

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Health Members:

Kevin Borchert, PharmD, RP
Shane Fleming, MSN, RN
Russell Hopp, DO
Diane Jackson, APRN
Teresa Konda, PE
Dale Michels, MD
Anthony Moravec, DVM
Debra Parsow
Roger Reamer, MBA
Paul Salansky, OD
Wayne Stuberg, PhD, PT
Travis Teeter, MD
Joshua Vest, DPM
Jeromy Warner, PsyD, LP

February 3, 2015

Judith Halstead, Director
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department
3140 "N" Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510

Dear Ms. Halstead:

Preventive health has been identified by the State Board of Health as a priority. One Board of Health initiative involves recognition of local and state public health initiatives. Prevention interventions are often overlooked since prevention efforts can be hard to measure and the results are often intangible. The Board realizes that prevention interventions are critical in improving the quality of life for both individuals and communities, and prevention activities rarely receive the credit they deserve for creating healthier communities. With this in mind, we applaud your efforts to collect unwanted, non-controlled medications for proper disposal.

At their January 26, 2015 meeting, the State Board of Health voted unanimously to recognize the Nebraska MEDS (Medication Education for Disposal Strategies) program as a successful public health initiative in Nebraska. The partnership between the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department; the Nebraska Pharmacists Association; Groundwater Foundation; Nebraska Regional Poison Center; and the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; and several others, was unique and made this a successful endeavor. The work and dedication of this partnership was responsible for providing an opportunity for patients to dispose of unwanted medication in an effort to protect the environment and public health. It is a clear demonstration of your efforts to sustain a healthy community. Please accept this letter as a thank you for your steadfast work in prevention and care. We wish you continued success with this pilot program and hope that this will be an ongoing effort so all of Nebraska's water and people may benefit. This is Nebraska Environmental Trust grant funding at its finest!

Staff will send you a copy of the minutes from the meeting at which the Board of Health reviewed your program, after they are approved on March 23rd. The Nebraska Health and Human Services System will submit a press release to your area newspapers highlighting your program award, and will share it with at the Public Health Association of Nebraska. Please contact Monica Gissler at 402/471-6515 if you have any questions. Arrangements have already been made to have Dr. Dale Michels present your certificate on February 10th. This letter is also being sent to the Nebraska Pharmacists Association.

Sincerely,


Wayne Stuberg, PhD, PT
Chair
State Board of Health

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 95026 Lincoln NE 68905-5026
Phone (402) 471-6515; Fax (402) 471-0383 Website: http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_bdhealth.aspx