

PROPOSAL BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE STUDY COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Town Meeting Article 34 and appointment by the Selectmen in April, the Public Health Nurse Study Committee (originally named the Town Nurse Study Taskforce) is submitting the following proposal:

That Lincoln expand its current public health nurse roles and responsibilities, at a net additional cost to the Town of roughly \$20,000 annually, to be provided by a regional health provider reporting to the Lincoln Board of Health.

Such roles and responsibilities will:

1. Continue to meet the state and CDC requirements for the reporting, surveillance and control of communicable diseases, including enforcement of isolation and quarantine regulations;
2. Provide bi-weekly blood pressure clinics and expand health screening and immunization clinics as needed;
3. Present expanded health and wellness promotion programs and materials, in collaboration with other Lincoln agencies;
4. Provide health counseling, referrals, and serve as liaison to physicians and health care agencies;
5. Conduct home health and safety assessments, if not otherwise covered by insurance;
6. Make occasional home visits to check on homebound chronically ill residents or residents with disabilities; and
7. Participate with other Town representatives in local emergency planning, including recruiting, training and coordinating both medical and non-medical volunteer emergency responders.

This proposal is based on a town-wide survey, research into 12 neighboring towns' public health services, and the experience of the Committee's representatives from relevant Lincoln agencies and volunteers. Committee members include Diane Haessler, R.N., N.P., Board of Health; Mary Sheldon, M.D., LCOA Board; Rob Loud, M. Ed., MLS, Commission on Disabilities; Maureen Richichi, R.N., School Health Unit; Arthur Cotoni, Fire Chief; and the following volunteers: Beth Ries, Chair, Friends of the LCOA, Tricia McGean, R.N., Phyllis Mutschler, Ph.D., Joanna Hopkins, Ph.D., and Peggy Schmertzler, M. Ed. Serving as advisors are Karen Santucci, Director, LCOA, LSW, MSLS, and Dr. Charles Keevil, M.D.

In September Committee members voted unanimously to support this proposal. The recommended public health nurse position would supplement the fine private medical services we already enjoy by focusing on disease prevention, health promotion, and community emergency preparedness. The estimated tax impact of this proposal on the average Lincoln household would be \$11.00 per year.