

CITY-COUNTY COMMON MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Child Advocacy Center

5025 Garland Street

11:00 a.m.

Present: Roma Amundson, Common Chair and County Commissioner, Christa Yoakum and Rick Vest County Commissioners; Jane Raybould, Sandra Washington, James Michael Bowers, City Council Members

Absent: Tammy Ward, Common-Vice-Chair and City Council Member, Sean Flowerday and Deb Schorr, County Commissioners; Richard Meginnis, Tom Beckius, and Bennie Shobe, City Council Members; and Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor

Others Present: Randy Jones, Director, Aging Partners; Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff; Paige Piper, Executive Director, Child Advocacy Center; Dr. Paul Gausman, Superintendent, Lincoln Public Schools; Saige Walker, Administrative Secretary, Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

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 August 10, 2022.

1. Roll Call

Amundson asked for a Roll Call. All were present except Meginnis, Beckius, Ward, Shobe, Flowerday, Schorr, and Gaylor Baird.

2. Approval of Common Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2022

Quorum was not present for this meeting.

3. Introduction of Dr. Paul Gausman, Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) Superintendent

Dr. Paul Gausman, Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) Superintendent

Gausman discussed his excitement regarding moving to Lincoln from Sioux City, Iowa where he was superintendent. He noted the differences between Sioux City and Lincoln Public Schools and his strategies for hiring and retaining teachers which included hiring bonuses and paying teachers not to retire. Lincoln is close to fully staffed, with quality people applying. He appreciates the one town one district model that Lincoln has.

Yoakum commented about previously talking with a Sioux City School Board Member who was sad to see Gausman leaving. Yoakum took this as a high recommendation on his behalf.

Gausman praised Lincoln for taking care of old buildings instead of building new and cited Elliott Elementary as an example of the upkeep.

Raybould asked what his plan is for early childhood education.

Gausman stated the importance of early childhood education and cited when he moved to Sioux City, their preschool 4 class contained 400 out of 1100 4-year-olds that were living in Sioux City. When he left, that number jumped to 950 out of 1100. He discussed creating private public partnerships to accomplish this feat and would like to see Lincoln's number go from 2,500 children to 8,000 children in preschool. He stated childcare centers should offer academia and academic centers should offer childcare.

4. Victory Park Update

Randy Jones, Director, Aging Partners

Jones reviewed the Victory Park Presentation (Exhibit A).

Aging Partners is currently at 1005 O Street, the current assessed value is \$2.4 million, although Jones doesn't believe they will receive \$2.4 million and budgeted \$1.5 million for the sale. Jones reviewed all the construction and new projects developing around the current Aging Partners location.

Construction on the north side of the new building location (Victory Park, 600 South 70th Street) will begin first. The third story of the three-story building will be used for administrative employees of Aging Partners. By the end of October 2022, the majority of construction will be complete with project completion estimated mid-February 2023. Jones stated services will be maintained during the move, the only disruption will be the fitness center move which is projected to take 2 weeks.

Jones reviewed the video in **Exhibit A** which is a tour of the Victory Park location. The fitness center will have a cardio and strength training area and an onsite classroom. The Veteran's Service Office will be located in this building as well. The elevator in this building will need to be modernized which was a late surprise that will carry additional costs. Jones noted the new parking will be much closer than current parking which will help caseworkers who need to leave multiple times a day to visit client's homes.

5. Services Provided by Child Advocacy Center and Room to Heal Project

Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff and Paige Piper, Executive Director, Child Advocacy Center

Wagner discussed the history of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC); in 1996 the then County Attorney attended a conference regarding the CAC model. Around that time, children and victims were interviewed at headquarters in the same sterile atmospheres as suspects. In 1998, the first CAC was established in Lincoln near Antelope Park. The Board of Directors consists of 5 permanent members: Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol, County Attorney, Chief of Police, County Sheriff, and the District Supervisor for Health and Human Services. Over 24 years, Wagner is the only original board member. The CAC started with one employee and now has 30. The CAC's purpose is to bring all agencies who are involved in child victims' investigations under one roof which prevents the victim from having to relive the trauma through multiple interviews.

In 2010, the CAC had outgrown the Antelope Park location and built the current location, 5025 Garland Street in 2011.

Piper began with reviewing **Exhibit B**.

Prior to 1998, children were interviewed up to 17 times. This process was not trauma informed; it was putting professionals needs first to try to hold the perpetrator accountable. The CAC revolutionized 3 issues: the interview process, case coordination, and the court process. Piper mentioned the Nebraska mandates that children who are victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, who witnessed a violent crime, who have experienced neglect, have been drugged, kidnapped, or recovering from a sex trafficking must be served by a child advocacy center.

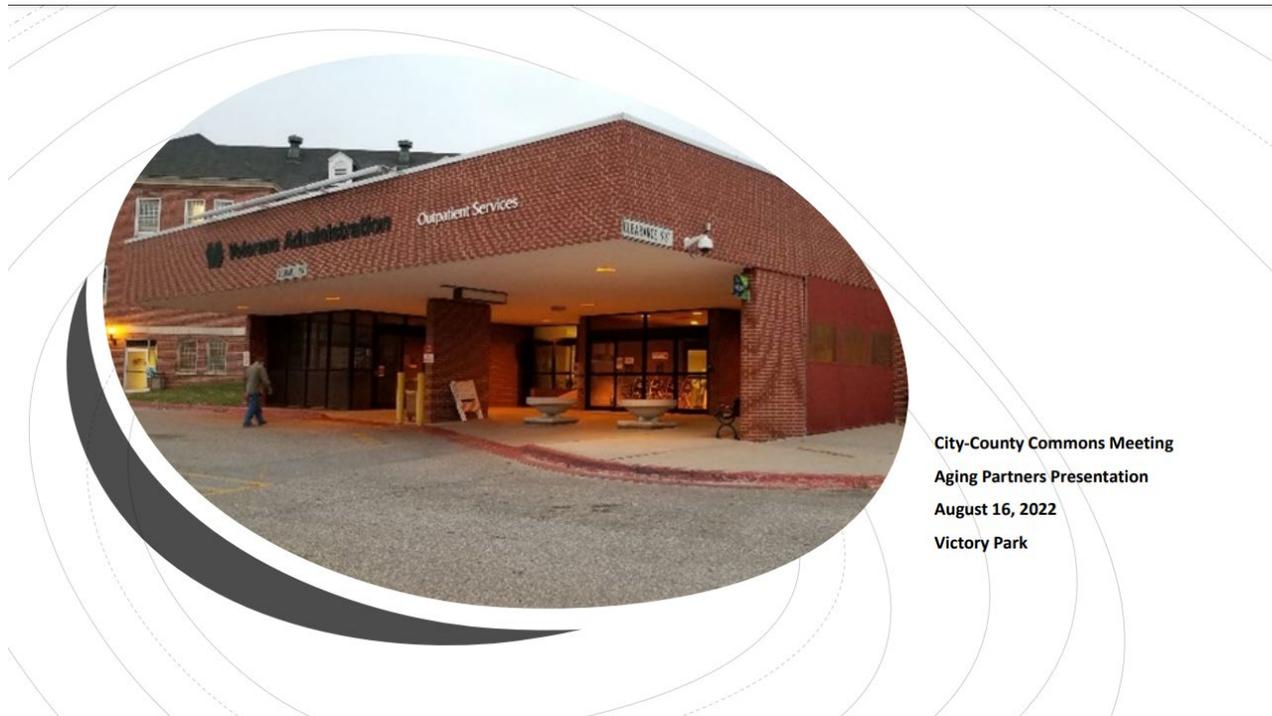
Piper mentioned the CAC serves 16 additional counties in southeast Nebraska with satellite clinics, their goal is to be no further than 45 minutes to an hour away from anyone who needs their services. The services provided at the CAC are forensic interviews, being available 24 hours 7 days a week, medical evaluations, and foster care entry exams. Piper stated the Lincoln Police Department Special Victims Unit will be on site once their new building is completed in November 2022.

6. Adjournment

Next meeting is Monday, November 14th, 2022, at 12:45 p.m.

Submitted by Saige Walker, Administrative Secretary to the County Board

Exhibit A:



City-County Commons Meeting
Aging Partners Presentation
August 16, 2022
Victory Park

Exhibit B:



Child Advocacy Center

5025 Garland St. | Lincoln, Nebraska

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