

**Community Health Endowment (CHE)
Pre-Council Meeting
August 24, 2009**

Council Members Present: Jonathan Cook, Doug Emery, John Spatz, Eugene Carroll, Jayne Snyder, Jon Camp.

Council Members Absent: Adam Hornung

Trustees Present: Bill Lester, Chair, CHE Board of Trustees; Mike Tavlin, Treasurer and Chair, CHE Finance/Investment Committee; Charlene Gondring, Chair, CHE Funding Committee.

Staff Present: Lori Seibel, President; Jodi Loos, Office Manager.

Ms. Seibel distributed packets of information to City Council members that included CHE's 2008/2009 Annual Report, "Are We There Yet?: On the Road to Becoming the Healthiest Community in the Nation," a copy of the presentation materials.

I. **INTRODUCTION:** Mr. Lester stated it was a pleasure to represent the Community Health Endowment (CHE) and introduced Mr. Tavlin, Treasurer and Chair of the Investment and Finance Committee; Ms. Gondring, Chair of the Funding Committee; and Ms. Seibel, President/CEO of CHE.

II. **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Mr. Lester stated that the original principal of the CHE fund was \$37 million. He noted that the goal of CHE is to protect the inflation-adjusted purchasing power of the fund over time. Mr. Lester indicated that, following a decline in the fund of -9.8% in 2008, the fund has gained +14.3% in the first seven months of 2009. The current fund size is approximately \$49 million.

Mr. Lester stated that "Are We There Yet" benchmarks Lincoln to 13 comparable communities and includes a range of health status indicators that affect the community. Lincoln is ranked 4th among the 13 communities. The calculations were based on Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS) data provided by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and other similar data in the comparable communities. CHE Trustees will continue to research what can be done to improve health status of residents in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

Mr. Lester indicated the revision to the Nebraska Constitution this year lifted current investment restrictions and will allow for a more diversified portfolio. He added that a new investment strategy is under development and will be implemented by October 1, 2009.

III. **FUNDING REVIEW:**

A. **Programs and Project.** Ms. Seibel reviewed CHE's orientation and impact, and stated that CHE remains a highly engaged and targeted funder.

Ms. Seibel reviewed two of CHE's targeted initiatives - Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration and Expanding Healthcare Access for the Uninsured.

Ms. Seibel indicated that the number of Lincoln and Lancaster County residents without health insurance has steadily increased in recent years. The number of Lancaster County residents who do not receive health care because of cost has also increased.

The People's Health Center, a key medical home provider for the uninsured in Lincoln, is

increasingly unable to meet the high demand, primarily due to the lack of space at their current location.

Ms. Seibel provided a description of "medical home" access points for the uninsured in Lincoln. She noted that, once qualifiers, eligibility, and barriers are considered, the emergency department is the "path of least resistance" for many clients. Ms. Seibel noted that it would be the community's ideal to provide a medical home for all uninsured patients.

Ms. Seibel stated that the Mayor's Task Force on the Healthcare Safety Net was created to examine the current health care safety net and provide recommendations for a stronger, more sustainable, safety net system. The Task Force is comprised of 24 members and 12 advisors. The group is highly engaged and has met 10 times over the past 18 weeks for presentations and discussion. A public hearing will be held on September 17, 2009, to receive feedback on the Task Force's recommendations.

- B. **Funding Strategy.** Ms. Seibel outlined the 2008/09 CHE Funding strategy. A total of \$1.2 million was made available for health programs and projects.

- IV. **DISCUSSION.** Councilwoman Snyder noted her support for CHE's focus on the issue of childhood obesity. She noted that CHE should consider adding comparable data on this issue to "Are We There Yet?: On the Road to Becoming the Healthiest Community in the Nation."

Councilman Cook asked how national health care reform would impact the work of the Mayor's Task Force on the Healthcare Safety Net. Ms. Seibel stated that, regardless of the outcome national health care reform efforts, there will continue to be a need for the safety net, and to connect individual patients to "medical homes."

Councilman Spatz commended CHE for addressing behavioral health issues.

- V. With no further discussion, Councilman Emery commended the CHE Board of Trustees for their efforts. He thanked Mr. Lester, Mr. Tavlin, Ms. Gondring and Ms. Seibel for their time and leadership.

The Pre-Council meeting concluded.