

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2010
8:30 A.M.**

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

Others Present: Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2010

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded approval of the April 29, 2010 Staff Meeting minutes. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Walk for Your Life 2010 Challenge Sponsored by the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)
- B. Appointment of a Chair for the May 25, 2010 County Board of Commissioners Meeting

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Hudkins, Stevens, Schorr, Workman and Heier voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

3 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS - Mike Thurber, Corrections Director

Separate minutes.

4 OVERVIEW OF DISTRICT 3A ADULT PROBATION - Gene Cotter, Chief Probation Officer

Gene Cotter, Chief Probation Officer, gave an overview of District 3A Adult Probation, noting they have approximately 2,400 to 2,500 individuals under their supervision on any given day. He said over 60 percent of the cases are related to drunk driving offenses and said approximately one out of every eight individuals on probation is on for a repeat drunk driving offense. Cotter said Adult Probation has transformed how it does business and said they are now performing comprehensive risk assessments and grouping like offenses into caseloads with a specialized probation officer supervising them. He noted the County paid for an additional probation officer to help with the pre-sentence investigations and said they are working to reduce the turnaround time.

In response to a question from Heier, Cotter said pre-sentence investigations are currently taking 40-45 days and said his goal is to get them turned around in 30 days.

Cotter also presented information on the Lancaster County Adult Probation Reporting Center (Exhibit A).

Hudkins noted plans to develop a master plan for potential future uses of the current Intake and Detention Facility (605 South 10th Street) and asked Cotter whether it would be beneficial to move all of Adult Probation into that facility.

Cotter said he and Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, have had preliminary conversations about whether it would be beneficial to have both of their departments housed in one building. He said he would prefer to be near the downtown area as it is easily accessible.

Workman questioned whether Adult Probation and Community Corrections are duplicating services.

Cotter acknowledged that they do some of the same things, but with different populations. He added that Community Corrections has allowed Adult Probation to focus their attention on higher risk offenders.

5 MEDICAID UNBUNDLING OF CASE MANAGEMENT - Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Director; Travis Parker, CMHC Deputy Director; Dr. Joseph Swoboda, Psychologist, CMHC

Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Director, expressed concern regarding the impact of a proposal by Vivianne Chaumont, Director of Medicaid and Long-Term Care, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to “unbundle” the flat rate paid to mental health providers to provide community support (case management) services to those with severe mental illness and move it to an hourly rate. Mental health providers currently receive \$277 per month, per person, under the current payment system. They would receive an hourly rate of \$43 and be required to see each client six times a month for an hour under the new proposal in order to draw down funds. He said that eliminates providers flexibility to respond to a client in crisis, noting some clients need little support while others need more. He said many will eventually lose services as providers will be physically unable to deliver the proposed six hours of contact per month. **NOTE:** CMHC currently serves 730 clients per month (see Exhibit B for a list of programs and services) and gets approximately \$2,000,000 annually from Medicaid. That amount would be reduced by approximately 40 percent under the proposed rate change. Settle said HHS is reducing the cost of Medicaid at the expense of a vulnerable class of individuals and predicted there will be an impact to public resources, such as the jail, hospitals and General Assistance (GA) as a result.

Travis Parker, CMHC Deputy Director, said there will be a trickle-down effect to any departments impacted by Medicaid.

Dr. Joseph Swoboda, Psychologist, CMHC, said this is also a public safety issue.

Heier asked what they would like the Board to do.

Settle presented a draft of a letter to Chaumont expressing concerns regarding the proposed change in reimbursement (Exhibit C).

Topher Hansen, CenterPointe, Inc. Director, appeared and said he has been in contact with Chaumont and said she is willing to withhold submission of the proposed changes to the Center for Medicaid Services in Kansas City until after she meets with members of the Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations (NABHO) Executive Committee on May 21st.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to direct Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Director, and Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, to refine letter, stipulating that: 1) The letter should be addressed to Governor Heineman, with copies to the following: Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO); Lancaster County Senators; Tim Gay, State Senator; and Jim Jensen, former State Senator; and 2) The letter will be signed by all members of the Board. Schorr, Stevens, Workman, Hudkins and Heier voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Also present for the discussion were representatives of CMHC, the Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Program, CenterPointe, Inc., Cornhusker Place and O.U.R. Homes.

6 BUDGET OVERVIEW - Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, gave an overview of the following documents, noting these are preliminary figures (see agenda packet):

- Lancaster County, Property Tax Funded Budgets, Fiscal Year 2011 Requested Compared to Fiscal Year 2010 Adopted
- Lancaster County, Comparison of Budgeted Expenditures, Fiscal Year 2011 Requested Compared to Fiscal Year 2010 Adopted
- Lancaster County, Comparison of Budgeted Expenditures - Personal Services, Fiscal Year 2011 Requested Compared to Fiscal Year 2010 Adopted
- Lancaster County, Comparison of Budgeted Revenues, Fiscal Year 2011 Requested Compared to Fiscal Year 2010 Adopted
- Lancaster County, Request for Increase in Personnel (Fiscal Year 2011)

Meyer said many of the departments have made an effort to reduce their budgets, but there is still a shortfall of \$2,416,147.

In response to a question from Heier, Meyer said two areas the Board might consider for possible reduction are out-of-state travel and continuing education.

Schorr asked whether a legal opinion on whether furloughs are a possibility has been received.

Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney, appeared and said he is still working on the opinion but would be willing to discuss it off-the-record.

7 SALE OF REAL PROPERTY (EXECUTIVE SESSION) - Mike Thew, Chief Deputy County Attorney; Abbie Widger, Johnson, Flodman, Guenzel & Widger Law Firm

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to enter Executive Session at 10:16 a.m. for the purpose of protecting the public interest with regards to the sale of real property. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:57 a.m. Schorr, Stevens, Workman, Hudkins and Heier voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

8 TERMINATION OF TONER SUPPLY CONTRACT WITH CVR COMPUTER SUPPLIES (CONTRACT NO. C-10-0002) - Bob Walla, Assistant Purchasing Agent

Bob Walla, Assistant Purchasing Agent, recommended termination of the contract with CVR Computer Supplies for the annual supply of printer cartridges, due to complaints regarding quality, deliveries and the company's response to orders. He said IKON Office Solutions was the seconded lowest bidder and has agreed to honor their quote. Office Depot will serve as a secondary supplier.

The Board scheduled a letter of termination on the May 11, 2010 County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Walk for Your Life 2010 Challenge Sponsored by the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)

Board consensus was to have Minette Genuchi, Administrative Assistant, coordinate Lancaster County's participation.

- B. Appointment of a Chair for the May 25, 2010 County Board of Commissioners Meeting

Schorr agreed to serve as acting Chair for the May 25th County Board of Commissioners Meeting, as well as the May 27th Staff Meeting (see April 29, 2010 Staff Meeting minutes).

9 ACCESS TO COUNTY PROPERTY NEAR INTERSTATE 80 AND NORTH 134TH STREET - Don Thomas, County Engineer; Doug Pillard, Design Division Head, County Engineering; Don Killeen, County Property Manager

Don Thomas, County Engineer, said his department was informed that the Nebraska Department of Roads' (NDOR's) plans for a bridge over Interstate 80 require them to resurrect the road that provided access to the County's lot off 134th Street. He said the slope will need some work, but said the County can proceed with lining up a tenant to farm the land. Don Killeen, County Property Manager, was asked to handle the lease negotiations.

Thomas said the County will also need to secure easements from Watts Electric and Tecumseh Poultry, because the access road is on their properties.

10 TIME CLOCK MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT - Sheli Schindler, Youth Services Center (YSC) Director; Melissa Hood, Administrative Aide, YSC

Sheli Schindler, Youth Services Center (YSC) Director, asked the Board to consider a maintenance agreement for the time clock system at YSC that synchronizes with the payroll system. She said a service call costs \$250 and an annual maintenance agreement, including a software upgrade, costs \$750.

Heier asked how much a new time clock system would cost.

Melissa Hood, Administrative Aide, YSC, said they spent approximately \$2,000 when the time clock system was purchased several years ago and said the cost to program it to synchronize it with the payroll system exceeded that amount.

Schorr inquired about the number of service calls last year.

Hood said they didn't have any last year but said there were six or seven the prior year. She said they had a maintenance agreement, which has expired, and said they typically do not renew the contract until they have a need for service.

Schindler added they have funds in their budget for the maintenance agreement.

Board consensus was to schedule the item on a County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

11 ACTION ITEMS

- A. Microcomputer Request Estimate, \$1,394.13 from Microcomputer Fund for PC, 22" Monitor, etc. for District Court Clerk

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded approval. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

12 CONSENT ITEMS

There were no consent items.

13 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Building and Safety Fee Comparison

The Board reviewed the fee and reimbursement for services comparison (Exhibit D), with consensus to move towards harmonization of fees with the City.

B. Juvenile Drug Court Space

The Board reviewed correspondence from Don Killeen, County Property Manager, indicating Juvenile Drug Court will be paying more rent in the 233 Building than they were paying for space at 1115 K Street, although their rent in that building likely did not reflect their actual usage (see agenda packet). No concerns were expressed.

C. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Budget Seminar (May 27, 2010 in Kearney, Nebraska)

None of the Board members will be able to attend the seminar as Heier and Stevens will also be out-of-town and the other Board members be at the County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

D. Management Team Meeting (May 13, 2010)

The following agenda items were suggested: 1) Food Bank Drive; 2) Walk for Your Life 2010 Challenge; 3) Briefing by Don Killeen, County Property Manager, on development of a master plan for the current Intake and Detention Facility.

E. Cornhusker Girls State (June 10, 2010 from 2:45-3:45 p.m.)

Schorr agreed to meet with the Cornhusker Girls State participants.

F. Reappointments to the Lancaster County Indigent Defense Committee (Jeanelle Lust, Sean Brennan and Randy Goyette)

The Board scheduled the item on the May 11, 2010 County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

G. Lobbyist Agreement

Thorpe said Kissel/E&S Associates has responded to the County's counteroffer of a two (2) year contract at the existing rate of \$53,000. **NOTE:** Kissel/E&S Associates had proposed a two-year contract with a five percent increase. She said Kissel/E&S Associates has countered with a proposal for a two (2) year contract with no increase for the first year and a three percent increase for the second year.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded approval of the proposal for a two-year contract, with no increase the first year and a three percent increase the second year. Workman and Stevens voted aye. Hudkins and Heier voted nay. Schorr abstained from voting, due to a conflict of interest. Motion failed 2-2, due to the lack of a majority.

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded to offer a one-year contract with no increase. Workman and Heier voted aye. Hudkins and Stevens voted nay. Schorr abstained from voting, due to a conflict of interest. Motion failed 2-2, due to the lack of a majority.

14 PENDING ITEMS

There were no pending items.

15 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

A. Juvenile Justice Review Committee (JJRC) - Heier

Heier said he did not attend the meeting.

B. Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee (EAC) - Heier

Heier said the EAC discussed the request from Wild Rose Woods, Inc., for assistance in locating 20-30 acres of rough, wooded ground within 25 miles of Lincoln to provide children with nature-based education. He said several suggestions were offered.

C. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) - Heier

Heier said it was reported that Steve Kiene, a local entrepreneur, is in the process of setting up a \$30,000,000 fund to finance start-up software companies in Lincoln.

D. Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) & Public Works Meeting - Heier, Hudkins

This item was covered during the Board of Corrections Meeting (see Item3).

E. Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee - Hudkins

Hudkins said he did not attend the meeting.

F. Chamber of Commerce Coffee - Stevens

Stevens said he reported that the County will be holding departmental budget hearings next week. Tim Clare, University of Nebraska Regent, indicated the University is facing a \$28,000,000 shortfall and said each one percent increase in tuition generates \$2,000,000. Walt Zink, Lincoln Airport Authority, reported that Delta Airlines will offer flights from Lincoln to Minneapolis this summer.

16 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

There were no emergency items or other business.

17 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 a.m. Hudkins, Workman, Heier, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

NOTE: At the conclusion of the Staff Meeting, the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners toured the new jail construction site, located at Southwest 40th and "O" Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska.