



NEW ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT PROPOSAL

Institution: University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)
Name of the new unit: Center for Health Policy
Proposal Received by the Commission: March 5, 2012
Programs included in the new unit: Programs from most of the departments and colleges at UNMC
Proposed Start Date: March 2012

Description

The goals of the proposed center are to:

- Promote and support research that improves health policy decisions,
- Facilitate communication among stakeholders in health policy,
- Enhance the role of UNMC in promoting the health of Nebraskans, and
- Support education initiatives of UNMC in health policy.

Participation in the center would be open to faculty in the College of Public Health. Research would also be conducted in collaboration with other entities within UNMC (Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy) and throughout the University of Nebraska system.

Consistent with Institutional Role and Mission? YES NO

Consistent with Statewide Comprehensive Plan? YES NO

REVIEW CRITERIA

A. Demonstrated Need

High	-----	Low
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UNMC reports that training of public health and health care professionals, delivery of health care, and research related to both are changing. The changes result from the current economy, new technology, and recent federal legislation. The impact of the changes requires “extensive study and monitoring”. To that end, UNMC made the establishment of the Center for Health Policy one its major priorities for 2011-14.

In 2011 a faculty member was hired to oversee the development of the center. He has obtained external funding for research including grants from the National Cancer Center, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Douglas County Health Department, Great Plains Tribe, Region IV, and the Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition. In addition, the Nebraska Health Policy Academy at UNMC has been funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to provide training in policy development for public health practitioners in state and local government and their partners. A health care reform working group also meets twice monthly to monitor law reform and implementation, produce advisory briefs, provide speakers, and host seminars.

The extent and variety of funding obtained by the new faculty member in just one year provides evidence of the need for the research to be conducted.

B. Demonstrated Appropriateness of the Unit

High-----Low				
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UNMC states that the center would enhance opportunities for external funding, increase interdisciplinary collaborations, increase policy competency of students and faculty, and engage with the community.

The variety of current grant sources suggests that health policy is a multi-faceted field that would benefit from a center where researchers from many disciplines could work together. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 alone has spawned policy discussions related to health insurance exchanges, individual and employer mandates, subsidies and tax credits, Medicare, Medicaid, abortion and contraceptives, and electronic health records.

C. Resources: Faculty/Staff

High-----Low				
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In addition to the faculty member hired in 2011 who will serve as director of the center, current faculty from across the UNMC campus would be eligible for partial appointments. Two who are likely to be among the first are both from the Department of Health Services Research and Administration. One full-time and two part-time faculty are included in the budget as well as three part-time health data analysts, an editor, two graduate assistants, an administrative assistant, and an accountant. An advisory council would be formed to provide direction, prioritize the work of the center, and assign resources.

D. Resources: Physical Facilities/Equipment

High-----Low				
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UNMC states that no additional facilities or equipment would be needed. The center would be primarily a virtual entity, although the director and administrative staff would be housed in the Maurer Center for Public Health.

Faculty who would participate in the research have their own labs and equipment in their home departments.

E. Budget

UNMC anticipates that grants and contracts would provide sufficient funding. The proposal states that if external funding falls short, the needed revenue would be reallocated from other existing college sources.

**PROJECTED COSTS AND ANTICIPATED REVENUES FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS
as reported by UNMC**

PROJECTED COSTS		ANTICIPATED REVENUES	
Faculty and Staff	\$1,400,791	Reallocated Funds	\$499,898
General Operating	\$108,326	New State Funds	
Equipment		New Local Funds	
Facilities		Tuition and Fees	
Library		Other: grants*	\$1,009,218
Five-Year TOTAL	\$1,509,117	Five-Year TOTAL	\$1,509,117

*Current grant sources include: National Cancer Center (ends 12/2012), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (ends 5/2013), Douglas County Health Department (ends 8/2016), Great Plains Tribe (ends 10/2015), and continuous funding from Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Region IV, and Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition.

Committee Recommendation: Approve