NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 12, 2017 10:00 a.m.
Northeast Community College
Lifelong Learning Center, Suites C & D
801 East Benjamin Avenue
Norfolk, Nebraska
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, Chair
Shane Greckel, Greckel Farms, LLC
Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools
Dorest Harvey, US Strategic Command/J84
Dan Spray, Precision Technologies, Inc.
Walter Weir, University of Nebraska
Gary Warren, Hamilton Telecommunications

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Senator Bruce Bostelman, Nebraska Legislature
Randy Meininger, Mayor, City of Scottsbluff
Dan Shundoff, Intellicom

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; MEETING NOTICE; AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

The Chair, Ed Toner, called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Roll call was taken and found seven voting members present to achieve a quorum. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on June 14, 2017. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on June 30, 2017. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available on the table located by the entrance door.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MARCH 9, 2017

Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the March 9, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Spray seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM THE ADVISORY COUNCILS AND TECHNICAL PANEL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

Approve membership. The Community Council has nominated Timothy Lindahl, general manager for Wheat Belt Public Power District, to serve on the Community Council. Public power has not been represented on the council before. The Community Council felt that representation of public power could be beneficial in exploring how public-private partnerships could be leveraged to advance broadband deployment.

Commission Haack moved to approve the nomination of Timothy Lindahl to serve on the Community Council. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes,

Spray-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Nebraska Broadband Today! The Nebraska Telecommunications Association is partnering with the Nebraska Broadband Initiative (Nebraska Public Service Commission, University of Nebraska, Nebraska Information Technology Commission, and Nebraska Library Commission) on the Nebraska Broadband Today conference which will be held on October 26 at the Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln. Commissioners asked to be invited to attend the conference.

Nebraska Library Commission's Makerspace Grant. The Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska Extension, and Regional Library Systems, has received a $530,732 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The project, which will begin July 1, 2017 and conclude June 30, 2020, will work with 30 libraries to host traveling Library Innovation Studios makerspaces to stimulate creativity, innovation, and idea exchange to facilitate entrepreneurship, skill development, and local economic development. The deadline for the first application cycle is July 10, 2017.

Nebraska and the Digital Divide Index. Rural broadband and the Digital Divide is getting significant attention both nationally and within Nebraska. The *Digital Divide Index 2015* by Roberto Gallardo provided some interesting insights into broadband availability and adoption in Nebraska. Nebraska fares fairly well on socioeconomic indicators, ranking 21 out of the 50 states and District of Columbia and scores a not-great-but-respectable 35 on the composite index for both socioeconomic and infrastructure measures. However, the report ranks Nebraska 48th on infrastructure measures, ahead of only Mississippi, Montana, and Alaska. The report also included state-level tables for further analysis. Ms. Byers' analysis found:

- Broadband availability in Nebraska is improving. Broadband of at least 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up was available to 84.6% of Nebraskans in 2015, up from 79.3% in 2014.
- Average advertised download and upload speeds in Nebraska lag behind the United States and most neighboring states. Nebraska had an average advertised fixed download speed of 20.4 Mbps compared to the U.S average of 32.6 Mbps and an average advertised fixed upload speed of 8.5 Mbps compared to the U.S. average of 12.8 Mbps.
- There are significant differences in average upload and download speeds between the state's more populous and less populous counties. Nebraska counties with populations greater than 20,000 had an average advertised fixed download speed of 36.5 Mbps and an average advertised fixed upload speed of 16.2 Mbps. In comparison, Nebraska counties with populations less than 20,000 had an average advertised fixed download speed of 16.8 Mbps and an average advertised fixed upload speed of 6.8 Mbps.
- Although the data seems to indicate that there is an urban-rural divide in Nebraska, this paints an overly simplistic picture of Nebraska. It is important to note that some rural counties performed quite well on several of the indicators. For example, Keith County with a population of 8,062 had the highest advertised upload and download speeds over in the state. Additionally, a look at the Nebraska Broadband Map shows fiber deployments in some very rural parts of Nebraska.
- Additionally, affordability and adoption of broadband at higher speed tiers—especially in some of the state's more rural counties—may be exacerbating the Digital Divide in Nebraska. Nebraska lags the U.S. and our neighboring states in the subscription rate to higher speed tiers of broadband (10 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up or greater). In half of the counties in Nebraska, fewer than 20% of households subscribe to broadband at speeds of 10 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up or greater.
- There are limitations to any method of ranking states. The Digital Divide Infrastructure Score was derived by first calculating county scores for broadband availability, average download speed, average upload speed, and subscription rates. The state score for each indicator was calculated by averaging the county scores. Using this method McPherson County which has no incorporated towns is given the same weight as Douglas County. This method provides a good picture of a measure across the geography of the state—but not the population of a state.

Commissioners discussed the connectivity needs, issues and concerns of rural Nebraska. It is costly for service providers to provide that last mile. The Nebraska and federal Universal Service Fund programs are being modernized to provide support for broadband as well as voice services. The contribution base of the funds is shrinking. The Nebraska Public Service Commission has a docket underway to reform the contribution method. Commissioner Warren suggested the NITC support the PSC's efforts to reform the Nebraska Universal Service Fund. Libraries and educational institutions are affected as well. This has been a continuing issue for the Commission. Commissioners wanted to take action on this issue rather than just discussion.

Commissioner Haack moved to direct the NITC and the OCIO to work with the PSC to address the issue of connectivity for rural Nebraska. Commissioner Haack seconded. Further discussion followed.

If the state opts in for the FirstNet project, it will need lots of broadband. FirstNet estimates that Nebraska will have 99.7% broadband coverage. Towers will need to be built for the FirstNet project, and those towers will need a fiber connection. The Commissioners suggested establishing a work group or separate council to address this issue.

Mr. Becker recommended that this go back to the Community Council to further develop this initiative and action items.

After further discussion, Commissioner Haack withdrew the motion. Commissioner Spray seconded the withdrawal.

The NITC Chair directed Ms. Byers and Mr. Rolfes to work with the PSC to address this issue and report back at the November meeting.

EHEALTH COUNCIL REPORT

ONC Grant Update. Nearly two years ago, the NITC received a $2.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC). The grant got off to a slow start due to challenges with recruiting health care providers and NeHII's move to a new health information exchange (HIE) platform. The grant is now in high gear as NeHII works to implement as many facilities as possible by July 26, 2017. While the project will not meet all of its targets, ONC is pleased with the progress to date. Implementing health information exchange isn't easy. Barriers and challenges include costs, interoperability issues, and time and resource limitations of the health information exchange, participating facilities, the health information exchange vendor, and the Electronic Health Record vendors of participating facilities. The cost to participating facilities is one of the greatest barriers. NeHII's new pricing model makes participation more affordable for Critical Access Hospitals and has led to increased interest from these small hospitals. The grant covers implementation costs which further addresses the cost barrier.

Here is a summary of the grant progress as of June 29th:
- **Adding HL7 Data Sharing Participants.** One of the major components of our grant includes adding 19 Critical Access Hospitals and other facilities to NeHII as data sharing providers using HL7. Currently, 12 facilities have been implemented, 3 are scheduled to go live the week of July 10, and 8 more are starting implementation. There could possibly have up to 22 or 23 implementations.
- **Implementing Population Health Analytics.** NeHII has also is also implementing Spectrum Population Health Analytics for five facilities. Nemaha County Hospital, Mary Lanning Health Care are in the process of provisioning users and validating data. NeHII is working to identify two additional participants.

- **Adding Direct Secure Messaging Users.** NeHII had set a goal to add Direct Secure Messaging users at 50 long-term care and other facilities. 14 facilities have been implemented. Recruiting facilities is hard, but implementation is easy.
- **Adding 5 C-CDA Data Sharing Participants.** Work is underway with 3 health care providers— CHI Health-TPN Clinics, Think Whole Person Healthcare, and Family Practice of Grand Island. Montgomery County clinic in Red Oak, IA is in progress. Some technical issues with sending the SAML token for secure transport were encountered with the Grand Island Clinic.
- **Sending Data between 5 Other Health Information Exchanges.** Work with the Kansas Health Information Network (KHIN) and Missouri Health Connect is in progress. Unity Point in Iowa is also moving ahead.
- **Admission Discharge and Transfer Alerts via Mobile Messaging.** There is unfortunately not much demand for this service. Providers want to receive the messages using devices in their offices. This is a small part of our grant. We have removed this project.
- **Sending Data from 8 Hospitals to the State's Syndromic Surveillance System.** Two hospitals--Community Hospital in McCook and St. Francis Memorial in West Point--have been implemented. Children's Hospital is in progress. Johnson County Hospital is scheduled to start soon.
- **Working with Providers in 2 Rural Communities to Implement Health Information Exchange into their Workflow.** Project partners from UNMC with assistance from NeHII have been working with health care providers in Auburn and O'Neill to identify their needs, implement appropriate health information exchange technology, and to integrate the technology into their workflow. The project is going very well and generating interesting lessons learned. Training modules are also being developed to share information on the process and lessons learned.
- **Increasing Consumer Awareness**. A consumer awareness campaign including newspaper, radio, billboards, and social media is kicking off.

NeHII Annual Meeting. Nebraska Health care providers and policy makers are invited to attend the NeHII Annual Meeting on August 3 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. Dr. Donald Rucker, the National Coordinator for Health IT will be the keynote speaker. A panel of participants from the Auburn Integrated Community project will also share their experiences and lessons learned.

EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT

Approve membership. The Education Council would like to recommend approval of the following slate of membership renewals to serve on the Education Council for the 2017-2019 term:
Higher Education Renewals:
    Mark Askren, UN System
    Mike Carpenter, Independent Colleges & Universities
    Derek Bierman, Community College System
    Steve Hotovy, State College System
K-12 Education:
    Dr. Ted DeTurk, Educational Service Units
    Dr. Mike Lucas, Administrators
    Stephen Hamersky, Private Education
    Matt Chrisman, Public Teachers

Commissioner Warren moved to approve the Education Council's membership renewals for the 2017-2019 term. Commissioner Haack seconded. Roll call vote: Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, and Harvey-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Action items update. Mr. Rolfes wanted to bring attention to the following action items:

Network Nebraska

1.1 Develop strategy to accommodate community affiliate connections.
    Other entities, such as Natural Resource Districts and libraries may be eligible to participate in Network Nebraska.

1.4 NNAG & CAP to guide OCIO decision and practices and strategize future services.
    Three longhaul backbone contracts were awarded and new circuits purchased on 7/1/2017, with a 51% overall reduction in cost.

Digital Education

3.1 Form a joint study group to identify opportunities/action to ensure equitable access.
    Community Council and Education Council study group have met four times to consider options to achieve equity of access and digital inclusion. An Equity of Access essay was published in the NETA Newsletter and the state broadband newsletter.

3.2 Work with other stakeholders to insure equitable Internet access for all students.
    Beatrice Public Libraries was awarded a $15,000 IMLS TV White Space grant from the Gigabit Libraries Network and San Jose State University. They will be working with Beatrice Public Schools and ESU 5 to implement. Chadron Public Schools and Chadron Public Library have begun to collaborate on a shared Internet augmentation project. In addition, the Office of the CIO is submitting a USDA grant for $183,000 to provide online education field trips opportunities to 16 Nebraska museums.

GIS COUNCIL REPORT

The Chair, Mr. Toner, introduced John Watermolen, the new GIS State Coordinator. Mr. Watermolen provided a brief biography about himself, as well as his GIS background and experience.

Approve Nebraska Statewide Imagery Program-Business Plan. On February 15, 2017, the GIS council approved the business plan for review and approval by the NITC. The plan proposes to have the state imagery done every 4 years with option for priority areas to be done every 2 years. The imagery would be collected at a minimum of 12 inch resolution with an option to put up to a higher resolution. Various studies have shown that the imagery can have an estimated 34-1 return on investment. This is what other states have experienced. This data would be available through NebraskaMAP and accessible for NextGen911 along with a wide range of uses. The business plan also gives the specifications to do an RFP for data collection. Funding of the business plan will involve contributions from stakeholders and partnerships. Several Federal, state, and local governments have expressed an interest in obtaining this type of imagery. The project anticipates that partners will see a cost savings within the first year. A recent example of this was the Public Service Commission's release of an RFP for data collection. They approached the OCIO for assistance to host a repository for data to be collected and used for Next Generation 911. By creating the data repository within PSC, the agency was able to save a considerable amount of money and resources.

Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the Nebraska Statewide Imagery Program-Business Plan. Commissioner Warren seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Abstain, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-1. Motion carried.

TECHNICAL PANEL REPORT

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Approve Proposal 17-02 Definitions

There were no recommendations or changes from the Commission.

Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the Proposed 17-02 Definitions. Commissioner Warren seconded. Roll call vote: Spray-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Toner-Yes, Weir-Yes, and Warren-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Approve Proposal 17-01 Information Security Policy

Chris Hobbs, State Information Security Officer, reported that the policy has been reviewed by the State Government Council, as well as the 30-day public comment period. The OCIO has established a compliance team to address non-compliance issues.

Commissioner Haack moved to approve Proposal 17-01 Information Security Policy. Commissioner Spray seconded. Roll call vote: Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, Spray-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

ENTERPRISE PROJECTS; PROJECT STATUS DASHBOARD

Commissioner Weir provided an update on the enterprise projects. There were concerns regarding two of the projects.

Enterprise Resource Management Consolidation. Commissioners had concerns about the functionality of the system, patches and redundancy. The Technical Panel will be closely monitoring this project. Chair Toner thanked Commissioner Weir for his persistence in assuring that the project succeeds.

Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA). Commissioner Haack is concerned that there have been connectivity issues for two out of the past three years since the project started. Yet, the project has self-reported that the project is in the green. The Technical Panel has the same concerns and have asked the Nebraska Department of Education to report at the August Technical Panel meeting.

STATE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL REPORT

Update on CIO Roadmap. Due to the consolidation initiative, 33 IT positions have been eliminated. This is a 12% reduction in staff with no loss of quality and a marked improvement in time to resolution on service requests. Phase 2 included server consolidation and to date, DHHS is about 52% complete with moving servers into the OCIO enterprise environment. This will assist in controlling and patching servers and systems. Phase 3 consolidation focused on Site Support and establishing regional support centers across the state. Eight-eight staff across the state were identified as being a part of this new team. Rather that staff traveling out-state from Lincoln to provide technical service, the regional service center will service that area. In addition, some minor GIS consolidation is occurring in the area of imaging. Due to Nebraska's success, Chair Toner has been asked to doing a presentation in Arkansas in September.

The Office of the CIO Administrators were acknowledged for their work and involvement with the consolidation initiative.

Approve strategic initiatives to be included in the Statewide Technology Plan for 2017-2018.

Every two years the Statewide Technology Plan is updated. The first step to the update is the approval of the strategic initiatives. Once these have been approved, the councils will develop action items to work towards and accomplish the initiatives. Staff recommends removing the cloud strategy initiative; elements of that initiative will be included in the state government IT strategy initiative.

Commissioner Haack moved to approve the current strategic initiatives with the following changes: (1) remove the cloud strategy initiative, and (2) include a rural broadband focused initiative. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, Spray-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Spray moved to adjourn. Commissioner Harvey seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by the NITC managers.