

**Community Health Endowment (CHE)
Pre-Council Meeting
October 8, 2007**

Trustees Present: Dan Anderson, Chair, CHE Board of Trustees; Bill Lester, Treasurer and Chair, CHE Finance/Investment Committee; Helen Meeks, Chair, CHE Funding Committee.

Staff Present: Lori Seibel, President; Jodi Loos, Office Manager.

Ms. Seibel distributed packets of information to City Council members that included the 2006/2007 Annual Report, a roster of current CHE Trustees, a list of project highlights, participant feedback from the Medication Assistance Program, and a copy of the Powerpoint presentation.

- I. **INTRODUCTION:** Mr. Anderson stated it was a pleasure to represent the Community Health Endowment and introduced Mr. Lester, Ms. Meeks, and Ms. Seibel.
- II. **FINANCIAL REVIEW:** Mr. Lester noted that CHE funds are invested in 11 fund managers. He stated that the total return for FY 2006/2007 was 7.7%, which is higher than the average return since inception (5.9%).

Mr. Lester stated that Constitutional Amendment 1 would allow CHE to invest, in collaboration with the City of Lincoln and others, in equity investments.

Mr. Camp asked if CHE had considered a separate calculation for a healthcare inflation index. Mr. Lester stated that the healthcare inflation is at a high rate and, if solely used as the CHE inflation index, would prevent CHE from providing any community distributions. Mr. Lester did state that the healthcare index could be provided in future presentations for comparative purposes.

- III. **FUNDING:** Ms. Meeks stated that serving on the Community Health Endowment Board of Trustees has been a rewarding experience.

Ms. Meeks noted that, during the past even years, CHE has granted 255 awards to 196 projects, for a total of \$9,251,917. She added that the average award was \$36,233, and that annual awards have ranged from \$250 to \$300,000.

Ms. Meeks reviewed CHE's history, stating that, since its creation, CHE has had a strong focus on strengthening the community's healthcare safety net. Ms. Meeks introduced Ms. Seibel who highlighted several programs.

- A. **ED Connections.** Ms. Seibel stated ED Connections is a program that was funded by CHE in collaboration with Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center and BryanLGH Health System. This project provides case management services to persons with high utilization of the emergency department for non-emergent conditions. Since implementation of this project, participants have shown a 69% decrease in hospital emergency department visits, resulting in a 70% decrease in costs. Participants have also shown a 64.2% decrease in the number of transports by Lincoln Fire & Rescue, resulting in a reduction of costs by 71.1%.
- B. **Medication Assistance Program (MAP)** Ms. Seibel recognized the Lancaster County Medical Society, Ms. Joan Anderson and her staff, for their work with MAP. MAP assists patients with no pharmaceutical healthcare coverage in accessing their medications in the most affordable manner. Medications are primarily acquired using

national drug assistance programs. Since September 3, 2003, MAP has served 3,633 patients and prepared 10,114 applications for medication assistance. The value of the medications to the community is \$11,117,092. In addition, the total prescription costs to Lancaster County's General Assistance Program in the 12 months prior to utilizing the MAP model were 56% (\$675,904) higher the 12 months following implementation of MAP. Ms. Seibel also noted that MAP has achieved 5 years of financial sustainability.

- C. Methamphetamine Planning Initiative.** Ms. Seibel stated that focus groups were convened during the past 12 months to discuss the methamphetamine issue in Lincoln and Lancaster County. A final report and recommendations are near completion. The efforts of this project were highlighted in the national publication, "The Chronicle of Philanthropy."
- D. Is Lincoln the Healthiest City in the Nation?** Ms. Seibel indicated that, following a comparison of 12 cities, Lincoln is considered the 3rd "healthiest city." CHE Trustees will continue to research what can be done to improve health status of residents in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Ms. Eschliman asked about trends in first trimester prenatal care. Ms. Seibel stated that the trend calculations were based on the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey provided by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.
- E. Our History and Our Future.** Ms. Seibel stated that CHE will be addressing three important questions:
 - 1. How does CHE continue to support an ever-growing healthcare safety net?
 - 2. How can CHE address other pressing safety net issues? (i.e. mental health)
 - 3. How can CHE work to reduce demand on the safety net by redesigning healthcare systems and policy; focusing on prevention and healthier children/youth; and changing the current culture of inactivity, poor nutrition, and obesity?
- F. 2007/08 Funding Strategy.** Ms. Seibel outlined the 2007/08 CHE Funding Strategy that will be considered by the CHE Board of Trustees at their annual retreat on October 24, 2007.

IV. DISCUSSION. With no further discussion, Councilman Marvin thanked Mr. Anderson, Mr. Lester, Ms. Meeks and Ms. Seibel for their time and leadership, and for the annual update on CHE activities.

The pre-council meeting concluded.