

Mission: Overall Charge:

To undertake a public process to define priorities, values and expectations for our community's future hospital system as a result of changing health care environment;

Within framework of community's priorities, review and analyze local hospital proposals on Lincoln General's future status;

Provide feedback and analysis on pros and cons of each proposal to the LGH Board, City Council and Mayor by November 15, 1996

Phase I - August 1 to October 15:

Task Force will undertake an extensive education and information gathering process as a foundation for defining community values, priorities and expectations for our future hospital system. Activities will include:

Research and public education on national trends affecting municipal hospitals;

Discussion/input from key stakeholders (listed below);

Development of draft Position Paper articulating community values for its future hospital system issues such as cost, access, quality, affordability of hospital care, especially for vulnerable populations such as the indigent, under-insured, chronic mental illness, substance abuses, etc.

Public presentation/discussion of draft Position Paper at Community Forum or Town Hall Meeting, and finalize Position Paper based on community feedback.

Phase 2 - October 15 - November 15:

Task Force will review and analyze detailed proposals from local hospitals within framework of Position Paper and provide feedback and analysis on the pros and cons each of each proposal for the decision-makers (LGH Board, City Council, Mayor) on which proposal best addresses community priorities, values and experiences.

Key Stakeholders in Process:

Lincoln General Hospital Board

Physicians and other health care providers

Business organizations and local economic development representatives

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital

County-City officials and agencies

Local employers

State agencies (Department of Health, DSS, DPI)

Consumers and consumer advocates

Human service providers and advocates for vulnerable, under-served or special populations (i.e., aging, minority, indigent)

General Public

Staffing:

Staff team to be led by Larry Bare, Finance Director and Polly McMullen, Assistant to the Mayor, with support from Bill Austin (City Attorney), Jane Ford (City-County Health Department Director) and Arlan Stromberg (Lincoln General Hospital Administrator).

It is anticipated that the assistance of a national consultant with expertise in facilitating community processes on hospital planning will be needed to facilitate this effort.

Proposed Criteria for Hospital Review Task Force Members:

Must not be an employee or member of the governing body of any of the three acute care hospitals in Lincoln.

Must be willing to approach process with an open mind.

Must have ability and disposition to perceive and foster best interests of the community in the area of health care.

Must be willing to work in a consensus-building environment which will encourage extensive public education, input and discussion as a pre-requisite to any conclusions or recommendations.

Chair should be proven facilitator, mediator with the ability to lead a fair, neutral and open process.