

February 8, 2007

Walter Weir  
Chief Information Officer  
University of Nebraska  
232 Varner Hall  
Lincoln, NE 68583

Dear Mr. Weir:

The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network now links over 100 sites-hospitals and public health departments--across the state. As both the number of sites and the utilization of the network have increased, the need for a scheduling system has become increasingly important. At this time, the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network has limited funds to purchase a statewide scheduling system; however, the Nebraska Public Service Commission has approved funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund for a three-year contract, including maintenance.

The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network has prioritized its scheduling needs and has researched the scheduling systems offered by a number of vendors. At this time, hardware control is a low priority due to the cost and the low percentage of regularly occurring events. The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network has determined that a program provided by Rick Phillips, who developed a scheduling system for the majority of the hospitals in Kentucky, can best meet its needs and budget. The developer has extensive experience in telehealth and has customized the system to meet the unique needs of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network. The system offers an excellent clearinghouse component, as well as event logging, facilities coordination, and people coordination

The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is interested in working with the education community to facilitate scheduling among both education and telehealth entities. The telehealth scheduling system is Web-based and is fully viewable by members of the education community. We are scheduled to demonstrate the system to members of the Technical Panel on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your consideration of our request for a three-year exemption from the Scheduling Standard for Synchronous Distance Learning and Videoconferencing. We are looking forward to continuing dialogue with the education community on how we might move toward interoperability between the telehealth and education networks.

Sincerely,

Donna K. Hammack  
Chair-Nebraska Telehealth Governance Committee

cc: Brenda Decker  
Rick Becker