

**MINUTES**

**JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**Tuesday, December 18, 2012**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Room 151, State Capitol**

**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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The Joint Interim Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology met on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., in Room 151 of the State Capitol, in Little Rock, Arkansas. The following committee members attended:

Senator Linda Chesterfield, Chair; and Representatives Mike Patterson, Chair; Karen Hopper, Greg Leding, Fredrick Love, and Buddy Lovell.

Also attending: Representative Clark Hall

Representative Patterson called the meeting to order. He recognized Senator Chesterfield for comments.

**Consideration to approve Minutes of November 8, 2012 [Exhibit B]**

**Representative Buddy Lovell made the motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the motion was approved by the Committee.**

**State of Arkansas Strategic Plan for Information Technology 2013-2015 [Exhibit C]**

**Ms. Claire Bailey, Director/ State Chief Technology Officer, Department of Information Systems (DIS),** was recognized and gave a brief overview of the State of Arkansas Strategic Plan for Information Technology (SASPIT) 2013-2015. Ms. Bailey stated that SASPIT is updated each biennial. SASPIT is a self reporting process. State agencies, boards, and commissions must file an information technology plan. The SASPIT deals with the delivery of public services throughout state government and it does not include the public schools system. Upon request by the committee, Ms. Bailey will provide the committee with a detailed list of entities that have submitted their plan.

Ms. Bailey noted that she also serves as chair of the Arkansas State Technology Council (ASTC). She said there is a great deal of technology trends that impact Arkansas in which, ASTC reports the progress towards those trends. According to Ms. Bailey, state enterprise initiatives are the "business drivers" that help to move Arkansas forward. ASTC works with national organizations as well external groups to ensure that Arkansas is moving forward. According to Ms. Bailey, the Centers for Disease Control reported that Arkansas leads the nation in mobility and has one of the highest percentages for wireless only households. She noted that 35% of Arkansans have wireless cell devices.

Senator Chesterfield asked how Arkansas' University Systems are able to acquire broadband connectivity but K-12 schools were not. Ms. Bailey replied that K-12 school districts are connected through the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) via DIS network. DIS has partnered with Mr. Shelby Johnson, State Geographic Information Officer with Arkansas Geographic Information Office (GIS) to provide each student with a kilobit per student rate that is established through ADE. The state network connects to the schools for the public school reporting network and state video network. Ms. Bailey stated that DIS provides a level of connectivity but is not the only connectivity choice for school districts, noting that school districts can negotiate on their own for additional bandwidth. Ms. Bailey reported that Arkansas has a budget to provide a specific amount of bandwidth per student and those funds are managed and bandwidth is distributed through DIS in partnership with the ADE.

Senator Chesterfield stated that some school district superintendents have expressed that they would like to spend their own money to get connected to ensure that they have the broadband access required to meet the needs of Common Core and other technology issues. Representative Buddy Lovell stated that ADE has 13 educational cooperatives in which, some of them are partnering together to connect all of the schools in their areas with fiber optics. He concluded by stating that superintendents can get resource information that may be available from these cooperatives, noting that they can also contact ADE. Senator Chesterfield reported that the

Arkansas Research and Educational Optical Network (ARE-ON) provided some of the connectivity for each university. She noted that each school district has the same needs for broadband connectivity that will be required in the coming years. Ms. Bailey concurred with Representative Lovell's comments. She suggested that a future committee agenda item for discussion could include investigating the Fayetteville Pilot for connecting those resources. Ms. Bailey noted that AETN has a tremendous amount of outreach for education. Senator Chesterfield stated that several educational cooperatives are doing a great job but there are various school districts (many of them are in rural areas) that are not connected. She stressed the importance of bridging the digital divide among children.

Senator Chesterfield asked what plans are available to enhance the broadband connectivity for school districts. Ms. Bailey replied that this is an issue that we fight because some school districts have opportunities for more capacity than others. She said that ConnectArkansas, DIS, and the provider community are working together to help address the broadband issue. DIS is the contract negotiator for the providers to as relates to the state network. Ms. Bailey reported that DIS has put in a series of bids for the entire state for different levels of broadband services such as, wireless options, consumer class internet options, etc. According to Ms. Bailey, her role through the State Agencies, Boards and Commissions is to assist ADE with ensuring that the same level of service is provided across the state to each student. DIS has a list of school districts that have limited broadband connectivity options and they are working with the providers to increase the capacity for those school districts.

### **Role and Responsibility of the Chief Information Officer, Bureau of Legislative Research [Handout #1]**

**Mr. Jim Schratz, Chief Information Officer, Bureau of Legislative Research**, was recognized. He stated that the Legislative Information Systems (LIS) office was created to provide a single point of contact for computer related services for the Arkansas House of Representatives, the Arkansas Senate, and the Bureau of Legislative Research. LIS staff consists of 3 network personnel, 6 full-time programmers, 6 user support personnel, 3 digital imaging personnel, 2 helpdesk operators, and 2 BLR receptionists. LIS provides the software and the tools needed for members to host the legislative process.

Mr. Schratz gave a brief overview of LIS. He stated that LIS currently supports approximately 290 full time users; this number increases to 330 during regular sessions. LIS has over 50 in-house developed, written and maintained computer programs, 2 server rooms with a combined total of 21 network and virtual servers, 44 wireless access devices, over 40 network switches, more than 15 miles of fiber and wired infrastructure, and over 17 terabytes of historical and current data from the General Assembly. LIS provides the following services:

- management of internal computer network services, including: email, internet, virus protection, network security, user account and permissions
- computer application development for the legislative process including: committee agendas, bill drafting and tracking, meeting schedules, members pay, House and Senate session payroll, chamber automation software, and website. LIS also supports the voting software systems in the chambers.
- configuration, ordering, setup and deployment of all servers, desktop and laptop computers, tablets and iPads; printers, copiers, and digital imaging solutions
- user support for desktop applications
- technical support and repair for desktop and laptop computers and printers
- digital imaging of all records, including committee agenda, handouts from meetings and minutes
- manage software licensing for users
- multimedia and sound equipment in all committee rooms

For legislative members, LIS prepares the laptops issued by the chamber and provides technical support as needed, both in person and via email or telephone. LIS also provides limited support to members for mobile devices, PDA's, Blackberry's, iPhones, etc. Mr. Schratz concluded by stating that LIS is committed to enhancing the information systems process and helping the members do their job.

### **Update on Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) [Handout #2]**

**Ms. Cherry Duckett, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional and Governmental Relations, UAMS**, was recognized and stated that UAMS has been chosen nationally to be highlighted in January by the under secretary; and will be one of four panelist guests. According to Ms. Duckett, Arkansas will be the most connected state in the nation this summer.

**Ms. Debbie Green, BTOP Project Director, Arkansas delink, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)**, was recognized and presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Arkansas Telemedicine." She reported that the National

Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) administers the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) within three categories;

- **comprehensive community infrastructure** – projects to deploy new or improved broadband Internet facilities (i.e., laying new fiber-optic cables or upgrading wireless towers) and to connect community anchor institutions such as, schools, libraries, hospitals, and public safety facilities. These networks help ensure sustainable community growth and provide the foundation for enhanced household and business broadband Internet services.
- **public computer centers** – projects to establish new public computer facilities or upgrade existing ones that provide broadband access to the general public or to specific vulnerable populations, such as low-income individuals, the unemployed, seniors, children, minorities, and people with disabilities.
- **sustainable broadband adoptions** – projects that focus on increasing broadband Internet usage and adoption, including among vulnerable populations where broadband technology traditionally has been underutilized. Many projects include digital literacy training and outreach campaigns to increase the relevance of broadband in people's everyday lives.

Ms. Green gave an update regarding the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). She stated that UAMS was awarded the grant in August 2010; it will end July 31, 2013. According to Ms. Green, a lot of broadband equipment was deployed to site locations in 2011. By the end of 2012, BTOP will have completed and deployed all of the equipment and broadband. HUB connectivity was installed this year and the infrastructure equipment that controls the video network will be implemented as well. The scheduling application and reporting application will go online and be made available to the community anchoring institutions throughout the state. In 2013, BTOP will focus on sustainability to help the anchoring institutions understand how they can use this technology for the good of their companies, organizations, and the citizens of Arkansas.

Ms. Green noted that BTOP is partnering with the Arkansas Tele-Health Network (ATOM). This network consists of over 400 healthcare providers throughout Arkansas where telemedicine is being deployed. BTOP's focus has been on telehealth, healthcare, research, higher education, and emergency services. According to Ms. Green, 262 public computer centers have been deployed in public locations throughout Arkansas to assist individuals with applying for employment, locating health information, etc.

Ms. Green briefly discussed the distribution of the grant funds. She stated that 23% or \$22 million were used for telemedicine equipment, \$28 million for fiber optics and routes to serve the community colleges, \$5 million for network equipment, \$24 million for broadband connectivity charges, and \$23 million for network infrastructure. Ms. Green stated that \$34 million is committed to telecom providers in Arkansas for fiber usage and broadband. According to Ms. Green, all 75 counties have telemedicine equipment.

Representative Hopper asked is there a map that shows the locations of the public computer centers. **Ms. Green replied that there is a list available that she will make available to the Committee. Representative Patterson requested that copies of the presentation be distributed to the Committee as well.**

In response to Representative Hopper's question regarding whether or not there are any grant funds remaining. Ms. Green replied that all of the grant money has been distributed or spent to help organizations with inside wiring, noting that colleges are being funded through ARE-ON. According to Ms. Green, there is a membership (ongoing) cost for operational costs after the grant funds are depleted. She is not sure how Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON) charges its membership rates but the telemedicine side will charge whatever the costs are. **Representative Patterson requested a breakdown of ARE-ON's membership rates for colleges.**

**Mr. Michael Manley, Director of Outreach, Center for Distance Health, UAMS,** was recognized and stated that the public/private partnership that UAMS has provided through the grant has brought everyone to the table to benefit the citizens in Arkansas, reiterating that Arkansas has one of the top programs in the nation. According to Mr. Manley, the "spoke" site will consist of a high-definition camera and a telemedicine machine that will be available to the telemedicine physicians. There will be one thousand pieces of endpoints connected.

Regarding the education applications, Mr. Manley stated that research is a very big component for all of the 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities in Arkansas. He stated that telemedicine is bringing medicine and healthcare closer to the patient and ER trauma unit will be one of UAMS's leading programs within a few years. Mr. Manley reported that there are 5 hand surgeons across Arkansas that will be equipped with iPads to access the telemedicine network wherever they are with connections to all 75 counties, specifically the emergency rooms.

According to Mr. Manley, the psychiatric/mental health providers for children are moving towards telemedicine technology due to a limited number of child psychiatrists in Arkansas. UAMS is also starting a sickle cell disease program that will serve 1,200 patients

across Arkansas that need specialized care. UAMS is working with prisons to provide medical services to inmates. Mr. Manley reported that UAMS has also seen an increase in correctional medical services.

Mr. Manley stated that UAMS-Antenatal and Neonatal Guidelines, Education and Learning System (ANGELS) program uses telemedicine to care for high risk OB patients across Arkansas, noting that the program provides service to over 3,000 of these patients per year. Over 30 clinic sites are available to these patients across Arkansas. Utilizing interactive compressed video, weekly telemedicine conferences enables physicians to confer with maternal-fetal medicine specialists in real time about individual cases. In addition, ultrasounds can be read in real time, and ANGELS offers assistance in training local technicians. Clinical telemedicine consultations are available that allow patients, local physicians, and UAMS physicians to talk together and see each other, bringing subspecialty support directly to hometowns. ANGELS also provides a call center to provide 24-hour support for physicians to consult with maternal-fetal medicine specialists when requested regarding patient management issues. As part of the ANGELS outreach effort, women seeking support for concerns related to their pregnancy, labor and delivery, or post-partum courses can also utilize the services of the call center.

**Senator Chesterfield requested that the names of the towns or cities where the telemedicine sites are located be added to the maps. Ms. Duckett replied that this information will be added and sent electronically to committee staff.**

Mr. Manley stated that UAMS is proud of the Arkansas Stroke Assistance Virtual Support (AR SAVES) program, noting that Arkansas is ranked #1 nationally in stroke mortality. According to Mr. Manley, UAMS has 5 neurologists on call 24/7. Mr. Manley explained that UAMS delivers a tissue plasminogen activator (TPA), a clot busting drug to individuals that may be having a stroke. This drug was delivered in Arkansas emergency room less than 1% of the time before the AR SAVES program was implemented now it has increased to 40%. According to Mr. Manley, 40 sites are able to deliver this drug.

UAMS has a training site available for individuals to learn about telemedicine and it is working closely with individuals in India, South America, and Japan.

Senator Chesterfield asked how UAMS is advertising the BTOP and telemedicine programs. Ms. Green replied that her team consists of 8 program managers that go out to each one of the anchoring institutions to work with their staff members. BTOP is also working with the Learn Telehealth group that teaches individuals about telemedicine and its equipment. Ms. Green reported that large conferences are scheduled to educate individuals. After the first of the year, BTOP is planning to have regional conferences within the state to help inform and educate the community leaders. Mr. Manley pointed out that as an advertising tool, AR SAVES has billboards posted in various locations. Senator Chesterfield noted that there are public service announcements spots available on every television network.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.