

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska)	Application No. NUSF-57
Public Service Commission, on)	
its own motion, seeking to)	PROGRESSION ORDER NO. 1
administer the Nebraska)	
Telehealth Program.)	Entered: October 3, 2006

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened the above-captioned proceeding to administer the Nebraska Telehealth Program. Telehealth program support was previously approved by Commission order in NUSF-26, Progression Order No. 3, on December 17, 2002. There, the Commission instructed the Nebraska Hospital Association, the Nebraska eligible telecommunications carriers (NETCs), and the Nebraska Telecommunications Infrastructure and Public Safety (NTIPS) Director to work in a collaborative manner on a Telehealth Plan which the Commission could approve. The Commission also required the NTIPS Department to establish procedures to process the invoices, collect reports and, disburse program support where appropriate.

On June 13, 2006, after notice and hearing, the Commission entered an order approving the Telehealth Plan filed by the Nebraska Hospital Association. The approved plan was attached to the Commission's order and specifically set forth a list of hospitals, connection charges and other Commission approved charges eligible for support. The Telehealth Plan support is disbursed to NETCs for providing access to the hospitals approved by the Telehealth Plan. Currently, the NTIPS Department reviews relevant billing information to determine whether support payment requests are within the scope of the Commission's order in NUSF-26, and whether support should be disbursed.

In this proceeding, the Commission intends to further the process of establishing policies and procedures for the Telehealth program, which may eventually be codified in rules and regulations. The Commission incorporated into this proceeding, the record of the NUSF-26 docket pertaining to the Nebraska Telehealth Program. The present docket will now be the vehicle by which the NTIPS Director may bring administrative requests for adjusting approved program support to the Commission for approval.

On June 27, 2006, the Commission released a proposal for processing Telehealth program support requests administratively which was as follows:

1. Any requests to adjust the Telehealth Plan approved by the Commission, are to be filed in writing with the NTIPS Director.
2. The NTIPS Director will review any proposed corrections, deletions, or other adjustments filed and will make a recommendation to the Commission at a public meeting of the Commission.
3. The Commission will determine whether to approve or deny the recommendation of the NTIPS Director in a public meeting.
4. If any person is aggrieved by the Commission's approval or denial of a requested adjustment, said person may file a Motion for Reconsideration with the Commission within 10 days from the date of Commission action.
5. The Commission will hold a hearing on a Motion for Reconsideration if a hearing is requested in writing.
6. The Commission will make a determination after a written transcript has been completed. Written findings and conclusions will accompany the Commission's determination.

The Nebraska Hospital Association commented in support of the Commission's proposal. No one commented in opposition to the proposed procedure.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission, that the procedure described herein for the administration of the Nebraska Telehealth Program be and it is hereby adopted.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 3rd day of
October, 2006.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director