

**CITY-COUNTY COMMON  
MINUTES  
Monday, May 3, 2010**

**Present:** Ray Stevens, Doug Emery, Deb Schorr, Jon Camp, Gene Carroll, Jane Snyder, Adam Hornung and Mayor Chris Beutler

**Absent:** Jonathan Cook, John Spatz, Larry Hudkins and Bernie Heier

**Others Present:** Judge Karen B. Flowers; Jared D. Gavin, LCSW Coordinator Lancaster County Drug Court; Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director; Joan Anderson, Executive Director for EMS Inc.

Chair Commissioner Ray Stevens opened the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

**1. Approval of Common Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 2, 2010**

There was not a quorum so the minutes will be approved at the June 8, 2010 Common Meeting.

**2. Adult Drug Court:**

Judge Flowers gave an overview and brief history of drug court. In 2000 the possibility of implementing both a juvenile and adult drug court in Lancaster County was explored. A planning grant was obtained and site visits were conducted. It was decided that both an adult and juvenile drug court was needed in Lancaster County. Sources of funding were researched and an application to the Federal Government for a Drug Court Implementation Grant was submitted. A \$120,000 grant was obtained from the Law Enforcement Block Grant and \$500,000 was awarded over a period of three years from the Drug Court Implementation Grant. In fiscal year 2003/2004 the Lancaster County Board agreed to provide funding for the drug courts, which amounted to approximately \$300,000. In later years, the Community Corrections Council became a financial supporter. The State of Nebraska agreed to pay staff salaries. Drug Court participants contribute between \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year.

Drug Court takes an individual with a drug felony or a non violent property offense and diverts them out of the criminal justice system after a plea. It takes approximately 18 months to complete drug court. If a participant violates any of the terms of the court, they are terminated. A pre-sentence investigation is completed and they are sentenced. No time for hearings is taken so the individual gives up due process. When a participant graduates from drug court they are allowed to withdraw the guilty plea entered and the state will dismiss the charges.

In order to graduate, participants need to be clean and sober for nine continuous months and employed for six consecutive months. If the participant does not have a high school diploma, and are capable of getting one, they are required to pursue a GED. If there are other identifiable needs that would make them a better citizen, those requirements will be imposed as well.

When participants begin the program, they are tested for drugs, no less than three times per week. There are five phases to drug court. Phase one and two attend drug court weekly, phase three attends every two weeks, phase four once a month and phase five attends once after starting the final phase and prior to graduation. During this time the individuals also participate in a behavioral program.

Judge Flowers commented that collaboration with Community Corrections is a great fit since Drug Court is a Community Corrections program with the purpose of keeping offenders working and contributing in the community while they are dealing with their drug addictions.

Jared D. Gavin, LCSW Coordinator Lancaster County Drug Court shared the following statistics of drug court participants:

23% are currently pursuing a GED or furthering their education

78% were employed

less than 1% were arrested for a new crime

6% went to jail over sanctions

There are a total of 24 Drug Courts in Nebraska, and the recidivism rate after one year is 5.5, while Nationally it's 16%.

### **3. EMS Inc. Annual Update:**

Joan Anderson, Executive Director for EMS Inc. distributed the annual report. (A copy is available in the County Commissioners Office). In January, Tammy Meyers, the full-time Quality Improvement person at EMS Inc. moved to part-time. In addition, a part-time, off-duty, Lincoln Systems Certified Medic was hired as an additional Quality Improvement person. Having two part-time positions, rather than one full-time position, saves the County money.

Anderson referred to the Lincoln EMS Cardiac Arrest Statistics 2005 - 2009 and requested the group review them at their leisure. She next she referred to the overview sheet. American Medical Response now has a city license to function as an ambulance provider and EMS Inc. is providing the oversight. She talked briefly on the 2009 Lincoln Fire and Rescue Response Times. From a medical standpoint, EMS Inc. is very concerned about the over-all time. Basic life support needs to be started within 3 to 4 minutes. The response time goal for an advanced life support medic unit to arrive is 8 minutes or less at least 90% of the time. EMS Inc. also looks at parameters of 10 minute or less at scene time for trauma, strokes and cardiac alerts. She pointed out the response time in December was down due to the snow storms.

EMS Inc. has added extra tools that are very inexpensive and will help the paramedics in very difficult airway management. Within the next few weeks, direct transmitting of EKGs to the hospitals will start. Currently the medics read the EKGs, however, once the transmission begins, the hospital physician will review them and make the call whether to activate the cath. lab rather than the medics. Lincoln Fire and Rescue has put into place, a 45 day pilot which puts an EMS supervisor on each 24 hour shift. The EMS supervisor will field calls from the medics, hospitals and consumers.

Councilman Camp inquired as to the amount of oversight EMS Inc. has regarding individuals who are frequent callers of 911. Anderson responded currently they don't have any oversight. All three of the hospital campuses have emergency department case workers who maybe involved with frequent emergency room visits.

Councilman Camp inquired about the status of the renewal of the EMS Inc. contract. Rick Hoppe, Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office, responded that due to the response they received, regarding an RFP process, it was decided to appoint a

committee to examine the oversight system and make recommendations for potential change, prior to doing an RFP. Anderson stated that both EMS Inc. and the Medical Society support this. Councilman Camp asked if The EMS Inc. Board had any concerns or suggestions they would like to share. Anderson said the Board feels strongly the contractor needs to be an independent medical oversight. Often times other communities hire the medical director and it is considered internal position. Lincoln has had independent medical oversight since the 1970's

Commissioner Stevens stated the next Commons meeting is scheduled for 8:15 a.m. on June 8<sup>th</sup>. A chair and vice-chair will need to be elected. He adjourned the City County Commons meeting at 2:00 p.m.