

CITY-COUNTY COMMON

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AGENDA CITY COUNTY COMMON MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008 COUNTY-CITY BUILDING 555 SOUTH 10TH STREET ROOM 113, 8:30 A.M.

1. Approval of Common Meeting Minutes of Monday, November 4, 2008

- 8:30 AM 2. Overview of the Emergency Protective Custody Process (EPC) - Dean Settle - CMHC Director; Scott Etherton, Crisis Center Manager; CJ Johnson, Region V Administrator; Phil Tegeler, Cornhusker Place Executive Director

- 9:00 AM 3. 2009 Common Schedule

**CITY-COUNTY COMMON
MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008**

Present: Dan Marvin, Chair; Robin Eschliman; Bob Workman; Jon Camp; Ken Svoboda; Deb Schorr; Doug Emery; Bernie Heier; John Spatz.

Absent: Ray Stevens, Larry Hudkins, Jonathan Cook, Mayor Chris Beutler

Others Present: Kerry P. Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, Scott Etherton, Crisis Center Manager, Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director; CJ Johnson, Region V Administrator; Phil Tegeler, Cornhusker Place Executive Director.

Chair Marvin opened the meeting a 8:31 am.

1. Overview of the Emergency Protective Custody Process (EPC):

Dean Settle; Community Mental Health Center Director, Scott Etherton; Crisis Center Manager Program Manager, CJ Johnson; Region V Systems Administrator; Phil Tegeler; Cornhusker Place Executive Director.

All the agencies are very much involved with the Emergency Protective Custody Process and Civil Protective Custody in not only Lancaster County but the Region V Area.

Tegeler gave an overview of Civil Protective Custody (CPC) and it's bases in the state law. State statues provide that law enforcement can have the option to place individuals into CPC . In Lincoln, the Lincoln Police Department, Lancaster County Sheriff, Nebraska State Patrol and University of Nebraska Police can lodge clients into CPC at Cornhusker Place. Cornhusker Place has the capacity to house 23 individuals at any one time, both men and women, 14 years of age and older. State statue says you can be lodged in protective custody up to 24 hours. Clients stay up to 24 hours or until their blood alcohol count reaches 0 or they are released to an individual who agrees to take responsibility for them. It is a secured facility and an alternative to the local corrections systems. Last year they had approximately 6,000 admissions to protective custody. Cornhusker Place works in collaboration with the Lincoln Police, other law enforcement agencies and with the Community Mental Health Center for those individuals who have mental health issues.

Etherton reviewed the Emergency Protective Custody(EPC) process. State Mental Health Act provides a law enforcement entity can place an individual on an EPC hold or have a hold initiated through the County Attorney's office under a mental health warrant. If a law enforcement officer places an individual in EPC they have to be evaluated within 36 hours of their

admission. The criteria to be placed in a hold is being a danger to self or others, unable to care for basic needs or substance dependency. Once placed on hold they are evaluated and the hold is either continued by the filing of a mental health court petition from the County Attorney's office or the hold is dropped after the evaluation period. If a mental health court petition is filed a mental health hearing needs to take place within 7 days. Hearing takes place in front of a mental health board consisting of 3 people: an attorney, a lay person from the community, and a mental health professional. If some one is found to be mentally ill and dangerous, they can be committed to a state facility for treatment. If it is for psychiatric treatment they can be sent to the Lincoln Regional Center or given an out patient commitment and released to the community (similar to being on parole).

Since July 1, 2008 there have been 280 admissions to the Crisis Center. There were approximately 677 admissions in the last fiscal year, 2007/2008. The Lancaster County Crisis Center serves all the Region V area. The agency providing most EPC's is LPD, and some EPCs came from the Lancaster Sheriff. Approximately 56 mental health warrants last year were issued by the County Attorney's office. The remainder of the admissions came from the 15 surrounding rural communities. The average stay at the Crisis Center last year was around 6 days. So far this year the average stay is just over 4 days. A 3 day average is the goal. The Crisis Center is located on the second floor of the Community Mental Health Center, 2201 S. 17th Street. There are 15 beds. Some clients are evaluated and are released quickly and other clients are held longer and stabilized at the Crisis Center. When the Crisis Center is full BryanLGH helps out to hold them temporarily until a bed is available. Cornhusker Place is used where drug or alcohol dependency is the primary consideration not a psychiatric consideration.

Svoboda asked about repeat individuals at the Crisis Center. Etherton said the majority of the people that arrive at the Crisis Center through EPC normally do not repeat. It has been a focus for the Crisis Center and Region V to decrease that number. There have been 227 admissions at the Crisis Center this fiscal year. Only 8 individuals actually came in at least a second time. All the individuals who are placed on an inpatient commitment are sent to the Lincoln Regional Center. Nationally, that type of inpatient care recidivism rate is 19% and our rate is only 9% . As a group we do a good job finding services for individuals so they do not end up back in the emergency system.

Settle explained the memorandum mentioned by Schorr that Douglas County received. The memo indicated the Sate intends to stop funding EPC services.

Johnson said last fiscal year there were a total of 126 EPCs that went to BryanLGH. Of those 52 of them came from Region V. The patients were

served by BryanLGH because they needed medical care prior to going into the Crisis Center or the Crisis Center was full. Last fiscal year the Crisis Center was full 78 different days out of 365. BryanLGH served 74 EPC patients from outside Region V last budget year. Most of these came out of Douglas/Sarpy County. This year seeing a similar trend, through September there have been 36 EPCs served by BryanLGH. 16 of these were from our service area and the remaining 20 were out of our Region.

Region VI has, through behavioral health reform, continued to invest in what they call high level care. They have opened a locked secured facility and other inpatient care facilities and will be shutting down their Spring Center. This was basically a voluntary place for individuals who have law enforcement contact and did not need to be placed in EPC.

Region V Emergency Systems operates as one of the best behavioral health regions on how we address EPCs. Extensive are kept so good decisions can be made. We consistently monitor the system. A monthly Emergency Level of Care Meeting is held with representatives from the Crisis Center, Cornhusker Place, Community Mental Health Center, Director of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement and the County Attorneys's office.

Johnson explained the mental health system in Nebraska and how funding filters down to the regions and counties from State and Federal sources. There are 6 regions across the state. Region V is Lancaster County and 15 rural surrounding counties. Region I is Scottsbluff and the Panhandle area. Region II North Platte. Region III is Kearney, Grand Island, and Hastings, (the Tri City area), with 22 counties. Region IV is Norfolk, including Cherry County and Sioux City. Money flows into the regions then is contracted out. Most of the funding is used for adult behavioral health services. Little money is available for youth services. Currently Region V subcontracts with 13 providers in our area to provide services. A voucher program has been started to address waiting list needs. If an individual is on a waiting list too long they are given a voucher and can go to any other provider outside of the network to get that service.

Region V does not provide any funding for individuals coming from outside the region. Region V does not have a contract with BryanLGH since we have the Crisis Center that is utilized for Emergency Protective Custody. Bryan has a contract with Lancaster County specifically for individuals who go to Bryan if the Crisis Center is full and those individuals are from Lancaster County. If they come from another county, that county is responsible to work out any payment issue with BryanLGH. Region V will work with Bryan if it's a rural county that is within our catchment area.

Marvin referred to a memorandum at last month's meeting regarding a change in funding for juvenile services. Johnson explained this change

involves cost shifting at the state level. A parent of a state ward who receives related services is referred to the regions. Historically these services were paid for out of child welfare funds, about \$5 million annually. That's a shift in funding of \$5 million from the state to the regions and counties. Lancaster County has a significant number of state wards and will be severely impacted by this change.

Marvin asked if the CMHC is partially funded by the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department. Johnson said no, but Settle added the city does partially fund one position on the CMHC staff.

Schorr indicated the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act. (S71-901) provides counties are responsible for EPC costs. However, historically we have always had assistance from the state. Cost per day at the Crisis Center is approximately \$450.00 per person. The other regions contract with hospitals for \$650.00 per day.

Tegeler indicated Cornhusker Place averages 23 civil protective custody admissions, 6,000 per year. About 90% of those clientele are there once. They believe every admission is an opportunity for intervention. They are a secured facility. Clients basic needs are met and we help them to make the decision on where to go from there. About 10% are repeat clients. There is a subset of this 10% that have chronic needs. Cornhusker Place contracts with the Region and Lancaster County in a collaborative effort with the Crisis Center. If law enforcement intervenes with an individual who has both mental health and substance abuse, often they will bring them to Cornhusker Place as an alternative to the Crisis Center. The services at Cornhusker Place are not as costly as the Crisis Center and specific clients are more in need of their services. Marvin, asked about the effect on Cornhusker Place having the university and the homeless here. Tegeler said both are issues. The University has a student assistance programs; however, Cornhusker Place does see students from time to time. It tends to be episodic, especially during football games. Once the students are released they sign a release and the University is made aware which offers the University an opportunity to intervene.

Homeless population is a big issue for not only Cornhusker Place but the community, with more clients becoming homeless because of hard economic times. We have to create support systems for those clients who have none, by working with peer agencies. If the clients do not have any resources it is very difficult to manage them. The cost per client at Cornhusker Place is approximately \$120.00 per day per client.

Johnson said the EPC process in Lancaster gives immediate options to police officers and helps eliminate "cruiser therapy". Several years ago Lancaster County began to fund an 800 line that is available to all law enforcement in our region which includes the Lincoln Police Department, which handles the

majority of our emergency protective custody calls. The 800 line is staffed 24/7 365 days a year and those staffers know what beds are available at the Crisis Center, Cornhusker Place and at BryanLGH. When law enforcement picks someone up they call the 800 number and are directed to the correct facility. This provides a huge benefit by reducing the time law enforcement is involved with each EPC call.

Marvin interjected that many agencies collaborate in providing these services, and it would be politically easy for the state to cut funds and not be accountable for the impact on the community.

2. Approval of Common Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

Svoboda moved approval of the Common Meeting minutes of Tuesday, November 4, 2008, seconded by Emery. Motion passed 9 - 0

3. Approval of Common Meeting 2009 Schedule.

Spatz moved to approve the schedule with Monday September 7th being cancelled, seconded by Eschliman. Roll called, motion passed 9-0

Schorr made motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Svoboda. Roll called, motion passed 9 -0

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Minette Genuchi - Administrative Aide