JOINT MEETING

Lincoln Board of Education
Lincoln City Council
Mayor Coleen Seng
Lancaster County Board

Tuesday, April 13, 2004
7:30 a.m.

County-City Building
555 S. 10th Street, Room 113

AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2004**

2. **Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Demonstration** - Dr. Andrew Merliss and Joan Anderson, EMS, Inc.

3. **Discussion on Children's Internet Protection Activities Incorporating the i-SAFE Program** - Glenn Friendt, City Council Member; Lincoln Police Department; Lancaster County Sheriff's Office

4. **Scope of Quarterly Meetings Between LPS Board, City Council, Mayor and County Board** - Keith Prettyman, LPS Board

5. **Continuing Business**

6. **New Business**

7. **Future Meeting Date**

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MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF THE
LINCOLN BOARD OF EDUCATION
LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL/MAYOR
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD
Tuesday, April 13, 2004 - 7:30 a.m.
County-City Building - Room 113

Board of Education Members Present: Kathy Danek, Jim Garver, Lillie Larsen, Keith Prettyman and Ed Zimmer **Absent:** Doug Evans and Don Mayhew

City Council Members Present: Glenn Friendt, Patte Newman and Terry Werner **Absent:** Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, Annette McRoy and Ken Svoboda

County Commissioners Present: Bernie Heier, Larry Hudkins, Deb Schorr, Ray Stevens and Bob Workman **Absent:** None

Others Present: Mayor Coleen Seng; Phil Schoo, Dennis Van Horn, Virgil Horne, Dave Myers, Scott Wieskamp, Marilyn Moore, Jim Gessford and Nancy Biggs, Lincoln Public Schools; Kerry Eagan and Gwen Thorpe, County Board Office; Darrell Podany, City Council Office; Andrew Merliss and Joan Anderson, EMS, Inc.; Bruce Dart and Steve Beal, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD); Sheriff Terry Wagner; Bob Kawamoto, Lincoln Police Department; Steve Henrichsen, Planning Department; Scott Opfer, Public Works; Larry Worth, Public Works/StarTran; Carol Connor, Pat Leach, John Dale and Myrna Tewes, Lincoln Public Libraries; Vince Mejer, City Purchasing Department; and Cori Beattie, County Board Secretary

Approval of Minutes

Prettyman moved approval of the minutes from the January 20, 2004 meeting; seconded by Heier. Motion passed unanimously.

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) DEMONSTRATION

Dr. Andrew Merliss, Joan Anderson of EMS, Inc., and Steve Beal of the LLCHD, were present to discuss the community-wide AED initiative. Anderson highlighted statistics from 1999 and 2003, pointing out that the revival rate for standard CPR decreased from 77% to 33%, respectively. Statistics also showed when a cardiac arrest occurs, resuscitation is attempted only one-third of the time.

Dr. Merliss explained sudden cardiac arrest, also called sudden cardiac death, is a leading cause of death in the United States. Defibrillation is the only effective treatment. He stressed time is extraordinarily important as for very minute CPR is not initiated, the possibility of a successful resuscitation drops by 10%. Five minutes into cardiac arrest, 50% of people live, although, brain damage can occur sooner.

The AED is a very compact unit which automatically analyzes heart rhythm and determines whether or not to shock by providing voice instructions. Dr. Merliss said from 1998 to 2002, 755 attempts at resuscitation were made in Lincoln with 11% of those patients surviving. The national average is 5%. He noted some communities, such as Rochester, MN, home of the Mayo Clinic, have much better survival rates because the community has supported using AED's and learning CPR.

Dr. Merliss said Lincoln has set a goal of three minutes to shock. AED supporters believe this is achievable with proper coordination, placement and training, but, financial support is also needed in order to buy the devices. In order to meet this goal, the community must change its view of a first responder. In the past, first responders have typically been local ambulances or fire departments. If AED's could be located in moving grids throughout Lincoln, in police cruisers for example, the device and the victim could be brought together much quicker and more lives could be saved. He also stressed the importance of everyone be trained in CPR and AED usage.

Dr. Merliss addressed the fact that many people have fear and reservation about performing CPR and/or using an AED. He discussed some legal liabilities and felt there was no greater risk of injuring yourself or another with an AED than by using a fire extinguisher. With regard to moral liability, his take as a physician was, "You cannot kill someone who is already dead." There are no reported cases of lay users or employers being sued for using an AED, but, there are several cases where companies have been sued for not having one available. He said recent settlements were made against an airline and an exercise club, indicating there may actually be some liability with not having an AED on the premise.

It was noted the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act was signed by President Bill Clinton in 2000. This legislation encourages AED placement in federal buildings and ensures nationwide liability protection. In addition, President George W. Bush signed legislation in 2002 which provides federal grants for AED purchases and training. Dr. Merliss asked officials for their support. He noted the Mayor's office, Lincoln Police and Fire Departments, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Lincoln Public Schools and the Lancaster Events Center have already endorsed the Consortium's efforts.

Hudkins thanked Dr. Merliss for his presentation but noted the City Attorney's office had reservations about AED's being located in public buildings. He encouraged Dr. Merliss to make this presentation to the Bar Association. He also inquired about AED pricing and complexity of use. Dr. Merliss said he would be delighted to address the Bar Association. He noted the cost of a mobile unit (one used in a police cruiser) is approximately $2,000 but wall devices would be less expensive. AED's maintain their charge for about five years, although, they should be retested after each use. A warning is given when the battery runs low.

Hudkins asked Dr. Merliss to describe the shock procedure. Dr. Merliss said ideally everyone should first be trained in CPR. First, you would approach the person down, making sure they do not have a pulse, and initiate CPR. After turning on the AED, audible instructions direct the user. Two adhesive patches are placed on the chest and the side. In seconds, the device takes a cardiogram, analyzes it, and instructs whether or not to shock.

Heier asked whether Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, had been contacted about this issue. Dr. Merliss replied that he is not currently on the Consortium but would be a good suggestion. Heier stated an AED is needed at the jail facilities and the Juvenile Detention Center. Beal,

President of the Consortium, said they could contact those department heads. He added they have also discussed the issue with Sheriff Terry Wagner.

Schorr asked whether one must be trained in CPR to perform the follow-up after the shock. Dr. Merliss said that is a difficult question. It is ideal for everyone to be trained in CPR and on how to use an AED. However, he stated if he personally was in cardiac arrest and an AED was available but the person nearby was not trained to use it, he would be extremely grateful if they tried.

Larsen questioned whether the Consortium has a plan to check the batteries for AED units located in the community. Beal stated the goal is to have every AED registered so someone can follow up on maintenance. An effort is also being made to get AED's in the high schools.

Larsen and Friendt said they appreciated today's presentation. Friendt added saving one life is worth the cost. He questioned the total estimated cost to place AED's in key locations throughout Lincoln. Beal said he did not have a solid answer. He believed a lot of businesses already have AED's but they are not registered. With regard to the goal of three minutes to shock, he added work should continue with the police department on a pilot basis.

Anderson reiterated the need to increase CPR training. She said all CPR classes now include AED's and school children also receive training on both.

In reference to the National Good Samaritan Law, Hudkins asked whether administering CPR is absolutely imperative for compliance. Dr. Merliss said this comes down to a person making an individual choice. The key is getting as many people trained in CPR as possible. Anderson added anyone can call 911 and a dispatcher will talk them through the steps.

Werner inquired about promotional dollars as AED's are in airports but most people walking by probably don't know what they are. Dr. Merliss said Chicago's O'Hare Airport literally has AED's located three minutes apart. They are becoming much more visible but more awareness is needed at the local and national level so people can recognize AED's and learn how to use them. Friendt stressed the importance of educating the public about AED's. Beal said training, as well as registering devices, is important. Anderson said the education process should be part of annual safety training for all employees.

Werner said Dr. Merliss, Beal, and Anderson have dedicated a tremendous amount of their own time to this cause. Beal noted the community has raised $60,000 to date. Hudkins and Stevens thanked the trio for their efforts.

DISCUSSION ON CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING THE I-SAFE PROGRAM

Friendt said he asked for this item be placed on the agenda. He felt it would be beneficial to discuss how local agencies are working together on Internet protection for area youth. Statistics show 48 million children between the ages of 5-17 use computers. This equates 600 billion hours of online time annually. In 2002, one in five children under the age of 17 received unwanted sexual solicitations online. The FBI lists sexual exploitation of children online as a significant crime problem, thus, the Justice Department approved funding for a non-profit

organization called, I-Safe. Friendt questioned what was being done at the local level to assist with this effort.

Danek said Internet access presentations have been done at area schools. She said the LPS system has a filter whereby kids cannot access certain sites. Also, if something questionable is downloaded, a warning alerts staff who can immediately take action to delete it. The information technology department is always working to make the system as safe as possible.

In response to Friendt's inquiry, Moore stated Internet safety is part of the curriculum. In elementary, middle and high school, students are taught the standard use of computers plus how to safely use the Internet as an instructional and research tool. Students are not allowed to access their email from school computers. She noted staff is aware of the I-Safe curriculum and computer specialists have been trained but there are a few limitations, such as financial resources and staff time.

From the law enforcement standpoint, Wagner said his department also deals with cases regarding Internet solicitation. Friendt asked how these types of cases come to the Sheriff's office. Wagner said usually from parents or friends. Deputies have done presentations for parents on what they should be looking for while monitoring their children's internet usage.

Kawamoto added the Lincoln Police Department has investigators assigned to work computer cases. Officers also do presentations on Internet safety for kids in public schools or whenever requested. He noted educating children is only one very small component of this issue - it is really a public education problem. Like previously mentioned, he felt it is essential for parents to also be educated on how to monitor their children's computer activity. He said when kids are enticed on the Internet, eventually phone contact will be made. Thus, parents need to monitor long distance phone bills. They also need to communicate with their children, particularly teenagers, to see what they are up to and how they are spending their time.

Friendt and Heier voiced their thanks and appreciation to all those working on the issue. Heier added Internet safety is of primary importance but encouraged officials to not forget those kids who are solicited by predators on the streets of this community.

Wagner said the I-Safe program seems to be spreading across the nation to schools, law enforcement and other public entities. More information can be found on the I-Safe website.

Hudkins asked Carol Connor to speak about the filtering system used by the libraries. Connor stated several months ago the Library Board changed policy and will be filtering certain computers in the children's area. The policy includes having a parent or guardian present to grant written permission before a child can use an unfiltered computer. She added she attended the I-Safe meeting and it was encouraged to form a community wide committee to address the issue. She felt this would be an excellent way to provide outreach and education.

SCOPE OF QUARTERLY MEETING BETWEEN LPS, CITY & COUNTY

Prettyman said he has never seen anything in writing regarding the scope/purpose of these joint meetings. He added while there may be a statement of intent floating around somewhere, he seldom left the meetings enlightened. Rather, he almost always left frustrated and angry at what he perceived to be cross-jurisdictional interference. He believed the

meetings could be a useful coordination tool but did not see that happening on a regular basis. He asked for clarification on how best to accomplish that feat. Heier said he presented the same question at a County Board staff meeting, as the County really does not vote on things which affect LPS.

Garver said he remembers requesting the first meeting as to foster the lines of communication between the governmental entities. He noted some school districts around the country are infamous for doing their own thing but did not want this system to work that way. He said perhaps agenda items should be limited to those of mutual interest only. He encouraged the group to continue to be a role model for respective staffs on how to work cooperatively.

Hudkins echoed Garver's comments and added the group may only need to meet semi-annually. He felt it was important to continue to share long-range planning ideas as that issue definitely involves all three entities. Werner said communication is the biggest reason for the meetings and agreed the frequency might be reconsidered.

Mayor Seng stated that before she served on the City Council, there was a lot of conflict between the City, County and School District. The Common meetings were established to encourage better communication between the City and County. Then meetings were held with the School Board. She felt the joint meetings are important and serve as a forum for sharing ideas and cooperation. She supported the continuation of these meetings.

(Werner exited the meeting.)

Zimmer felt the efficiency of the meetings could increase while not decreasing the frequency. Staff coordination is key and he noted the three staffs meet far more frequently than this group. He noted the efficiency in making one presentation, versus two or three, on an item. He suggested the presiding officers meet in advance to help solicit quarterly agenda items of mutual interest from staff in an attempt to tighten up the process. Prettyman said Zimmer's suggestion may be the best way to handle this meeting.

Friendt appreciated hearing the historical perspectives and related comments. He agreed the respective staffs should help coordinate future agendas of this group. With regard to the frequency of meetings, he supported a quarterly cycle if it makes scheduling easier.

Workman added while the County Board has fewer issues of mutual concern with LPS than the Mayor and City Council, common interests do exist. He reiterated the fact that future agendas should be planned very carefully and voiced support for the joint meeting to continue. He also suggested future discussion on human services, as this topic affects all three bodies.

Stevens said he also appreciated these meetings as they have given him a greater appreciation for what the School Board does and the tasks they face. He believed some discussions, e.g., the AED's, pertain to everyone. He added since the three bodies own a tremendous amount of real estate scattered throughout the community, there is a great opportunity to coordinate and cooperate on the installation of these devices.

Mayor Seng recommended the chairpersons of the three bodies work together to formulate future agendas. Prettyman added they should also solicit agenda items from staff, School Board members and elected officials.

NEW BUSINESS

Stevens noted the County and City recently commissioned a new study, via their Human Services office, on the social economic indicators of legalized gambling in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Previous studies were done in 1997 and 1999. The goal is to find out the baseline effects of gambling in the community, if and when it is expanded in the State. A copy of the report is available through the County-City Human Services website. Hard copies can be purchased and CDs will also be available. Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, can be contacted with questions.

Hudkins asked whether the School Board had designated smoking areas in parking lots. Prettyman said they do not designate any areas for smoking.

With regard to joint meetings and cooperative efforts, Henrichsen said City staff, including Planning, Parks & Recreation and Public Works, meets with Lincoln Public School staff on the first Friday of every month. He suggested a future agenda item be joint recreation facilities, baseball fields and swimming pools, and trying to coordinate efforts between the various bodies with regard to placement, roads and utilities in an attempt to prevent duplication. He requested time to meet with the chairpersons regarding this item.

Henrichsen also said one item which did not get on today's agenda was the Comprehensive Plan Annual Review which will be in May. Future meetings on the amendments will be held with the City Council and County Board. One item for consideration will be the LPS Comprehensive District Master Plan which would become a component of the City-County Comprehensive Plan if approved.

Henrichsen noted a group in Washington, D.C., recently hired a consultant to help the local School Board, City Council and County work together. He was asked questions by someone associated with the group such as, "Why do your officials work together?", "Why do they have monthly meetings?", and "Are you forced to have those meetings?" He explained the meetings and cooperative efforts were something the local officials expected from their staff. He thought it interesting that a national group was looking to this community as a good example of such an effort.

Opfer said in listening to today's discussion on the value of this meeting, he was reminded how recently the City, in cooperation with the County, Engineering Department and State Department of Roads, selected a consultant to put together the Intelligent Transportation Regional System. Basically, over next several months staff will solicit stakeholders from private and public entities within an eleven county region regarding primarily transportation issues. He noted StarTran is looking into the possibility of placing tracking devices on buses. This same technology could be used by the police department, emergency management and the schools. Joint discussions on this topic will continue over the next several months. He urged officials to encourage their staffs to get involved. He added a proposal will also be made for consultants to give a presentation to this group regarding other accomplishments.

Opfer said, in his opinion, these joint meetings are very valuable because they encourage staff to work together. Newman agreed and felt if these meetings were discontinued, various information might get lost in the cracks. Heier also agreed and applauded Zimmer's suggestion that the chairpersons preliminarily meet to select agenda items for the meeting which are of mutual interest only.

Larsen felt it was important to televise the meetings so the public knows the bodies do meet to share ideas and information. She also agreed the group should continue to meet quarterly but perhaps come up with a set time. A request was made from the City and County to schedule this meeting on the same dates as their monthly Common meetings, when possible.

(Hudkins exited the meeting.)

OLD BUSINESS

It was noted the three chairpersons would decide on the date/time of the next joint meeting within a few weeks. The meeting will be hosted by the City.

Schorr indicated this is Dr. Schoo's last meeting in his official capacity as Superintendent and thanked him for his many years of dedication to Lincoln Public Schools. Schoo stated these joint meetings are important as occasionally each body receives questions from the public about another's business. He felt the best policy is to direct people to the right staff.

Stevens said vouchers are available for anyone who parked in the north lot. They can be obtained from Cori Beattie.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cori R. Beattie

Cori R. Beattie
County Board Secretary

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