



PolicyTalk - October 2016

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Sorensen Policy Seminar Debate on Death Penalty Draws Large Crowd of Students and Community Members

On October 25th, Senator Colby Coash and Senator Beau McCoy debated the pros and cons of the death penalty in Nebraska. Held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln city campus student union and moderated by Fred Knapp of NET News, the event included short presentations by the senators, but was primarily an opportunity for attendees to pose questions to the senators. Approximately 100 students and community members were in attendance.

If you were unable to attend, but interested in the event, a **complete audio recording is available.**

This event was co-sponsored by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, UNL Center for Civic Engagement, UNL Department of Political Science, UNL College of Arts and Sciences, and UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

The debate received coverage from the **Lincoln Journal Star**, **Channel 8 News (KLKN-TV)**, and the **Daily Nebraskan**.



Pictured top to bottom, right to left: Nancy Shank, Associate Director of the Public Policy Center; Senator Colby Coash; Senator Beau McCoy; Moderator Fred Knapp, NET News; Noel Judd, Public Policy Center staff with Lincoln community member; Jules Nickel, Public Policy Center staff with University of Nebraska-Lincoln student

SAMHSA Grant Awarded, Center Serving as Project Evaluator

A three-year \$1.9 million grant from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has been awarded to a team of Lincoln agencies lead by John Turner, Housing Specialist at Region V Systems to end chronic homelessness in Lincoln, NE. Through a collaboration of Region V Behavioral Health Systems, CenterPointe, and the Mental Health Association, the project will provide housing, behavioral health treatment, as well as peer and employment supports to persons experiencing chronic homelessness and serious behavioral health disorders. The goal is to assist individuals in maximizing stability through peer supports, employment, and treatment. The project employs Permanent Supportive Housing, an evidence-based practice, and will coordinate homeless serving programs through the use of Lincoln's All Doors Lead Home system.

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center is serving as the program evaluator for this project. Center researchers, **Dr. Nancy Shank** and **Dr. Stacey Hoffman**, will conduct a local evaluation and

collaborate with a national program evaluator to support continuous process improvement through collection and analysis of program outcomes. The evaluation will include qualitative and quantitative data analyses, as well as answer questions about the delivery of project services.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families and the Law is providing the information technology support as the Homeless Management Information System and the Homeless Coordinated Entry Lead Entity for Lincoln Continuum of Care.

This grant was one of only 30 awarded by SAMHSA through the Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals program.



Project team includes (from left to right): Dr. Nancy Shank, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center; Dennis Hoffman, CenterPointe; Jeff Chambers, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families, and the Law; John Turner, Region V Systems

Center Researcher Trains Motivational Interviewing Trainers in Canada

Public Policy Center Senior Research Manager, **Dr. Kate Speck**, spent three days in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, training trainers in Motivational Interviewing. Over 140 attendees from France, Canada, Brazil, Jamaica, England, and the United States were trained through the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT) program. This program was followed by a three-day MINT forum with over 350 participants. In addition to serving as a trainer, Dr. Speck is also a member of the MINT Professional Development Committee, working to address the certification of trainers and practitioners in Motivational Interviewing.



Dr. Kate Speck (kneeling in the front row, far right) pictured with her training group.

Public Policy Center Co-Sponsors Mass Fatality Seminar

The Public Policy Center is co-sponsoring the Nebraska Mass Fatality Seminar on November 2, 2016. The focus of this event is "Exploring the Role of Public Health and Public Safety," and will feature Dr. Cyril Wecht, one of America's leading forensic pathologists, along with Capt. Dana Hall, ASPR-U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They will provide timely insight into mass fatality response. This event is geared towards first responders, law enforcement agencies, and government officials who will learn to identify roles of multi-disciplinary teams, recognize divisional responsibilities, explore ethical dilemmas, review complications of biological and chemical response, as well as learn Federal Disaster Mortuary Team capabilities and processes.

Nebraska Mass Fatality Seminar

Exploring the Role of Public Health and Public Safety



This free seminar will feature Dr. Cyril Wecht, America's leading forensic pathologist, and Capt. Dana Hall, ASPR-U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, providing timely insight into what a mass fatality response should look like and what areas need improvement. In order to prevent attacks, or contain the spread of disease or chemical exposure, the response must be rapid, organized and thorough for first responders, health care professionals, law enforcement agencies and government officials. A must attend event for anyone involved in public health and public safety.

Participant Objectives:

- Identify roles of multi-disciplinary teams
- Recognize divisional responsibilities
- Review lessons learned
- Explore ethical dilemmas
- Review complications of biological and chemical response
- Realize resources for recovery of human remains
- Learn Federal Disaster Mortuary Team capabilities and processes

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

Registration: 8:00 AM / Seminar 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Registration Deadline: October 26, 2016

CEUs AVAILABLE

This seminar is free to attend, but please sign-up no later than October 26, 2016 as this training is limited to the first 100 registrants. This seminar will offer Emergency Medical Services, Nursing, and Law Enforcement continuing education units.

Questions about this seminar?

Please contact Kathy Bolkovac by email at Kathy.Bolkovac@nebraska.gov or call 402-471-7033 or 402-840-5440

Seminar Site:

Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center
3600 North Academy Road
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

REGISTRATION

To register
click or type the
link within this box

<http://go.unl.edu/massfatalityseminar>

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PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

Momentum Building for Prosper Lincoln With Release of Strategic Plan

The **Prosper Lincoln four-year strategic plan**, compiled by Public Policy Center Associate Director, **Dr. Nancy Shank**, has been released. Prosper Lincoln created a community agenda focusing on Early Childhood, Employment Skills, and Innovation. The strategic plan describes the goals and objectives established through the community process and sets metrics by which success will be measured.

The plan is being set in motion by community oversight committees and individuals leading each area: Michelle Suarez (Early Childhood), Bryan Seck and Mike Milbourn (Employment Skills), and Rich Claussen (Innovation). The community's Board of Counselors, comprising

approximately 100 community members from across all sectors, provide strategic vision.

The **Prosper Lincoln website** has information about how the community is embracing the agenda to ensure a community in which everyone thrives.




The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center links policy with research, process, and practice.

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<http://events.unl.edu/ppc/upcoming/>

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