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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC ORDERS IMPLEMENTATION OF 2-1-1 FOR COLUMBUS AREA COUNTIES

LINCOLN - The Nebraska Public Service Commission approved the implementation of 2-1-1 dialing for health and human services referrals for a four-county area centered in Columbus at its March 29 meeting in Lincoln.

The Commission's approval is for the east central Nebraska counties of Boone, Colfax, Nance, and Platte Counties.

Fourth District Commissioner Rod Johnson of Sutton, who represents all six of the counties on the Commission, said, "There is virtually no opposition to the 2-1-1 services that have been proposed in the Columbus area, or anywhere else, for that matter. The easy-to-remember three-digit dialing of 2-1-1 allows persons in need to find out the best agency or organization to contact for health and human services needs.'

Johnson said comments received by the Commission at a March 23 public meeting in Columbus also raised the prospect of inclusion of Butler and Polk Counties to the area granted 2-1-1 dialing in the March 29 decision. "We will be able to accomplish the addition of the two additional counties to the 2-1-1 calling area in the near future," he said.

More than half of Nebraska's residents may dial 2-1-1 for health and human services referrals. The Commission set June 29 as the deadline for 2-1-1 routing for calls in Boone, Colfax, Nance, and Platte Counties.

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