

**MINUTES**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012**  
**COMMISSIONERS HEARING ROOM, ROOM 112**  
**FIRST FLOOR, COUNTY-CITY BUILDING**  
**9:30 A.M.**

*Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site and emailed to the media on February 17, 2012.*

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

Commissioners absent: Bernie Heier

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 9:30 a.m.

1) **MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012.**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Raybould seconded approval of the minutes. Hudkins, Raybould, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

2) **CLAIMS: Approval of all claims processed through Tuesday, February 21, 2012.**

**MOTION:** Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded approval of the claims. Raybould, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

3) **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

A. **Visitors Improvement Fund grant for promotion of the Special Olympics Nebraska Sports Classic Competition - Cliff Carlson, Vice President of Development for Special Olympics Nebraska.**

Cliff Carlson said grant funds would be used for the Sports Classic taking place at the Abbott Sports Complex in August 2012. Raybould asked if volunteers would be needed for the event. Carlson said volunteers could sign up using the volunteer enrollment form on the web site at [www.sone.org](http://www.sone.org) or by calling the office at 402-331-5545. Hudkins discussed the success of the Special Olympics Nationals event and thanked Carlson for his organization's work.

5) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **A Visitors Improvement Fund grant contract between Lancaster County, grantor, and Special Olympics Nebraska, grantee, in the amount of \$10,000 for promotion of the Sports Classic competition to be held in August 2012. (C-12-0094)**

Hudkins noted the Visitors Improvement Fund comes from lodging tax and not property tax.

**MOTION:** Smoyer moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the contract. Hudkins, Raybould, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**RETURNING TO SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- B. **Visitors Improvement Fund grant for the Lincoln Area Railway Historical Society's renovation of the Roca Depot – Larry Angle, President of Lincoln Area Railway Historical Society.**

Larry Angle said his organization is currently working on restoration of the Roca Depot. Last year's grant helped remodel the foundation, structure and roof; these grant funds would be used to redo the sides of the building and install the platform.

**RETURNING TO NEW BUSINESS:**

- B. **A Visitors Improvement Fund grant contract between Lancaster County, grantor, and the Lincoln Area Railway Historical Society, grantee, in the amount of \$10,000 for renovation of the Roca Depot. (C-12-0095)**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Raybould seconded approval of the contract. Raybould, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

4) **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- A. **Use of Community Development Block Grant – Reuse Economic Development Loan Program Financing in Lancaster County, Nebraska. (See 5C for correlating item.)**

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Craig Eberle, Program Administrator for the Lancaster County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development Loan Program, was administered the oath. He said the loan was recommended for funding as proposed by the CDBG Reuse Fund Loan Review Committee. If approved by the County Board, the CDBG funds would be provided to Prairieland, LLC, as a reuse loan to assist with the purchase of equipment and shipping and installation costs associated with that equipment for the expansion of their processing facility in rural Firth. The equipment would be placed in the glass bottle dairy processing facility located in downtown Hallam. With the reuse loan, the business would create at least ten full time job positions within 24 months as well as retain at least 30 existing jobs for at least 36 months. In response to Hudkins' question, Eberle said there should not be any significant concerns with the loan.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

**RETURNING TO NEW BUSINESS:**

- C. **A resolution approving the obligation of funds in the amount of \$100,000 to Prairieland Foods, LLC, under the Community Development Block Grant – Reuse Economic Development Loan Program Financing. (R-12-0015)**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the resolution. Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**RETURNING TO PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- B. **Public comment on the recommendations from the Community Mental Health Center Planning Committee.**

The Chair announced the item would be held until the end of the meeting.

**RETURNING TO NEW BUSINESS:**

Items 5A, 5B and 5C were moved forward on the agenda.

- D. **A construction contract with Hartmann Construction Company in the amount of \$87,787 for grading work on Havelock Avenue between N. 162<sup>nd</sup> Street and N. 176<sup>th</sup> Street; Project 12-27. (C-12-0096)**

**MOTION:** Raybould moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the contract. Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- E. **An amendment to County Contract C-11-0211 between Kenwood USA Corporation Communications Division, Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln for two-way communications equipment and related accessories. The amendment renews the agreement from January 1, 2012, to June 30, 2012. (C-12-0098)**

**MOTION:** Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded approval of the amendment. Hudkins, Raybould, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- F. **A space rental agreement between the Lancaster Event Center and Lancaster County, on behalf of the Lancaster County Clerk, for meeting space within the Event Center to be used for hearings between June 14 and July 28, 2012. (C-12-0097)**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Raybould seconded approval of the agreement. Raybould, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- G. **An amendment to County Contract C-11-0112 with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Children and Family Services for the provision of detention services for youth committed to or placed with DHHS at the Youth Services Center. The amendment changes the end of the term to June 30, 2012. (C-12-0099)**

**MOTION:** Raybould moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the amendment. Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

- H. **A political subdivision tort claim filed against Lancaster County Corrections by Henry J. Blackbonnet for damaged property in an undisclosed amount.**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Smoyer seconded denial of the tort claim based on the department director's recommendation. Hudkins, Smoyer, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- I. **A political subdivision tort claim filed against Lancaster County Corrections by Troy L. Smith for lost property in the amount of \$125.**

**MOTION:** Raybould moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the tort claim in the reduced amount of \$31.50 based on the department director's recommendation. Hudkins, Raybould, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- 6) **CONSENT ITEMS:** *These are routine business items that 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. **Receive and place on file the Lancaster County Agricultural Society Management's Discussion and Analysis, Financial Statements and Supplementary Information for year ended November 30, 2011.**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the consent items. Raybould, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

- 7) **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Those wishing to speak on items relating to County business not on the agenda may do so at this time.

No one appeared for public comment.

- 8) **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. **The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold a staff meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2012, 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 28, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 112 on the first floor of the County-City Building.**
- C. **The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting is broadcast live. It is rebroadcast on Tuesday and Saturday on 5 City-TV, Cable Channel 5. In addition, the meeting may be viewed on Nebraska On Demand Time Warner Channel 411 and on the internet at [www.lancaster.ne.gov](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov). Click on 5 City-TV Video on Demand.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:**

- D. The County Commissioners can be reached at 402-441-7447 or [commish@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:commish@lancaster.ne.gov).**

The Chair recessed the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

## **RETURNING TO PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- B. Public comment on the recommendations from the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Planning Committee.**

The Chair opened the public hearing and had those wishing to testify stand for the administering of the oath. She recognized members of the CMHC Planning Committee and those providing support: C.J. Johnson, Region V Systems Administrator; Dean Settle, CMHC Director; Deb Shoemaker, People's Health Center Executive Director; Lori Seibel, Community Health Endowment President/Chief Executive Officer; Pat Talbott, Mental Health Association of Nebraska; Kit Boesch, Lancaster County Human Services Director; Kerry Eagan, Lancaster County Chief Administrative Officer; and Ann Taylor, Lancaster County Clerk's Office.

Dr. Klaus Hartmann, former CMHC psychiatrist, discussed the importance of services provided by the CMHC. He felt dispersing services to different locations would decrease effectiveness and urged the Board to delay changes to the current facility. Raybould asked about changing trends in behavioral health. Hartmann said state institutional care has diminished over the years and care at the community level has become more important. Hudkins asked if there has been increased migration to the Lincoln/Lancaster County area due to other facilities closing. Hartmann said there has been increased migration with many of those using services taking up residence near the CMHC. Schorr asked about collaboration between primary care and behavioral health. Hartmann said the federal government is pushing to integrate physical and mental health needs; he applauded the CMHC's move in that direction.

Marguerite Sparks, Debra Trainor, Grace Kopycinski, Carl Hutchins, Adolphus Arnold, Sonya Wing and Kent Krause discussed their experiences with the CMHC and its services.

Timothy Pickerel discussed changes in government funding and distributed information on the CMHC and Legislative Bill 952 (Exhibit A).

Becki Simerly, Crisis Center employee, discussed the increase in clients at the Crisis Center and expressed concern over future changes at the CMHC. She encouraged the Board to keep County employees through the transition process.

Mariah Holmes, CMHC employee, stressed the importance of stability for clients at the CMHC and discouraged the Board from making any changes. Raybould asked about the changing demand at the CMHC. Holmes said the number of clients increase every year, utilizing many aspects of the CMHC.

Topher Hansen, Centerpointe, said the intention of going through this process with the CMHC is to focus on the next step for delivery of behavioral health services; it is not meant to take away valuable services. He referenced a letter from CenterPointe regarding the privatization of the CMHC (Exhibit B).

**PUBLIC HEARINGS CONTINUED:**

J. Rock Johnson discussed changes in mental health services over the years. She thanked the Board for their support and involving the community with changes to the CMHC.

Dean Settle, CMHC Director, discussed the importance of stability and integrated care for mental health clients. In response to Schorr's question, Settle felt Channels 5 and 10 would be the best way to communicate updates on the changes in progress.

Smoyer discussed the County's budget cuts and the affect it could have on the CMHC. He said the intention is not to eliminate the CMHC but to make it better.

Settle asked the Board for a timeline on possible future changes at the CMHC. Schorr highlighted a few of the Committee recommendations: the CMHC should remain in the same location for 24 months as other options are reviewed, the County should maintain its current level of financial support for the CMHC for up to 24 months, a system with primary care and behavioral services combined should be established and discussions with Region V should begin no later than July 1. She recommended that the Board officially accept the recommendations and begin discussing Region V negotiations at the next staff meeting with the hope of concluding them by July 1. Raybould reiterated the recommendations regarding maintenance of the same location and retention of financial support, noting they would help provide continuity of care. Hudkins noted a loss of \$1,600,000 in State aid last year, which contributed to a 97% budget request for all County departments, which should apply to all agencies. He stated his intention to support the committee's recommendations. Smoyer agreed the Board should move forward with the recommendations and said the Board would work with Settle on this process.

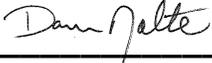
The Chair closed the public hearing.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Smoyer seconded to receive the CMHC Planning Committee Report and Recommendations and to express gratitude to the Committee for their guidance. Hudkins, Raybould, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

Smoyer stressed the importance of communication and urged the public to spread the word.

9) **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Smoyer moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting at 10:59 a.m. Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

  
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**Dan Nolte**  
**Lancaster County Clerk**



**MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012  
COMMISSIONERS HEARING ROOM, ROOM 112  
FIRST FLOOR, COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE LANCASTER COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

*Advance public notice of the Board of Equalization meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site and emailed to the media on February 17, 2012.*

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

Commissioners absent: Bernie Heier

Others present: Norm Agena, 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 9:48 a.m.

1) **MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the Board of Equalization meeting held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012.**

**MOTION:** Smoyer moved and Raybould seconded approval of the minutes. Hudkins, Raybould, Smoyer and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

2) **ADDITIONS AND DEDUCTIONS TO THE TAX ASSESSMENT ROLLS (See attached additions and deductions)**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Smoyer seconded approval of the additions and deductions. Raybould, Smoyer, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

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

**Alzheimer's Association – Great Plains Chapter  
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska  
Lux Center for the Arts  
Nebraska Conference – United Church of Christ  
NET Foundation for Television**

**MOTOR VEHICLE TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS CONTINUED:**

**MOTION:** Raybould moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the motor vehicle tax exemption applications. Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

4) **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Raybould moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the Board of Equalization meeting at 9:50 a.m. Smoyer, Hudkins, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Heier was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

*Dan Nolte*

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**Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk**



## Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County

The Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County (CMHC) is a county agency providing accredited mental health services for adults in Lancaster County.

### How do I access service?

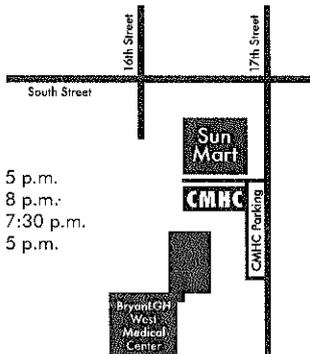
Call or come to the main office at 2201 S. 17<sup>th</sup> Street during business hours. A counselor will talk to you about your concerns and direct you to the service that will meet your needs.

### How much will it cost?

Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance is accepted. A discounted fee is available to persons who meet guidelines according to state and federal standards, as allowable by law.

### Where to find us

The Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County is located at 2201 S. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, south of Sun Mart food store and CMHC parking is available off South 17<sup>th</sup> Street.



### Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Thursday: 8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*Timothy Ireland*



## Lancaster County Commissioners

RAY STEVENS

LARRY HUDKINS

DEB SCHORR

BERNIE HEIER

BOB WORKMAN



Community Mental Health Center  
is funded in part by Region V Systems,  
State of Nebraska, Federal and  
County Funds



The Community Mental Health Center is dedicated to providing quality mental health care and rehabilitation services for adults in Lancaster County who experience acute psychological distress or serious mental illness.

2201 S. 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone: (402) 441-7940  
Fax: (402) 441-8625

[www.lancaster.ne.gov/cnty/mental](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/cnty/mental)

EXHIBIT

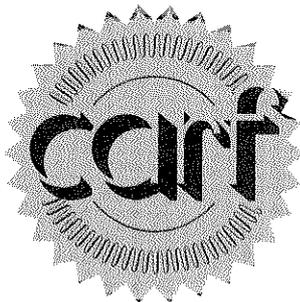
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**Programs and Services of the  
Community Mental Health Center  
are available to adults in  
Lancaster County, Nebraska**



The Community Mental Health Center  
is accredited by  
**CARF - the Rehabilitation  
Accreditation Commission**



**Services Located at 2201 S. 17th Street**

**Crisis Intervention**

**24 Hour/7 Day-a-Week Phone# (402) 441-7940**

- Walk-in service available during business hours
- Crisis assessment, intervention, and information available 24 hours by phone
- Mobile services available to law enforcement or agencies requesting consultation and intervention assistance

**Homeless and Special Needs**

- Outreach and case management for adults who have a mental illness and are homeless or in contact with the criminal justice system

**Medical Services**

- Outpatient evaluation, medication management, therapy, and crisis intervention for CMHC adult clients
- Inpatient care in the hospital setting for CMHC clients  
Clinical supervision of staff Consultation to other agencies in Lancaster County

**Day Treatment/Partial Hospitalization**

- Short-term, intensive treatment provided through group formats 6<sup>1/2</sup> hours daily, Monday-Friday
- The program may serve as an alternative to inpatient treatment or as a step-down for individuals making the transition from a hospital setting

**Outpatient Treatment**

- Individual, family and group therapy sessions that focus on symptom alleviation, stabilization, and recovery for adult clients residing in Lancaster County
- Therapy is provided by a multi-disciplinary staff including psychiatric, psychological, marriage and family, and social work

**Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Program**

- The project seeks to identify and divert individuals from jail with mental illness or a co-occurring substance use disorder who have committed a nonviolent offense, staff then link these persons to an array of community-based services with forensic intensive case management provided
- Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and Lancaster County

**Consumers & Volunteers**

- A citizen advisory committee, along with community and student volunteers augment the work of CMHC staff members in various treatment and rehabilitation programs.

**Services Located at 2201 S. 17th Street**

**Community Support**

- Case management services for adults with severe and persistent mental illness
- *Transitional Living Facility*: 12 beds in a community residential program assisting adults who are transitioning from hospital to community services
- *Independent Living Project*: Supervised apartment program preparing 18 persons with mental illness to live independently
- *Harvest Project*: Collaborative program providing case management service for older adults with mental health and substance abuse problems
- *The Heather*: Joint project of county and private sector providing 15 residential beds to adults transitioning from the Lincoln Regional Center to the community
- *Family Support*: Support group meeting Wednesday evenings from 7 pm—9 pm at 2201 S. 17<sup>th</sup> Street

**Crisis Center**

- An assessment and stabilization facility for adults placed on emergency protective custody by law enforcement in Region V
- The Crisis Center is located on the second floor

**Services Located at 2000 P Street**

**PIER**

- PIER is a multidisciplinary team which utilizes the Assertive Community Treatment Model of service for high-need adults in Lancaster with severe and persistent mental illness. The program serves individuals who have not responded well to traditional outpatient care. Many have problems with substance abuse, homelessness, or involvement with the judicial system. Services are provided in the community and addresses vocational rehabilitation, substance abuse treatment, counseling, assistance with health care needs, and assistance with daily living skills.

**Services Located at 2966 O Street**

**Day Rehabilitation at Midtown Center**

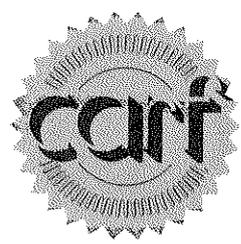
- A psychosocial rehabilitation program providing prevocational activities
- Employment and benefits counseling, job training and development for persons served at CMHC
- We also provide a transitional employment program called AWARE
- The Midtown Center is open Monday-Saturday and is located at 2966 O Street

PARTIAL  
HOSPITALIZATION

**PARTIAL**  
.....  
**HOSPITALIZATION**  
.....  
**PROGRAM**

*We Focus on Wellness*

Services accredited by:



2201 South 17th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502



2201 South 17th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
402.441.7940 / 402.441.8625 fax  
[www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty/mental](http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty/mental)

## PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION PROGRAM

The Partial Hospitalization Program is an intermediate level of psychiatric treatment. It is more intensive than typical outpatient services, and though equal to the hospital experience in terms of clinical interactions, it is not indicated for individuals needing protective supervision or regular nursing services.

**The purpose** of the Partial Hospitalization Program is to provide short-term, individually planned, active intensive clinical interventions for individuals who are experiencing acute onset or exacerbation of psychiatric symptoms, marked deterioration in previous levels of functioning or situational crisis. The program may also serve as an alternative to inpatient treatment, as a less restrictive alternative to continued hospitalization, or serve individuals who are in process of making the transition from a hospital/confined setting to the community.

It is believed that with support, an intensive level of clinical structure and therapeutic interventions, consumers can rebound faster from an onset of symptoms or relapse, can shorten crisis periods, can prevent further hospitalizations, shorten length of inpatient stays, or successfully transition from confined settings to the community.

**Treatment** is provided primarily through group formats, offering clinical activities/interventions such as psychotherapy, cognitive/behavioral therapy, medication education, medication reviews and monitoring, illness education/symptom recognition and management, health and wellness, crisis management, enhancement of coping skills, and goal planning. Groups are offered five days a week and scheduling is such that it accommodates a broad range of consumer needs, ranging from day long clinical programming of five days a week to intermittent outpatient groups depending on the acuity and needs of the individual. Individuals take an active role in their treatment by helping to develop their treatment goals, interacting within the treatment community milieu, and developing their dismissal/aftercare plans.

**Outcomes**, anticipated and common include remittance/stabilization of symptoms, increased use of coping and problem-solving skills, increased awareness of strengths, improved esteem, and return to previous levels of functioning while remaining in one's community setting.

**Referrals** are accepted from physicians, psychotherapists, and social service agencies in southeast Nebraska, as the program serves as an adjunct to other psychiatric, psychological, or social rehabilitation treatment. Fees are based on ability to pay. The program qualifies for third-party payment, including Medicare and Medicaid.

Treatment is under the direction of a CMHC psychiatrist. There are five direct staff members, having an average of fifteen years professional experience in mental health services.

*Bernie Heier*

CELEBRATING  
**35 years**  
OF SERVICE



2201 S. 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
Tel: 402-441-7940  
Fax: 402-441-8625  
[www.lancaster.ne.gov/cnty/mental](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/cnty/mental)

### *Annual Report 2010-2011*

#### **Mission Statement:**

**The Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County is dedicated to providing quality mental health care and rehabilitation services for adults who experience acute psychological distress or serious mental illness.**

Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

- Bernie Heier
- Larry Hudkins
- Jane Raybould
- Deb Schorr
- Brent Smoyer

#### **Programs & Services**

- ◆ **Community Support** - Case management and services to adults and vulnerable elderly through the Harvest Project, and residential support services at The Heather, Independent Living Project, and Transitional Living for adults with severe and persistent mental illness.
- ◆ **Medical Services** - Outpatient psychiatric services for CMHC consumers including assessment, therapy, medication education and management, and inpatient psychiatric care.
- ◆ **Outpatient Therapy** - Individual and group therapy sessions focused on symptom alleviation, stabilization, and recovery. Community-based sex offender management.
- ◆ **Day Treatment / Partial Hospitalization Program** - Short term, intensive treatment provided through group formats, 6 ½ hours daily, Monday - Friday. May serve as an alternative to inpatient treatment or as a step down for individuals making the transition from a hospital setting to the community.
- ◆ **Day Rehabilitation** - The Midtown Center, open Monday - Saturday, is a clinical rehabilitation program engaging consumers in life skills, recovery and vocational activities. Employment and benefits counseling, job placement and training for consumers of CMHC services are also available through the AWARE program.
- ◆ **Homeless / Special Needs Outreach** - Outreach and case management for adults who have a mental illness and are homeless, near homeless or in contact with the criminal justice system.
- ◆ **Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation** - The Heather is a structured residential facility operated by CMHC, and OUR Homes as a residential transition from the Lincoln Regional Center back into the community.
- ◆ **Crisis Center** - An assessment and crisis stabilization facility for adults placed on emergency protective custody by law enforcement in the 16 Counties of Region V.
- ◆ **Peer, Volunteer & Student Placement** - Students, volunteers, and peer recovery specialists augment the work of CMHC staff members in social and recreational activities, treatment and rehabilitation services.
- ◆ **Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Program** - This Program seeks to identify and divert individuals from jail with a mental illness or co-occurring substance use disorder who have committed a non-violent offense. The Program then links these persons to an array of community-based services with intensive case management.
- ◆ **Open Studio/Writers Wordshop** - A collaborative effort by CMHC, Centerpointe, and Parks and Recreation for adult artists and writers we serve. Open-studio sessions, workshops, readings, and many exhibitions each year are provided to those using the arts as a means of expression and maintenance of wellness.
- ◆ **PIER** - A collaboration designed to serve individuals who have not responded well to traditional outpatient care. Services are provided to the client in their home and the community. Office is at 2000 P Street. Phone number - 435-4044.
- ◆ **24 hour Crisis Line/ Mobile Crisis Service** - Crisis assessment, intervention, and information available 24 hours by phone. Mobile services available to law enforcement or agencies requesting consultation / intervention, after regular business hours (441-7940).

#### **Strengths-Based**

**Quality Care**

**Recovery**

**Hope**

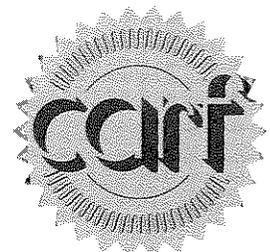
**Wellness**

**Access**

**Choice**

#### **Evidence Based Programs**

Services accredited by:



CMHC is funded by Region V Systems, State of Nebraska, Federal Grants, the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County

### Persons Served

Duplicates included

Program	Number
Community Support	1,085
Medical Services	1,909
Inpatient Psychiatric Services	347
Outpatient Therapy	883
Day Treatment / Partial Hospitalization	227
24 Hour Crisis Services	4,897
Day Rehabilitation Services	195
Homeless / Special Needs	253
Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation	28
Crisis Center	615
Vocational Support	44
Harvest Project *	153
Mental Health Jail Diversion	48
PIER **	79
Open Studio / Wordshop ***	342
<b>Total number served</b>	<b>11,105</b>

### Demographics

Unduplicated

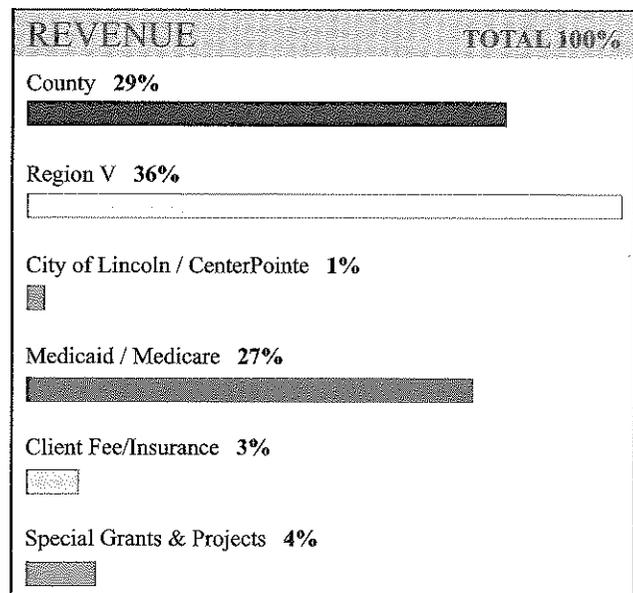
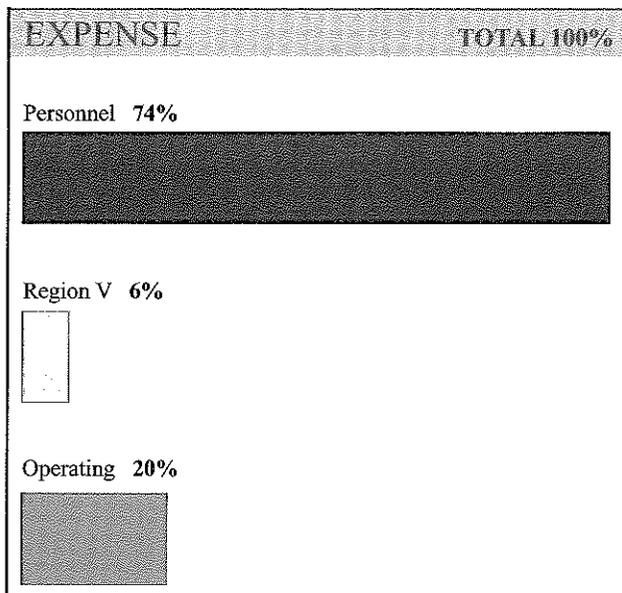
N = 4,911

48% Women      52% Men

Age	
18 - 34	31%
35 - 49	39%
50+	30%

Caucasian 85%  
 Black 5%  
 Hispanic 5%  
 Other 2%  
 Native American 2%  
 Asian 1%

**\$10,149,301**



\*Collaborative Project with Aging Partners and CenterPointe, Inc.  
 \*\*A collaborative project with CenterPointe and Lutheran Family Service  
 \*\*\*A collaborative project with CenterPointe and Lincoln Parks and Recreation

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 952**

Introduced by Nordquist, 7; Avery, 28; Campbell, 25; Cook, 13;  
Council, 11; Dubas, 34; Gloor, 35; Howard, 9; Krist,  
10; McGill, 26; Mello, 5.

Read first time January 11, 2012

Committee: Appropriations

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to amend Laws 2011, LB 374,
- 2 section 102; to change provisions relating to the medical
- 3 assistance program; to repeal the original section; and
- 4 to declare an emergency.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Laws 2011, LB 374, section 102, is amended to  
2 read:

3 Sec. 102. AGENCY NO. 25 - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
4 SERVICES

5 Program No. 348 - Medical Assistance

	FY2011-12	FY2012-13
6		
7 GENERAL FUND	599,909,134	630,241,604
8 CASH FUND	24,344,412	24,344,412
9 FEDERAL FUND est.	998,926,616	1,029,200,776
10 PROGRAM TOTAL	1,623,180,162	1,683,786,792

11 There is included in the appropriation to this program  
12 for FY2011-12 \$599,909,134 General Funds, \$24,344,412 Cash Funds, and  
13 \$998,926,616 Federal Funds estimate for state aid, which shall only  
14 be used for such purpose. There is included in the appropriation to  
15 this program for FY2012-13 \$630,241,604 General Funds, \$24,344,412  
16 Cash Funds, and \$1,029,200,776 Federal Funds estimate for state aid,  
17 which shall only be used for such purpose.

18 There is included in the appropriation to this program  
19 for FY2011-12 \$4,765,896 Cash Funds for state aid for the  
20 continuation of the behavioral health provider rate increase and  
21 behavioral health provider rate increase for managed care, inpatient  
22 services, and residential treatment services provided with funds from  
23 the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund. There is included in the  
24 appropriation to this program for FY2012-13 \$4,765,896 Cash Funds for

1 state aid for the continuation of the behavioral health provider rate  
2 increase and behavioral health provider rate increase for managed  
3 care, inpatient services, and residential treatment services provided  
4 with funds from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund.

5           There is included in the appropriation to this program  
6 for FY2011-12 \$450,000 Cash Funds from the Nebraska Health Care Cash  
7 Fund and \$598,707 Federal Funds estimate for a state plan amendment  
8 covering tobacco-use cessation in compliance with Title XIX of the  
9 federal Social Security Act. There is included in the appropriation  
10 to this program for FY2012-13 \$450,000 Cash Funds from the Nebraska  
11 Health Care Cash Fund and \$587,823 Federal Funds estimate for a state  
12 plan amendment covering tobacco-use cessation in compliance with  
13 Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act. The smoking cessation  
14 funding for FY2011-12 and FY2012-13 is for the costs of tobacco-use  
15 cessation counseling and tobacco-use cessation pharmaceuticals  
16 approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for such  
17 purpose.

18           It is the intent of the Legislature that phased-down  
19 state contributions to the federal government as defined and required  
20 by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act  
21 of 2003 may be made from appropriations to this program.

22           For FY2012-13, the department may not implement, by rule  
23 and regulation, the following changes to the medical assistance  
24 program:

25           (1) An increase in copayments on physical, speech, and

- 1 occupational therapies;
- 2           (2) An increase in copayments for nonemergency visits to
- 3 the emergency department;
- 4           (3) A limit of two hundred forty hours per year of home
- 5 health services;
- 6           (4) The elimination of private duty nursing services;
- 7           (5) An increase in the level of care required to receive
- 8 personal assistance services;
- 9           (6) A limit for personal assistance services to three and
- 10 one-half hours of service per day with a sixty-hour limit per month;
- 11           (7) The elimination of oral nutritional supplements
- 12 provided through the durable medical equipment program;
- 13           (8) A limit to behavioral health therapy visits of sixty
- 14 visits per year;
- 15           (9) The elimination of dental services, including
- 16 dentures, for adults;
- 17           (10) The elimination of chiropractic services;
- 18           (11) The elimination of eyeglasses for adults;
- 19           (12) The elimination of hearing aids for adults;
- 20           (13) The elimination of occupational therapy for adults;
- 21           (14) The elimination of physical therapy for adults;
- 22           (15) The elimination of speech therapy for adults;
- 23           (16) A limit of prescription drugs to ten per month for
- 24 adults;
- 25           (17) A limit of inpatient hospital days to forty-five

1 days or thirty days per year for adults; and

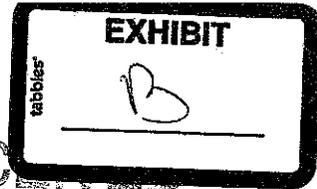
2 (18) A limit of physician visits for adults to twelve per  
3 year, excluding pregnancy-related visits.

4 Sec. 2. Original Laws 2011, LB 374, section 102, is  
5 repealed.

6 Sec. 3. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect  
7 when passed and approved according to law.



REC-111



AUG 17 2011

LANCASTER COUNTY  
BOARD

August 16, 2011

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

Community Mental Health Center Transition Committee  
c/o Kerry Eagan: Chief Administrative Officer  
555 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 110  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: Privatization of Lancaster County Community Mental Health Center

Dear Commissioners and Transition Committee Members:

This letter is written to provide you notice that CenterPointe, Inc., is interested in acquiring the services offered at the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) that are intended for privatization.

As Lancaster County's only other large provider of public sector services to adults with serious mental illness, CenterPointe has the capacity to assume the services in a sensitive, competent, high quality manner. CenterPointe will assure consumers that their needs will be met and will reinforce to funding bodies and the public that services will be offered and performed in a manner that produces quality outcomes and efficient cost management.

CenterPointe and CMHC have similar service populations and provide similar services: each works with persons that have serious and persistent mental illness, are homeless and have co-occurring substance use disorders. Many people in the community consider CenterPointe a substance treatment program, however, 99% of our consumers suffer from mental illness and the vast majority of our consumers have serious and persistent mental illness. We also treat any co-occurring substance use disorders identified.

CenterPointe and CMHC each offer counseling, community support, medication management, day rehabilitation, supportive housing and a focus on the homeless population. CMHC and CenterPointe share the federal PATH dollars focused on case management services for persons who are homeless. The agencies collaborate on the **Harvest Project** (Case Management for persons 55 and older), **Open Studio/WordShop**

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(visual arts and written word programs) and the **PIER** Program (the Assertive Community Treatment program).

CenterPointe is CARF accredited as is CMHC. We are currently under a full three year accreditation and have received two accreditation surveys that have had no corrective action (only 3% of all CARF programs achieve this in any given year – we have done two in a row).

CenterPointe has been a leader in offering cutting edge, best practices in its service continuum. Since 1989, CenterPointe has offered an approach to care that integrates both mental health and substance treatment. It has commonly been referred to as “dual diagnosis” or “co-occurring treatment”. CenterPointe officially began this integrated approach in the late 1980’s and was one of the first in the United States to do so. It is now considered a best practice.

Since we first began integrating treatment, we became the first program in Nebraska to receive blended funding for mental health and substance treatment, we introduced the integrated model to CARF and have been recognized by the national mental health and substance treatment authority, SAMHSA, as achieving excellence in providing co-occurring services in our community. We are currently the only program in Lancaster County providing fully integrated co-occurring services and are now one of three in Nebraska.

While providing services for people that have both a serious mental illness and addiction, CenterPointe also serves individuals who have only a serious mental illness. It is estimated that up to 75% of individuals in the public mental health system have a co-occurring addiction, so we designed our services to address those who have only a mental illness as well as those that have mental illness and addiction.

CenterPointe was also an early leader when we embraced the “housing first” model of engagement of consumers in the early 1990’s. This is now considered a best practice. Through HUD funding, we have built an array of housing options for our consumers that allows us to provide housing to persons who are chronically homeless, help consumers with transitional housing needs after treatment, and provide consumers who are disabled from mental illness a permanent, subsidized home that is safe and affordable.

CenterPointe has long embraced the idea of blending physical health and behavioral health services. We have employed nurses in our programs since 1990 and now have six RN’s, two APRN’s, and one Psychiatrist in our program staffing. We have recently contracted with People’s Health Center to provide a behavioral health therapist in their physical health setting and we are discussing further integration efforts with them.

One of the next big changes in health care is integration of behavioral health and physical health services. CenterPointe has been active in this area for more than five years and

brings a wealth of experience in integration because of our history of weaving together mental health and substance treatment cultures, funding, and services.

CenterPointe is the designated lead agency for the SOAR program in Nebraska. This program identifies persons who qualify for SSI or SSDI and Medicaid and processes the applications. While many applications of this sort can take up to two years, we have an average approval time of 70 days. This helps stabilize the consumer's life, shifts their need for General Assistance and affords them the opportunity to treat their illnesses.

Behavioral Health providers in Lancaster County have collaborated to pursue implementation of electronic health records and more efficient electronic systems of management. CenterPointe is part of this group and is very active in moving toward implementation with the group. This electronic system will give us a much greater capacity to manage information, comply with regulations and capture available resources tied to each consumer we see. Our Information Technology department is very competent and affords us greater internal capacity to collect and manage data, send billing statements, etc.

CenterPointe has also developed partnerships in the community to raise awareness and additional financial resources for services. Private, for-profit corporations and private citizens have given their time, talents and financial support to help us meet service needs and the gap in funding from inadequate rates.

CenterPointe has the management infrastructure to acquire the services operated by CMHC. Our Management Team consists of eight persons who are respected in their fields and bring great strength to our organization. The areas covered by the group include: clinical services, management information services, business and finance, housing, community support, nutrition, transportation, administrative services, fund development services, human resources, and executive management.

CenterPointe has always operated in a manner of making decisions in the interests of the consumer and trying to do what serves the greater good, as opposed to just what is good for our organization. We believe that a system that combines the interests and services of CenterPointe and CMHC would be more effective and efficient for consumers and the community.

Please contact me if you have any questions I can address. I will continue to stay informed of the process to determine the path toward privatization, but would appreciate being considered an interested party and being notified of any formal action.

Sincerely,



Topher Hansen, JD  
Executive Director