

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska)	Application No. NUSF-26
Public Service Commission, on)	
its own Motion, seeking to)	Clarification of the Motion
establish a long-term universal)	of the Nebraska Hospital
service funding mechanism.)	Association, et al for
)	Approval of its Statewide
)	Telehealth Plan
)	
)	Filed: August 25, 2004
)	

This motion is being filed to clarify a motion made on July 9, 2004 by the Nebraska Hospital Association to seek approval for the support of certain telecommunications services to connect all rural hospitals. In comments filed October 24, 2002, the Nebraska Hospital Association requested support for certain hospitals designated as "Critical Access Hospitals" and for rural hospitals not designated as "Critical Access Hospitals". Rural hospitals include all rural hospitals designated as "Critical Access Hospitals", and rural hospitals not designated as "Critical Access Hospitals" that are eligible for Federal Universal Service Fund support for telecommunications services with the exception of Veterans Administration Hospitals, Indian Service Hospitals and the State of Nebraska's Regional Centers.

On December 17, 2002, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) entered Progression Order Number 3 in the above captioned proceeding. In that Order the Commission found it in the public's interest to allocate a portion of the monies from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) to promote affordable telecommunications access for rural hospitals to larger health care facilities. The Commission found that an allocation of support would have a favorable impact on affordability of rates. The Commission found that monetary support for advanced telecommunications services will pass through communities, will promote quality health care in rural Nebraska communities, and benefit rural Nebraska communities overall.

The Commission directed the NUSF Department, all NETCs, and the Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) to work together to develop a specific plan or plans for support approval not to exceed \$900,000 per calendar year. Any other telecommunications provider was not to be precluded from participating and seeking designation of a NETC. On May 23, 2003, the NHA filed a plan for initial approval, which included support for all rural hospitals consistent with the \$900,000 limitation. The NHA has worked with the NUSF Department to clarify issues and has worked with all

interested hospitals, NETCs, the Nebraska Information Network, the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC), the Telehealth Subcommittee of the NITC Community Counsel, and the State of Nebraska to produce details of the projected costs of the telecommunications services for fiscal year 2003-04 and for details of a plan for the authorization of costs not to exceed an authorized amount for fiscal year 2004-05. As specified in the plan attached to the July 9, 2004 motion, certain hospitals are also included for the purpose of connecting rural hospitals into a statewide communication network.

As required by the Commission in Progression Order Number 3:

1. The cost or authorization of expenditures requested by the NHA will not exceed the \$900,000 per calendar year allocated by the Commission.
2. The grant of NUSF support is supplemental and secondary to the receipt of Federal Universal Service Fund support, grants and other available monetary sources.
3. Rural hospitals demonstrate that they are first availing themselves of any accessible federal support and grant monies.
4. All rural hospitals are responsible for picking up a reasonable portion of their costs for connectivity.

The NHA respectfully requests the authorization of specific monetary payments to NETCs as outlined in the plan attached to its motion dated July 9, 2004 for telecommunications services provided in fiscal year 2003-04 and for authorization of projected monetary payments in fiscal year 2004-05 not to exceed the amounts outlined in its filing and motion dated July 9, 2004.

Dated: August 25, 2004

Respectfully Submitted,

The Nebraska Hospital Association
on behalf of its member hospitals

By: Roger S. Keetle
Nebraska Hospital Association
1640 "L" Street, Suite D
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 458-4900

Roger S. Keetle (#12164)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 24th day of August, 2004, the original and five (5) paper copies together with an electronic copy of the forgoing motion was served on Andy S. Pollock, Executive Director of the Commission, by hand delivery, and one copy was served upon other parties to this proceeding as noted in the attached list by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid.

Roger S. Keetle

Stephen Berman
Verizon Wireless
1300 "I" St., NW, Floor 400W
Washington, DC 20005

Loel P. Brooks
Brooks, Pansing, Brooks, PC, LLO
984 Wells Fargo Cntr., 1284 "O"
St.
Lincoln, NE 68508-1424

Deonne L. Bruning
2901 Bonacum Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68502

Patricia Casurella
Citizens Communications Co.
14450 Burnhaven Dr.
Burnsville, MN 55306

Timothy F. Clare
Rembolt, Ludtke & Berger, LLP
1201 Lincoln Mall, #102
Lincoln, NE 68508

Mark Fahleson
Rembolt, Ludtke & Berger, LLP
1201 Lincoln Mall, #102
Lincoln, NE 68508

Charon Harris
Verizon Wireless
1300 "I" St., NW, Floor 400W
Washington, DC 20005

Kevin J. Kelly
TCA, Inc.
1465 Kelly Johnson Blvd., #200
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Robert R. Logsdon
Cox Communications, Inc.
11505 W. Dodge Rd.
Omaha, NE 68154

Steve Meradith
Alltel Communications
1440 M St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Mike Orcutt
Nebraska Technology & Telecom
809 N. 96th St., #210
Omaha, NE 68114

Kevin Saville
Citizens/Frontier Communications
2378 Wilshire Blvd.
Mound, MN 55364

Kenneth Schiffman
Sprint Telecommunications
6450 Sprint Pkwy., Disney A
Overland Park, KS 66251-6100

Paul M. Schudel
Woods & Aitken, LLP
301 S. 13th St., #500
Lincoln, NE 68508-2578

Steven G. Seglin
Crosby Guenzel LLP
134 S. 13th St., #400
Lincoln, NE 68508

Jacki Synhorst
Alltel Communications
1440 M St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Jill Vinjamuri-Gettman
Kutak Rock Law Offices
1650 Farnam St.
Omaha, NE 68114

Gary Witt
At&T Law Department
1875 Lawrence St.
Denver, CO 80202

Larry C. Woods, General Manager
K & M Telephone Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 187
Chamber, NE 68725