

November 16, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SOUTH SIOUX CITY HEARING SET FOR 2-1-1 PROPOSAL**

LINCOLN – The Commission will conduct a public hearing at 2 p.m. on December 15 on a proposal to inaugurate 2-1-1 dialing for health and human service referrals in Dakota County.

The hearing will be at City Hall in South Sioux City with Fourth District Commissioner Rod Johnson of Sutton presiding. Video links will also be available in Room 207 of the State Office Building in Omaha and in the Commission Library, 1200 N Street, Suite 300 the Atrium in Lincoln.

United Way of the Midlands from Omaha has filed an application to operate its First Call for Help service in Dakota County through use of 2-1-1 three-digit dialing. The Public Service Commission last month approved the 2-1-1 program by United Way of the Midlands for Scottsbluff County. In addition, United Way of the Midlands has authority for the program in 19 counties in the metropolitan Omaha, Fremont, Lincoln, and Grand Island areas.

United Way of the Midlands provides referral services to callers seeking help with health and human services matters, putting callers in touch with a public or private agency or provider. United Way of the Midlands employs certified referral specialists to provide the service.

Commissioner Johnson, who will be in Dakota City for the hearing, said any member of the public may participate. “The Commission invites the public to take part to become better aware of the program and services to families in need. The Commission has been working in conjunction with United Way of the Midlands to expand 2-1-1 services as rapidly as possible.”

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Send to: Newspaper, radio, and television outlets in Dakota County; Sioux City, Iowa; Omaha, Lincoln, and Associated Press.