

BCN Advisory Committee
June 20, 2008

Attendees: Joan Wade, Larry Bader, Tom Taibel, Elena Pokot, Carol Nelson, Mike Mietz, Matt Rains(call), Dianne Kohn, Ed Meachen, Connie Bandt(call), Paul Nelson, Bob Bocher, Wayne Utke, Tim Schell, Bruce Vande Zande, Bruce Mathew

Update on overhead portion of DOA costs

- Mike Mietz is preparing a background document that will have some of this.
 - Exec summary
 - Rate info
 - Business model discussion
 - Has been sharing with Tim Schell as a draft to ensure clarity
- General overhead around 20%
- Examined annually (Bob Stuessey)
- Four elements used in calculations – costs incurred in support of:
 - TEACH
 - Headend / GigaMadMAN
 - Agency
 - Authorized Users (Folks other than the above: Counties, Tech Colleges, BadgerNet retail customers, etc.)

Update on pricing options under current contract / Pricing model confirmation

- Have had discussions regarding what pricing options might be, what model is today, and what adjustments might be available
- Contract does allow some flexibility to negotiate changes
- Perhaps look at some lower cost, less “robust” sorts of services
- Some internal options that we as a group can consider, others would require negotiations with vendors
- Status of revenue minimums are satisfactory so far
- What flexibility exists on the DOA side?
 - Some things require we use BCN
 - New services can have new rates.
 - Perhaps rate for T1 at \$500 is too high?

Library System – BCN focus group session

- Annual technical meeting
- 388 public libraries, members of 17 regional systems
- Regions provide services for individual libraries, e.g. online catalogs & circulation systems

- Originally T1s, some dropped down to lower amounts (512, 768), but some have maxed out.
- Those have then sometimes acquired other circuits from other broadband providers at lower costs. (They usually still carry BCN as well – so sometimes they have two different networks).
- Mike Mietz and Carol Mothershead attended, along with Bob Bocher & AT&T
- (Bob will send a copy)
- Libraries are content with quality/level of service, support, etc.
- However, there are situations where price of somewhat less service (e.g., DSL, cable), at some point these organizations will necessarily do that.
- Current network offers limited network bandwidth customization
- Would like to differentiate application traffic / prioritization / balancing
- Traffic is sometimes “bursty” making predictions difficult at times
- TEACH statutes have existed for some time, and perhaps it is time to adjust them as a result of changing needs
- There is more service of this sort (e.g. DSL) in more rural locations
- Anecdote: Libraries tended to have data service that stayed up during recent flooding
- Mike Mietz: People use libraries for a lot of social and governmental services now, as well.
- We have a state network. States that do not tend to be more “behind the curve”
- Concern about TEACH law, if BCN only used for support system / administrative systems.

Futures

- The state CIO agrees with need to develop vision.
- This is a good time for BCN Advisory Council to be active this area
- For changes in this contract, feedback from BCNAC would best occur by early autumn, so that the information can get to DOA Secretary and/or Governor (perhaps as part of State strategic IT plan)
- November will start 3rd year of vendor contract, and “E-Rate season”
- If we determine longer term will require transition to a new procurement, that would require more formality.

Scheduling of visioning retreat

- Envision as ½ day (or full day – later decided on full day) activity
- BCN customers (but not vendors)
- BCNAC with some augmentation
- Do we need to meet more often during this period?
- Scope of meeting?

- Current contract? Perhaps visioning retreat isn't the place to do that.
- Note that current contract is 5 years, with perhaps up to 5 1-year extensions.
- Going forward?
- Do visioning on longer-term basis, but then see what we can address on short term afterward?
- Suggestion:
 - Vision, long term focus, exercise in August, share with DOA
 - Another meeting to look at what we can do short term, maybe early in September
 - Formal meeting later in September
 - Probably will need another visioning follow on
- Idea is to come up with a “trajectory” of where we are headed over time.
 - However, we also want to not lose track of what we can do something in shorter time frame.
 - Perhaps cross check long-term vision against short term, or, a special meeting to discuss shorter-term issues.
- Scheduling (Note: Re-iterated later in the minutes)
 - August full day
 - Thursday August 7th, full day
 - Schedule Pyle Center (depending upon size of group): Executive Committee
 - September meeting for shorter term
 - Thursday September 4th, usual time.

Stakeholder representation at retreat

- BCNAC lacks local government representation. Could DOA look for us?
- GIPAW might be another group to approach
- TEACH would like to be more involved
- (Should we at least have a non-voting TEACH member on BCNAC) -- Put on agenda for Sept. 18th meeting to adjust the charter.

Agenda for the retreat

- See earlier discussion above
- Business requirement collection (what we now do, or fail to do, or perceive that we will need to do). Examples:
 - Convergence or divergence choices
 - Do you split off things that are causing divergence, and do the diverging services remain affiliated

- How do these things affect pricing?
- Managed and unmanaged video (the landscape has changed)
- Impact of energy costs on needs for distributed services to more locations
- Subsidies and postalization
- At what rate will bandwidth increases come at us
- What issues exist from sharing networks in government and education, and sharing at what layer(s) in the network
- Research needs
- Are there some things where we can just use commodity services?
- Our choices affect broadband network deployment throughout the state
- Correctional use has some specialized security requirements
- Statutes: TEACH, E-Rate. (Note that changing legislation requires long lead times, and the consensus is that changing federal legislation is not a suitable objective at this time).
- Some customers are under these subsidies, others are not
- Identify obstacles to moving forward, which can lead to an action plan
- Need for more robustness as dependence on network increases

- Agenda development: Ed Meachen, Bob Bocher, Mike Mietz
 - Information on statutory language would be helpful

Candidate(s) for focus group facilitator

- What kind of expertise do we need?
 - Want someone good at recording and developing requirements.
 - May want a good facilitation meeting person, too.

- Info for visioning session
 - Aforementioned background document being gathered by Mike Mietz
 - Customer group survey?
 - Need distribution contacts
 - So may not be ready by August 7th
 - Information on collateral impact

Future meetings

- Visioning meeting, Thursday August 7th
- BCNAC Meeting, 3PM September 4th
- Regular meeting September 18th

