

# Program offers housing to homeless patients in recovery

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-ciety," he said. "We simply try to get them to where they can participate in society rather than have to be dependent."

Patients will live in the apartments for up to a year, Hansen said, and will have to fulfill a treatment contract to keep the apartments. The contract may entail group therapy sessions or one-on-one treatment with clinic personnel, he said.

All patients will remain in close

contact with treatment program officials, he said.

Valdeen Nelson, the project's executive director, said projects will be leasing the apartments directly from landlords and will sublet the apartments to treatment program graduates.

"We will be absorbing all liability for upkeep," Nelson said. "Landlords do not need to fear a loss of value."

The program will hire full-time maintenance personnel for the apartments, she said.

Hansen said landlords will know they are leasing apartments to the Lincoln/Lancaster Drug Projects but the occupants' histories of homelessness, mental illness or drug addiction will remain unknown to the landlord and neighbors.

"We try to protect them because there is so much stigma attached to mental illness and drug addiction," Hansen said.

Federal law also dictates that a patient's history of illness must remain

confidential, he said.

Ed Beranek, president of the Everett Neighborhood Association, said the movement of treatment program patients into his traditionally low-income, student neighborhood does not concern him.

"We already have a lot of people with drug and alcohol problems," Beranek said. "The patients will have little impact."

He said many disturbance calls are placed in the neighborhood because of

the actions of "obnoxious people," and that neighborhood residents would not notice people from the treatment program.

The apartments are funded through a three-year, \$586,253 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Supportive Housing Program.

Hansen said he expected to place about 30 patients a year in the apartments. About 100 patients are released from the treatment program each year.

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## Ban on nudity obeys UNK's set precedent

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-changed, Wubbels said. He said the ACLU was mistaken in charging the university with censorship.

"We have not asked that a single word or scene or anything else in the play be struck," Wubbels said. "There is no censorship of any sort going on."

But Nebraska ACLU executive director Matt LeMieux said he heard that university administrators told Garrison to get rid of the nudity or get out.

That accusation is false, Wubbels said.

"The only mention about consequences was put hypothetically, saying if this institution had a written policy on this and he violated it, he would be subjected to a charge of insubordination," Wubbels said.

"It sounds like it was a real threat, but it isn't because we have no real policy on this."

Nudity is not consistent with the mission of the university, Wubbels said, which is to provide education to the people of Nebraska.

"We are located in a certain place, and we are here to serve the population of the state," he said. "When you look at the totality of (the nudity), the choice doesn't fit."

"Does that mean we can actually forbid him from doing this? No."

Though Garrison did not contest the action, the ACLU intervened when Ryan Brehmer, a UNK student and cast member in the play, complained about the chancellor's order.

LeMieux said the ACLU would try to convince the university to let the director have free reign with the play. If the university did not consent, the ACLU might consider a court injunction.

Garrison said the ACLU's interference is unwelcome and is dismayed by the attention the nudity has been given because it has distracted from the play's artistic quality.

"I'm upset about a lot of things," Garrison said. "I'd be hurt and disappointed if someone prevented the show from opening because of litigation."

LeMieux said he was unaware Garrison didn't want ACLU intervention.

"(Garrison) is in a tough position because he doesn't want to rock the boat and lose his job," LeMieux said.

But LeMieux said editing the nude scenes was censorship and needed to be defended.

"It sounds like everyone's backing away from this because they're scared," he said.

In the meantime, Johnston stands by her decision to edit the scenes though she has not seen the performance.

She told UNK students Wednesday she banned the nudity because she felt a "moral obligation."

"The attention is coming into our office by the bucket loads from people who are supporting what we are doing."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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