

**February 19, 2015**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met on February 19, 2015, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole via VisionNet, Commissioner Mark Peck, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Greg Larson was attending a Forest Service Open House in Troy on road closures.

**6:00 PM Pharmaceutical Companies:** Present were Alvin Benitz, Lee Bothman, Michael Wells, Christopher Hermes, Michelle Vincent and Rick Jaqueth.

Members of local pharmaceutical companies in Lincoln County met with the Commission to express their frustration and views about the 340B Program. Everyone present was in agreement that each pharmacy is eligible to provide this service to their clients. Letters have been sent to the Community Health Center requesting a meeting to discuss participating in the 340B Program. The pharmacies goals are to provide better access to health care. The group expressed the impact this has on their clients and community, especially in Troy and Eureka where this service is not provided. The 340B Program is federally subsidized and should be provided to anyone regardless which pharmacy is their personal preference. Patients in Troy and Eureka should be able to access the 340B Program from pharmacies in their community. Currently only Libby provides this service through CHC and Granite Pharmacy. The 340B Program offers prescription drugs at a significantly reduced rate. Members in attendance feel CHC should contract with all pharmacies same as Cabinet Peaks Medical Center. So far, efforts to participate have not been allowed and other pharmacies would like the ability to work alongside CHC to offer the best care for their patients. There is no initial start up cost; each pharmacy bears the burden of the cost on drug inventory. The group can find no reason to be denied participating in the 340B Program. Private sector business should not have to compete with a government subsidized program. Commissioner Peck asked for clarity and was told that as it is now, clients in Eureka and Troy would have to drive to Libby if they needed a 340B drug. People are not being allowed to use the pharmacy of their choice any longer. Communication with the CHC Board is the biggest complaint. Information has been conflicting and confusing. Patients in all communities deserve equal access to 340B drugs. The Commission will take the information under advisement.

7:00 PM The **meeting was adjourned.**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Mike Cole, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board