

## LB 709 Is Law and Medicaid Review Is Underway



By Richard Blair  
 Director of Development,  
 The Seniors Foundation

Since our last newsletter, LB 709 — a health care bill to adopt the Medicaid Reform Act and the Long-Term Care Partnership Program Development Act — was passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor. In accordance with the new law, a Health and Human Services System committee has begun its review of Nebraska's Medicaid program and will prepare a report on possible actions.

### Agency directors provided input

June Pederson, Director of the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging (LAAA), along with other directors of similar agencies for other areas in the state, have met with the Medicaid Reform Advisory Council Chair and emphasized the real cost savings that programs such as the Medicaid Waiver Program provide. In the LAAA service area alone, more than 400 elderly adults are enrolled in the Medicaid Wavier Program. This provides an estimated yearly savings of more than \$9 million over the amount that "standard" Medicaid services for these people would cost.

The directors of the area agencies have requested that the committee strongly consider expanding three current cost-saving programs:

- the Senior Care Options program,
- the Medicaid Waiver Program, and
- the Care Management Program.

These programs provide financial savings to tax payers while supporting the wish of older adults to reside in their own homes.

### Your attention and input also needed

The HHS review committee is receiving input from various organizations, professional staff, program participants and interested members

of the public. We urge all of our readers to stay informed on the review process and to speak out. It is important that the review committee hear your thoughts and receive your input. The eventual reforms are going to affect us all in one way or another. We recognize the need for cost savings, but our interest is in making sure that the services available to older adults in need are set at a level that preserves human dignity and considers quality of life issues.

As the review progresses, monthly progress reports are published on the HHS web site. You can find these reports at:

[www.hhss.ne.gov/med/reform](http://www.hhss.ne.gov/med/reform).

### Side note

In our last newsletter, in a discussion about the coming Medicaid review, I ventured that the cost of nursing home care was currently ranging from \$3,000 to \$5,000 a month in the Lincoln area. An LAAA volunteer, Violet Wurm, stopped by my office and politely pointed out that my range was too low. Her husband is in a local facility and she showed me the current rate sheet. It listed a range of \$4,095 per month for Physical Function 1 to \$12,714 a month for Extensive Care 3, the highest level of care. Those numbers are astonishing. Thank you, Violet, for bringing me, and our readers, up to date.

## What's Your Favorite *Live and Learn* Interview?

The hosts of *Live and Learn*, the Foundation-sponsored cable channel 5 City TV show for older adults, are seeking input from viewers on their favorite *Live and Learn* interviews. Please drop them a card or note expressing your preferences. Comments received during October will be posted on our web site. Send your note to:

Live & Learn, c/o Seniors Foundation  
 P.O. Box 81904 • Lincoln, NE 68501-1904

# Raffle Celebrating the Foundation's 25th Anniversary Will Benefit Programs for Older Adults

December 16th could be your lucky day. Maybe you haven't won the Powerball yet. That doesn't mean you're unlucky. It just means you've been playing against odds that are way too long. Try downshifting a little. Try the Seniors Foundation Anniversary Raffle.

25th Anniversary Raffle

VOID

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, St, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Raffle

*benefitting programs for older adults*

Seniors Foundation of Lincoln & Lancaster County

### 25 Prizes – 25 Winning Tickets

This \$5 ticket is one chance to win one prize. Drawing on 12/16/05. You need not be present to win.

Nebraska license number: 35-5031370

The Foundation's raffle offers better odds, 25 guaranteed winners, attractive prizes and the satisfaction of knowing that 100% of your ticket cost will be used for the direct benefit of our Community Focus Projects. How can you lose?

Our Community Focus Projects include the purchase of strength & conditioning equipment suitable for older adults; purchase of a transportation van; development of a social transportation program; and underwriting support for 5 City TV *Live and Learn* and fitness programs.

### Thank you, donors

We thank the community businesses and members who are generously supporting the raffle through the donation of prizes.

### How to obtain raffle tickets

Raffle tickets are being sold by all members of the Seniors Foundation Board. Tickets may also be purchased by calling the Seniors Foundation Office at 441-6179. Make today your lucky day by buying two raffle tickets — one for luck, another for insurance. Both will be for good.

Prize	Donor
27-inch RCA, LCD-HD Flat Screen TV	Schaefer's TV
Foursome of golf at Wilderness Ridge Championship Course	Wilderness Ridge
Two tickets to the 3/30/06 concert by the National Symphony Orchestra at the Lied	LIED Center for Performing Arts
18-inch Doll in Husker Cheerleader Outfit	Midge Irvin
Cinnamon Rolls for a Year (one dozen each month during 2006)	Conroy's Bakery Shoppe
\$50 Gift Basket	The Basket Bunch
\$100 Gift Certificate at Russ's Market (2 separate prizes of one certificate each)	Anonymous
Three-month gift membership	Great Shapes Fitness
300 Chocolate Wedding Mints in gold foil cups	Union Bank & Trust
Two Husker football tickets to a 2006 game	
Two adult fares on Union Bank trip to "Branson on the Road" in Souix City, Iowa on 3/28/06	
Two adult fares on the Theatre FAIR Trip to Bellevue, NE on February 5, 2006	
\$50 Gift Certificate at Lazlo's or Fireworks	Lazlo Inc.
\$50 Gift Certificate	daVinci's
Fine Wine Gift Basket (\$100 approx. value)	B&R Stores
Ultimate Party Package (\$100 approx. value)	
\$50 in gift certificate good at U-Stop Convenience Shops	Whitehead Oil
Four reserved seats at a Saltdogs baseball game during 2006 season	Saltdogs Baseball
Grandparent gift box with admission tickets	Children's Museum
Oil & Lube Gift Certificate (5 separate prizes of one certificate each)	Sid Dillion

## The Seniors Foundation Board of Directors as of October 1, 2005

**President:** Maurice L. Russell; **President Elect:** Nancy Tramel; **Treasurer:** Jay Heins, *Buckley, Sitzman*; **Secretary:** Alice Skultety, *Union Bank*; **Past President:** R. David Wilcox, *Union Bank*. **Michael Balm**, *Wells Fargo Bank*; **Jay Bohlken**, *Legacy Estates*; **Helen Griffin**; **Midge Irvin**; **Barbara Jacobson**, *Lincoln Public Schools*; **Paula Kort**; **Marcia Kushner**; **Karen Larsen**; **Andrew Loudon**, *Baylor, Evnen, Curtiss, Gemit & Witt*; **Dr. Barbara McCabe**, *UNL College of Nursing*; **Kristen Stohs**. **Ex Officio:** **June Pederson**, *Lincoln Area Agency on Aging*.  
**Foundation staff:** **Richard Blair**, *Director of Development*; **Meldene Dorn**, *Board Assistant*.

## Foundation in Good Shape and Building Steam



By Maurice Russell  
President of the Board of Directors,  
The Seniors Foundation

In this, my first article as president of the Seniors Foundation, I want to share a little news, a little philosophy, and a lot of thanks.

### Thank you...

...to **R. David Wilcox** for his two years of terrific service as president of the Seniors Foundation. Under his focused leadership, we expanded the board and populated it with additional "can do" people who recognize the justice and importance of our work; we clarified the foundation's mission and activities; and we inaugurated several important initiatives, including support for a program of fitness and strength training for older adults. Thanks to Dave, and the whole board, the foundation is in good shape and building steam for an ever-larger and more meaningful impact on the lives of our senior population.

...to outgoing board members whose terms ended this year: **Helen Boosalis, Ken Cheloha, Dallen George, David Polson and Michelle Kugler**. Their work will continue to contribute to the Foundation's effectiveness in the future.

...to **Lincoln Benefit Life, Rotary Club #14 Foundation**, and the employees of **Cattle National Bank** for financial contributions in support of our Community Focus Projects.

### New board members

Welcome to the newest members of the Seniors Foundation Board of Directors:

- **Midge Irvin**, a life-time resident of Lincoln who has served as president of numerous boards such as Friends of Lied, Library Foundation and Jr. League of Lincoln. Most recently Midge was involved in the Sunken Gardens restoration project.
- **Michael Balm**, a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University who is employed with Wells Fargo Bank as a Business Banking Relationship Manager.

- **Andrew Loudon**, a graduate of UNL and attorney with Baylor, Evnen, Curtiss, Gruit & Witt. He belongs to the firm's Business & Estate Planning practice group.

### Annual giving campaign

This fall the board is again conducting a direct-mail fund drive. (This is in addition to the special raffle highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter.) In a few weeks we will be mailing letters asking for donations to the Annual Giving Campaign and explaining how the money we raise will be used. When you get my letter, I hope you will give our cause your careful consideration.

### A little philosophy

Over the last half century, I have been involved in a number of boards and volunteer projects all of which were important in one way or another. But none, I believe, were more important than the work of the Seniors Foundation. When we think about the underpinnings of our community, we surely must realize that the infrastructure, both physical and cultural, was built more by past generations than by our own. We all are standing on the shoulders of others; we all owe a large debt to the past. And one good way we can pay back a portion of our large debt is to ensure that those who helped build the environment, traditions and institutions we now enjoy, have the opportunity to live with pride and dignity in their later years of life.

That's what the Seniors Foundation is about. We try to provide some of the important services that older adults need but are not provided by the funds that are allotted to the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging. The people at LAAA do a terrific job with the budget they have. But there are still big, wide cracks that require extra support and special attention.

Our job is to find and fill some of the biggest cracks so our older citizens can continue to enjoy a little piece of the good life they helped create. We are delighted that you, our readers, are on this mission with us. We welcome your input and rely on your involvement. Thank you.

## News Briefs

### Specify Code 6200 on your Community Services Fund/United Way form

Yes, you can make payroll-deduction donations to the Seniors Foundation through the Community Services Fund / United Way. Just place our code number—**Code 6200**—on your payroll deduction form and the Foundation will begin receiving your payroll donation.

### In-kind donations make a difference, too

The Seniors Foundation gladly accepts in-kind donations, too. Just since June of this year we have received and distributed more than \$1,000 worth of durable equipment donated by people who no longer needed the items. The 29 LIFE clients who received the equipment donated this summer were most appreciative of the extra mobility and/or safety provided by the donated items.

The item of greatest need on the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging current wish list for in-kind donations is:

- Side-of-tub clamp-on grab bars

Other items on the wish list include:

- Lift chairs
- Stool risers
- Wheelchairs
- Wheel walkers
- Quad canes (canes with four feet)
- Bedside commodes
- Reachers (long or extendable tong-like devices that allow the user to grab items that are too high or too low to reach by hand.)

If you are willing to donate any of these items (provided they are in good working order), please call the Seniors Foundation at 441-6179 to make arrangements for delivery or pick up.

Mezzanine ~ 1001 O Street  
Mail to: P.O. Box 81904  
Lincoln, NE 68501

**SENIORS**  
**FOUNDATION**

Phone: 402/441-6179  
E-mail: [rblair@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:rblair@ci.lincoln.ne.us)  
[www.seniorsfoundation.org](http://www.seniorsfoundation.org)

## “I’d like to help with the Community Focus Projects”

Yes, I wish to support services for our older adults with a contribution to the Seniors Foundation.

Here is my tax-deductible gift of:     \$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My check, payable to Seniors Foundation, is enclosed.

I would like to charge my donation to my:     VISA     MasterCard

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Today’s Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please attach a business card or print your name and address below so we can mail you a receipt for tax purposes.*

Your name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_