

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. NUSF-57.01
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, seeking to)
administer the Nebraska)
Telehealth Program: Nebraska)
Hospital Association's September) ORDER APPROVING FUNDING
3, 2010 request to add Alegent)
Lakeside Hospital to the)
telehealth network for support)
of telehealth services to rural)
communities.) Entered: November 9, 2010

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

On June 27, 2006 the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened the above-captioned docket establishing a procedure for administering the Telehealth Program and making adjustments to the approved Telehealth Plan.

By letter received September 3, 2010, the Nebraska Hospital Association ("NHA") requested that Alegent Lakeside Hospital ("Alegent") be added to the telehealth network and receive support for telehealth services to rural communities. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on September 29, 2010. No protests or interventions were filed.

On July 6, 2010, Alegent became a member of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network in order to support rural communities, providers, and patients by providing clinical consultations, administrative meetings and provider education. Additionally, Alegent is initiating telehealth technology and will be installing tele-emergency technology in its emergency department pending a federal grant award during the 2010-2011 federal grant-funding year. The University of Nebraska Medical Center will serve as Alegent's hub site. Because Alegent is an urban hospital, it is not eligible for funding through the FCC Rural Health Care Program. Therefore, NHA and Alegent are requesting up to \$167.38 in support from the Nebraska Telehealth Program.

Based on the information received, the Commission finds that the request to add Alegent Lakeside Hospital to the Nebraska telehealth network should be approved. The Commission also finds that the funding support request for up to \$167.38 per month from the Nebraska Telehealth Program should also be approved. The

approval granted herein does not affect the amount of the funding available for the Telehealth Network and the addition of Alegent Lakeside Hospital does not increase the cap imposed by the Commission for annual Telehealth support from the NUSF.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Nebraska Hospital Association's September 3, 2010 request to add Alegent Lakeside Hospital to the telehealth network shall be, and is hereby, approved.

IT IS ALSO ORDERED that Alegent Lakeside Hospital shall receive support up to \$167.38 per month from the Nebraska Telehealth Program.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 9th day of November, 2010.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director