

April 14, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC OPENS DOCKET ON 2-1-1 FOR BUTLER, POLK COUNTIES

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Public Service Commission opened proceedings on inclusion of Butler and Polk Counties in the 2-1-1 referral program for the Columbus area.

The Commission voted 5-0 at its April 12 weekly meeting to initiate the addition of the two counties to a Columbus-area program approved in March. Butler and Polk Counties were not included in the original application to establish the three-digit dialing for access to health and human service referrals in the region.

Fourth District Commissioner Rod Johnson of Sutton, who represents all of the counties in the Columbus region on the Commission, said the April 12 vote was a result of comments made at a public meeting in Columbus on the previous proposal. “At the meeting in Columbus, it became apparent that Butler and Polk Counties should be included in that area as well,” Johnson said.

United Way of the Midlands of Omaha is the agency that has sought authority for the three-digit dialing code of 2-1-1 that now serves more than half of Nebraska’s residents. “We are pleased to be working with United Way of the Midlands to provide abbreviated dialing access to referral services,” Johnson said.

The Commissioner noted that no public meeting would be held on the addition of Butler and Polk Counties to the Columbus-area 2-1-1 program unless comments received on the application indicate that such a meeting is warranted.

The docket must remain open for at least 30 days before the Commission rules on the proposal.

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