

# Mayor and Board of Health

2016-2017

## 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 2017.

One of the Department's tremendous achievements is national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Department staff diligently documented that the numerous areas of work by each division met the stringent criteria set forth by the Board to ensure compliance with national standards. I want to especially recognize and thank former Health Director Judy Halstead for her leadership throughout the lengthy accreditation process.

I also want to express my appreciation for Judy's excellent leadership during the past seven years. Judy's influence extended far beyond the walls of the Health Department, into Lincoln and Lancaster County, and even nationally. Thank you, Judy! And welcome, going forward, our new Health Director, Shavonna Lausterer. Shavonna has taken the reins of an excellent department and is excited about continuing to strengthen the department in the future.

Another major accomplishment of 2017 is the opening of the Hazardous Materials Collection Center at 5101 N. 48th Street. For the first time, city and county residents can dispose of their most toxic and hazardous household products and waste throughout the year. Small businesses will have a lower-cost option for hazardous waste disposal, and we will now be closer to reaching one of our Taking Charge goals of diverting at least 100,000 pounds of toxic material from the landfill annually. The opening of this facility is a great example of a collaborative effort of many partners, including the City, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

As always, 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

The future growth and vitality of Lincoln and Lancaster County depend upon our unified effort to protect and promote the public's health. To that end, your Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health is committing to protecting the citizens of our outstanding city and county from a multitude of public health risks and hazards. We are proud of our collaborative city-county approach that serves as a model of effective public policy and administration.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) executes its mission of protecting and promoting public health in a comprehensive manner covering such areas as community health services, food safety, environmental quality, waste management, animal control and health promotion. The LLCHD is commended for its ability to sustain positive community relationships in all of its undertakings. As a testament to those efforts, for the first time ever, the LLCHD recently achieved 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 required strong community partnerships, the achievement of shared goals and the efficient use of resources.

It is an honor to represent the Health Department Director, Shavonna Lausterer, and her staff, because of their level of professionalism and passion for public health. These professionals fully understand the public health needs of our community and they find innovative and efficient methods to achieve successful outcomes. 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 demand 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 such a wonderful place to live and grow!

## 2015-2016 Board of Health Members



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