



E-Vision of Health

Newsletter of the Community Health Endowment of Lincoln

Fall 2009 Edition

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More on the Mayor's Task Force

[Channel 10/11 News "Mayor Beutler's Task Force Reveals Plan"](#)

[Public Hearing Channel 5 CityTV](#)

[LJS Editorial on the MTF 9/14/09](#)

[LJS Article on the MTF 9/4/09](#)

Turkey Trot 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk

When: Sunday, November 8, 2009 @ 2pm
Where: UNL-East Campus
Why: To raise

Task Force Develops Recommendations to Improve Healthcare Safety Net

This spring Mayor Beutler announced the formation of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Healthcare Safety Net. Their charge was to develop ambitious recommendations to strengthen and improve coordination and sustainability of the healthcare safety net. Chaired by Kim Russel, President/CEO of BryanLGH Health System and CHE Trustee, the Task Force held a series of meetings since April and released draft goals and recommendations on September 2, 2009.



An important aspect of the process has been the collection of public input. A series of focus groups were held with clients of safety net providers and human service agencies during the crafting of the recommendations. In addition, the general public was asked to provide comment by email and telephone, ending with a public hearing on September 17, 2009. A final report is scheduled for release shortly.

According to Chair, Kim Russel, "*Regardless of what happens at the national level, our community will always need to focus on its safety net needs.*" Commenting on the work of the Task Force, Russel added, "*I am proud of the work of the Task Force, and sincerely thank the members for their hard work.*"

Funding for the Task Force was provided by Health Partners Initiative of Lincoln. For additional information or for a copy of the Task Force report, contact Su Eells, Project Coordinator, at su.eells@tendotravel.com or 402-499-5543.

Midwest Town Gets a Health Makeover

At the CHE Annual Meeting in June, guest speaker Dan Buettner spoke about longevity lessons from "[blue zones](#)" around the world and how he and a team of researchers are implementing those lessons in a Midwest town. Albert Lea, Minnesota, a town of about 18,000 residents, was chosen for a longevity makeover, a.k.a. the AARP/Blue Zones Vitality Project, sponsored by United Health Foundation.



The Albert Lea project kicked off in January and concluded this month. CHE has been following its progress for lessons on how to help a community embrace ways to live longer and healthier. Town leaders

money for Lincoln's Health360 Project Access, a program designed to help Lincoln area residents access health care.
[ENTRY FORM](#)

Quick Links

[CHE Website](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

"Are We There Yet? On the Road to Becoming the Healthiest Community in the Nation"

[CHE Annual Report](#)

Current Project Partners

[Abiding Grace Community Church](#)

[American Red Cross](#)

[ARC of Lincoln/Lancaster County](#)

[Center for People In Need](#)

[Centerpointe, Inc.](#)

[Child Advocacy Center](#)

[City of Lincoln - Emergency Communications Center](#)

[Clyde Malone Community Center](#)

[Community Mental Health Center](#)

and participants agree that the project has energized the community and, most importantly, brought a new sense of health awareness and community connectivity. Learn more about the [Vitality Project HERE](#).

The goal of the Albert Lea project is to create America's healthiest hometown by adding over 10,000 years of healthy life for the town's residents. So far, the project has shown results. In the first three months, the average life expectancy gain per person is 3.1 years and the average weight loss per person is 4.8 pounds. Other goals include reduced healthcare costs for key employers and measurably lower BMIs for school children. To learn more or to start on [Your Path to Longevity, CLICK HERE](#).

LOSS Team Launched in Lincoln

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team officially launched on July 1, 2009. The team, made up of volunteer mental health providers and persons who have experienced the suicide of a loved one, is activated anytime a suicide occurs. The team works with law enforcement and other first responders to provide immediate assistance to survivors to help them cope with the trauma of their loss and provide resources, support, and follow-up.

Programs like LOSS have been shown to increase the likelihood that survivors will seek help for their own emotional response to the suicide, but also reduce the risk that survivors will use unhealthy coping strategies or attempt suicide themselves. Research shows that at least six people are intimately impacted by each completed suicide and the suicide survivors, i.e. persons who have had a loved one complete a suicide, are nine to eleven times more likely to complete suicide themselves without some form of intervention.

The LOSS Team is modeled after a program founded by Dr. Frank Campbell, Executive Director, Crisis Center Foundation in East Baton Rouge, LA. In 2007 and 2008, Dr. Campbell came to Lincoln to provide training on the LOSS Team development. These trainings were supported by a grant from CHE and arranged by the Nebraska Statewide Suicide Prevention Coalition, through a collaborative partnership with the Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County, BryanLGH Medical Center, and Blue Valley Mental Health Center.

To learn more about the Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center's LOSS Program, [CLICK HERE](#). For further information about the LOSS Team in Lincoln/Lancaster County, contact Travis Parker, Deputy Director, Community Mental Health Center at tparker@lancaster.ne.gov or 441-6610.

Red Cross First Aid Team Recruiting Volunteers

The American Red Cross First Aid Team volunteers have long been recognized for standing out among the "sea of red" to provide medical care at every University of Nebraska home football game. In addition to their already busy schedule, the team will be hard at work protecting fans and spectators when the Special Olympics USA National Games come to Lincoln in July, 2010.



Cornhusker Place,
Inc.

E.D. Connections
(BryanLGH Health
System & St.
Elizabeth Regional
Medical Center)

Food Bank of
Lincoln

Fresh Start Home

Friendship Home

Houses of Hope

Indian Center Inc.

Lancaster County
Medical Society

Leadership Lincoln,
Inc.

Lincoln Council on
Alcoholism & Drugs,
Inc.

LPS/Elliott
Elementary

Matt Talbot Kitchen
& Outreach

Milkworks, Inc.

Mourning Hope
Grief Center

People's Health
Center

Region V Systems

Saint Elizabeth
Foundation

St. Monica's

Teach a Kid to Fish

The First Aid Team has been tapped to help provide at-the-scene, lifesaving medical care for an expected 4,000 athletes and 12,000 fans across 14 venues at the games. **They are in need of 120 new volunteers to help.**

To help meet this challenge, the Red Cross is kicking off a year-long volunteer recruitment campaign to bring more highly skilled volunteers to the First Aid Team. To provide the level of care needed, the Red Cross needs 40 new medical professionals to serve as team leaders, and 80 new first aid and CPR-trained volunteers. In addition to training and certification, there are basic physical requirements for those interested in joining the team. CHE is helping support their efforts this year with a Spark! grant to assist with recruitment and retention of First Aid Team members.

Will you join the First Aid Team and be a Special Olympics Volunteer? Fill out an [ONLINE FORM](#) or contact Diana Wild, volunteer director, at 441-6384 or wilddi@usa.redcross.org to learn more.

CHE Elects New Officers & Welcomes New Trustees

New officers have been elected for 2009-10 (see below). CHE also welcomes Doug Ganz and Jane Raybould to the CHE Board of Trustees. These individuals were recently appointed by Mayor Beutler to replace Trustees Bill Lester and Lois Baldwin who completed terms in September.

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