs Assessment. The project will work to provide an innovative solution to meet those challenges in the rural areas as well as in the urban hub of Lincoln.

- **Develop strong centralized leadership and support services in a One Campus Project located in the urban center or Lincoln which will be replicated with smaller, strategically located hubs in rural communities.** Aging Partners will address the barriers limiting older adults' ability to satisfy their needs and desires through their aging process by utilizing a centralized service and information delivery system in a single campus. Thus Aging Partners will be able to standardize delivery of its services. These services will be provided to rural counties as well as to urban-based older adults who may or may not live in public housing, other adult-centered housing or attend minority-based community centers. The proposed three-year One Campus Project will establish the infrastructure, programming, technical and staff support necessary to enhance delivery of services in a client-centered approach that supports autonomy and choice.
- **Create and promote multiple consumer controlled points of entry into Aging Partners network of services.** Begun as a simple name change, Aging Partners is transforming itself from the inside out so that consumer needs dictate the delivery of service. Whether a consumer is walking in for a fitness class or accessing senior housing information online, he or she will have autonomy in determining service delivery.

To help consumers self-navigate, current and future services are designed and delivered around the following four core consumer needs:

## Being Well

- Nutrition
- Health
- Fitness

## Planning Ahead

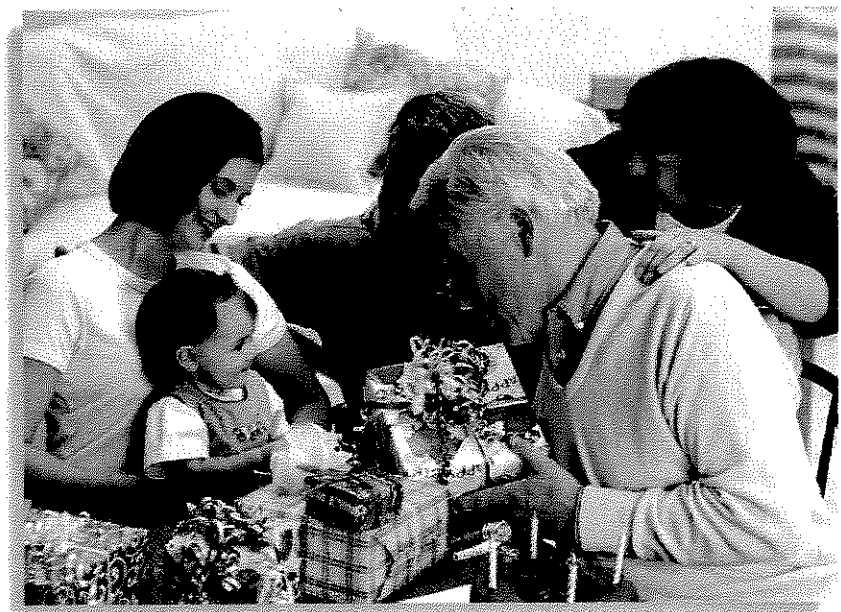
- Information and Referral
- Case/Care Management
- Legal Assistance
- Family Support

## Living at Home

- At Home Services
- Respite
- Transportation

## Staying Involved

- Volunteerism
- Employment
- Outreach
- Education



● **Systematically eliminate silos of information and service delivery within the agency and create consumer-focused teams of service professionals.** Shifting the focus away from maintaining current organizational systems and refocusing on the consumer, Aging Partners will monitor service delivery based upon meeting consumer needs. Performance measures will break away from the status quo. This consumer-focused transition embodies the one-campus concept organizationally as existing silos are leveled. Teams will work together to deliver services that meet performance measures based upon consumer demographics and needs.

● **Embrace technology as a means to increase efficiency and meet consumer demand.** Development of Tech Cafés in urban and rural areas is underway and will ensure that all older adults have access to the latest technology regardless of where they live. Tech Cafés will include computer, internet and teleconferencing resources for older adults and will be located in the One-Campus site as well as partner hubs in urban and rural communities.

Upgraded equipment and software for service providers and sites has been and will continue to be installed. Automation will enhance record-keeping, thereby freeing up more front line staff time for service delivery. Boundless electronic information sharing will be the heart of Aging Partners web-based and teleconferencing resources. Through this resource the agency will provide underserved rural locations with a wealth of informational assets to share with consumers.

---

# One Campus Project Timeline

## 2010-2011

- Develop partners
- Identify funders
- Identify potential locations
- Create work plan

## 2011-2012

- Partner agreements
- Funding agreements
- Finalize location and building plans
- Finalize internal organization

## 2012-2013

- Secure 90% of funding
- Break ground
- Do public fundraising/marketing/outreach
- Grand opening

---

# Evaluation Plan

Aging Partners currently licenses and uses Harmony Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) for data management . This system allows tailoring of data collection to meet organizational need. Through the development of productivity indicators for individual services and corresponding data collection, Aging Partners is able to monitor service delivery in unique ways. Currently, Aging Partners is working with data consultants to develop productivity measures that will effectively promote the agency's transition into consumer-focused service delivery.

MJM Innovations partners with Harmony to provide technology for data collection automation. This is achieved through the use of consumer ID cards, scanners and touch screen data collection devices. These tools allow the agency to be day-current on much of its data collection. They also allow for the on-demand production of reports on services provided as well as demographic information on each service recipient.

Monthly reports will be used to enhance staff efficiency and effective placement of services. This service data will be compared to Census information in the constant effort to improve service delivery. Other capabilities include individual service usage reports. This will allow for review of issues such as frailty and emerging needs of individual older adults giving Aging Partners a proactive edge in assessing consumer needs.

Consumer satisfaction surveys will be available in print and electronic form to help Aging Partners assess their success in service delivery. These will be compiled and will be part of the performance report.

Future Needs Assessment data will show a reduction in concerns and unmet needs as compared to prior assessments. This data will also provide Aging Services with fresh looks into the needs of their clients going forward.

The best evaluation will be monitoring migration data, state and federal Medicaid costs and more detailed surveys from appropriate service recipients to determine the success of the agency in supporting client independence.

---

# Funding Plan

Continued community support is invaluable to the program. Aging Partners is seeking discussions with potential partners interested in enhancing the quality of life for older Americans. Part of the partnership endeavor is to bring added expertise in identifying additional potential funding sources and schedule meetings to discuss continued support. Currently, talks are being engaged with architects and designers in preparation for discussions with an identified developer.

The agency is identifying potential leasers of the Tech Caf e's time to enhance their own client services in order to provide ongoing funding support of that part of the project.

Aging Partners is visioning a One Campus location that allows for leasing space to other service agencies and a limited number of for profit services. This will provide an ongoing funding stream to provide continued support for the One Campus project.

The Seniors Foundation has identified several public and private foundations and is opening discussions toward their support of the project. As Aging Partners secures agreements with partners in this project, we will continue to identify potential funding sources to which proposals will be sent.



---

# Qualifications



**June Pederson is the Director of Aging Partners.** The Agency has 150 employees and a budget of \$9.5 million.

June was appointed as Director by the Mayor of Lincoln in December of 2002. She serves at the pleasure of the Mayor with the approval of the City Council and the County Commissioners.

June holds a degree in Management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Business Administration. Previously, she was the executive director of a number of trade and professional associations and served as a registered lobbyist for 24 years prior to accepting the position with Aging Partners.

She is a member of First Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, the American Association of University Women, a board member of the Mediation Center, former board member of Planned Parenthood of Nebraska and served for three years as a member of the Lincoln Electric System Board of Directors.

In March of 2009, June brought together a group of people from varying disciplines to begin the discussion of the One Campus concept. The Visioning Team included individuals with skills in data governance, accounting, marketing and public relations and fundraising. With June's long view of the agency's future and her skilled leadership, this team is forging the foundational work of an innovative concept. This concept places the client in the center of the service decision and is also sensitive to the demographic changes and generational shifts in service needs.

June has led this team into the 21st Century in thinking and has started the process of partnership building toward an Aging Partners single campus opening in 2013.



---

# Conclusion

The successful implementation of Aging Partners' One Campus Project along with a transition to a consumer-focused service delivery method offers an alternative ending to Harold's story.

Harold's story is one of desire to have services brought to him in an environment that he knows and trusts. While Harold lives in a rural area, he shares his desire to stay within his community with his urban counterparts.

Harold's friend, the manager of the Center he frequented, picked up the phone to hear Harold's tearful voice telling her that he didn't know what to do. She made an appointment for Harold to come to her office at the Center the next day.

In preparation for her meeting with Harold, the manager contacted her fellow Living at Home and Being Well team members located both in her community and in Lincoln. Harold's visits to the Center and participation in activities were already in the service tracking system. This made it easy for the manager to create options for Harold in comfortable, familiar settings. Working with the other team members provided ready access to other services that might be applicable.

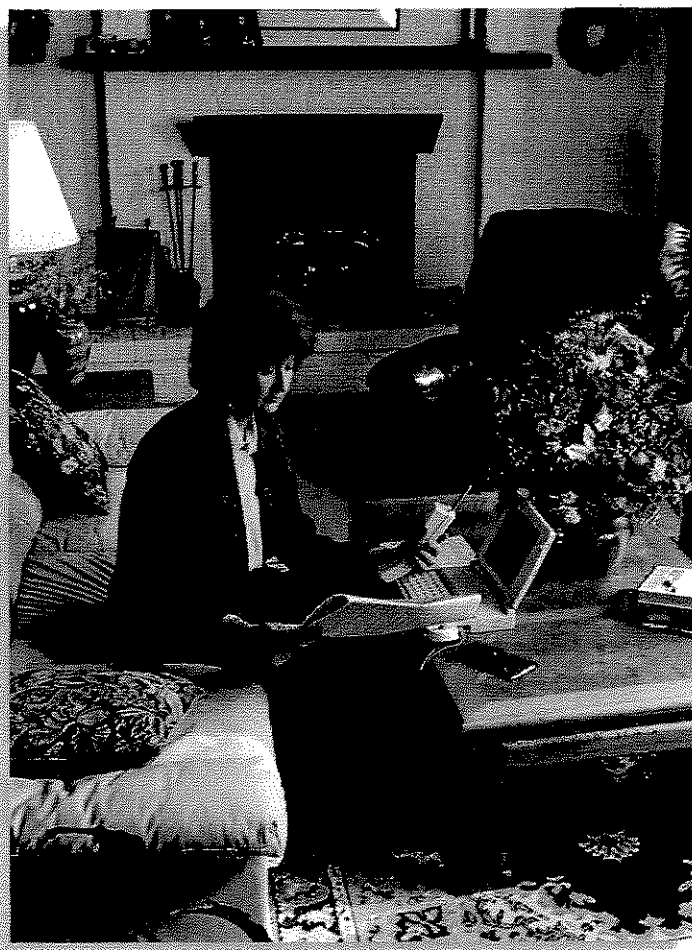
When Harold came to the Center, the manager was ready to help him access, through the Tech Café, on-line grief support groups and educational materials dealing with the reality of living alone.

At her suggestion, he enrolled in teleconferenced classes in cooking and nutrition, exercise and grief recovery. There were even classes about how to use teleconferencing in two or three way communications with service delivery professionals and family members.

This new interaction helped the manager remind Harold to be regular in monitoring his blood pressure. In his grief, Harold was still maintaining control over his life and his trust of the Aging Partners professionals held his depression at bay. He was regular in maintaining his medication regime as well. Harold was discovering a way of living in his new reality as a widower.

The manager urged him to allow his daughter access to the teleconferencing service. She assisted him in his first teleconference communication that linked his daughter with him and professionals at Aging Partners in Lincoln to discuss a legal issue.

Harold was pleased that he didn't have to drive to Lincoln to receive these services. His daughter was comforted that her father could receive the services he needed and she could be apprised of his situation so conveniently through Aging Partners web-based and teleconferencing abilities.



---

The Center continued to be *integral* in Harold's ability to thrive in his community.

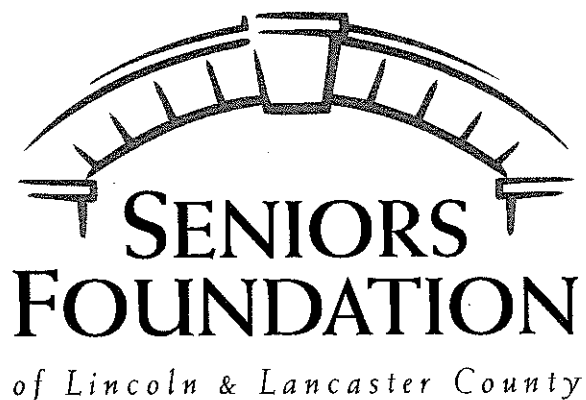
---

---


# Contact Information

**Diane Rolfsmeyer, Executive Director**  
**Seniors Foundation**

1005 O Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
402-441-6144  
fax: 402-441-6104  
[drolfsmeyer@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:drolfsmeyer@lincoln.ne.gov)



February 15, 2011

To: Lancaster County Board of Commissioners  
 From: June Pederson, Director, Aging Partners   
 Re: Public hearing on Lancaster Manor Proceeds

In 2009, there were 29,771 persons living in Lancaster County who were age 65 or older.\*

Mayor Chris Beutler noted in his recent State of the City speech, that Lincoln had been identified as the 13<sup>th</sup> best location in which to retire.

Statistics that Aging Partners has been collecting over the years show that in Lancaster County in 2000, there were 33,727 persons age 60 and older. The Nebraska Bureau of Business Research estimated this age group would grow 101% by the year 2020 to 67,884.

People are living longer than ever before. In 2000, the number of people who were 85 and older living in Lancaster County were 3,440. Projections for growth in this segment of older adults in our county are an increase of 71% to 5,885.

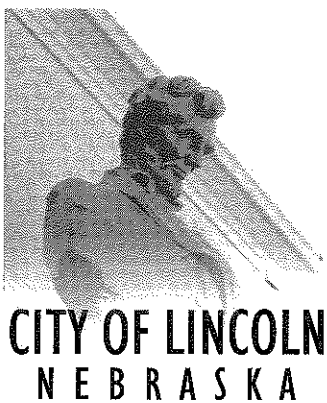
Aging Partners tracks the number of elders who are at or below the poverty guidelines (\$10,890 a year for a single person, \$14,710 for a couple.) The Census Bureau estimates that the five-year average of elders living in poverty was 6.9%. We have a goal of serving 75% of this group. In 2010, Aging Partners served 82% of this group.

Between October 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010 in Lancaster County, Aging Partners provided 21,000 congregate meals, recorded over 41,000 hours of volunteer service, provided more than 5,000 transportation rides and handled more than 6700 calls for information and referral. In this three month period, we recorded 65,000 individual units of service in 25 different categories of service.

The need is clear and growing. In 2008, Aging Partners conducted an economic impact study that showed the regional economic benefit of our Agency was \$153 Million each year. Much of that figure is generated here in our most populous county.

Thank you for your time. I would answer questions if you have them.

\* Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S.Census Bureau: 2009 data released June 10, 2010.



**CITY OF LINCOLN**  
**NEBRASKA**

**MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER**

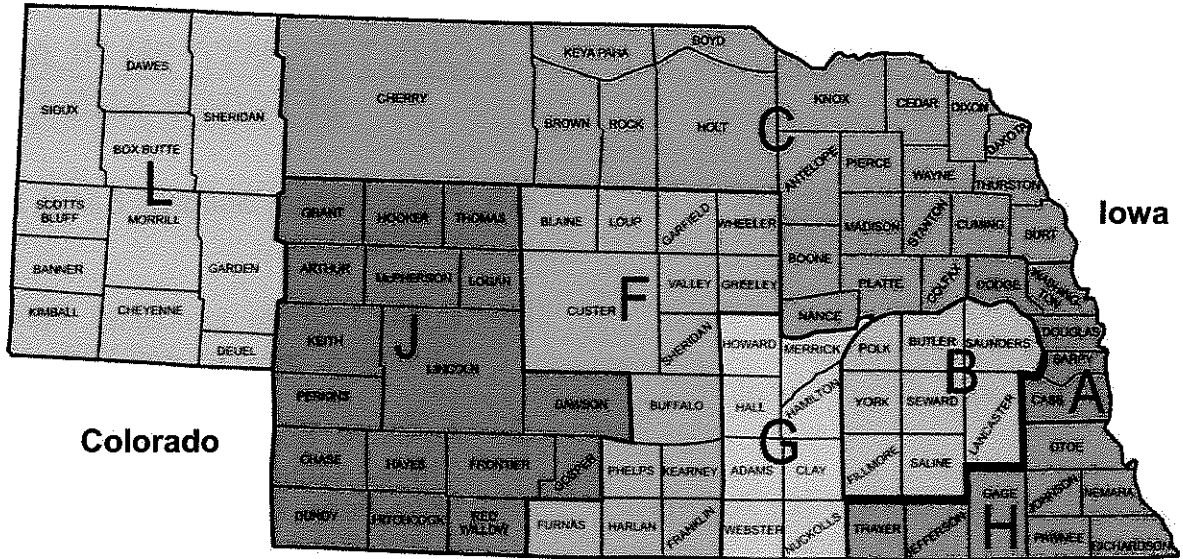
lincoln.ne.gov

Aging Partners  
 1005 "O" Street  
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3628  
 402-441-7070  
 toll free: 800-247-0938  
 fax: 402-441-7160  
 agingpartners@lincoln.ne.gov



## South Dakota

Wyoming



Iowa

Colorado

Missouri

Kansas

### A. EASTERN NE OFFICE ON AGING

Dennis Loose, Director  
 4223 Center Street  
 Omaha, NE 68105  
 402-444-6444 Fax: 402-444-6503  
 Out of State Toll Free: 888-554-2711  
 Website: [www.enoa.org](http://www.enoa.org)

### B. AGING PARTNERS

June Pederson, Director  
 1005 O Street  
 Lincoln, NE 68508-3628  
 402-441-7070 Fax: 402-441-7160  
 Toll Free within NE: 800-247-0938  
 Website: [aging.lincoln.ne.gov](http://aging.lincoln.ne.gov)

### C. NORTHEAST NE AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Connie Cooper, Director  
 119 W Norfolk Ave  
 Norfolk, NE 68701  
 402-370-3454 Fax: 402-370-3279  
 Toll Free: 800-672-8368  
 Website: [www.nenaaa.com](http://www.nenaaa.com)

### F. SOUTH CENTRAL NE AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Rod Horsley, Director  
 Suttle Plaza, 4623 2nd Ave, Suite 4  
 Kearney, NE 68848-3009  
 308-234-1851 Fax: 308-234-1853  
 Toll Free: 800-658-4320  
 Website: [agingkearney.org](http://agingkearney.org)

### G. MIDLAND AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Dianne Fowler, Director  
 PO Box 905, 305 N Hastings, Room 202  
 Hastings, NE 68901  
 402-463-4565 Fax: 402-463-1069  
 Toll Free: 800-955-9714  
 Website: [www.midlandareaagencyonaging.org](http://www.midlandareaagencyonaging.org)

### H. BLUE RIVERS AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Larry Ossowski, Director  
 1901 Court Street  
 Beatrice, NE 68310  
 402-223-1376 Fax: 402-223-2143  
 Toll Free: 888-317-9417  
 Website: [www.braaa.org](http://www.braaa.org)

### J. WEST CENTRAL NE AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Linda Foreman, Director  
 115 North Vine  
 North Platte, NE 69101  
 308-535-8195 Administrative Fax: 308-535-8197  
 CHOICES Program Fax: 308-535-8190  
 Toll Free: 800-662-2961

### L. AGING OFFICE OF WESTERN NEBRASKA

Victor Walker, Director  
 Bluffs Business Center  
 1517 Broadway, Suite 122  
 Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
 308-635-0851 Fax: 308-635-2321  
 Toll Free: 800-682-5140  
 Website: [www.aown.org](http://www.aown.org)

## AAA BOARD CHAIR

### Eastern NE Office on Aging

Mary Ann Borgeson, Board Chair

### AGING PARTNERS

Chris Beutler, Mayor, City of Lincoln

### Northeast NE Area Agency on Aging

Richard Uhlir, Board Chair

### South Central NE Area Agency on Aging

### Midland Area Agency on Aging

Pam Lancaster, Board Chair

### Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging

Ivan Zimmerman, Board Chair

### West Central NE Area Agency on Aging

Glen Monter, Board Chair

### Aging Office of Western NE

Clint Bailey, Board Chair

## COUNTIES WITHIN PLANNING & SERVICE AREAS

- A** - Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington
- B** - Butler, Fillmore, Lancaster, Polk, Saline, Saunders, Seward, and York
- C** - Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Burt, Cedar, Cherry, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Madison, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Rock, Stanton, Thurston, and Wayne
- F** - Blaine, Buffalo, Custer, Franklin, Furnas, Garfield, Greeley, Harlan, Kearney, Loup, Phelps, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler
- G** - Adams, Clay, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Merrick, Nuckolls, and Webster
- H** - Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, and Thayer
- J** - Arthur, Chase, Dawson, Dundy, Frontier, Gosper, Grant, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Perkins, Red Willow, and Thomas
- L** - Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux

## **NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Division of Medicaid & Long Term Care**

**STATE UNIT ON AGING**

**Tammie Scholz, Interim Administrator**

**P.O. Box 95026**

**Lincoln, NE 68509**

**402-471-2307**

**1-800-942-7830 in Nebraska**

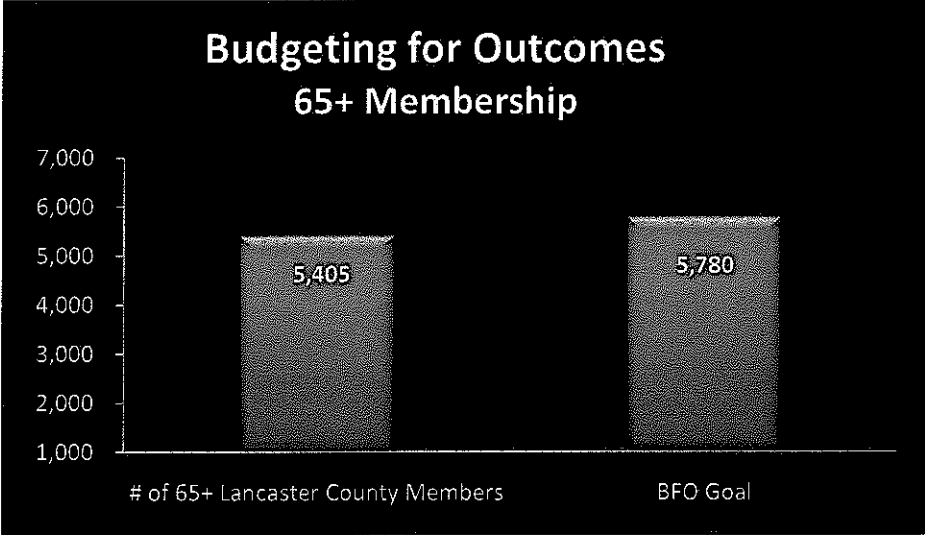
**Projected Population Growth  
In Lancaster County  
Persons Age 60 and older**

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>% Growth 2000-2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>% Growth 2005-2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>% Growth 2010-2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>% Growth 2015-2020</b>	<b>20 Year % Growth</b>
Age 60 and over	33,727	37,672	<b>11.69%</b>	43,607	<b>15.75%</b>	55,963	<b>28.33%</b>	67,884	<b>21.30%</b>	<b>101.28%</b>
Age 85 and over	3,440	4,158	<b>20.87%</b>	4,967	<b>19.45%</b>	5,478	<b>10.29%</b>	5,885	<b>7.43%</b>	<b>71.07%</b>

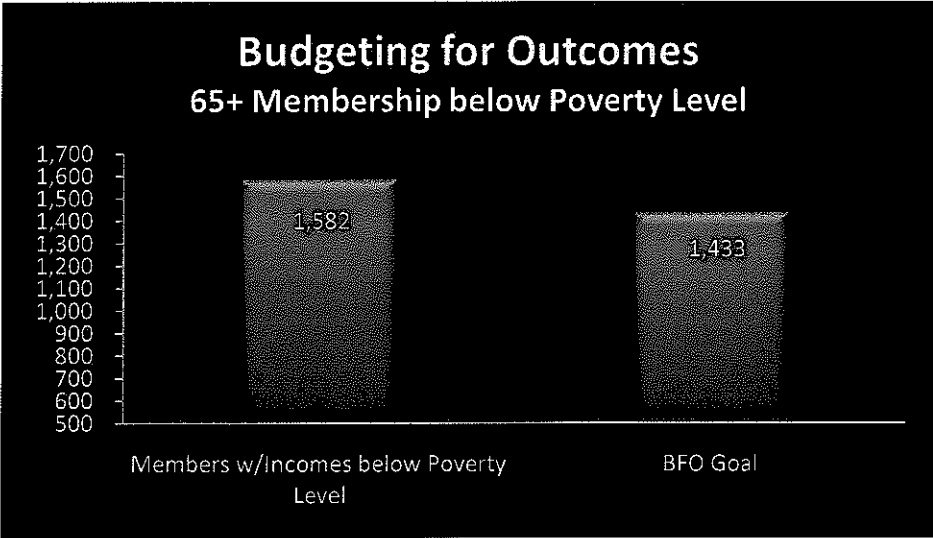
Source: Nebraska Bureau of Business Research Population Project, U.S. 2000 Census

**Aging Partners  
Budgeting for Outcomes Report: FY 2010**

Using 2008 ACS figures & 2008 Census population estimates



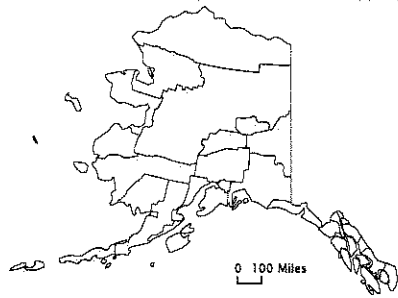
# of 65+ Lancaster County Members	5,405
20% of the 65+ population in Lancaster Co	BFO Goal
	5,780
	<b>94%</b>



# of 65+ Lancaster County	
Members w/Incomes below Poverty Level	1,582
75% of 65 + household population below poverty in Lancaster Co	BFO Goal
	1,433
	<b>110%</b>

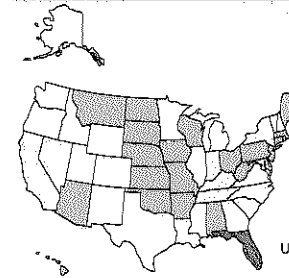
NOTES: Information pulled from only SAMS.  
 Report run on August 8, 2010 included any clients who received service 7-1-09 thru 6-30-10  
 For a client to be counted, he or she must have received a service unit in SAMS



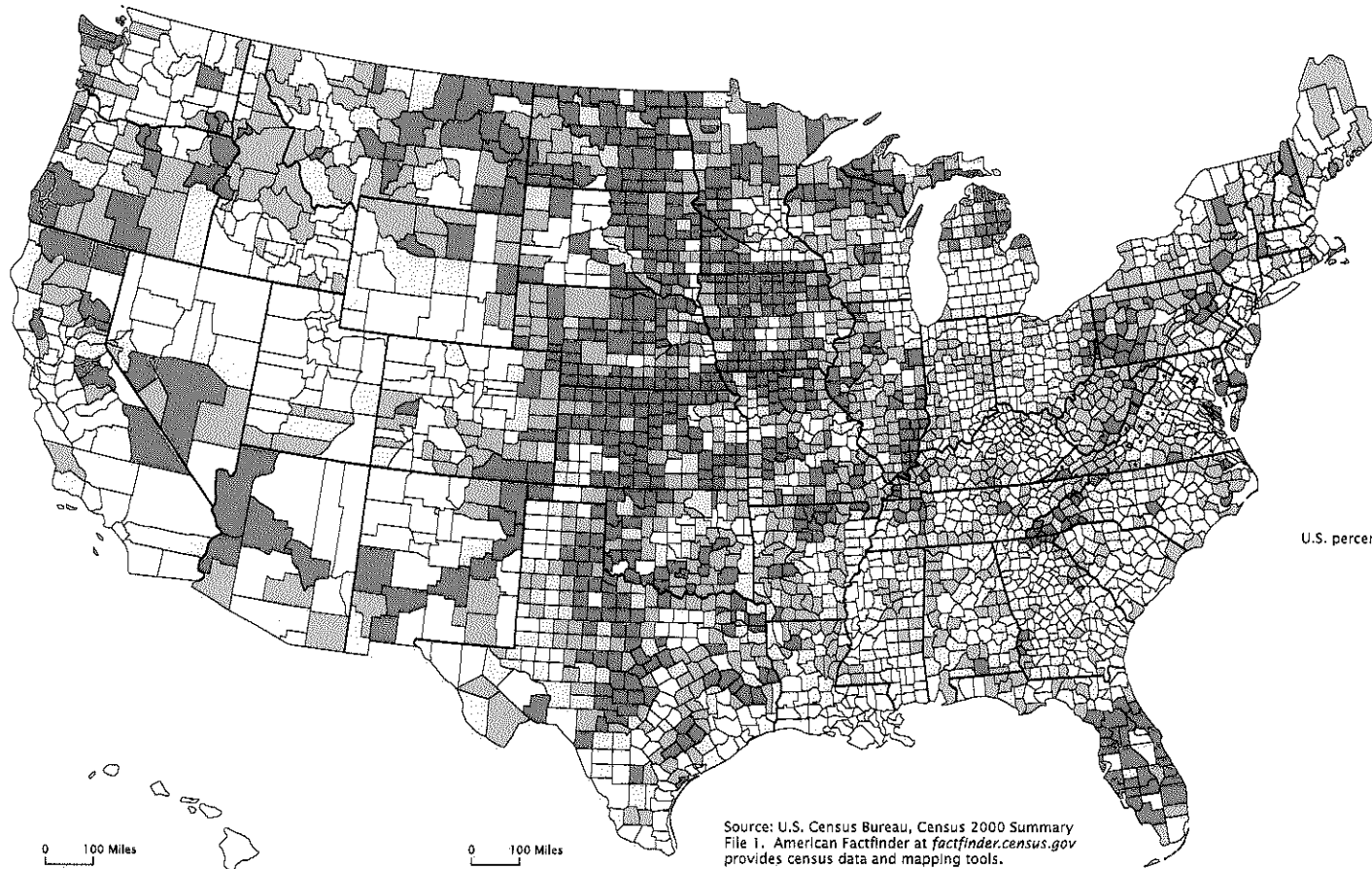
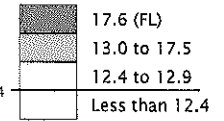


### Figure 3. Percent 65 Years and Over: 2000

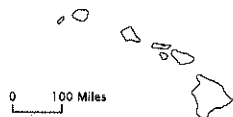
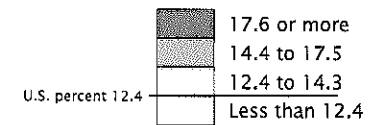
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf))



Percent of total population 65 years and over by state



Percent of total population 65 years and over by county



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. American Factfinder at [factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov) provides census data and mapping tools.

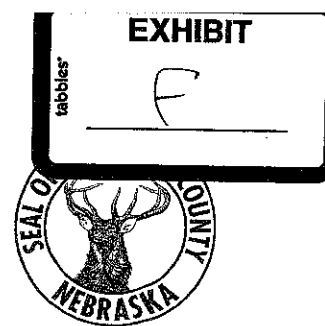


# Office of the Sheriff Lancaster County

Terry T. Wagner  
Sheriff

William E. Jarrett  
Chief Deputy

575 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2869  
Phone (402) 441-6500 Fax (402) 441-8320



January 17, 2011

Deb Schorr, Chair  
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners  
555 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2011

LANCASTER COUNTY  
BOARD

Dear Ms. Schorr,

I am writing to urge the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners to reject the recommendation of the Lancaster Manor Proceeds Committee presented January 13, 2011, at the Board's Staff meeting, and instead put the \$2.65 Million dollars into a reserve fund.

During these times when the County is having to make cuts in agencies' budgets, and our most trusted employees are receiving little or no pay raises, it would be prudent to use the interest income off of the principle to help the county meet its obligations for its employees and citizens alike.

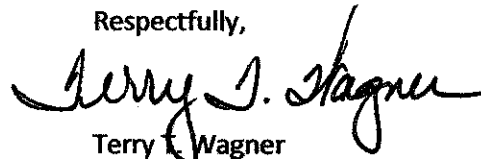
In addition, a brief review of Nebraska Statutes requires all income to be deposited into the general fund of the county. I may be mistaken, but there does not appear to be any permissive language allowing the establishment of an endowment. I believe a legal opinion would be necessary before action is taken to implement the recommendation of the committee.

If one compares the Community Health Endowment from the proceeds of the sale of Lincoln General Hospital to the recommendation of the Lancaster Manor Proceeds Committee it is readily apparent the Manor Proceeds (\$2.65 Million) will have to be handled differently. Lincoln General proceeds were \$37 million dollars. That fund has risen to \$52 million and is administered by three employees who earn over \$300,000 collectively. Who manages the funds and how much of the revenue of the Manor proceeds are going to be required to administer the proceeds?

This morning the Board allowed me to present Employee Awards to Sheriff's Office employees who provided outstanding service to the citizens of this county. One award was to an employee who organized a benefit supper and a garage sale to help another employee who was diagnosed with cancer and has spent a year recovering from surgery, radiation treatments and chemotherapy. This employee is a single parent, who works two jobs to make ends meet. It's not the Board who has to look these employees in the eye and tell them they will only receive a 1% raise because they are unrepresented when their represented co-workers receive 3.5%.

The Manor Proceeds Committee specified the funds should be used for low income, elderly residents. The Manor was funded through general tax dollars when Lancaster County's obligations to indigent elderly was different than today. Those funds should be returned to the general fund as required by law and from whence they came. I would urge the Board to take a wait and see approach with regard to the income from these funds, the overall economic condition of Lancaster County and the operating costs of the new jail.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry T. Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "T" and "W".

Terry T. Wagner  
Lancaster County Sheriff

Cc: Commissioner Heier  
Commissioner Smoyer  
Commissioner Raybould  
Commissioner Hudkins