

## **NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

Thursday, November 9, 2017, 10:00 a.m. CT  
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center  
1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska  
Videoconference Sites:

Vocational Rehabilitation, 505 Broadway, Suite 500, Scottsbluff, Nebraska  
Vocational Rehabilitation, 1212 West Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, Chair  
Senator Bruce Bostelman, Nebraska Legislature  
Shane Greckel, Greckel Farms, LLC  
Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools  
Dorest Harvey, US Strategic Command/J84  
Randy Meininger, City of Scottsbluff  
Dan Spray, Precision Technologies, Inc.  
Walter Weir, University of Nebraska  
Gary Warren, Hamilton Telecommunications

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** 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 10:02 a.m. Roll call was taken and found nine members present to achieve a quorum. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on July 27, 2017. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on November 3, 2017. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the west wall of the room.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON JULY 12, 2017**

**Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the July 12, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Haack seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Meininger-Abstain, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-1. Motion carried.**

#### **REPORTS FROM THE ADVISORY COUNCILS AND TECHNICAL PANEL**

##### **EHEALTH COUNCIL REPORT**

Anne Byers, eHealth IT Manager

**ONC Grant Update--Anne Byers and Deb Bass.** Nebraska's Advance Interoperable Health IT Services to Support Health Information Exchange grant from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT ended on July 26, 2017. The grant supported the adoption of health information exchange through NeHII in 47 facilities and health systems—including 21 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)—in 31 counties in Nebraska and in Montgomery County, Iowa. Through the grant, the number of hospitals and providers sharing data with NeHII increased from 28 to 53. Over 700 providers and clinical staff were added as users. New functionality implemented included population health analytics, the use of C-CDA exchange to provide information to NeHII, and an HIE to HIE gateway with the Missouri Health Exchange. Two Critical Access Hospitals were also successfully implemented to share syndromic surveillance data with the State's syndromic surveillance system.

Here are highlights:

- NeHII added 22 facilities as data sharing participants, including 15 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and 5 clinics, through HL7 data exchange during the grant period. Prior to the grant, 9 CAHs out of 64 CAHs in Nebraska and 4 in Western Iowa were participating in NeHII. Over 600 users have been added at these facilities. Grant Target: 19 facilities
- NeHII added 2 independent ambulatory clinics and a provider network to NeHII through C-CDA data sharing. Prior to the grant, no NeHII facilities were exchanging data through C-CDA exchange. Grant Target: 5 facilities
- NeHII implemented Direct Secure messaging in 15 facilities with an emphasis on long-term care and post-acute care facilities. Grant Target: 50 facilities
- Team members from UNMC worked to increase the utilization and integration of HIE into the provider workflow by creating two integrated communities, developing use case-based training modules, conducting structured interviews of the recipients of Admission Discharge and Transfer (ADT) alerts, and conducting a quality improvement study of NeHII users.
- NeHII increased the ability to exchange data between HIEs by implementing 1 HIE to HIE gateway. NeHII currently has no HIE to HIE gateways in place. Grant Target: 5 Gateways
- NeHII increased interoperability by connecting 2 Critical Access Hospitals to the State of Nebraska's syndromic surveillance system. Prior to the grant, one Critical Access Hospital was submitting data to the syndromic surveillance system through NeHII. Grant Target: 8 Hospitals
- NeHII increased interoperability by implementing population health analytics for six facilities. Prior to the grant, population health analytics was not available through NeHII at baseline. Grant Target: 5 facilities
- NeHII and UNMC team members worked to increase interoperability by developing demonstration projects which integrated HIE data for comparative effectiveness research.

Ms. Bass stated that the partnership with University of Nebraska Medical Center was greatly appreciated. Mr. Toner has had a good experience with his own medical doctors, as evidence of the improved system. The Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) is now connected to eight other states health information systems. A zip code event notification has been implemented which can send a summary of care to a medical facility. NeHII is providing the following services:

- Health Information Exchange
- Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR)
- Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative
- Quality Payment Program (QPP) and (Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Alignment and Success
- Prescription Drug Monitoring
- Population Health Analytics

Ms. Byers and Ms. Bass entertained questions from the Commission.

**Approve Statewide Technology Plan action items.** Ms. Byers presented the eHealth Council's action items for approval. There were no questions.

**Commissioner Haack moved approval of the eHealth Council's action items for the Statewide Technology Plan. Commissioner Weir seconded. Roll call vote: Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Meininger-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, Toner-Yes, and Greckel-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

#### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT**

Anne Byers, Community IT and eHealth Manager

**Approve Council Membership Nomination.** The Community Council has an opening for a representative of the Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC has nominated Commissioner Mary Ridder to replace Jerry Vap on the Community Council.

**Commissioner Warren moved to approve the nomination of Mary Ridder to serve on the Community Council. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Spray-Yes, Meininger-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Toner-Yes, Weir-Yes, and Warren-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Broadband Update.** Approximately 135 individuals attended the Nebraska Broadband Today Conference on October 26 at the Marriott Cornhusker in Lincoln. The Broadband 101 and 102 sessions were recorded and are being edited.

Both Anne Byers (Community Council) and Commissioner Greckel were invited to serve on the PSC Broadband Task Force. The NITC Commissioners were forwarded the five questions posed the task force. The Community Council discussed the following five questions posed by the Broadband Task Force. The responses were shared with the Broadband Task Force on October 10.

1. Should there be a Nebraska-specific definition of broadband? Should it be based on minimum speeds or some other measurement?

*The Council did not make a recommendation on this question. The Council needed more information on how the definition would be used, how it would be adjusted, etc. in order to make an informed recommendation.*

2. Should Nebraska formally adopt a policy goal of ensuring ubiquitous broadband availability, regardless of cost?

*The Council felt that Nebraska should adopt a policy goal of ensuring ubiquitous broadband availability, but that cost should be a consideration.*

3. Should there be technology preferences for the means by which broadband availability is deployed?

*The Council did not recommend establishing a technology preference. The Council recognized that while fiber offers the best performance, it may not be cost-effective to deploy fiber in all areas. Wireless technologies may be the most cost-effective method of deploying broadband in some areas. Since wireless technologies require fiber to the tower, small cell or other transmitting device, consideration should be given to getting fiber further out.*

4. Should the State of Nebraska maintain restrictions on the provision of broadband services by political subdivisions of the state? In the alternative, should exception be allowed that would enable the formation and operation of public-private partnerships that enable broadband deployment?

*Council members supported maintaining restrictions on the provision of broadband services by political subdivisions of the state. Council members were very supportive of private-public partnerships. The City of Lincoln provides a good model for public-private partnerships. Public power may be a potential partner.*

5. Are existing cost recovery mechanisms adequate to ensure that all Nebraskans will have access to broadband services that are reasonably comparable in cost and service quality?





*Council members felt that the PSC and those in the industry would be better able to answer this question. Council members felt that if existing cost recovery mechanisms were adequate to ensure that all Nebraskans will have access to broadband services that are reasonably comparable in cost and service quality, we probably would not be having these conversations.*

**LR 176 Interim Study to Examine the Provision of Broadband Telecommunications Services in the State.** Hearings will be held:

- November 28, 2017 1:30 PM McCook Community College, 1205 E 3rd St., McCook, NE
- November 30, 2017 1:30 PM City Council Chambers, 1702 31st St., Central City, NE
- December 1, 2017 1:00 PM Room 1113, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

Ms. Byers presented information showing the status of the goals included in the broadband plan.

## Nebraska Broadband Goals

Measure	Baseline	Most Recent	2020 Target	On Track
Subscription to broadband service by households in Nebraska	82% <i>(2014, University of Nebraska Survey)</i>	78% <i>(2015, ACS, included phone access)</i>  U.S.: 76.7% <i>(2015, ACS, included phone access)</i>	Over 90%	 <i>If we include mobile access and had University of Nebraska data, we are probably close to meeting this.</i>
Subscription to broadband service by households in nonmetropolitan Nebraska	73.6% <i>(2014, University of Nebraska Survey)</i>	82% <i>(2016, Rural Poll-University of Nebraska)</i>  Note: Another 6% had only a cell phone data plan	85%	 <i>If we include mobile access, we have already met this</i>
% of households with broadband service of at least 25 Mbps down available	74.9% <i>(Dec. 2013 Form 477 data, broadbandmap.gov)</i>	83% <i>(2016 Form 477 data, PSC)</i>  U.S.: 89% <i>(U.S. 2016 Form 477 Data, US Telecom)</i>	90%	 <i>We are making progress, but still have a ways to go.</i>
% of households with broadband service of 1 gbps down available	11.5% <i>(Dec. 2013 Form 477 data, broadbandmap.gov)</i>	49.7 % <i>(2016 Form 477 data, @100 Mbps, PSC)</i>  U.S.: 68% <i>(U.S. 2016 Form 477 Data, US Telecom)</i>	25%	 <i>If we assume that areas with 100 Mbps available are also capable of 1 Gbps, we have met this.</i>

Commissioners expressed concerns about broadband availability and connectivity in rural parts of Nebraska. The increasing availability of broadband at 100 Mbps or 1 Gbps in Omaha, Lincoln, and some other areas of Nebraska is increasing the divide between those with very fast broadband available and those without broadband at all, and those with broadband availability at much slower speeds. The last mile issue was also discussed, as well as the need to update maps to determine what fiber is available in the state.

**Approve Statewide Technology Plan Action Items.** Ms. Byers presented the Community Council action plans for approval by the NITC.

**Commissioners Haack made a motion to direct the Community Council to develop an action item to develop a statewide broadband activities plan with the goal of increasing the speed, availability and affordability to residential, commercial, and agricultural customers. Commissioner Greckel seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Meininger-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Toner-Yes, Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Spray-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Commissioner Spray moved to approve the Community Council's action items as presented. Commissioner Haack seconded. Roll call vote: Meininger-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Toner-Yes, Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Spray-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

## EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT

Tom Rolfes, Education IT Manager

Mr. Rolfes reported that the Education Council last met on October 20, and unanimously voted to recommend for the NITC's consideration, the Network Nebraska and Digital Education action items. He then shared some of the events and activities that staff have been involved that relate to, or support the Statewide Technology Plan's Strategic Initiatives of Digital Education and Network Nebraska.

The Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP) and the Network Nebraska Advisory Group (NNAG) both met on November 8, and discussed operational topics affecting Network Nebraska. Among them, three State RFPs will be released soon, one dealing with Omaha Internet access, one bidding for a couple dozen Wide Area Network (WAN) circuits to reach the Network Nebraska backbone, and thirdly, an RFP to extend the statewide backbone to northeast Nebraska.

In addition, Mr. Rolfes reported that the USDA Rural Utilities Services grant that was submitted by the OCIO for distance learning that included 16 nonprofit content providers and 13 high poverty schools will probably not get funded this year. The OCIO also partnered with the Nebraska Library Commission on an Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant for early 2018 that would incentivize schools and libraries to work together for faster Internet and better technical support.

Nebraska data reveals that only about one-third of our public libraries apply for any E-rate and only 4% have applied for E-rate funding (\$4.3 million) for Wi-Fi upgrades that may expire in the year 2020. In addition, over 200 of the 270 public libraries have only 12Mbps download speeds or less. These are many of the same rural libraries who have several cars sitting out in their parking lots after hours because students and their parents are attempting to access the only source of public Internet in the community. This is a striking example of the "homework gap" that exists in rural and urban areas, where 10-15% of the students go home each night to no Internet, many of whom are carrying taxpayer funded devices.

**Approve Statewide Technology Plan Action Items.** Mr. Rolfes handed out the most recent action item status report from the Education Council and provided a brief overview of the Digital Education and Network Nebraska action item changes, and offered to respond to questions from the Commissioners. There were no questions.

**Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the Education Council's Network Nebraska and Digital Education action items for the Statewide Technology Plan. Commissioner Haack seconded. Roll call vote: Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, and Meininger-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

## GIS COUNCIL REPORT

John Watermolen, State GIS Coordinator

**Approve Council Membership Nominations.** The council has several memberships up for renewal. Some memberships have expired.

- Federal Agency Representative
  - James Langtry. Mr. Langtry has held the position since 2007; National Map Liaison@DOI/US Geographical Survey; previously GIS Manager @ Lancaster County Engineering Department; member of the Mid America GIS Consortium and served as Chair and Board Member; and participates in similar boards in Kansas and Iowa as the Federal Representative.
- At-Large Members
  - Michael Schonlau. Mr. Schonlau is the Douglas County GIS Coordinator and is currently an at-large member.
  - Michael Preston. Mr. Preston is the Omaha GIS Manager@Velosys and previously served on the Council.
- County (NACO nominated) Representatives

- Jennifer Myers. Ms. Meyers is from Palmer and is the Administrator/GIS@ Merrick County Assessor's Office; NACO Planning and Zoning Affiliate President 2010-2016; NACO Institute of Excellence Graduate; served on OJJDP Train the Trainers for Disproportionate Minority Contact, NE Crime Commission Grant Reviewer, etc.
- Danny Pitman. Mr. Pitman is from Papillion and is the Sarpy County Assessor. Past NACO Board Member; Past President of NE Assessor's Association; Past President of Southeast District Assessor's Association; served in the U.S. Navy; elected Sarpy County Assessor in 1999, Licensed Real Estate Appraiser

**Commissioner Weir moved to approve the GIS Council's membership nominations. Commissioner Harvey seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Meininger-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**GIS Consolidation and Integration Update.** OCIO and ESRI: We have been building the infrastructure and architecture to be able to support the agencies. We are working on an agreement with ESRI to provide us higher level technical support for our GIS Ecosystem. We have consolidated three agencies' server licenses to OCIO via the ESRI-GIS License Consolidation. Any agencies that are new to using GIS and wanting the software, the OCIO is providing the licenses to them from the OCIO account as part of a cost rate. We have developed a cost recovery rate and have been sharing with the various agencies for feedback and sustainability.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Consolidation and Integration. This is an ongoing process. The OCIO has met with all the divisions at DOT and have an understanding of their data needs and workflows. We are at the point of starting to migrate data and review the licensing needs of the agency. DOT hired a GIS manager to help them organize and migrate to the Enterprise GIS Ecosystem.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The OCIO GIS team is starting the GIS consolidation process with DNR. Several meetings have occurred. They have completed their data inventory and have recently discussed the next steps in consolidation and to address any concerns.

OCIO Geospatial/GIS Enterprise Public Service Commission (PSC) Agreement. The agreement has been extended. Work has begun with PSC on the next phase of the data collection and repository needs as NG911 progresses. PSC has made the data from the repository available to the public.

Mr. Toner commended Mr. Watermolen on his progress with GIS and the OCIO's consolidation efforts.

**Approve Statewide Technology Plan Action Items.** At the GIS Council meeting last week, the Council voted to approve the action items "as is" and to have the work groups meet to further review and revise. One of the items of discussion was the cost of imagery. An alternative is Google imagery which does not have leaf off or leaf on but is available at 1/3 of the OCIO's costs but it does not meet the state's standards. In addition to further review of the action items, the council decided to review the GIS standards as well.

**Commissioner Greckel moved to approve the GIS Council's action items for the Statewide Technology Plan. Commissioner Harvey seconded. Roll call vote: Spray-Yes, Meininger-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Toner-Yes, Weir-Yes, and Warren-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

#### **TECHNICAL PANEL REPORT**

Walter Weir, Chair

**Approve Proposal 17-03, relating to state government web pages.** The Technical Panel received Proposal 17-03 from the State Government Council. The proposal amends section 4-201; removes the requirements relating to a header brand graphic; revises the footer requirements and adopts as guidelines; and repeals the original section.

**Commissioner Warren moved to approve Proposal 17-03 relating to state government web pages. Commissioner Haack seconded. Roll call vote: Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Meininger-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, Toner-Yes, and Greckel-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Enterprise Project Status Dashboard Report.** Commissioners received the report in their meeting materials. At the last Technical Panel meeting concerns were expressed regarding two of the Enterprise Projects: Enterprise Resource Management Consolidation Project, Department of Administrative Services and the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) project.

**Enterprise Resource Management Consolidation Project, Department of Administrative Services.** This project's goal is to migrate five current disparate IT systems individually supporting human resources and benefits management, employee recruiting and development, payroll and financial functions, and budget planning to a cloud-based single enterprise platform. The Technical Panel concerns relate to: Number of systems to be replaced; the existing multiple interfaces; existing hardware and software issues, and disaster recovery.

The Commission advised the panel to have continued discussions.

**Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA), Department of Education.** When the project began, school districts were experiencing connectivity issues during testing. The project is now with a different vendor, NWEA. DRC was the former vendor that was located out of state and so was the server array. The Technical Panel would like to see server hardware be located within the state, if possible. After speaking with some school administrators, there seems to be fewer testing errors in the larger districts.

**Medicaid Management Information Systems Replacement and the Medicaid Eligibility Projects.** The concerns for both these projects are that the risks and issues are tied together and there are a lack of resources and knowledge of the systems. In addition, the old platforms must continue to run while the new is under development. This could take up to 10 years to transition.

Commissioner Toner recognized Commissioner Weir for serving as Technical Panel Chair, and for his assistance since becoming CIO. Commissioner Weir will be retiring from his current position in December but will be teaching at the Raikes Center.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Ed Toner, Chair

The Office of the CIO has hired 40 interns from Southeast Community College and the University of Nebraska for a two-year appointment. Approximately 24 of them have become full-time employees.

**Approve Council Charter Amendments.** At their last meeting, the council recommended approval of the amendments to the council charter.

**Commissioner Haack moved to approve the State Government Council charter amendments. Commissioner Spray seconded. Roll call vote: Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Meininger-Yes, Spray-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Approve Statewide Technology Plan Action Items.** Mr. Becker reported that the State Government Council members have aligned their action items with the CIO's road map. The action items were also voted on at the last council meeting, for the Commission's consideration for inclusion in the Statewide Technology Plan.

**Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the State Government Council action items. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes,**

**Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Meininger-Yes, and Spray-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**PRESENTATION: BROADBAND UPDATE**

Cullen Robbins, Public Service Commission

Mr. Robbins shared updated maps from the state broadband map ([broadbandmap.nebraska.gov](http://broadbandmap.nebraska.gov)) which showed how broadband availability has improved since 2010. He also shared a series of maps showing which areas of the state currently have broadband service at 25 Mbps down/3 Mbps up, areas which are eligible for CAF-II support, areas eligible for A-CAM support, and areas in which the PSC has provided support for broadband service. He also showed a composite map with all of these areas. The areas not shaded on the composite map indicate those areas of the state that are most likely to remain underserved. Mr. Robbins also briefed Commissioners on the status of the broadband task force organized by PSC Commissioner Mary Ridder and provided an update on the PSC's docket (NUSF 100) to modernize the contribution method of the Nebraska Universal Service Fund. Mr. Robbins entertained questions from Commissioners.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Weir moved to adjourned. Commissioner Haack seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

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