

eHEALTH COUNCIL
Friday, October 14, 2022 9:30 a.m. CT
Nebraska Hospital Association, Board Room

3255 Salt Creek Circle
Lincoln, NE 68504
MINUTES

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

Mr. Fattig called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. There were six voting members present in person at the time of roll call. A quorum was not present. Meeting notices were posted on the State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar website on Sept. 1 and NITC websites on Sept. 2, 2022. The meeting agenda was posted on October 7, 2022. The agenda included a link to Nebraska's public meeting law and a copy was available on the table.

Members Present: Kevin Borchert, Kathy Cook, Marty Fattig, Cindy Kadavy, Dave Palm, and Jina Ragland.

Members Present via Video (Non-Voting): Brian Sterud and Anne Turman

Members Absent: Gary Cochran, Jan Evans, Dr. Jim McClay, Alison Wisco, and Linda Wittmuss.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 31, 2022 MINUTES*

Approval of the minutes was tabled.

CYNCHHEALTH UPDATE

Kevin Borchert and Robert Wagner, CynchHealth

Kevin Borchert and Robert Wagner gave an update on CynchHealth. A few highlights are listed below:

- 42 hospitals accounting for 59% of the state's hospital beds have implemented PDMP workflow integration.
- 610 facilities are now live.
- CynchHealth continues to make investments in IT security and is completing HITRUST certification. CynchHealth expects to receive the certification by the end of November.
- The MyCynchHealth patient portal is available for Medicaid patients. The portal is at [Mycynchealth.org](https://mycynchealth.org).

Anne Byers asked if CynchHealth has considered internet access as a social determinant of health. Robert Wagner said that he would put Anne in touch with Joy Doll.

BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY FUNDING UPDATE

Anne Byers

Both the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) included programs which could be used for broadband. An interagency working group, The Connect Nebraska Working Group, is coordinating the administration of federal broadband programs.

Nebraska will receive at least \$100 million for broadband infrastructure projects from the IIJA Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Program. In order to receive the implementation funds, the State will need to submit a 5-year broadband deployment action plan. States will be required to engage

stakeholders in the development of the plan. The Nebraska Public Service Commission will be administering the BEAD funding and expects to receive its planning funding in October.

Nebraska will receive \$600,000 to develop a state digital equity plan through the IJA State Digital Equity Capacity Planning Grant Program. States which complete and submit a digital equity plan can apply for at least \$7.2 million over 5 years to distribute through a state digital equity grant program. States will be required to engage stakeholders in the development of the plan. The Nebraska Information Technology Commission/Office of the CIO will be administering the State Digital Equity Plan

States are required to address the needs of eight covered populations:

- Rural residents
- Older adults
- Members of ethnic or racial minorities
- Members of low-income households
- Those with language barriers
- Individuals with disabilities
- Veterans
- Incarcerated individuals

The grant will also promote the use of technologies such as telehealth and precision agriculture which will grow Nebraska's economy and improve the lives of Nebraskans.

eHealth Council members discussed ways to measure telehealth usage in the state and possible barriers to telehealth use. CPT codes capture telehealth use. Medicare Managed Care Organizations may have data on telehealth use. Cindy Kadavy offered to work with Anne to find out barriers to using telehealth by long-term care facilities possibly through a webinar or a poll. Marty, Cindy, and Kevin volunteered to work with Anne.

MEMBERSHIP

Dr. McClay has taken a new position as CRIO at the University of Missouri. He recommended that Dr. Hossain Liaquat, the CyncHealth Endowed Professor at UNK be considered as a member.

Paul Hakenkamp is no longer with CyncHealth. Jaime Bland recommended Robert Wagner represent CyncHealth on the eHealth Council.

Todd Searls has taken another position and has resigned.

Francie McNeil has also taken another position. She may still be interested in participating in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.