

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ZOOM MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020
VIEWING AVAILABLE VIA YOUTUBE
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Sean Flowerday, Chair; Rick Vest, Vice Chair; Roma Amundson, Deb Schorr and Christa Yoakum

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; and Leslie Brestel, County Clerk

Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners Staff Meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska web site and provided to the media on April 22, 2020.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and announced the Open Meetings Act is available at Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1401-1414.

AGENDA ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 16, 2020

MOTION: Yoakum moved and Amundson seconded approval of the April 16, 2020 Staff Meeting minutes. Schorr, Amundson, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Joe Kohout and Brennen Miller, Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates LLC

Kohout and Miller reviewed the weekly legislative update (Exhibit 1).

Regarding interim studies, Eagan noted the issue of providing facilities for the Department of Health and Human Services as they existed in 1983 should be added. Additionally, Schorr stated LR183 (Interim study to examine whether continuity of care and safety for individuals and the public can be enhanced by allowing mental health providers to coordinate with law enforcement) should be refocused.

A. Board of Equalization Hearings – Dan Nolte, County Clerk; and Cori Beattie, Chief Deputy County Clerk

See Exhibit 1.

3. GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION – Sara Hoyle, Human Services Director

Hoyle reviewed the grant applications (see agenda packet).

A. Juvenile Justice System Enhancements (\$750,000 Over 3 Years);

Hoyle noted the grant is for \$500,000 and it allows for follow up care for youth and families of high-risk youth, including crisis therapy, family debriefing and a component of aftercare.

When asked if the services were in conjunction with an existing provider, Hoyle answered it would be an expansion of CenterPointe services.

B. Mental Health Collaboration (\$750,000 Over 3 Years); and

Hoyle stated the grant is a secondary track in the existing youth diversion program and it allows for full treatment for youth with a mental health diagnosis or a co-occurring diagnosis. The providers are the current mental health providers.

C. Comprehensive Anti-Gang Programs for Youth (\$500,000 Over 3 Years)

Hoyle noted gang member recruitment is high with the youth being out of school due to COVID 19.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the grant applications as outlined. Schorr, Amundson, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Lancaster County 2020 Priorities

Flowerday emphasized the importance of keeping the County cash reserve a priority.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

**A. Lancaster County Fairgrounds Joint Public Agency (JPA) Meeting –
Amundson / Vest**

Amundson said the meeting was cancelled.

She did attend the Agricultural Society meeting in which they discussed a virtual fair. The Lancaster Event Center is open for community services and will be serving as a polling place. They are continuing working on the campgrounds and are planning on holding the National High School Finals Rodeo this summer.

B. New Americans Task Force Meeting and Quarterly Consultation – Yoakum

Yoakum stated there were discussions on COVID 19 and how agencies continue to provide services. The ALLO service to get internet services to low income families is working well.

C. LIBA Elected Officials Forum – Amundson / Vest

Vest said updates were provided on the City Council's use of Zoom meetings, the City of Lincoln's budget, the anticipated reopening of businesses, the reduced County jail population, election ballots by mail, and the County's Chief Administrative Officer position search.

D. Human Services Joint Budget Committee (JBC) Meeting – Schorr / Yoakum

Schorr said \$1,800,000 in JBC requests were allocated.

4. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER SEARCH – Chad Thies, President, Zelle Human Resources Solutions

The item was removed from the agenda.

5. PENSION REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON PRUDENTIAL DIRECTIVE (CORONAVIRUS-RELATED DISTRIBUTIONS AND LOAN RELIEF UNDER THE CARES ACT)

Eagan reviewed the Pension Review Committee recommendation to allow employees enrolled in the 457b retirement fund plan to be distributed up to \$50,000 for coronavirus-related distributions if the distribution criteria is met under the CARES Act, and not to allow loans (see agenda packet). The County's main retirement program (401a) does not qualify as an eligible program for the CARES Act.

He noted there is already a hardship distribution option available in the 457b plan. Adding an additional COVID 19 distribution method would not cause any additional administrative burden on the County. The COVID 19 distribution waives the 20% tax withholding; however, there could be tax ramifications for the individual. Additionally, individuals would be taking the distributions in a low cash market. Having more funds in the plan results in higher bargaining power for the County. There are approximately 500 employees enrolled in the 457b plan with an average balance of less than \$50,000.

Amundson was supportive of allowing the distribution.

Eagan stated the County has gone to great extremes to make sure employees are made whole. He noted the original Pension Review Committee motion was to allow a \$100,000 limit; however, it was amended to \$50,000.

When asked what kind of information employees would be provided, Eagan stated Prudential is willing to present comprehensive communications to employees.

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Director, felt the employees that have opted into the 457b plan should be allowed to make the decision on how to handle their own funds.

It was the consensus of the Board to allow the distribution with a \$25,000 limit.

MOTION: Vest moved and Yoakum seconded to adopt the recommendations of the Pension Review Committee with a limit of \$25,000 on the coronavirus-related distributions.

Eagan noted there have been two employee inquires.

Vest thanked all involved for their work on this issue.

ROLL CALL: Yoakum, Vest, Schorr, Amundson and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES PAYROLL ABSENCE MODULE – Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer; and Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Meyer reviewed the payroll project update (see agenda packet) and noted it will be sent to department heads and elected officials for their input. An updated version will then be distributed to all employees. There will be training available, likely electronic as opposed to in person. The payroll module will be live on June 18. Additionally, new modules of the payroll system will become available every month once the system goes live.

Schorr asked if the new system would be separate from the Intralinc system. Meyer answered it is separate and all employees will have access to the new system through email. Making sure all employees have email is a priority for this project. Additionally, the system will be available through multiple types of devices, including mobile devices.

COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

A. Temporary Alternative Housing for Essential County Employees –
Jen Holloway, Deputy County Attorney; and Todd Duncan, Chief Deputy Sheriff

The item was removed from the agenda. Eagan noted an agreement will come to the Board later.

B. Travel Restrictions

Ames requested direction from the Board on any travel restrictions, especially those related to attending conferences.

The consensus of the Board was to suspend travel during the County's emergency declaration. They noted this restriction would not apply to extradition travel and could be waived by permission of the Board.

It was clarified that the emergency declaration is in place until canceled by the Board.

7. BREAK

MOTION: Amundson moved and Yoakum seconded to recess the meeting until 10:30 a.m. Yoakum, Vest, Schorr, Amundson and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was recessed at 9:45 a.m. and reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

8. COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESPONSE

- A. **Temporary Alternative Housing for Essential County Employees –**
Jen Holloway, Deputy County Attorney; and Todd Duncan, Chief Deputy Sheriff
- B. **Travel Restrictions**

Items moved forward on agenda.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION (POTENTIAL LITIGATION) –** David Derbin, Deputy County Attorney; Dan Zieg, Deputy County Attorney; Jen Holloway, Deputy County Attorney; Pam Dingman, County Engineer; Jim Shotkoski, Engineering Right-of-Way Manager; Larry Legg, Assistant County Engineer; and Alex Olson, Engineering

MOTION: Schorr moved and Yoakum seconded to enter Executive Session at 10:32 a.m. for the purposes of potential litigation and to protect the public interest.

The Chair said it has been moved and seconded that the Board enter Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Amundson, Yoakum, Vest, Schorr and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

The Chair restated the purpose for the Board entering Executive Session.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded to exit Executive Session at 11:03 a.m. Schorr, Amundson, Yoakum, Vest and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

10. DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. **Lancaster County 2020 Priorities**

Item moved forward on agenda.

11. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED

- A. **Lancaster County Fairgrounds Joint Public Agency (JPA) Meeting –**
Amundson / Vest
- B. **New Americans Task Force Meeting and Quarterly Consultation –** Yoakum
- C. **LIBA Elected Officials Forum –** Amundson / Vest
- D. **Human Services Joint Budget Committee (JBC) Meeting –** Schorr / Yoakum

Items moved forward on agenda.

12. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

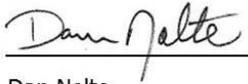
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13. EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were no emergency items.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 a.m. Yoakum, Vest, Schorr, Amundson and Flowerday voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk





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LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Joseph D. Kohout
Brennen L. Miller

DATE: April 23, 2020

RE: Weekly Report

Good Morning. Please accept this as your weekly report for the 2020 session of the Legislature for the date noted above. Since the last report on April 16, 2020, the Legislature has remained in recess due to COVID-19 concerns. There has been no definitive timetable offered as to when the Legislature will reconvene.

Last week, in conversations with the League of Nebraska Municipalities, we were made aware that there has been a request from the Nebraska State Fraternal Order of Police to meet to discuss how cities are providing for potential workers compensation in situations where law enforcement are exposed to and test positive for COVID-19. We were asked by them to obtain information from the County on whether or not there is a process to address this. We subsequently conveyed that information. We understand that a meeting did occur on this issue last Thursday and the FOP has provided some follow-up information to the League. We have not received that information as of this report.

During the meeting last week, we became aware of a request made by Douglas County to the Governor to suspend Neb. Rev. Stat. 77-1502. Since that meeting, we have worked with Douglas County's lobbyists, Chairman Flowerday and Clerk Nolte to make a similar request to the Governor's office. That request was submitted yesterday and we received a near immediate response from the Governor's office indicating that they are reviewing that request.

We have mentioned in previous reports that we should pull together ideas for interim studies. Here is what has been received:

1. 24/7 Sobriety;
2. Review of fees and fines;
3. LR183 follow up; and
4. Minimizing barriers for individuals being released from the County Jail to obtain a state ID

One thing we will need to be cognizant of is how much time will we have to do interim studies. This concludes our report for this week.