

The background of the slide is a photograph of the Nebraska State Capitol building in Lincoln, Nebraska. The building is a large, light-colored stone structure with a prominent central dome topped by a statue. The building is surrounded by green trees, and the sky is a clear blue. The text is overlaid on this image.

# NEBRASKA

*E-Health  
Council*

*8-6-2007*

# State-Wide Telehealth Network

*Donna K. Hammack*

*Saint Elizabeth  
Health System*

*WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT IT?*



**UNIQUE SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION**



# *Vision*

***Create a statewide secure communications network, which links all eligible users & is capable of supporting real-time video-conferencing & communications, data transmission & telehealth services.***







## Connects

- Nebraska Hospitals
- Public Health Departments
- Health care services necessary to fulfill health care mission.

# Standardized

- Polycom equipment
- Specifications for firewalls and routers



# *Unique Funding Mechanism*



## **COMMISSION FUNDING:**

- Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC)**
- **Nebraska Public Services Commission**
- **Rural Hospitals**





**In 2002, NUSF totaled  
\$60 million**

*(Currently balance is about \$15 million –  
about two months reserve.)*

# NEBRASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND (NUSF)

- *Established by LB 686 in 1997*
- *Surcharge (6.95%) began in 1999*



***NPS agreed:***

***NSTN request  
\$900,000 annually  
by April 1.***



# ***USAC FUNDING IS BASIC***

***Rural hospitals must first avail themselves of federal support.***





***NPS allocated a portion of funds to larger hospitals so advanced services (T1's, bridges, scheduling system) could benefit rural communities.***







Rural hospitals must be responsible for a reasonable portion of costs--\$100.

A photograph of a road at sunset. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon. A utility pole is visible on the left side of the road. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

**TIME:**

**66,486 hours in travel**

**\$1,662,161 in travel time costs**





**Successes in 2006:  
1,824 participants in  
education,  
administration,  
& conferences**

# **Miles & Money:**

**3,697,371 miles;  
\$1,645,330 saved.**





# Medical Consultations

- 687 in 24 specialties
- Average patient – 51.98 years
- Average length of consult – 35 minutes





**Future Use:**

**4.57**

**on 5-point scale**



# CHALLENGES:

- **Regulatory & market policies**
- **Adoption of technology**
- **Reimbursement gaps**



**UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY**

**Great Plains *TRAC***

***Great Plains Telehealth***

***Resource & Assistance Center***

# **Great Plains *TRAC***

- *Assists rural health care providers, facilities, & organizations within the region & around the nation in order to better utilize & implement telehealth technology.*
- *Encourages improved health care access & quality of service by fostering enhanced telehealth service functionality & availability.*





*If Columbus would have turned back,  
no one would have blamed him—  
but no one would have remembered him, either.*