

COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Nebraska Information Technology Commission
Monday, Sept. 19, 2016 9:30 A.M. CT – 12:00 noon CT Nebraska
Public Service Commission 1200 N Street, Suite 300, Hearing Room Lincoln, NE 68508
Public Participation Site: University of Nebraska Extension-Sidney 902 Jackson Street, Sidney, NE
MINUTES

**ROLL CALL NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA NOTICE OF NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT
POSTING**

Anne Byers called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. There were eight members present. A quorum was not present to conduct official business. Approval of the [September 14, 2015 minutes*](#) and [March 31, 2016 minutes*](#) were tabled until a quorum was present. The meeting proceeded with informational items and discussion. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available on the table and on the wall. The meeting announcement was posted to the NITC and Nebraska Public Meetings websites on Sept.12, 2016. The agenda was posted on Sept. 12, 2016.

Members Present: Chris Anderson, Jay Anderson, Jessica Chamberlain, Steve Fosselman, Charlotte Narjes for Connie Hancock, Jacob Knutson, Jerry Vap, and Holly Woldt

Members at Public Participation Sites: Megan McGown and Connie Hancock

Members Absent: Pam Adams, Rod Armstrong, Brett Baker, Randy Bretz, Shonna Dorsey, Phil Green, Steve Henderson, David Lofdahl, and Joan Modrell

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Updated Statistics on IT Graduates. Ms. Byers indicated that the # of IT and engineering graduates is one of the bench mark action items in the Statewide Technology Plan. Jacob Knutson, Department of Economic Development, distributed a report of IT Degree Completions:

IT Degree Completions in Nebraska				
	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>Fem %</i>
2011	168	715	883	19.02
2012	178	759	937	18.99
2013	187	821	1008	18.55
2014	212	894	1106	19.17
2015	214	828	1042	20.54

The top two institutions for IT degree completions are Bellevue University and UNO.

Technology Association of Nebraska (TAN)—Stan Pierce, Executive Director

Mr. Pierce distributed information about TAN which originally began as an advisory group of the Department of Economic Development. TAN was officially launched in April 2016. It is a small organization with a Board of Directors. There are four pillars of focus: Visibility, Education, Workforce and Advocacy. Their activities include promoting technology careers at education conferences, providing grant support and organization overviews to different group. The association looks for collaboration among entities working in technology. TAN does not oversee any activities, but would like to be a clearing house of information to promote and collaborate activities. Members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Items and points of discussion included:

- The need to reach youth at an early age to introduce and expose them to IT careers even prior to middle school age.
- Best to have “young” professionals talk to youth about IT careers.
- NDE, NDED, and Governor’s office could drive the effort to include IT curriculum in schools.
- Many public libraries host IT classes and activities for both adults and youth.
- It was recommended to bring everyone to the table to begin strategizing about IT access for families. Even though schools are providing students with notebooks or tablets, the home may not have internet available.

JOINT COMMUNITY AND ED COUNCIL EQUITABLE BROADBAND ACCESS FOR STUDENTS ACTION ITEMS

Potential TV White Space Project—Tom Rolfes, NITC Education Manager. The statewide technology plan has action items that involve both the Education and Community Councils:

- Action: Expand awareness and address the need for equity of access as it relates to digital education.
- Action: Support the Education Council’s efforts to expand awareness and address the need for equity of access as it relates to digital education.

Some schools that have implemented one-to-one devices for students are finding that not all students have sufficient, reliable internet access at home. Mr. Rolfes presented a briefing paper which provided background information and made two recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 1: Public and private schools that rely heavily on digital curriculum resources, and who expect students to connect to the Internet in order to complete homework assignments, should take steps to assess which students have sufficient wired internet speeds at home.

RECOMMENDATION 2: Public and private schools should take steps to assist student households that have inadequate internet access to achieve equity of access.

Mr. Rolfes asked council members to review the document and send him any suggestions. Members suggested adding the broadband coverage map, rural poll data and information on satellite.

Commissioner Vap said that the FCC is in the process of reforming the Lifeline program to provide assistance for broadband to low-income consumers. The changes are expected to become effective December 1, 2016. The FCC will allow a Lifeline credit of \$9.25 to be applied to broadband service. Some providers have programs for low-income consumers.

Mr. Rolfes also discussed TV white space. A primer was included in the meeting materials. TV white space is not hindered by weather, buildings, etc. and works within a ten mile radius. The first national white space pilots have been completed. Each customer premise interacting with the base station must also have a UHF antenna, customer converter, and Wi-Fi router. A few schools in Nebraska are interested in using TV white space.

Wi-Fi Lending Program, Norfolk Public Library—Jessica Chamberlain. Norfolk Public Library’s Wi-Fi lending program started in August. The library’s four hotspots can be checked out for up to three weeks. There is a waiting list for hot spots. The response from the community has been positive.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Broadband Conference. The Nebraska Telecommunications Association (NTA) was planning to discuss possibly sponsoring another broadband conference at their board meeting. If they are supportive,

members of the Nebraska Broadband Initiative will work with the NTA to begin planning a future conference.

Newsletter/Social Media. Ms. Byers asked members to send their feedback and input for future articles.

Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund (NIEF). Mr. Robbins announced that funding is available for broadband projects through the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund. Pre-applications are due Oct. 14. Projects can receive up to \$50,000 in funding. The commission may award up to three projects this year.

The Connect America Fund (CAF) is the FCC's program to expand access to voice and broadband services in areas where these services are unavailable. Through one component of the program, called Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II), the FCC provides funding to large telephone companies (also known as price cap carriers) to subsidize the cost of building new network infrastructure or performing network upgrades to provide voice and broadband service in areas where it is lacking.

Mr. Vap announced that Cullen Robbins will take over as the Public Service Commission's Telecommunications Director.

Broadband USA Webinars. Ms. Byers was asked to participate in a webinar to share information on partnerships and lessons learned. She will talk about NeHII and Network Nebraska.

Mr. Robbins stated that the PSC has awarded broadband adoption grants. The Commission has also allocated \$4 million for wireless projects. Applications have been reviewed and staff recommendations made.

Connie Hancock will be visiting Purdue to learn about their IT programs. The Buffet Child Care Center is interested in learning more about how they can use IT to support training for early childhood educators.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Byers adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Members will be polled for the next meeting date.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Anne Byers of the Office of the CIO/NITC.