

# Mayor and Board of Health

2015-2016

## A Message from Mayor Chris Beutler

## A Message from the Board of Health President



Chris Beutler  
Mayor of Lincoln

I want to thank Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department employees, the Board of Health and all those serving on the Department's advisory committees for another year of accomplishments in 2016.

One of those achievements is Lincoln being selected by Networks of Opportunity for Child Wellbeing (NOW) and its partners as one of five "Bright Spots" in the country in addressing healthy child growth and development. The NOW team visited Lincoln in the fall and met with the Health Director and many other community leaders. In 2017, NOW and its partners will publish lessons learned from the Bright Spot communities and how they have made progress.

Staff continued to work with community partners on Health Care Marketplace Outreach to increase the number of low-income, uninsured and under-insured individuals connected to a medical home in Lancaster County.

The Health Department is making major progress on its efforts to keep hazardous waste out of the landfill. For years, the public has had to wait for special collection events to dispose of this waste. But the City will soon have a new Hazardous Materials Collection Center that will be open all year to accept the public's hazardous waste and toxic chemicals. This Center will allow the Department to enhance, promote and expand the accessibility of hazardous materials and waste management services by targeting area households and small businesses. The Center, which received \$730,000 in grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Nebraska Environmental Trust, could be open as early as late summer.

The Health Department continues to work closely with the City's government access television channels, 5 CITY-TV and 10 Health TV, to provide important health information to the community. This past year, this partnership has produced videos for the "Share the Road" campaign, including three segments filmed specifically for young children walking and biking to school. Other program topics have included winter safety for kids, the Women Infants and Children Program (WIC), oral health, sexually transmitted infections, the Health Insurance Marketplace, and the Tobacco Free Campus Policy Summit.

It's been a busy year for our Health Department! Through innovative practices, hard work and dedication, our health professionals work every day toward our goal of becoming the healthiest City in the nation.



Craig W. Strong, JD  
President

On behalf of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health we are proud of our great city and county and we are committed to ensuring a healthy future for us all. We are extremely fortunate to work in a spirit of collaboration between the city and the county with a shared vision of a healthy and vibrant community. This vision guides the Board of Health as we fulfill our solemn duty to support the mission of the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department - to protect and promote the public's health.

The Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department is on the front lines of protecting and promoting the public health of our city and county. Our Health Department takes a comprehensive approach to protecting and promoting public health in such areas as community health services, food safety, environmental quality, waste management, animal control and health promotion. The ultimate outcome from these unified efforts is healthy and productive citizens.

We are happy to report that due to the outstanding efforts of our Health Department it is well on its way to qualifying for National Public Health Accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board. This accreditation exemplifies the exceptional performance and professionalism of our Health Department. The accreditation process requires community partnerships, the achievement of shared goals and efficient use of resources. Thus, this accreditation demonstrates the Health Department's commitment to community engagement, collaboration and positive outcomes.

It is an honor to represent the Health Department Director, Judy Halstead, and her staff, because they are passionate about what they do. These professionals keenly understand the public health needs of our community and take a measured approach to problem solving. We are also fortunate to be a part of a community where Mayor Beutler, the Lincoln City Council and the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners desire the best possible health and conditions for our citizens. The Board of Health is privileged to serve and we welcome input and feedback as we continue to work together to make Lincoln and Lancaster County one of the healthiest places to live in the country!

## 2015-2016 Board of Health Members



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