

AGENDA
TRI-COUNTY MEETING
DOUGLAS, LANCASTER & SARPY COUNTY BOARDS
BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY
1000 GALVIN ROAD SOUTH, BELLEVUE, NEBRASKA
JOHN B. MULLER ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUILDING (MASB)
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015
8:30 A.M.

8:30 A.M. - LIGHT BREAKFAST SOCIAL

9:00 A.M. - MEETING

AGENDA

1. LEGISLATION
2. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION VALUATION PROTEST PROCEDURES
3. PROS/CONS OF OFFICE CONSOLIDATION
 - A. ASSESSOR/REGISTER OF DEEDS
 - B. CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS
4. JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE (JDAI) DISCUSSION
 - A. JUVENILE TRANSPORTATION
5. MENTAL HEALTH/CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM
6. COURTHOUSE CONFERENCING
7. HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM INCREASES - CURRENT PLAN DESIGN/FUTURE PLAN DESIGN CHANGES UNDER CONSIDERATION
8. STRATEGIC PLANNING - DISCUSS MAJOR PRIORITIES OF THE PLAN
9. OTHER TOPICS

**MINUTES
TRI-COUNTY MEETING
DOUGLAS, LANCASTER AND SARPY COUNTY BOARDS
BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY
100 GALVIN ROAD SOUTH, BELLEVUE, NEBRASKA
JOHN B. MULLER ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUILDING (MASB)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015
8:30 A.M.**

Douglas County: Mary Ann Borgeson, County Board Chair; Chris Rodgers, County Board Vice Chair; Mike Boyle, County Commissioner, Jim Cavanaugh, County Commissioner; Clare Duda, County Commissioner; Marc Kraft, County Commissioner; P.J. Morgan, County Commissioner; Patrick Bloomingdale, Chief Administrative Officer; Diane Carlson, Deputy County Administrator; Catherine Hall, Assistant County Administrator; Marcos San Martin, Intergovernmental and Labor Relations Specialist; Joe Lorenz, Budget & Finance Director; Captain Wayne Hudson, Douglas County Sheriff's Office; Dan Esch, County Clerk/Comptroller; Ellen Sechser, Administrative Assistant, County Clerk's Office; Mike Kelley and Sean Kelley, Kelley & Jerram Law Firm (Douglas County Lobbyists)

Lancaster County: Roma Amundson, County Board Chair; Larry Hudkins, County Board Vice Chair; Bill Avery, County Commissioner; Deb Schorr, County Commissioner; Todd Wiltgen, County Commissioner; Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer; Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director; Pam Dingman, County Engineer; Dan Nolte, County Clerk; Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; Ann Taylor, Lancaster County Clerk's Office; Joe Kohout and Jonathan Bradford, Kissel/E&S Associates (Lancaster County Lobbyist)

Sarpy County: Brenda Carlisle, County Board Chair; Don Kelly, County Board Vice Chair; Tom Richards, County Commissioner; Jim Thompson, County Commissioner; Jim Warren, County Commissioner; Mark Wayne, County Administrator; Deb Houghtaling, County Clerk; Renee Lansman, Chief Deputy County Clerk; Fred Uhe, Director of Community and Government Relations; Brian Hanson, Fiscal Administrator; Mike Smith, Deputy County Attorney; Pete Pirsch and John Reisz, Deputy County Attorneys; John Sheehan, Sarpy/County Board of Health; Dean Loftus, Mental Health Program Manager; Tami Steensma, Juvenile Justice Program Director; Rebecca Cleveland, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Consultant; Dave Newman, Husch Blackwell (Sarpy County Lobbyist)

Also in attendance: Larry Dix, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Executive Director

NOTE: A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available.

A reception and light breakfast were held, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Mary B. Hawkins, President of Bellevue University, welcomed attendees to the Bellevue University campus.

Brenda Carlisle, Sarpy County Board Chair, opened the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

1 LEGISLATION

A. SARPY COUNTY

Fred Uhe, Sarpy County Director of Community and Government Relations, reviewed 2016 Sarpy County Legislative Priorities and discussed other issues of interest (Exhibit A).

Mark Wayne, Sarpy County Administrator, noted the administrators have discussed the need to find other sources of revenue. He said sales tax is an option but would require voter approval. Wayne suggested the counties seek legislation to allow the use of a sales tax for road improvements.

B. DOUGLAS COUNTY

Marcos San Martin, Douglas County Intergovernmental and Labor Relations Specialist, presented Board of County Commissioners; Douglas County, Nebraska; 2016 Legislative Priorities (Exhibit B). He also reviewed a list of strategic planning items (see Exhibit B).

Mary Ann Borgeson, Douglas County Board Chair, noted guardian ad litem (GAL) issues (cost and accountability). Brian Hanson, Sarpy County Fiscal Administrator, said Sarpy County made changes to its contracts after Legislative Bill (LB) 15. This bill required the Supreme Court to provide standards and provide and change duties for and compensation of GAL's, was passed. Sarpy County currently has five contracts with private attorneys for \$65 per hour. Don Kelly, Sarpy County Board Vice Chair, said the changes to the contracts require a higher level of accountability and recordkeeping. Chris Rodgers, Douglas County Board Vice Chair, asked how often the courts appoint attorneys outside of those contracts. Hanson estimated it at 10% or less. He said most are handled by the Public Defender's Office or the contract attorneys. Borgeson noted Senator Krist is drafting legislation that "piggybacks" on LB 15 to allow counties greater flexibility in how they provide GAL services. Patrick Bloomingdale, Douglas County Chief Administrative Officer, said it is difficult to audit the attorneys' time without getting into tremendous detail on a case-by-case basis. Mike Boyle, County

Commissioner, felt judges should not be appointing attorneys. He said Douglas County's District Court has a system in which a panel of attorneys and prosecutors select attorneys who have applied to do that kind of work. Kerry Eagan, Lancaster County Chief Administrative Officer, said Lancaster County has implemented billing software for GAL's and appointed counsel who provide services to the indigent. He said it is based on standards of service and provides data on who is being served. Eagan said the billing software is currently utilized by Lancaster County's Juvenile and County Courts and said it is hoped the District Court will adopt it once changes are made to the Judicial Users System to Improve Court Efficiency (JUSTICE) to make it compatible.

C. LANCASTER COUNTY

Eagan gave an overview of 2016 Lancaster County Legislative Priorities (Exhibit C), noting the County Board has identified property tax relief as a standing priority. He also disseminated copies of Lancaster County Legislative Proposals; 2016 Session (Exhibit D). He noted Douglas and Sarpy County both identified increasing the County Treasurer's sales tax collection fee as a priority and said Lancaster County supports addressing that issue. Dix recommended the three counties review the fiscal note before uniting behind that issue.

Brief discussion took place regarding Priority No. 3: *Eliminate Responsibility of Counties to Pay Health and Human Services (HHS) Rent*. Larry Dix, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Executive Director, felt the representatives of the three counties should have a conversation with the Governor and HHS director regarding this issue.

Boyle suggested the three counties host a breakfast reception at the State Capitol with their senate delegations after unifying on several issues. He also suggested the need to link issues with the smaller counties to demonstrate they are statewide problems. Dix was asked to arrange a meeting with the Governor and representatives of the three counties and a couple of the smaller counties to discuss common issues and ways to reduce property tax.

D. NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS (NACO)

Dix noted legislation will be introduced to address how to pay for Next Generation 9-1-1 service.

Dix reported on an issue that involves uncashed county checks. He said counties must send those funds to the State Treasurer to be listed on the unclaimed property list. Dix said there is certain threshold that must be met for those individuals to be advertised in the newspaper and the State retains any funds that are not claimed. Dix indicated plans to seek legislation so that the same threshold applies to counties.

Dix said another issue involves State denials of homestead exemptions. He said taxpayers may be delinquent on their taxes by the time the State issues the denials and they would have to pay interest.

Dix also reported that Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Heavican plans to propose bringing county courts and district courts together in some form in the smaller counties. Eagan said Utah moved to a combined court system in the early 1990's and said it has been very successful.

The meeting was recessed at 10:05 a.m. and resumed at 10:16 a.m.

JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE (JDAI) DISCUSSION

Eagan said the State has communicated to Lancaster County that it needs to adopt the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). He said the County Board has not made a decision yet, citing concerns about additional costs the County may incur. Eagan said Lancaster County has had juvenile detention alternatives in place since the mid-1990's and has been collecting data. He said Lancaster County asked the State whether it could participate in a "light" version of JDAI and was told it could not. Eagan asked Douglas and Sarpy County to share their experiences with JDAI.

Chris Rodgers, Douglas County Board Vice Chair, gave a brief history of JDAI, noting there was an agreement it would start in Douglas County then spread across the rest of the State. Schorr asked who made that decision. Rodgers said he is not sure but said key stakeholders were interviewed. He said he "pushed" the idea but did not have the power to sign off on it. Carlisle said it is her understanding the Nebraska Crime Commission made the final decision to go state-wide. She said Sarpy County adopted JDAI a year after Douglas County and said there are plans to expand it to Cass and Otoe Counties.

Sara Hoyle, Lancaster County Human Services Director, disseminated copies of Lancaster County's Juvenile Justice System (Exhibit E). She gave an overview of what Lancaster County has done over the years, noting Lancaster County is already following many of the JDAI guiding principals. Hoyle said she said she is not sure how JDAI could complement what Lancaster County is currently doing. She said Lancaster County is currently working with Georgetown University on reducing racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice and to reduce the "school to prison pipeline." Lancaster County has also identified crisis intervention and mental health as large gaps within the system and is receiving assistance in addressing that issue from the National Association of County Employees (NACo) through Models of Change, another national model for systems of change in juvenile justice.

Rogers said JDAI is now willing to do a "light version" and will work with existing efforts.

Hoyle expressed concern that JDAI could take away from work that has already been done. Lancaster County Commissioner Deb Schorr said the Lancaster County Board feels strongly about the system it already has in place and is concerned about additional costs if it were to adopt JDAI.

Kraft also inquired about the average daily population at the youth detention facility. Eagan said it is around 40 and said there are very few pre-adjudication. Rogers said Douglas County's average daily population is 84 but said many are "runners" who are in the detention facility on warrants.

Tami Steensma, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Program Director, discussed programs implemented in Sarpy County as a result of JDAI.

Wayne disseminated copies of Juvenile Services, Statistical Placement Data, January, 2006-November 13, 2015 (Exhibit F). He said Sarpy County is using funds from LB 561, which changed provisions and transferred responsibilities regarding the juvenile justice system, to pay for its data collector and a part-time JDAI coordinator position. Wayne said population numbers in the Sarpy County juvenile facility have decreased significantly and said so far JDAI has worked well. He noted another tool where probation officers assess youth and decide whether they will be placed in the juvenile detention facility or another program.

It was noted Douglas County has primarily funded JDAI with outside sources, such as grants and private foundations, so it hasn't been a fiscal burden to the County. Hoyle said all of Lancaster County's community aid money goes to community providers to provide detention alternatives. Schorr said Lancaster County does not have access to private foundations. Carlisle suggested Lancaster County may be able to secure funding from Region V Systems.

A. JUVENILE TRANSPORTATION

Eagan said Lancaster County recently decided it would no longer transport juveniles to court who are under the authority of Probation while at the Youth Services Center (YSC), citing LB 482, which changed provisions relating to juveniles, and an order by Lancaster County's Separate Juvenile Court which placed additional restrictions on use of restraints for certain transports as the reason. He said the financial impact to the County to hire additional transportation staff would have been \$120,000 and said state statutes are clear that transport of post-adjudication youth who are under the authority of Probation is a duty of the State. Transport of pre-adjudication youth remains the responsibility of the County.

Borgeson said the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and certain programs such as Youth Links, a juvenile justice triage center, provide transport for juveniles in Douglas County. Eagan said the Lancaster County Board does not feel it is appropriate to have the Sheriff's Office transport juveniles because the deputies are armed.

Steensma said Sarpy County's Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) staff transport pre-adjudicated and post-adjudicated juveniles to court. Probation is responsible for transport for post-adjudicated youth if they have an outside appointment.

Schorr inquired about Sarpy County's per diem. Steensma said it is \$234.

MENTAL HEALTH/CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Dean Loftus, Sarpy County Mental Health Program Manager, discussed Sarpy County's Mental Health Diversion Program. He said the program is unique in that it is a division of the County Attorney's Office. Loftus said approximately 100 individuals have come through the program since its inception two years ago. He said some were redirected for court for not following through with requirements, adding there is a 51% success rate for those individuals who successfully completed the program. Loftus said they direct individuals to care providers and resources but do not offer or fund them directly.

Wayne said some of the individuals that go to the Mental Health Diversion Program are already on pre-trial diversion. He said Sarpy County's pre-trial diversion program has grown substantially and currently has 156 participants. Wayne said Sarpy County's jail is over capacity so identifying individuals who may be eligible for pre-trial is beneficial.

Loftus said every person booked into the jail has a mental health screening. The screenings are reviewed to see if there are charges that would be considered (any non-violent charge that is mentally ill driven) to start out with pre-trial or mental health diversion. He said they currently average 40 in the program and said they expect to double those numbers in the next year.

Wayne said they still have individuals in the jail facility who are not eligible for the diversion program but need a lot of medical or mental health attention. He said they have "toyed" with the idea of constructing a facility that would be attached to the jail that would house these individuals and get them out of the general population. The cost of construction is estimated at \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000.

Borgeson said Douglas County does an initial mental health screening in its jail and inmates may move to a more in-depth screening depending on how they answer those questions. She said Douglas County's Community Mental Health Center is also involved in working with the jail population in diversion programs, intensive case management, and medication management. Borgeson suggested the three counties work on the issue together.

Roma Amundson, Lancaster County Board Chair, said approximately 22% of Lancaster County's jail population has mental health issues. Eagan added Lancaster County has a mental health jail diversion program in place but there are concerns regarding the impact of LB 605, which changed classification of penalties, punishments, probation and parole provisions, and provisions relating to criminal records.

Joe Kohout, Lancaster County Lobbyist, said he believes the Judiciary Committee would be very interested in what could be offered by way of a joint plan.

Borgeson said the Region 6 Governing Board is looking at the first point of entry in terms of emergency mental health services. Carlisle noted Douglas and Sarpy County also utilize ASAP (Mental Health Crisis Response Team) to try to diffuse situations in the home.

Boyle questioned whether a 16-bed limitation would apply if the County tried to open a facility. Kohout said that is a Medicaid eligibility issue. Borgeson said the issue is being addressed at the national level.

Carlisle said she believes the new Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director is really looking to make improvements to how the mental health process is handled.

2 BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (BOE) VALUATION PROTEST PROCEDURES

Dan Nolte, Lancaster County Clerk, gave an overview of how the property valuation protest process is handled in Lancaster County, which includes contracting with an appraisal firm (Great Plains Appraisal Company) to coordinate the referee process. The County contracts directly with the referees (independent appraisers). He said Lancaster County developed an electronic filing system and said 40% of protests were filed electronically last year.

Amundson noted the County Assessor also holds informal pre-valuation hearings with property owners.

Boyle said the County Board has no ability, acting as the Board of Equalization (BOE), to make "thoughtful" changes to valuations and felt the BOE should be abolished.

The meeting was recessed at 11:54 a.m. and resumed at 12:22 p.m.

3 PROS/CONS OF OFFICE CONSOLIDATION

A. ASSESSOR/REGISTER OF DEEDS

B. CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS

Dix presented information regarding Nebraska counties with consolidated offices (Exhibit G), noting there is statutory authority to consolidate offices (see Nebraska Revised Statute §22-417).

Bill Avery, Lancaster County Commissioner, remarked efficiencies can be gained through consolidation even if there aren't significant cost savings.

Wayne asked if staff were cross-trained when Douglas County consolidated the offices of County Assessor and Register of Deeds. Boyle said cross-training is difficult to implement because employees are covered by labor unions who may object to asking employees to perform duties that are not part of their job description. The offices are also located on different floors of the Douglas County Civic Center.

Jim Cavanaugh, Douglas County Commissioner, recommended counties not rush into consolidation and engage in strategic planning. He suggested that consolidation is most effective when offices perform similar duties, such as City and County Attorney's Offices.

Avery inquired about consolidation of law enforcement. Boyle said he would like to see the City and County crime labs merged and the Omaha Police Department and Douglas County Sheriff's Office choose boundaries to patrol through an interlocal agreement.

Eagan said Lancaster County consolidated its County Assessor and Register of Deeds Offices, noting both deal with land records. He said the offices were also contiguous which made consolidation easier. Eagan also discussed Lancaster County's Geographic Information System (GIS) structure. Pam Dingman, County Engineer, said all of the data is tied to survey points in the field and is very accurate.

**4 JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE (JDAI)
DISCUSSION
A. JUVENILE TRANSPORTATION**

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

5 MENTAL HEALTH/CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

6 COURTHOUSE VIDEO CONFERENCING

Dennis Meyer, Lancaster County Budget and Fiscal Officer, said Lancaster County is working to provide video conferencing equipment in almost all of its courtrooms. Schorr said Lancaster County conducts a significant number of video arraignments every day and is looking at using video conferencing for expert witnesses as a way to reduce travel expenses. Eagan noted certain types of hearings require the consent of all parties.

Wayne said they have not had a request from their judges to provide video conferencing, noting their courts are located next to the jail facility. He felt cost would be a hindrance.

Boyle said some Douglas County judges favor video conferencing and some do not. He said Douglas County has provided video visitation with families but said it has to be monitored closely.

7 HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM INCREASES - CURRENT PLAN DESIGN/FUTURE PLAN DESIGN CHANGES UNDER CONSIDERATION

Wayne presented Health Insurance Premium Comparison (Exhibit H) and said Sarpy County has made plan design changes the past few years to keep premiums reasonable. He said they have also switched insurance carriers. Wayne said retirees can participate in the health insurance plan but said there are certain restrictions. He said the County picks up part of the cost but the retiree pays a higher premium.

In response to a question from Boyle, Wayne said Sarpy County does not negotiate with the unions on insurance coverage.

Bloomingtondale said Douglas County has a Preferred Providers Organization (PPO) plan that is fully self-funded. He said some employees are on a lower deductible plan than others because that is what was negotiated with their bargaining unit. A few employees are enrolled in a high-deductible health plan (HDHP) with a health savings account (HSA). Another group negotiated to be removed from the County's plan and are on a Central States Health Plan. Bloomingtondale said Douglas County's plan did not have a premium increase this year because they have a healthy reserve.

Meyer asked whether Douglas County is concerned about the "Cadillac Tax", a 40% non-deductible excise tax on employer sponsored health coverage that provides high-cost benefits which is scheduled to take effect in 2018. Bloomingtondale said they are and said that is one reason they are trying to get all of the employees switched to a higher deductible plan.

8 STRATEGIC PLANNING - DISCUSS MAJOR PRIORITIES OF THE PLAN

Wayne gave an overview of Sarpy County Government Strategic Plan for 2014-2016 (Exhibit I). He said Sarpy County hired a consultant who worked with staff to develop the strategic plan information. Wayne said a community group (business leaders) met with staff and discussed what they felt the County should be looking at in terms of a strategic plan, such as efficiency in government and meeting infrastructure needs for economic development. A group of elected officials, including the mayors of the five cities in Sarpy County, provided input and county employees were surveyed to see what they felt was important.

Bloomington presented Douglas County Government; Documentation of Strategic Work Products; Strategy Session-September 24, 2015 (Exhibit J). He said Douglas County held a daylong strategic planning session with a consultant and developed 2-3 year strategies. Bloomington said there was good participation from department heads and elected officials. He said each County Board member was assigned to chair a different committee to carry the priorities forward.

9 OTHER TOPICS

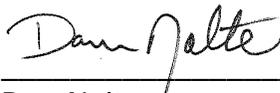
Larry Hudkins, Lancaster County Board Vice Chair, asked Douglas and Sarpy County for an assessment of the pros and cons of Sanitary and Improvement Districts (SID's). Borgeson felt Douglas County has too many SID's but said they have spurred economic development and development in areas where development might not have occurred. She cautioned against getting too many SID's too fast as it can cause infrastructure issues. Joe Lorenz, Douglas County Budget & Finance Director, said Douglas County has over 300 active SID's.

Tom Richards, Sarpy County Commissioner, stressed the importance of having a comprehensive plan in place that shows where SID's can be located and oversight by the County Engineer.

Dingman referenced the Federal Funds Purchase Program in which the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) enters into agreements for purchases of federal aid transportation funds at a discount rate, and said there are rumors the buy-back and gas tax monies may be retained at the State level in exchange for doing some of the counties' design work at the state level.

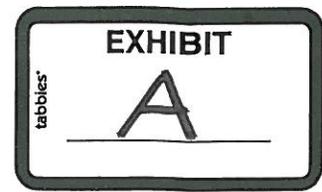
10 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk





2016 Sarpy County Legislative Priorities

Carryover Legislation

LB61 (Bolz) repeal of provisions that Counties are required to house or provide space to HHS. Sarpy County provides 4,000 square feet, including utilities and custodial service at no cost to the State, at market rates this costs the county \$76,000.

LB391 (Crawford), Sarpy bill that restores the .5% monthly commission to counties across the state for sales tax collections over \$3,000. This commission eliminated in 2002 as a means to balance the State budget. The difference for Sarpy County is \$109,000 instead of the \$1,800 we currently receive.

LB427 (Groene) provides for payment of probation office costs by the state. Last year, based on actual budgeted costs and market rates for space that cost to Sarpy County was over \$406,000. This will only go up as the impact of LB605 is felt in the future.

On-going Criminal Justice Reform

- *Juvenile justice
- *Adult and Juvenile Probation Reform (New Agency?)
- *Follow up to LB605

New Proposals

Treasurer's Commissions- The Nebraska Supreme Court in Sanitary and Improvement District No. 1, Butler County vs. County Treasurer of Butler County, et al redefined the taxes and special assessments collected by SIDs to be "municipal" in nature, thereby lowering the commissions collected by County Treasurers. The impact on Sarpy County is approximately \$400,000/annually. Due to the amount of work performed by Treasurers on behalf of SIDs we will seek to restore those to the higher levels.

Bid Openings- Eliminate the requirement that roads projects bids be opened in the presence of the County Board (39-810).

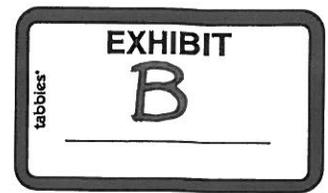
Civil Service- for purposes of the Civil Service Act for Counties over 150,000 clarify that law clerks, students employed by the Public Defender or County Attorney are members of the unclassified service (23-2517).

Zoning- eliminate provisions that counties can't cede zoning jurisdiction on property within ½ mile of another city's jurisdiction IF all parties agree. (13-327(e)).

Other issues

- *Eliminate publication requirement for notice of meeting if published online
- *Clarify standards and definitions regarding the application of special valuation (greenbelt) status. Likely candidate for 2016 interim study.
- *Change the deadline for the request of an early ballot to allow enough time for the ballot to reach the voter. Currently 4 p.m. on the Wednesday before election. Change it to the second Friday before the election, which is the deadline for registration. (Wayne will handle).
- *Seek Interim Study regarding the protection of personal identifiable information. Currently some statutes are in conflict and unclear regarding what can be protected and what cannot.
- *Eliminate requirement that members of Planning Commissions in Counties over 100,000 population must file an annual Statement of Financial Interests (C-1) with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.
- *Require DNA testing (swabbing) of all felony arrestees, current statute requires DNA testing of convicted felons. Concerns have been raised about current backlog at State crime lab. AG's office is interested in addressing capacity issue. (29-4106).
- *Increase out of state vehicle title fees
- *Eliminate county role in Driver's License process
- *Support addition to the Eastern Nebraska Veteran's Home. Current waiting list is 261.
- *Improvement of the Veterans designation on Nebraska driver's license. Currently, there is no fee for including the word Veteran on the driver's license at renewal. However, there is a cost (\$15.00 fee) to have it put on after renewing. Some Veterans are only made aware of the process after they have already renewed (paid) and then incur an additional fee to have it included. A no cost option one-time option would solve the issue at very little cost to accomplish the benefit/recognition for our Veterans.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA PRIORITIES**



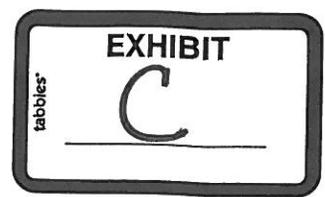
1. **SUPPORT** a legislative initiative relating to 'Infants and Juveniles' to revise sections §§43-272.01 and 43-273, changing provisions relating to guardians ad litem and determination of fees.
2. **SUPPORT** expanding the services covered (reimbursed) under Nebraska Medicaid to include 'para-medical assistance' services (also known as 'Community Paramedicine and Home Paramedic Assistance Services'), geared for high-risk, Medicaid-eligible recipients; and to provide for the appropriate revisions to state law in order to allow paramedics and emergency medical technicians to operate in expanded healthcare delivery roles; coverage and implementation will reduce the occurrences of preventable return-hospitalizations and significantly reduce the unnecessary dispatch of ambulatory services (overreliance on 911).
3. **SUPPORT** a legislative initiative to expand Nebraska Medicaid coverage to eligible individuals in the County's jail custody until their sentencing and/or post-adjudication.
4. **SUPPORT** a legislative initiative to require private health insurers in Nebraska to continue to provide health coverage to insured individuals in the County's jail custody until their sentencing and/or post-adjudication (applicable to individuals who enter the County's custody covered by a private health insurance policy).
5. **SUPPORT** efforts to eliminate unfunded mandates and/or to **SUPPORT** funding of underfunded mandates; relates to programs and services enacted by the Legislature, which resulted and/or may result in an increase in expenditures of funds by the political subdivisions assigned to perform or provide the programs and services.
6. **SUPPORT** a legislative initiative to revise sections §§18-2101 through 18-2144 known as the Community Development Law, or appropriate section, to require the State of Nebraska to fund all TIF (Tax Increment Financing) backed development projects as part of Nebraska's statewide responsibility of economic development.
7. **SUPPORT** a legislative initiative to increase the commission rate currently collected by the County Treasurer from Sanitary and Improvement Districts (SIDs) pursuant to section §31-739, from 1% to 2%, in order to adequately cover the costs incurred by the County Treasurer in providing the necessary financial and accounting-related services and assistance currently provided to SIDs.

8. **SUPPORT** a legislative initiative allowing Counties to share in the revenue collected from automotive sales tax for the limited purpose of maintaining and facilitating the operations of the County Treasurer.
9. **SUPPORT** a legislative effort to provide statewide uniformity in the collection of 911 surcharges; allow counties containing a city of the metropolitan class the ability to collect the same surcharge amount per active telephone number as those counties not containing a city of the metropolitan class.
10. **SUPPORT** a legislative initiative to statutorily define what constitutes a 'specialty court' in Nebraska, create a process for counties to establish a 'mental health court' as a specialty court, and provide a funding mechanism.

BCC STRATEGIC PLANNING ITEMS

SEPTEMBER 2015

- Resolve GAL provisions/issues
- Seek increase in state aid
- Develop a cooperative legislative agenda with Lancaster County and Sarpy County
- Establish a mental health court upon legislative/court approval
- Continue to support criminal justice reform and address rising costs

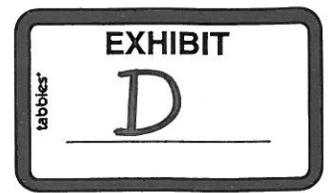


2016 LANCASTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Standing Priority - Property Tax Relief

Property tax relief continues to be the top legislative priority for Lancaster County. Pressure on the property tax can be reduced by diversifying revenue sources through legislative actions such as increasing State Aid to Counties, reinstating the State Prisoner Reimbursement Program, raising county fees to appropriate levels, and keeping the inheritance tax. Unfunded mandates which primarily benefit the State should be eliminated, and new unfunded mandates should not be imposed.

1. **Monitor Adult and Juvenile Justice Reform**
Counties are facing new unfunded mandates with the changes made to the adult criminal justice system under 2015 Neb. Laws LB 605. Lancaster County's jail population and probation housing costs may increase as a direct result of this Bill. Also, juvenile justice reform under 2013 Neb. Laws LB 561 is not being adequately funded, and the cost of State responsibilities for post adjudication detention is being shifted to the counties.
2. **Address Lancaster County Obligations Under the 300,000 Population Threshold**
Census estimates indicate Lancaster County's population now exceeds 300,000. A number of Nebraska statutes apply only to counties which have reached the 300,000 population threshold, including: increase the county board to seven commissioners, formation of a civil service commission, and changes to the sheriff's office merit commission. Some of these statutes specify that the most recent federal decennial census shall be used in determining population, while others are silent as to how the population is determined. The effective date of these statutes should be harmonized. The Legislature enacted LR 196 last session to review the policy considerations underlying the 300,000 population threshold, and to determine if additional legislation is needed.
3. **Eliminate Responsibility of Counties to Pay HHS rent**
After the State assumed responsibility for welfare, a legislative provision was added requiring counties to maintain facilities for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as they existed on April 1, 1983. See Neb. Rev. Stat. §68-130. Although some relief from this antiquated statute was provided in 2011 Neb. Laws LB 234 (allowing payment reductions for HHS space eliminated since 1983 and determining whether additional space can be eliminated), the use of local property tax to pay for HHS facilities should be eliminated in its entirety. This is especially true in light of the State's total elimination of state aid to counties. LB 61 will accomplish this purpose.
4. **Amend Mental Health Commitment Act to Include A Sex Offender Disorder As a Diagnosed Mental Illness / Funding for Community-Based Sex Offender Treatment**
Effective community-based treatment for sex offenders is essential to protect the public safety. Without adequate funding, the Sexual Trauma/Offender Program (STOP) in Lancaster County will not be able to continue offering services. Amending the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act to include a diagnosis for sex offender disorders could help provide the needed funding through the mental health regions. The County also supports increased funding for parole and probation sex offender treatment programs.
5. **Support Medicaid Reform under the Affordable Care Act**
Lancaster County expends over \$2 million a year for General Assistance medical services. If Medicaid is reformed under the Affordable Care Act, virtually all of these medical services would be covered by Medicaid.



LANCASTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS 2016 SESSION

INTRODUCTION

The top priority for Lancaster County heading into the 2015 legislative session was property tax relief. The County sponsored and supported a number of proposals in pursuing this goal, including: Medicaid reform, restoration of state aid and prisoner reimbursement to counties, opposition to elimination of the inheritance tax, elimination of unfunded mandates, county fee increases, and adequate funding for juvenile justice reform. Although a number of Bills were introduced addressing these issues, only limited progress was made on the goal of reducing the pressure on real property taxes.

On the positive side, LB 88 increased the county clerk marriage license fee from \$15 to 25, and the fee for a certified copy of a marriage record held by the county clerk is increased from \$5 to \$9. Counties will also receive additional revenue for road purposes from the incremental increase of the motor fuel tax under LB 610.

However, the additional fee and fuel tax revenue raised under LB's 88 and 610 may be more than offset by new unfunded county mandates stemming from changes made to the adult criminal justice system by LB 605. Lancaster County faces potential increases to the jail population and probation housing needs as a direct result of this bill. The County will carefully monitor these costs to accurately measure the impact of LB 605. Although the Legislature did set aside \$500,000 for a jail grant program to help soften the fiscal impact on counties, this money covers the entire State and may be inadequate to offset additional costs.

Other missed opportunities to reduce property taxes include the failure to reform Medicaid under LB 472, and not advancing LB 61 out of committee. Adoption of the Medicaid Redesign Act would eliminate virtually all general assistance medical costs in Lancaster County, a potential annual savings of \$2.5 million for our property tax payers. Further study of Medicaid reform will continue under LR 306, and Medicaid reform will again be a priority for Lancaster County in 2016. LB 61 relieves all counties of the obligation under Neb. Rev. Stat. §68-130 to provide facilities for the Nebraska Health and Human Services Department. Lancaster County's annual obligation under this statute exceeds \$300,000.

A County priority adopted in the 2015 session is LB 126, which increases the combined pension match under Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-1118 from 13% to 16%. The County Board hopes the increase will help county employees become better prepared for retirement.

During the previous session the County also asked the Legislature to review and address how Lancaster County will be impacted by the 300,000 population threshold. Areas of concern include the number of county commissioners, the civil service system, the sheriff's merit commission, the retirement plan, and a number of other statutes conditioned on the threshold. In response, LR 196

was authorized to examine the impact of the threshold in depth. LR 196 will study the underlying policy considerations for the threshold, population projections at the time of the 2020 census, and whether legislation is needed to update current statutes. The next session will provide an opportunity to begin working through the various issues created by the threshold.

Lancaster County will continue to monitor the impact of comprehensive juvenile justice reform under 2013 Neb. Laws LB 561, and whether the State is providing adequate funding. Since the passage of LB 561 the County has seen a steady increase in the number of post-adjudication youth being held in the Lancaster County Youth Services Center. At the same time the number of pre-adjudicated youth in our facility has declined significantly. The drop in the number of pre-adjudicated juveniles is directly attributable to our array of community based alternatives to incarceration. As a result, most of the juveniles being held in the Youth Services Center are the fiscal responsibility of the State. However, Lancaster County is not being reimbursed by the State for the full cost of providing services to juveniles who are under the supervision of Probation. Specific areas of concern include the cost and responsibility for transporting Probation youth, the refusal of State Probation to acknowledge the financial responsibility for providing medical care for Probation juveniles in County custody, and the lengthy periods for which Probation juveniles are being held in our facility. All these issues point to inadequate funding at the State level. One of the key policy considerations underlying LB 561 is that community based services are more effective and less costly than incarceration. It is time for the State to step to the plate and provide the necessary funding to guarantee the availability of the community based services, especially mental health services, needed to make juvenile justice reform work as it was intended.

Another County priority which will carry over to the 2016 session is adequate funding for community based sex offender treatment. A potential source for increased funding includes parole and probation sex offender treatment programs. Increased funding may also be available through the mental health regions by clarifying that mental abnormalities or personality disorders which may cause a person to engage in acts of sexual violence are a form of mental illness for purposes of the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act.

NEW PROPOSALS

1. Address Voting Requirements of 2015 Neb. Laws LB 132 to Allow Exception for Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-120(3)(b)

During the 2015 session the Legislature enacted LB 132 which requires a vote of the people before a joint public agency can issue bonds. The only exception is for refunding of existing bonds. The County believes an exception should also be made for bonds issued under § 23-120(3)(b), which allows a county to use 5.2 cents of the levy for bonds to construct a courthouse, jail, or other public buildings. This provision was utilized by the Corrections Joint Public Agency (JPA), thereby allowing the JPA to leverage the City's strong bond rating to obtain a more favorable interest rate for financing the new jail. Under LB 132 this provision can no longer be used by a county to obtain a lower interest rate by forming a JPA.

2. Amend Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-278 to Give the Juvenile Court Discretion to Allow Evidentiary Hearings Telephonically or by Videoconferencing

Conducting juvenile court sessions by videoconferencing saves money, reduces risk, and improves the efficiency of the court. At the same time, all precautions must be taken to protect the rights of our youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Under existing law, all non-evidentiary hearings may be heard by the court telephonically or by videoconferencing. However, evidentiary hearings cannot be heard telephonically or by videoconferencing without the stipulation of all parties. Many attorneys are reluctant to stipulate, thereby requiring their clients be in the courtroom for every evidentiary hearing, regardless of whether the due process rights of their clients can be protected by videoconferencing. § 43-278 should be amended to eliminate the requirement that all parties must stipulate before an evidentiary hearing can be heard telephonically or by videoconferencing. The juvenile court judges are in the best position to decide whether the physical presence of the youth at an evidentiary hearing is necessary to protect their rights.

3. Prohibition of Sky Lantern Fireworks

Sky lantern fireworks are a serious fire hazard. Recently the City of Lincoln passed an ordinance banning them within the city limits. Lancaster County is also interested prohibiting sky lantern fireworks, but a Lancaster County Attorney opinion indicates that counties lack legislative authority to regulate fireworks in areas under their jurisdiction. This problem can be solved by either a state-wide ban on sky lantern fireworks or enabling authority for counties to do the same.

4. Adequate Funding for Maintaining River Flows by Controlling Invasive Vegetation

Invasive vegetation can reduce stream flows by absorbing excessive amounts of ground water and increase flooding during high intensity rainfall by impeding stream flow. The Nebraska Weed Control Association is working with the Nebraska Association of County Officials to introduce legislation to address this problem. Adequate funding will be necessary for the program to be successful.

5. Reasonable Fees for Services Provided by the County Engineer for Issuance of Driveway Permits, Right-of-Way Utility Permits, Subdivision Reviews, and Load Permits

The Lancaster County Engineer's Office spends a significant amount of time issuing driveway permits, right-of-way permits for utilities, vehicle load permits, and reviewing proposed land subdivisions. These services primarily benefit individual companies or persons. Enabling legislation is necessary to give counties the authority to charge a reasonable fee to these services.

6. Treasurer Proposals

See Attachment A for a list of proposals from the Lancaster County Treasurer's Office

OTHER EXISTING PROPOSALS

1. **Limit Workers' Compensation Awards to Retirement Age**

Rising workers' compensation costs are a concern to the County. Awards for permanent disability are expensive and can extend an indefinite period into the future. Limiting disability awards to the age of retirement would still benefit the injured worker by helping replace lost wages during wage-earning years. At retirement other revenue sources, such as social security and pensions, then become available to support the injured worker. The benefit to the County would be lower costs and a greater ability to manage workers' compensation cases.

2. **Clarify Management Right to Select Benefit Providers without Negotiating**

Recent court decisions have held that government employers cannot change providers for a benefit plan (health insurance, dental insurance, pensions, health retirement savings plans, etc.) without first negotiating with unions. See Scottsbluff Police Officers Association, Inc., F.O.P. Lodge 38 v. City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, 282 Neb. Reports 676 (2011). The County believes this requirement infringes on a traditional management right to make such business decisions. Recently, Lancaster County changed providers for its post employment health plan after issuing an RFP and carefully analyzing the proposals with the help of a specialist. Although the data clearly indicated the County selected the best provider, one of the unions decided to remain with the old provider. The County is now forced to maintain two plans, which creates inefficiencies, additional costs, and weakens the County's bargaining authority with existing and potential providers. The law should be clarified that government employers do not need union approval to change providers for benefit plans.

3. **Increase County Treasurer's Sales Tax Collection Fee Charged to the State**

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§77-2703(1)(i) and 77-2703(2)(d)(Reissue 2009), counties are entitled to retain a sales tax collection fee of 2.5% on the first \$3,000 of sales tax remitted each month to the State. This fee is collected separately for (a) motor vehicles, semitrailers and trailers registered with the County, and (b) motorboats registered with the County. Based on this formula, last year Lancaster County collected a fee of \$1,800. During the same year the County remitted \$30.6 million of sales tax to the State.

In contrast, the amount of time and resources devoted by the Lancaster County Treasurer's Office to collection of the State sales tax is staggering. The twenty-eight (28) clerks in the Treasurer's motor vehicle division spend more than 10% of their work day processing sales tax returns, while the four (4) supervisors spend nearly 10% of their time working on sales tax issues. This amounts to an annual expenditure by the County of \$116,473. Under these circumstances, a higher sales tax collection fee is clearly justified. (For a list of other uncompensated services provided to the State see Attachment A).

4. Extend Deadline for Issuing Greenbelt Valuation Notice

When a property owner simultaneously has a pending board of equalization valuation protest and an application for special Greenbelt valuation, it is possible that a landowner will receive conflicting valuation notices. This problem can be solved by amending Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-1345.01(2) to extend the final date for the board of equalization to send a notice of special valuation from July 22nd to August 15th.

5. Provide Flexibility with Regard to Treasurer's Obligation to Invest County Funds on a Pro Rata Basis with Banks, Capital Stock Institutions, and Qualifying Mutual Financial Institutions

Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-2314 imposes a duty on county treasurers to invest county funds on a pro rata basis with a list of banks, capital stock institutions, and qualifying mutual financial institutions, as that list is determined by the county board as of December 31. However, some of the financial entities on the list are refusing to accept county funds over the FDIC guaranteed amount because of narrow interest rate spreads and the added cost of collateral requirements. This makes it very difficult if not impossible for some treasurers to meet the pro rata requirements of §77-2314. This statute should be amended to provide treasurers with more flexibility with regard to the investment of county funds. Additionally, the treasurer should be given discretion to work with their county board to add financial entities to invest with which are not on the annual list because they are new or have a name change.

6. Clarify How Funds Raised under Neb. Rev. Stat. §33-109 Can be Used to Modernize Technology Related to the Preservation and Maintenance of Register of Deeds Records

2012 Neb. Laws LB 14 created a special fund to be used exclusively for the purposes of preserving and maintaining public records in the office of the register of deeds and for modernization and technology needs relating to those records. The additional fees used to create the fund will sunset January 1, 2018. Different counties have different modernization and technology needs relating to register of deeds records. §33-109 should be clarified to allow each county to benefit fully from the fund.

7. Eliminate Jail Time on Appropriate Low-Level Misdemeanors

The Legislature should conduct a study on misdemeanor penalties to determine whether jail time is necessary to protect the public safety on low-level criminal offenses. The study should include both state law and city ordinances. The reduction in the County jail population could result in a significant savings.

8. Increase the Indigent Defense Fee

Neb. Rev. Stat. §33-156 provides for a three dollar indigent defense fee which is taxed as costs for each case filed in each county court and district court, and credited to the Public Advocacy

Operations Cash Fund. Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §29-3933, this Fund is used to reimburse counties for a portion of their indigent defense system expenditures. Increasing the indigent defense fee would help defray the growing cost of providing indigent defense.

9. Tax Incentives for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)

The County is investigating the possibility of converting a portion of its motor vehicle fleet to CNG. However, conversion costs are high and state tax incentives could help speed the switch to this more efficient fuel.

10. Clarify Funding Source When Courts Assign Non-IV-D Cases to a Child Support Referee

Under Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-1610 funding for a child support referee shall be provided by the county and state to the district Court, separate juvenile court, and county court. Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-1611 provides these courts may by rule or order assign any matter regarding the establishment and collection of child, spousal, or medical support, paternity matters, and protection orders to a child support referee. However, when a child support referee is assigned non-IV-D cases federal funds may not be used to cover the cost. Since the courts have complete discretion in assigning cases to a child referee, it is possible the county may incur additional costs under the IV-D program over which it has no control. The statutes should be clarified to provide state funding will be used in this situation rather than county funding.

11. Corrections Booking Fee

A significant portion of the cost for housing inmates is incurred during the booking process. The Lancaster County Corrections Department has recommended the imposition of a booking fee to help recoup these expenses. However, legislation is needed to create statutory authority for the County to charge booking fees.

12. Increase the Cigarette Tax

The average cost per pack of cigarettes in the United States is \$1.49, and the Nebraska tax on a pack of cigarettes is only 64¢. Statistics indicate price increases on cigarettes cause adults to quit smoking and prevent teenagers from starting to smoke.

13. Amend Neb. Rev. Stat. §29-2022 to Give Trial Courts Discretion with Regard to Sequestered Juries in Criminal Cases

Defendants in criminal cases have the right to keep a jury sequestered until a verdict is reached, regardless of the severity of the case or the actual risk the jury members may be influenced

by improper contact or communications. Neb. Rev. Stat. §29-2022. When a jury is sequestered counties are responsible for paying all the costs of housing and feeding the jury members, as well as the costs of providing security. These expenses can be significant. Additionally, sequestration can result in a substantial hardship to the members of the jury. This statute should be amended to give the trial court discretion in deciding whether a jury in a criminal case should be sequestered until a verdict is reached, based on the actual potential of the jury being improperly influenced and thereby undermining the fairness of the trial.

14. Modify Strict Liability Provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. §13-911 When a Vehicular Pursuit Is Terminated by a Law Enforcement Officer

As interpreted by the Nebraska Supreme Court, a political subdivision can be held strictly liable under §13-911 for damages to an innocent third party caused by a fleeing motorist, even after a pursuing law enforcement officer has stopped the pursuit. §13-911 should be amended to eliminate strict liability when the damages are caused by the fleeing motorist after the pursuit has been terminated by the officer. This amendment would provide an incentive to law enforcement to stop pursuits which have become dangerous to innocent third parties.

15. Increase Funding for Sex Offender Treatment and Tracking

All sex offenders are transferred to the Lincoln Regional Center prior to release from state custody. This policy results in a disproportionate number of sex offenders in our community. Since state policy is increasing the number of sex offenders in the County, additional funding should be provided by the State to address this problem.

Also, the Lancaster County Sheriff is statutorily required to register sex offenders under the Sex Offender Registration Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §29-4004 (Reissue 2008). The Sheriff devotes a full time employee to perform this mandated function. Likewise, the Corrections Department has additional duties under §29-4007. To help defray these costs sex offenders should be required to pay a registration fee.

16. Review and Revise the Criminal Code Regarding Appropriate Use of Jail Time

LR 272 was enacted by the Legislature for the purpose of studying the fiscal impact of the criminal law on counties, especially new criminal laws and procedures. LR 272 will also examine if the criminal law is effectively addressing the problems it is trying to solve, and whether a cost-benefit analysis could be performed prior to enacting new criminal offenses and enhanced criminal procedures. Criminal offenses which carry jail time increase county costs for jails and indigent defense, and the Legislature very seldom if ever appropriates funding to assist counties with these costs. The criminal justice system continues to grow at an alarming rate, and Lancaster County could benefit from a sensible approach to the creation of new jailable offenses, as well as a review of the effectiveness of the imposition of jail time on existing offenses.

17. Clarify Who is Entitled to the Proceeds in a Tax Increment Financing Special Fund Upon Payment of All Bonds, Loans and Other Indebtedness for a Redevelopment Project

Tax increment financing is widely used by cities and villages to finance community redevelopment projects. Essentially, two land values are established for tax parcels lying within the boundaries of a project: the value of the parcel prior to redevelopment and the value of the project after redevelopment. Any property taxes collected as a result of the increase in the value of the parcel because of the redevelopment project are placed in a special fund to be used solely to pay the principal, interest, and premiums on any bonds, loans, notes, or other indebtedness incurred to finance the redevelopment project. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 18-2147(1)(b)(Reissue 2007) provides, “When such bonds, loans, notes, advances of money, or indebtedness, including interest and premiums due, have been paid, the authority shall so notify the county assessor and county treasurer and all ad valorem taxes upon taxable real property in such a redevelopment project shall be paid into the funds of the respective public bodies...”

A question has arisen regarding whether a city has the authority to amend a redevelopment project after all indebtedness has been paid, and thus continue using the proceeds in the special fund for redevelopment purposes, instead of distributing the balance of the special fund to the respective public bodies which levy on the property. Legislation is needed to clarify whether a city or village has the authority to amend a redevelopment project after the original indebtedness has been paid.

18. Provide Statutory Guidance on Enforcement of Insurance Subrogation Clauses

In the case of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, Inc. v. Dailey, 268 Neb. 733 (2004), the Nebraska Supreme Court held a subrogation clause in the insurance contract could not be enforced against the insured under the equitable made whole doctrine. The Dailey case involved an employee covered under an insurance contract between his employer, the Nebraska Association of County Officials, and Blue Cross. The employee was injured as a result of the negligence of a third party, and subsequently recovered a one-time payment of \$1,225,000 and monthly payments of \$10,000 for life against the third party. Even though the contract clearly provided Blue Cross would be entitled to recover approximately \$794,000 it had paid on behalf of the insured for injuries caused by a third party, the Supreme Court held Blue Cross was not entitled to recover these funds because the insured had not yet been made whole for the injuries. A statutory solution is needed to provide for the enforcement of reasonable subrogation clauses to help control health insurance costs.

19. Create the Position of Magistrate

In 2009 the Legislature passed LR 183 to examine the creation of a specialized magistrate for the State’s largest courts. The magistrate would have authority to issue search warrants, subpoenas, arrest warrants, summonses, and set bail. The purpose for creating this position is to help reduce jail populations, as well as reduce the need for new judges.

20. County Input in the Approval of Tax Increment Finance Districts Which Affect the County Tax Base

The Nebraska Redevelopment Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §58-501 et seq. is intended to encourage

economic growth through redevelopment of blighted and substandard areas within cities. The Act generates funds for redevelopment projects by creating tax increment financing (TIF) districts. Essentially, property tax increases within a TIF district attributable to valuation increases from redevelopment projects are deposited into a special fund and used to pay the cost of financing the projects for up to fifteen (15) years. Consequently, other taxing entities in the county where the TIF district is located lose the benefit of the property valuation increase for the entire district during the period the project is financed. In recent years there has been a sharp increase in the number of TIF districts created by the City of Lincoln. TIF districts often encompass a large area, regardless of the size or number of the individual projects within the TIF, and regardless of whether the entire district is blighted or substandard. Since the other taxing entities, including counties, are being denied essential tax revenue, they should have direct input into the establishment of TIF districts. This would help guarantee TIF districts are actually targeted to blighted or substandard areas and do not unnecessarily remove growth from the assessed valuation for other taxing entities.

21. Occupation Tax on Wineries

Neb. Rev. Stat. §53-132(4) gives authority to cities, villages and counties to charge an occupation tax on retail, craft brewery, and microdistillery licenses. However, no such authority exists for farm winery licenses. Given the growing number of farm wineries, it may be advisable to authorize an occupation tax on farm winery licenses.

22. Amend Neb. Rev. Stat. § 83-1,103.04 to Provide for the Appointment of a Private Attorney Rather than the Public Defender

When the Office of Parole Administration determines an amendment of the conditions of community supervision is necessary for an individual subject to lifetime supervision, if the person requests legal counsel and is indigent, an attorney from the public defender office is appointed. Since this proceeding is civil in nature, appointment of the public defender is not appropriate. Also, the cost of appointing a private attorney should be borne by the State.

23. Revise Consolidation Statutes to Facilitate Governmental Mergers

A number of state laws authorize the consolidation of governmental functions, including the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, and the Consolidation of Counties and Offices Act. These statutes should be reviewed and revised to remove possible barriers to potential tax saving consolidations, including mergers such as City Public Works/County Engineer and City Police/County Sheriff.

ATTACHMENT A

Legislation Recommendations:

1. Revise the ATV Sales tax to return the collection of sales tax back to point of sale when at dealers, or when titled if private sale. (We are losing a lot of sales tax revenue on ATV's processed by the dealers and mailed in with a lien that we must perfect, leaving the sales tax to be paid by the buyer at some later date.) (Repeal of LB807) (Sen. Hadley through LB498)
2. Revise Nebraska Statue and Motor Vehicles regulations to allow county officials (or their appointed employees) using a county seal and signature to replace the notary requirement. (Cost of notary limits the number of clerks we can have classified as notaries, our ability to service our customers and since titles or application for title no longer have to be notarized, the lessor documents—application for duplicate, non-use, etc.—would seem logical to not need the level of notarization either. With the County Seal all of our clerks can process paperwork, without having to stop and search for a notary.)

Nebraska Revised Statute 60-152 describes a seal and says in part: Such seal shall be used by the county clerk or county treasurer or the deputy or legal authorized agent of such officer, without charge to the applicant on any certificate of title, application for certificate of title, duplicate copy, assignment or reassignment, power of attorney, statement or affidavit pertaining to the issuance of a Nebraska certificate of title.

The Department of Motor Vehicle in their Titling manual says the only way you can stamp or notarize a title is:

- 1) By a notary
- 2) By the Treasurer or their Deputy
- 3) Military JAG officer

I contend the state titling manual is wrong, and that Clerks while authorized to be employed by statutes (23-1616) under county treasurer, are "legal authorized agents of the Treasurer and therefore meet the requirement in 60-152 and can use the seal and signature stamp instead of a notary stamp. My issue is I need clerks to be able to stamp the various forms and documents because I do not always have a notary available and it is impossible to get all 30 of my employees to become notaries or disrupt the line to go notarize a form.

3. Increase the Nebraska fees and commissions to Treasurer:

Title from \$10.00 to \$25.00 for out of state titles transferring to a Nebraska. (60-154)

Commission from \$3.75 to \$7.50 (60-154)

Title from \$10.00 to 20.00 for Nebraska to Nebraska title (60-154)

Commission from \$3.75 to \$6.00 (60-154)

Duplicate title from \$14.00 to \$25.00 (60-156)

Commission from \$10.00 to \$14.00 (60-156)

Lien Notation from \$7.00 to \$10.00 (60-155)

Commission from \$2.00 to \$4.00 (60-155)
Increase Registration Fee from \$20.50 to 24.00 (60-3,141)
Registration Commission from \$1.50 to \$2.50 (60-3,141)
Driver's License Commission from \$3.50 to \$5.00 (60-4,115)
Increase Vehicle Inspection Fee for non-Nebraska titles to \$20.00 (60-158)
Create Inspection Commission to Treasurer of \$2.50 (60-158)

4. Sales Tax Commission back to 1%. (LB391, change NRS 77-2703)
5. Reimbursement of office space costs or reasonable off-set payment for Driver's License in counties with Class 1 cities. (LR582) (October 2014)

Lancaster County

Department of Corrections

3801 West O Street
Lincoln, NE 68528
(402) 441-1900
Fax: 441-8946

Michael Thurber, Director

TO: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
FROM: Michael Thurber, Corrections Director *MT*
DATE: August 24, 2015
RE: Legislative Ideas

Kerry,

#1. Inmates that are in a psychotic emergency as diagnosed by a psychiatrist in jail can still refuse to have any medical treatment. In NE Statute 71-959 our department would like to have added into the language... "A subject in custody of a local Correctional Facility or receiving treatment under the Mental Health Commitment Act or the Sex Offender Commitment Act has the right."

We feel this added language allows a psychiatrist to treat an inmate having a psychotic emergency while incarcerated.

#2. We would propose that language stated in Statute 42-358.03... "Any person found guilty of contempt of court for failure to pay child support payments and imprisoned shall be sentenced to a Court Supervised or Community Corrections Release Program, a percentage of their earnings from such programs shall be applied to the payment of delinquencies and support payments minus appropriate deductions for the cost of the program."

The questions we raise by having an individual who owes back child support sentenced to incarcerated time, which they will serve, be released, are still in arrears by not earning money to help satisfy their court ordered child support payments.

#3. As we know LB605 will begin on September 1, 2015. NE Statute 29-2268 Section 2 (on page 31) of LB605 needs some further clarification and possible revisions. Our department would request that the attached language be added, "If the court finds that a probationer serving a term of post-release supervision did violate any condition of his or her post-release supervision, it may revoke the post-released supervision and has served 90 days of custodial sanctions, it may impose on an offender a term of imprisonment crediting the probationers 90 days served towards the imprisonment ordered for the remaining period of post-released supervision. The term shall be served in an institution under the jurisdiction of the Department of Correctional Services or a county jail subsection (2) of Section 28-105."

Our Department feels mandating the credit for time served by any offender should be reflected on any future sentence imposed by the courts.

MT/lo

Lancaster County's Juvenile

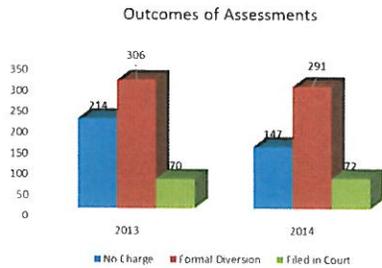
Justice System

Collaborate

Committees
Steering
Truancy
DMC

Collect &
Analyze data

Thorough data analysis at each system point – work with national on data definitions



Early Assessment

Screens youth out of the system. It has had 2 evaluations demonstrating it is effective at keeping kids out of the system. It will undergo a 3rd evaluation this year to be considered an Evidence Based Program by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program.

Objective Admission

Probation's Risk Assessment Evaluation (CCFL) Best predictor of detention is score #1 override reason is not able to contact parent

Operating Tipping Point

Gang Prevention & Early Intervention.

Pre-Adjudication Community Services

Community alternative at the point of intake into detention. Since inception, this program has a 70% success rate.

Detention Alternatives

Shelter PACS (electronic monitoring) Tracker Day, Evening, Weekend Reporting Employment Alternative School Community Service

Project SUCCESS

School based diversion program was implemented as an early intervention from the system.

Diversion & Intensive Diversion

Youth are afforded more than one opportunity on diversion.

Case Processing

Weekly meeting for all kids in detention

Daily staffing for PACS kids

Warrant

96% success rate in youth attendance at court while warrants are on hold.

Special Detention Cases

Working with NACo academy on mental health continuum

Less than 15% of youth in detention are there for a new law violation

Truancy Diversion Program

Evaluation found youth in the program reduce the number of truancies by 80%. Lancaster County has been instrumental in training several counties on this model.

Address DMC

Continued work with Georgetown University through RED Program

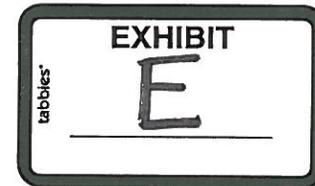
Family Advocate & Mentoring

Family Advocate is located at detention and in the community for all youth. Mentoring available from various locations.

Intensive Monitoring of Detention

Jail Standards

Chinn & Sinclair Report

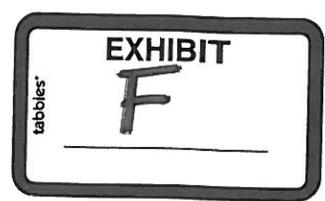


Arrest

Divert
Release
Detain

Adjudicate

Dismiss
Probation
Residential Placement



**JUVENILE SERVICES
STATISTICAL PLACEMENT DATA
January 2006 – November 13, 2015***

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015*
Holdover										
-Juveniles	865	847	981	910	916	659	794	369	231	199
-Mandays	6915	7891	9513	8743	8436	6233	10326	5212	3,510	3259
-ADP	19	22	26	24	23	18	28	14	11	10
-ALS	7	9.08	9.7	9.6	9.2	9.5	10.5	14	17	20
DCYA/Secured										
-Juveniles	12	0	2	2	8	3	1	2	1	3
-Mandays	139	0	117	218	1128	218	2	17	42	194
-ADP	.4	0	.3	1	3	1	.003	.005	.002	.61
-ALS	11.5	0	1.03	109	141	73	2	8.5	42	67
DCYC/Secured										
-Juveniles	38	50	41	35	25	26	9	13	33	21
-Mandays	752	1124	864	696	535	458	175	256	606	642
-ADP	2	3	2.4	2	1.5	1.5	.02	.7	1.6	2
-ALS	20	22.5	16	20	21.4	18	19	20	18	31
CARE										
-Juveniles	258	309	402	323	294	273	267	262	205	160
-Mandays	22129	23350	28843	25996	22443	20369	20448	19897	16120	10271
-ADP	60	65	80	73	63	57	57	55	43	33
-ALS	66	71	71.75	80.5	76.3	75	77	66	63	64
TRUANCY						**				
-Juveniles						15	80	148	88	53
-Mandays						832	10250	21135	3721	3607
-ADP						3	28	58	42	12
-ALS						56	128	143	43	86
TRACKER										
-Juveniles									31	55
-Mandays									1241	2227
-ADP									9	7
-ALS									40	50

**Truancy program began on an experimental basis in 2011. In 2012, Grant Funding allowed us to implement the program.

Nebraska Counties w/ Multiple Offices

2010 Pop.	County	Clerk EC	Clerk EC ROD	Clerk EC ROD CDC	Clerk/EC ROD CDC Assessor	Assessor ROD	Hwy Supt Surveyor	Hwy Supt Zoning	Hwy Supt Weed	Hwy Supt Zoning Weed	Hwy Supt Emerg	Zoning Surveyor	Zoning Emerg	Weed Emerg	Emerg Weed Zoning	Weed Zoning	Sheriff VSO	Sheriff Emerg	Treasurer Zoning
6,685	Antelope		✓																
460	Arthur				✓					✓									
690	Banner			✓															
478	Blaine				✓														
5,505	Boone		✓																
11,308	Box Butte		✓				✓												
2,099	Boyd			✓															
3,145	Brown			✓			✓												
6,858	Burt		✓																
8,395	Butler		✓					✓											
8,852	Cedar		✓														✓		
3,966	Chase			✓															
5,713	Cherry		✓				✓												
9,998	Cheyenne		✓				✓												
6,542	Clay		✓																
10,515	Colfax		✓																
9,139	Cuming		✓				✓												
10,939	Custer	✓																	
21,006	Dakota		✓														✓		
9,182	Dawes		✓														✓		
1,941	Deuel			✓			✓												
6,000	Dixon		✓														✓		
2,008	Dundy			✓				✓					✓						
5,890	Fillmore		✓										✓						
3,225	Franklin			✓															
2,756	Frontier			✓						✓								✓	
4,959	Furnas		✓				✓												
22,311	Gage	✓						✓											
2,057	Garden			✓				✓											
2,049	Garfield			✓															
2,044	Gosper			✓															✓
614	Grant				✓		✓												✓
2,538	Greeley			✓							✓								
9,124	Hamilton		✓					✓											
3,423	Harlan			✓															✓
967	Hayes				✓														
2,908	Hitchcock			✓															
10,435	Holt		✓																
736	Hooker				✓		✓												
6,274	Howard			✓															
7,547	Jefferson		✓												✓				



Nebraska Counties w/ Multiple Offices

2010 Pop.	County	Clerk EC	Clerk EC ROD	Clerk EC ROD CDC	Clerk/EC ROD CDC Assessor	Assessor ROD	Hwy Supt Surveyor	Hwy Supt Zoning	Hwy Supt Weed	Hwy Supt Zoning Weed	Hwy Supt Emerg	Zoning Surveyor	Zoning Emerg	Weed Emerg	Emerg Weed Zoning	Weed Zoning	Sheriff VSO	Sheriff Emerg	Treasurer Zoning
5,217	Johnson			✓												✓			
6,489	Kearney		✓																
8,368	Keith		✓																
824	Keya Paha				✓		✓											✓	
3,821	Kimball			✓				✓											
8,701	Knox		✓																
285,407	Lancaster					✓													
763	Logan				✓									✓					
632	Loup				✓														
539	McPherson				✓														✓
7,845	Merrick		✓				✓												
5,042	Morrill		✓				✓												
3,735	Nance			✓			✓												
7,248	Nemaha		✓										✓						
4,500	Nuckolls		✓											✓					
15,740	Otoe	✓										✓							
2,773	Pawnee			✓															
2,970	Perkins			✓				✓											
9,188	Phelps		✓																
7,266	Pierce		✓																
5,406	Polk			✓														✓	
11,055	Red Willow		✓																
8,363	Richardson		✓																
1,526	Rock			✓			✓												
14,200	Saline		✓																
20,780	Saunders	✓																	
16,750	Seward		✓																
5,469	Sheridan		✓																
3,152	Sherman			✓				✓											
1,311	Sioux				✓														
6,129	Stanton			✓															
5,228	Thayer		✓																
647	Thomas				✓		✓												
6,940	Thurston		✓																
4,260	Valley			✓															
20,234	Washington	✓																	
9,595	Wayne		✓																
3,812	Webster			✓															
818	Wheeler				✓														
13,665	York		✓																

f

**Health Insurance
Premium Comparision**

EXHIBIT
H

COVERAGE LEVEL	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	% change	FY 14/15	% change	FY 15/16	% change	1-Jan-16	% change
Single	\$ 682.38	\$ 646.25	-5.29%	\$ 689.95	6.76%	\$ 763.91	10.72%	\$ 775.28	1.49%
Employee/Spouse	\$ 1,454.50	\$ 1,369.79	-5.82%	\$ 1,463.42	6.84%	\$ 1,603.04	9.54%	\$ 1,642.52	2.46%
Employee/Child(ren)	\$ 1,454.50	\$ 1,369.79	-5.82%	\$ 1,463.42	6.84%	\$ 1,603.04	9.54%	\$ 1,642.52	2.46%
Family	\$ 1,667.34	\$ 1,554.66	-6.76%	\$ 1,662.03	6.91%	\$ 1,805.24	8.62%	\$ 1,866.96	3.42%
AVERAGE CHANGE:			-5.93%		6.83%		9.60%		2.46%

Sarpy County

Medical Benefit Analysis

Effective Date July 1, 2013

May-13

Villiams-Deras & Associates
Iolmes-Murphy

Referred Provider Organization	2013 - 2014 Group Health Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska Blue Preferred PPO		2013 -2014 Partial Self Fund Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska Blue Preferred PPO	
	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network
BENEFIT OVERVIEW				
<u>Deductible</u>				
Single	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$500	\$8,000
Family	\$8,000	\$16,000	\$1,000	\$16,000
Coinsurance	70% / 30%	50% / 50%	70% / 30%	50% / 50%
<u>Out of Pocket Maximum</u>				
Single (includes the deductible)	\$5,000	\$11,900	\$2,500	\$11,900
Family (includes the deductible)	\$10,000	\$23,800	\$5,000	\$23,800
BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS				
<u>Physician Visit</u>	\$30 Copayment per visit \$60 Copayment for Specialist	Deductible then 50%	\$30 Copayment per visit \$60 Copayment for Specialist	Deductible then 50%
<u>Preventive Services</u>				
ADULT	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%
CHILD/BABY	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%
<u>Emergency Room Urgent Care Center</u>	\$100 Copayment per visit then 30% \$30 Copayment per visit	\$100 Copayment per visit then 30% Deductible then 50%	\$100 Copayment per visit then 30% \$30 Copayment per visit	\$100 Copayment per visit then 30% Deductible then 50%
<u>Hospital Services</u>				
Inpatient	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%
Outpatient	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%
Maternity	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%
<u>Prescription Drugs</u>	Generic --- \$10.00 / Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 / Brand Non-Formulary --- \$60.00	Generic --- \$10.00 + 25% Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 + 25% Brand Non-Formulary --- \$60.00 + 25%	Generic --- \$10.00 / Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 / Brand Non-Formulary --- \$60.00	Generic --- \$10.00 + 25% Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 + 25% Brand Non-Formulary --- \$60.00 + 25%
<u>Overall Lifetime Maximum</u>	UNLIMITED		UNLIMITED	

NOTE:

1) This is a summary of benefits provided by the plans. Refer to the carrier's descriptive material for a full discussion of benefits and rates.

	2014 - 2015 Group Health Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska Blue Preferred PPO		2014 - 2015 Group / Partial Self Fund Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska Blue Preferred PPO	
Referred Provider Organization	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network
BENEFIT OVERVIEW				
<u>Deductible</u>				
Single	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$500	\$8,000
Family	\$8,000	\$16,000	\$1,000	\$16,000
Coinsurance	70% / 30%	50% / 50%	70% / 30%	50% / 50%
<u>Out of Pocket Maximum</u>				
Single (includes the deductible)	\$6,000	\$11,900	\$3,500	\$11,900
Family (includes the deductible)	\$12,000	\$23,800	\$7,000	\$23,800
BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS				
<u>Physician Visit</u>	\$30 Copayment per visit \$75 Copayment for Specialist	Deductible then 50% Deductible then 50%	\$30 Copayment per visit \$75 Copayment for Specialist	Deductible then 50% Deductible then 50%
<u>Preventive Services</u>				
ADULT	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%
CHILD/BABY	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%
<u>Emergency Room</u>	\$250 Copayment per visit then 30%	\$250 Copayment per visit then 30%	\$250 Copayment per visit then 30%	\$250 Copayment per visit then 30%
<u>Urgent Care Center</u>	\$45 Copayment per visit	Deductible then 50%	\$45 Copayment per visit	Deductible then 50%
<u>Hospital Services</u>				
Inpatient	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%
Outpatient	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%
Maternity	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%
<u>Prescription Drugs</u>	Generic --- \$10.00 / Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 / Brand Non-Formulary --- \$75.00 Specialty --- \$100.00	Generic --- \$10.00 + 25% Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 + 25% Brand Non-Formulary --- \$75.00 + 25% Specialty --- NOT COVERED	Generic --- \$10.00 / Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 / Brand Non-Formulary --- \$75.00 Specialty --- \$100.00	Generic --- \$10.00 + 25% Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 + 25% Brand Non-Formulary --- \$75.00 + 25% Specialty --- NOT COVERED
Overall Lifetime Maximum	UNLIMITED		UNLIMITED	

NOTE:

1) This is a summary of benefits provided by the plans. Refer to the carrier's descriptive material for a full discussion of benefits and rates.

Sarpy County

Medical Benefit Analysis

Coventry Alternate

Williams-Deras & Associates

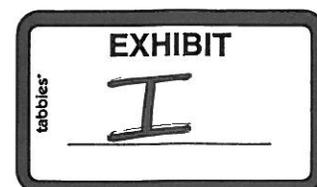
Effective Date July 1, 2015

April-15

	Alternate Option 2 Coventry an Aetna Company PPO		Alternate Option 2 / Partial Self Fund Coventry an Aetna Company PPO	
	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network
BENEFIT OVERVIEW				
<u>Deductible</u>	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$500	\$8,000
Single	\$8,000	\$16,000	\$1,000	\$16,000
Family	70% / 30%	50% / 50%	70% / 30%	50% / 50%
<u>Coinsurance</u>				
<u>Out of Pocket Maximum</u>	\$6,000	\$11,900	\$3,500	\$11,900
Single (includes the deductible)	\$12,000	\$23,800	\$7,000	\$23,800
Family (includes the deductible)				
BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS				
<u>Physician Visit</u>	\$30 Copayment per visit \$75 Copayment for Specialist	Deductible then 50% Deductible then 50%	\$30 Copayment per visit \$75 Copayment for Specialist	Deductible then 50% Deductible then 50%
<u>Preventive Services</u>				
ADULT	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%
CHILD/BABY	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%	Plan Pays 100%	Deductible then 50%
<u>Emergency Room Urgent Care Center</u>	\$250 Copayment per visit then 30% \$45 Copayment per visit	\$250 Copayment per visit then 30% Deductible then 50%	\$250 Copayment per visit then 30% \$45 Copayment per visit	\$250 Copayment per visit then 30% Deductible then 50%
<u>Hospital Services</u>				
Inpatient	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%
Outpatient	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%
Maternity	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%	Deductible then 30%	Deductible then 50%
<u>Prescription Drugs</u>				
	\$100 Deductible / 2 Per Family then Generic --- \$10.00 / Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 / Brand Non-Formulary --- \$75.00 Specialty --- \$100.00	\$100 Deductible / 2 Per Family then Generic --- \$10.00 + 25% Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 + 25% Brand Non-Formulary --- \$75.00 + 25% Specialty --- Not Covered	\$100 Deductible / 2 Per Family then Generic --- \$10.00 / Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 / Brand Non-Formulary --- \$75.00 Specialty --- \$100.00	\$100 Deductible / 2 Per Family then Generic --- \$10.00 + 25% Brand Formulary --- \$40.00 + 25% Brand Non-Formulary --- \$75.00 + 25% Specialty --- Not Covered
Overall Lifetime Maximum	UNLIMITED		UNLIMITED	

Summary of benefits provided by the plans. Refer to the carrier's descriptive material for a full discussion of benefits and rates.

Sarpy County Government Strategic Plan for 2014-2016



I. Preferred Future for the Sarpy County Community

- **Managed, smart growth continues to drive a thriving local economy.**
 - The County population exceeds 200,000.
 - Business development parks are populated with high-technology firms.
 - A lively retail sector offers diverse choices for residents and attracts destination shoppers.
 - Offutt Air Force Base remains fully operational and an important foundation of the local economy.
- **The County has a national and regional reputation as a community of choice.**
 - High quality, livable neighborhoods are a positive factor in the successful recruitment of new business and industry.
 - Residential newcomers continue to be attracted by high quality public schools.
- **Modern highways, and well designed and maintained roads support the community.**
 - An expanded Platteview Road serves residents and provides a connector loop for the metropolitan region.
 - 180th Street is a key north/south County road.
 - County collector and arterial roads effectively connect more areas of the County.
- **Recreation facilities, entertainment venues and other tourist attractions are a community signature.**
 - County has formed a partnership for a new recreation area along the Platte River.
 - Residents make use of the County's extensive walking and biking trails.
 - Visitors and tourists are drawn to the County's high-quality leisure amenities.
- **A spirit of cooperation among local governments benefits residents and businesses.**
 - Sarpy County communities compete in recruitment of new businesses, but also are able to cooperate for mutual County-wide benefit.
 - Local governments have maximized the use of cooperative service agreements for delivery of public services.
 - Local elected officials regularly confer in a formal way to seek new opportunities for mutual gain.
- **County government has a positive reputation as a leader in efficient services and innovative initiatives that benefit the community.**
 - The majority of residents can transact County business through on-line services.
 - Living in the County is more affordable because property taxes as a portion of total County revenues have declined measurably over the past decade.
 - State government has granted additional discretionary decision making authority to the County.
 - The County has achieved a flatter, more streamlined organizational structure.

II. Sarpy County Vision, Mission and Values

Our **Vision** is to be a responsive, diverse, transparent, and fiscally sound organization, committed to providing abundant opportunities for success, and recognized among the best in the country.

It is our **Mission** to provide our community with exemplary and fiscally responsible services necessary to promote a healthy, safe and prosperous Sarpy County

We Value:

- **Honest and Ethical behavior** – embrace open, forthright interaction among employees and the public and adhere to strong moral principles in performing our work
- **Respect** – value and honor diversity and demonstrate a deep regard for the dignity, needs, beliefs, and ideas of every citizen, customer, and employee
- **Integrity** – ensure our actions match our words and demonstrate a high level of character at all times
- **Responsiveness** – display individual and organizational commitment to serving the public
- **Professionalism** – adhere to a high standard of conduct, competence, and performance
- **Accountability** – embrace transparency in our work and accept responsibility for our job performance, actions, behavior, and the resources entrusted to us.
- **Teamwork** – recognize the common mission of all and commit to work together within and beyond our traditional work groups and organizational boundaries
- **Initiative and Innovation** – accept that creativity, leadership and responsible risk taking are necessary to achieve high performance

III. Strategic Goals

1. Contribute to sustaining and strengthening the local economy.

Key Objectives:

- a. In collaboration with community economic development partners, facilitate the creation of a vision for the growth of Sarpy County.
- b. Create a County business incentive policy and revise as needed to align with the community's vision for growth.
- c. Support the Sarpy County Economic Development Corporation in purchasing options for land that represent prime sites for new business locations.
- d. Complete development of a new Comprehensive Plan and adopt zoning and subdivision regulations.
- e. Coordinate with community partners to support the present functions of Offutt Air Force Base and champion all efforts to keep the base off the closure list.

Measure(s):

Responsible parties:

Date to be initiated:

2. Maximize stewardship of County revenues and broaden the use of non-property tax revenues to fund services.

Key Objectives:

- a. Expand alternative revenue sources for financing road maintenance and improvements.
- b. Study the use of debt financing for County road improvements and take action accordingly.
- c. Study the feasibility of charging state government for the cost of incarcerating their prisoners in the County jail and charging Sarpy County cities for prosecuting misdemeanor cases; initiate action accordingly.
- d. Seek legislative authorization to increase existing County service fees in order to fully recover the cost of providing individual services.
- e. Identify additional opportunities for new service fees for financing County services and pursue implementation strategies.
- f. Prepare a plan for use of a dedicated County sales tax to finance public safety initiatives and seek voter approval.
- g. Expand options for credit card payments for County fines and user fees.
- h. Continue the use of alternative fuels to reduce the County's energy costs.

Measure(s):
Responsible parties:
Date to be initiated:

3. Provide for infrastructure improvements that support the growth of the community and enhance quality service to County residents.

Key Objectives:

- a. Complete the update to the 2006 Wastewater and Water Infrastructure Study to determine the need for a new sewer service for underdeveloped areas of the County.
- b. Consider the need for formation of a separate governmental entity for providing expanded sewer services and take action accordingly.
- c. Prioritize County road improvements based on feedback from key stakeholder groups at an annually-convened Road Summit.
- d. Adopt a long-term County Facilities Plan that estimates costs of individual facility improvements and prioritizes projects and implement a short-term funding plan for the next three years.
- e. Adopt and implement a County Technology Plan that reduces courthouse foot traffic, ensures cyber-security and advances progress toward a virtual county government.
- f. Create and implement a long-term County Capital Improvement plan for investments in infrastructure, facilities and major equipment.

Measure(s):
Responsible parties:
Date to be initiated:

4. Enhance the effectiveness of the County's criminal justice services.

Key Objectives:

- a. Expand the use of alternative programs to prevent incarceration in the County jail.
- b. Improve juvenile justice programs by developing alternative programs to prevent detention and beginning implementation of a plan for adequate juvenile justice facilities.
- c. Enhance cooperation in the delivery of law enforcement services with other agencies in the County.

- d. Achieve a successful transition to the Board of Corrections for management of the County's corrections programs.

Measure(s):

Responsible parties:

Date to be initiated:

5. Expand partnerships in the County and wider region to leverage resources, eliminate service redundancies and improve local influence in state legislative decisions.

Key Objectives:

- a. In consultation with community partners, identify the most mutually beneficial prospects for joint service delivery programs and forge three new cooperative service delivery agreements.
- b. Pursue study of the benefits and technical feasibility of a regional approach to the provision of emergency communication services (9-1-1 services) and take action accordingly.
- c. Expand coordination of planning and zoning decisions between and among municipalities in the County.
- d. Facilitate development of a shared state legislative agenda with cities in the County and dedicate County lobbying resources to advance the agenda.

Measure(s):

Responsible parties:

Date to be initiated:

6. Improve communication to inform the community about County services and initiatives, and expand citizen engagement.

Key Objectives:

- a. Adopt a public communication plan and dedicate resources to its implementation.
- b. Enhance the County website to create additional avenues for citizen engagement.
- c. Implement a County media policy that directs who speaks for the Board of Commissioners and the departments under the Board's authority.
- d. Adopt public communication standards that achieve uniform messaging and graphic design for the County website and other communication venues.
- e. Increase communication with County employees to keep them informed about relevant County services and decisions.

Measure(s):

Responsible parties:

Date to be initiated:

7. Provide for a high performing County workforce to deliver services.

Key Objectives:

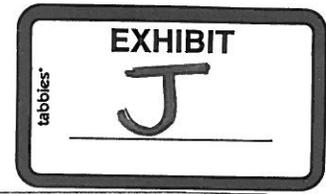
- a. Expand opportunities for employee learning and professional development.
- b. Capture administrative efficiencies through expansion of interdepartmental cross training.
- c. Sustain a high-skilled County workforce through implementation of succession planning.
- d. Combine administrative service units and functions to achieve more efficient use of human resources.
- e. Administer fair and competitive compensation practices across all departments.
- e. Evaluate the need for a compensation policy that rewards high performance and expand the use of non-financial employee recognition practices.
- f. Increase employee performance feedback accountability through implementation of a performance appraisal program.

Measure(s):

Responsible parties:

Date to be initiated:

Approved by the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners on _____



**Douglas County Government
Documentation of Strategic Work Products
Strategy Session - September 24, 2015**

Overall Strategic Focus

“How will we, over the next 3-5 years, creatively and efficiently invest our resources in order to provide the most effective services for the citizens of Douglas County?”

Contents

Strategic Process Summary	2
Environmental Scan	4
3-5 Year Vision Work Product (Priority Outcomes)	5
Strategy Development and Tactical Priorities	6
Next Steps	8

Facilitated Resources
4504 DeRocher Path
Sioux City, Iowa, 51106
debburnight@gmail.com

Strategic Process Summary

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners met in facilitated session at the UNL Extension Office on September 24, 2015, to craft a 3-year strategic plan. The overarching question guiding discussion was:

“How will we, over the next 3-5 years, creatively and efficiently invest our resources in order to provide the most effective services for the citizens of Douglas County?”

Over the course of the day-long retreat, the participants explored three primary areas of strategic focus:

- Foundational thinking
- Strategic thinking
- Tactical solutions

Foundational thinking

- Environmental Scan – The first step of the group process was to assess the current planning landscape. The participants took a “30,000 foot view” of recent accomplishments and setbacks, as well as trends that are (or will be) impacting the work and mission of Douglas County. Presentations were also given to educate participants on current budgetary and other fiscal information. Opportunity was provided for public and partner input and recommendations for the planning process.
- “Practical” Vision – The exercise answered the focus question “What do we want to see in place in 3-5 years as a result of our collective action?” Nine vision elements (priority outcomes) emerged as a result of the process (see page 5 for detail). They were:
 - A robust capital improvement program
 - Improved inter-local collaboration
 - Fair and affordable total employee compensation
 - Effective and fair tax policy
 - County government awareness

- Juvenile justice reform
- Alternatives to incarceration
- Health service coordination
- Strengthened public health infrastructure

Strategic thinking – Using the environmental scan as a screen through which to view the desired future vision elements, the participants developed four broad themes to guide strategic action over the next two to three years. Those strategies included (in no order of priority):

- Identify and effectively utilize human and financial resources
- Build County government awareness
- Accelerate criminal justice reform
- Enhance the health services system

Tactical Solutions - The final and very important step of the process resulted in the listing of 12-month tactical expectations for each strategy. (See page 6.)

The process guiding the work of the group was based on the Technology of Participation facilitation methods developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs. Questions regarding the process or resulting work products may be directed to the facilitator:

Deb Burnight, CTF
Facilitated Resources
712-943-1949
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Environmental Scan - the "30,000 Foot View"

<p><i>What are some "givens" in our current situation?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Public doesn't understand our function and scope ◦ Limited resources ◦ Fluid ◦ Are at the bottom of the hill/food chain ◦ New options exist ◦ Opportunities as an urban county ◦ Statutes on the books but some not enforced (i.e. "solid waste") ◦ Unrealistic public expectations ◦ Aging workforce - uncompetitive compensation structure 	<p><i>What are some recent accomplishments?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ HR objectives ◦ Educating employees on compensation/benefits ◦ Employee recognition program ◦ EHR ◦ Corrections - Community Health Center ◦ Juvenile justice reform ◦ Ebola issue ◦ Partnership with private companies - landfill gas ◦ Outsourcing worker compensation ◦ Regionalization
<p><i>What are some recent setbacks?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Bond issue - public safety ◦ Insurance costs ◦ LB 605 ◦ Supreme Court ruling - Commissions charged by Treasury (- \$6000) ◦ Underfunded pension obligations ◦ Other jurisdictions balancing their budgets on our backs ◦ Retirements 	<p><i>What are some current trends impacting our work?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Technology opportunities/threats ◦ Current building going on in Douglas County ◦ Relationships with key senators ◦ Collaboration increasing ◦ Jail costs increasing ◦ Infrastructure refreshes ◦ Insurance/pension costs increasing ◦ Aging workforce - caregiving issues ◦ Cadillac tax ◦ Physical space issues ◦ Possible tax increases needed

Vision Question: What do we see in place in 3 years as a result of our collective action?

A robust capital improvement program	Improved inter-local collaboration	Fair and affordable total employee compensation	Effective and fair tax policy	County government awareness	Juvenile justice reform	Alternatives to incarceration	Health service coordination	Strengthened public health infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Tech infrastructure upgrade allowing some personnel costs to decrease ◦ Capital improvement program ◦ Thomas Fitz Home renovation ◦ Technology plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ State aid increased ◦ Fiscal efficiency and improvements ◦ Co. board best practices, i.e. orientation ◦ Partnerships with the City ◦ City/County consolidations ◦ Working strategic plan ◦ 911 regionalization ◦ Collaboration with Lancaster on legislation ◦ Strengthen Public Health infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Premier workforce - a place people want to work. We are efficient, citizen-focused and friendly. ◦ Competitive salary - attract and maintain ◦ Lifestyle and insurance changes ◦ Go back to 1 health insurance offering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Long term taxation policy ◦ Fiscal efficiency and improvements ◦ Public education regarding taxes ◦ Fair tax policy changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Data driven, research rich (Empirical analysis) ◦ We have an education program for citizens, schools and lawmakers. ◦ An effective PR/marketing department ◦ The "Go-To" government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Juv court reform ◦ Up front investment (decreased GAL \$\$, decreased status offenders, decreased pressure on courts ◦ Comprehensive juvy justice reform ◦ Juv Justice Center/campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Solved mental health in jail ◦ Premier pre-trial program to decrease government pre-trial in jail ◦ Forensic mental health unit ◦ Model mental health program ◦ End homelessness, poverty, domestic violence - addressed mental health in jails ◦ Veterans' issues addressed ◦ Mental health court ◦ Strengthen public health infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Coordinate the Health Center's mission with the community ◦ DCHC strategic partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Food security and justice ◦ Walkable communities ◦ Age friendly communities ◦ Public transportation improvements ◦ Community benefit \$\$
<p><i>Identify and effectively utilize human and financial resources</i></p>				<p><i>Build County government awareness</i></p>	<p><i>Accelerate criminal justice reform</i></p>		<p><i>Enhance the health services system</i></p>	

Strategy Development and Tactical Priorities

Brainstorm Question: *"In light of our long-range vision and our 2-3 year strategies, what are our top strategic priorities (preferred tactics) for the next 12 months?"*

The following strategies and tactics achieved consensus for implementation:

2-3 Year Strategy - Identify and effectively utilize human and financial resources

12-month tactical priorities:

- Campaign for bond issue
- Study and recommend a plan for an enhanced budgeting process (i.e. 0-based)
- Resolve G.A.L. provision issue
- Consider discontinuing retire coverage in 2017
- Facilitate at least one consolidation of duplicative services (including in-house)
- Seek increase in State aid
- Develop complete (1-year) technology plan
- Develop a (cooperative and/or internal) legislative agenda
- Study changing to PTO system
- Develop a comprehensive County employee compensation plan
- Enhance employee wellness policies and program
- Develop a succession plan
- Review, enhance and codify County board executive best practices
- Enhance use of social media to engage employees and public

2-3 Year Strategy - Build County government awareness

12-month tactical priorities:

- Establish a data research and empirical analysis process
- Hire a professional P.I.O
- Design a robust citizen engagement process
- Explore and adopt use of existing tools to educate on and build County government awareness

2-3 Year Strategy - Accelerate criminal justice reform

12-month tactical priorities:

- Reform the provision of G.A.L services (Guardian Ad Litem)
- Develop a plan to reduce pre-trial numbers faster
- Establish a mental health court
- Develop drawings for a juvenile justice campus

2-3 Year Strategy - Enhance our health services system

12-month tactical priorities:

- Pursue public health partnerships (V.A., UNMC and federally funded health centers)
- Raise public awareness of Douglas County Health Center
- Research financial resources for Douglas County Health Center (both public and private dollars)
- Explore and coordinate with Douglas County Health Department on: 1) Food security and justice, 2) Walk-able communities, 3) Age friendly communities, 4) Public transportation improvements, and 5) Community benefit \$\$

Next Steps

What:

Who:

By When:

Document strategic work products

Facilitator

Oct. 2, 2015

Operationalize the strategic plan

Administrative Staff

Nov. 1, 2015

Schedule follow-up Board meeting to approve plan and establish a monitoring and plan adjustment process

Board and administrative staff

Nov. 1, 2015

Respectfully submitted,
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