



Lancaster County
Board of Commissioners

1997 Staff Agendas & Minutes

STAFF MEETING AGENDA
Lancaster County Board Of Commissioners
County-City Building
Fourth Floor Conference Room
Thursday, August 21, 1997
8:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

- 1 **APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 1997**
- 2 **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**
- 3 8:30am **BOARD OF CORRECTIONS QUARTERLY MEETING**
Mike Thurber, Corrections Director
- 4 9:30am **PROPOSED SERVICE AREAS FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Linda Thomsen and Jessie Rasmussen, HHS; Dave Merrill, Region V Services; Jill Rubottom, Region V; Reba Schafer, Aging; George Hanigan, CMHC; Dennis Banks, Attention Center; Jack Mills, NACO; and Kit Boesch, Human Services
- 5 10:15am **SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**
Justin Evertson, Morton Stelling and Steve Gaul, Ecological Advisory Committee; Mike DeKalb, Planning Department
- 6 **CONSENT ITEMS**
 - a. Microcomputer Request C#97234 from County Clerk for \$778.32 from Microcomputer Fund for WordPerfect 7.0 Upgrades
 - b. VISA Application for Attention Center
- 7 **ACTION ITEMS**
 - a. Centennial Certificate for Virgil Stallings
 - b. County Representative at SE District NACO Meeting
- 8 **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**
 - a. Letter of Resignation from Doug Wassung from Visitors Promotion Committee
- 9 **PENDING**
 - a. Establishment of Special Improvement District in Princeton
 - b. South Street Campus
- 10 **DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**
 - a. Master Plan Steering Committee - Hudkins
 - b. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board - Tussing
 - c. Government Access & Information Committee - Steinman
- 11 **SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**
 - a. *Master Plan Steering Committee - Thursday, August 21, 1997, at 1:15 p.m., at the County-City Building, Fourth Floor Conference Room - Hudkins*
 - b. *Special Board of Health Meeting - Thursday, August 21, 1997, at 6:00 p.m., at 3140 "N" Street, #236 - Hudkins*
 - c. *Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Study Interviews - Monday, August 25, 1997, at 3:00 p.m., at Hruska Law Center, 2nd Floor - Steinman*
 - d. *Railroad Transportation Safety District - Tuesday, August 26, 1997, at 8:30 a.m., at the County-City Building, Council Chambers - All Commissioners*
 - e. *District Energy Corporation - Tuesday, August*

- 26, 1997, at 12:00 p.m., at the Lincoln Electric System Boardroom - Hudkins, Svoboda
- f. *CMHC Advisory Committee* - Wednesday, August 27, 1997, at 12:00 p.m., at the Community Mental Health Center, Basement Conference Room - Svoboda
- g. *Lancaster County Emergency Planning Committee* - Wednesday, August 27, 1997, at 1:00 p.m., at the County-City Building, Emergency Operations Center Hudkins

12 INVITATIONS TO BOARD MEMBERS

- a. Grand Opening Celebration for the Renovation of Crossroads House - Monday, August 25, 1997, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., at 1000 "O" Street
- b. United Way/CHAD Campaign Kickoff - Thursday, September 4, 1997, at 12:00 p.m., at the Lincoln Foundation Garden, 215 Centennial Mall South
- c. County and Municipal Road and Street Program Management and Reporting Requirements Workshop - Wednesday, October 22, 1997, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Villager Motor Inn

13 CORRESPONDENCE TO THE COUNTY BOARD

14 CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COUNTY BOARD

15 AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNTY BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 1997

16 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

MINUTES

**Lancaster County Board Of Commissioners
 Fourth Floor Conference Room
 County-city Building
 Thursday, August 21, 1997
 8:30 A.m.**

Commissioners Present: Linda Steinman, Chair
 Darlene Tussing
 Larry Hudkins
 Steve Svoboda

Commissioners Absent: Kathy Campbell

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
 Susan Starcher, County Clerk's Office
 Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

AGENDA ITEM:

1 APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 1997

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, noted for the record that the Board's reason for the Board's reason for entering Executive Session during the August 14th meeting was for discussion of labor negotiations, not Personnel policy.

MOTION: Tussing moved and Svoboda seconded approval of the minutes with the correction as noted. On call Tussing, Svoboda and Steinman. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Hudkins arrived.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Accessibility of Retirement Accounts on the Internet
- b. Letter of Appreciation for Jennifer Lynne, Noxious Weed Control Authority
- c. Health Department Update

MOTION: Tussing moved and Svoboda seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. On call Tussing, Svoboda, Hudkins and Steinman voted aye. Motion carried.

3 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS QUARTERLY MEETING

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, Brenda Fisher,
Corrections Specialist

(Separate Minutes)

4 PROPOSED SERVICE AREAS FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Linda Thomsen, Ann Hogan and Dennis
Loose, Health & Human Services; Dave Merrill,
Region V Services; Jill Rubottom, Region V; Reba
Schafer, Aging; George Hanigan, Community Mental
Health Center; Dennis Banks, Attention Center; and
Kit Boesch, Human Services

Steinman reported that the Board had received a letter from Health and Human Services requesting that the Board submit a plan for service area affiliation. Steinman stated that the strict timetable noted in the letter did not allow sufficient time for the Region V Governing Board to meet and make recommendations to the Board. She stated that it was also a very short time table for the County Board to respond.

Dennis Loose, Chief Deputy Director for Health & Human Services, stated that the issue of development of common service area boundaries for management of state operations occurred as a result of the merger of the Departments on Aging, Health, Public Institutions, Social Services and the Office of Juvenile Services in the Department of Correctional Services into the Department of Regulation and Licensure, Department of Finance and Support and Department of Health and Human Services. He stated that once the service areas for management structure are established, Health and Human Services will contract with the service providers, regardless of whatever boundaries they exist within. Loose noted that the service providers' governing structures are determined by State Statute, and that Health and Human Services is not an advocate or proponent to any change.

Loose reported that a bill before the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee containing a recommendation for service area boundaries failed to advance. He stated that the Department of Health and Human Services, with input from the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO), decided to proceed with the process for county input on boundaries outlined in the bill.

Loose reported that Jessie Rasmussen, Health and Human Services Director, plans to make a recommendation to the Administration on the best set of boundaries for State operations by the end of September. He stated that a decision on the management structure within each service area boundary is anticipated by January, 1998.

In response to a question from Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, Loose stated that he did not foresee the establishment of administrative service area boundaries having an effect on the flow of funds to service providers. He stated that if a major program is in one service area and the service provider was in a different district, there may be an effect on where that money goes, but that the offices and funding process would remain the same.

Boesch noted that many of the major service providers are located within Lancaster County. She asked Loose, if a duplicate service were to be offered in another service area, would the flow of money for provision of that service change?

Loose responded that the funding process would not be any different than it currently is and that he assumed that, in the scenario Boesch described, provision of the service would be competitively sought after.

In response to a question from Jill Rubottom, Region V,

Loose stated that one administrator would be named for each service area.

Steinman inquired whether contracted services would remain the same.

Loose stated that was correct. He also noted that the three Regional Centers, Beatrice State Developmental Center, State Veterans' Homes and Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers in Geneva and Kearney were state-wide services and would not be part of the management structure.

Reba Schafer, Lincoln Area Agency on Aging Administrator, and Rubottom voiced concern regarding the long term implications for providers, once boundaries are established.

Rubottom also stated concern that boundaries were being established by Administration, rather than the Legislature, and suggested that it may have been more beneficial to have brought counties together for discussion and recommendations, rather than requesting individual resolutions.

Steinman noted that Lancaster County has strong ties to the local office and input in to how the services are disbursed, even though it is managed by the State. She also noted concern about the effect of the proposed changes.

Boesch inquired as to whether Lancaster County, based on its size, could become its own service area.

Loose stated that the Health and Human Services Leadership Committee had recommended against establishment of one county service areas, as every county could then make the same request.

Steinman suggested that perhaps a population stipulation could be made.

In response to a question from Boesch, Rubottom reported that Douglas County wants to remain affiliated with Region VI.

George Hanigan, Community Mental Health Center Director, suggested that State schedule one meeting with all the relevant agencies to discuss issues. He also stated that the State should recognize areas where programs are working and capitalize on it.

Loose distributed a handout titled Local Integrated Health & Human Service Network (Exhibit B).

In response to a question from Boesch, Loose stated that counties can not vote to exclude a county from inclusion in a service area.

Boesch also expressed concern that one service area may be required to accept more clients than it can provide for or may have already minimal staff deployed to other counties to meet their needs.

Loose said their was no intent to change the activity or staffing in the Lancaster County office.

Dave Merrill, Region V Services, clarified that funding will not be affected if a county elects to not respond to the request for input.

Loose affirmed this.

Tussing noted concern with the wording of the State's letter to service providers and the implication that services would not continue to be provided unless letters of consent were signed.

Rubottom noted that there appeared to be three main issues of concern:

- a. Boundary Issue

- b. Making all Service Providers Employees of the State
- c. Combining Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Aging into a "Super Board"

Boesch inquired, for clarification, whether signature of a resolution with regards to the establishment of service areas by the Board was necessary, or whether the State was merely seeking input from the County Board.

Rubottom stated that the sample resolution was designed as a way for the State to get feedback from the counties.

Boesch stated that rather than issuing a resolution, the County Board could relay a collection of concerns that this action is precedent setting in terms of risk in the Legislature and long range implications.

Loose stated that would be acceptable.

Hanigan suggested that the County and the local Health and Human Services office relay to the State what partnerships currently exist and for what purpose they are intended.

Steinman requested that Boesch and several other providers present design a letter of response to Health and Human Services by Tuesday, for the Board's signature.

Boesch agreed to do so.

Loose distributed packets of materials related to the provision and funding of health and human services (Exhibit C).

5 **SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

Justin Evertson and Steve Gaul, Ecological Advisory Committee; Mike DeKalb and Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Planning Department

Justin Evertson, Ecological Advisory Committee Chair, stated that it was important to begin to identify the important issues in Lancaster County which can be sustainability indicators of areas to improve and focus on.

Mike DeKalb, Planning, stated that the Ecological Advisory Committee would be seeking the Board's acceptance of the sustainability report and approval of it's dissemination to the public and other agencies.

Steve Gaul, Ecological Advisory Committee, stated that the report, which is actually a series of reports, evolved from it's original concept. He stated that the intent was to gather in one place existing trend, benchmark and historic data relevant to Lancaster County and to identify some of the monitoring efforts taking place.

Gaul stated that the report examines vegetation, wildlife, soil, ground water, air resource, recreational land use and solid waste and noted that much of the data is complex. He noted that time constraints prevented exploration of other relevant topics.

Gaul defined "sustainability" as development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. He stated that although the Ecological Advisory Committee was concerned with assembling data that examined those issues sources, data and needs change with time and different interpretations of the data can be made.

Steinman inquired whether sustainability studies conducted in other areas were performed by government entities or volunteer groups.

Evertson stated that he was not aware of any other studies of this type that were developed, implemented and written by a volunteer committee, without paid assistance.

DeKalb noted that comparisons were difficult as other jurisdictions conducting sustainability studies establish different benchmarks, levels of depth and apply different resources for different purposes.

In response to a question from Steinman, DeKalb stated that published copies of the report are available in the Planning Department.

Board consensus to place acceptance of the sustainability report on the agenda for the Tuesday, September 2nd meeting.

DeKalb reported that the Ecological Advisory Committee had set up a subcommittee and work with the City Parks and Recreation Department in an initial study of Wilderness Park, with future focus on the impact of longer term development on the park. He noted that the City Parks and Recreation Department would also act as a mechanism in requesting grant money for the study.

Steinman inquired about the timetable for the study.

Gaul stated that the preliminary report was anticipated within a year.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Accessibility of Retirement Accounts on the Internet

Eagan reported that information regarding retirement accounts is now available on the Internet. He suggested that the Board request Information Services to investigate whether this confidential information is secure. He also recommended that the Board send a letter to Department Directors and Elected Officials requesting that they poll their employees to determine whether this was a desired service.

Hudkins expressed concern that the retirement account information could be accessed for the purpose of commercial ventures.

- b. Letter of Appreciation for Jennifer Lynne, Noxious Weed Control Authority

Eagan reported that Russ Shultz, Noxious Weed Control Authority Superintendent, had drafted a letter for the Board recognizing Jennifer Lynne, who is retiring from the Noxious Weed Control Authority, for her years of service.

Board consensus to authorize the Chair to sign the letter of recognition.

6 CONSENT ITEMS

- c. Microcomputer Request C#97234 from the County Clerk for \$778.32 from the Microcomputer Fund for WordPerfect 7.0 Upgrades

Eagan reported that the upgrade was necessary for implementation of the Keyfile data management system in the County Clerk's office.

- b. VISA Credit Card Application for the Attention Center

Steinman noted that the Board had previously stated reservations about granting the VISA credit card request for the Attention Center.

Eagan reported that he and Dave Kroeker, Budget

and Fiscal Officer, had met Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, and Dennis Banks, Attention Center Director, and were satisfied that a credit card for Transport expenses would be useful.

Eagan stated that the credit card would have a spending limit of \$500.

MOTION: Tussing moved and Svoboda seconded approval of the Consent Items. On call Tussing, Svoboda, Hudkins and Steinman voted aye. Motion carried.

7 ACTION ITEMS

- a. Centennial Certificate for Virgil Stallings

Eagan reported that the certificate had been signed by the Board and would be presented to Virgil Stallings at a ceremony on Friday, August 22nd.

- b. County Representative at the Southeast District Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Meeting

Tussing agreed to attend the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Southeast District Fall Meeting luncheon and extend a welcome greeting to participants on behalf of the Board.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- a. Letter of Resignation from Doug Wassung from the Visitors Promotion Committee

Eagan reported that Doug Wassung had resigned from the Visitors Promotion Committee, creating a vacancy.

Hudkins suggested that the Board request a recommendation from the Lincoln Lodging Association with regards to filling the vacancy. He noted that traditionally representation on the Visitors Promotion Committee includes one member each of a large and small lodging facility.

Steinman reported that a meeting to discuss the concerns noted by Doug Wassung in his letter of resignation was held, but that he had elected not to attend.

9 PENDING

- a. Establishment of Special Improvement District in Princeton

- b. South Street Campus

Steinman noted that the Board was still concerned about the lack of a report from John Layman, Appraiser, on St. Francis Chapel.

Eagan agreed to pursue the matter.

10 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- a. Master Plan Steering Committee - Hudkins

Hudkins reported that discussion focused on selection of colors, floor tile and coverings, the floor surface in the escalator area and redesign of the security checkpoint waiting area in the Justice and Law Enforcement Center.

Hudkins also reported that problems caused by humidity during construction had necessitated implementation of the air conditioning in the new County/City Building. He stated that the

estimated cost was \$13,000, with the Public Building Commission paying \$3,000 and the Contractor the remainder.

b. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board - Tussing

Tussing reported on adult and youth activities at the Nature Center and the restructure of fees for tennis sales to include tax collection.

Tussing also reported that the Antelope Valley Nature Study group had been searching for available land on which to locate retention ponds. She stated that the City Parks and Recreation Department had expressed concern regarding maintenance when they learned that Lewis Ball Diamond was one of the areas under consideration.

c. Government Access & Information Committee - Steinman

Steinman reported that six computers from the InterLinc Project had been offered for reuse by the Parks and Recreation Department. Steinman stated that two of the computers would be located in the kiosk configuration in the new County/City Building and that the remaining four had been offered to human service agencies, possibly as training tools.

Steinman also reported that Information Systems was assisting the City Libraries in the development of a Internet homepage.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

c. Health Department Update

Hudkins reported that the Board of Health will be meeting at 6 p.m. to receive a report from the consultant hired to evaluate the performance of the Director and the plan of unification as the Health Department moves under the direct supervision of the City of Lincoln.

In response to a question from Steinman, Hudkins stated that he felt the entire Board of Health should be present to take any further action with regards to the Director.

Hudkins also reported that Ed Wimes, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, will serve as the Mayor's liaison to the Board of Health.

11 SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

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15 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE COUNTY BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 1997

16 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

17 ADJOURNMENT

By direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

Kandra Hahn
Lancaster County Clerk

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