

# Connecticut Broadband Internet Coordinating Council

---

Minutes from Oct. 5, 2009, 9-11 a.m., Meeting – Legislative Office Building, 1B

## CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS

**Time: 9:06**

**Lou Manzione**, *Council Chairman*, Univ. of Hartford

**Rob Earley**, Comcast

**John Emra**, AT&T

**Jack McCoy**, Town of Manchester

**Pat O'Brien**, *Ex-officio*, OPM

**Mike Chowaniec**, Cablevision

**Anthony Santino**, Independent Businesses

**Bill Vallée**, Office of Consumer Counsel

**Bob Mundy**, *Ex-officio*, DPUC

Not Present: Rob Vietzke, *Vice Chairman* (Internet 2), Ed Murphy (JDSU), Greg Shimer (Consultant)

## Vote on June Minutes

Manzione called for motion to approve the June minutes. Mundy motioned. Chowaniec seconded. All were in favor; none opposed. No abstentions.

## Guest Speakers (see attendant presentations on CBICC website)

❖ **Curtis Hill** -- Concepts for Adaptive Learning (CFAL)

❖ **Howie Hodges** -- One Economy Corporation, *Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and External Partnerships*

**Curtis Hill of CFAL** was invited by John Emra. Hill cited the New Haven-based non-profit's long relationship with AT&T. CFAL has been working with the CT State Library to provide broadband access to low-income homes, working through a grant from CT Commission for Educational Technology. They have funding through June 2010 but then it will terminate; contractual obligation to deliver 225 more computers; waiting list and training scheduled through January-February. Broadband continues to escalate in cost while the low-income families have no way to attain on their incomes.

**Mission** – To help improve education for public school children. Everything CFAL does is based on technology. They take a holistic approach with their Tech 4 All (T4A) program that involves the student, parent, teacher and community – each of the major touch points for students.

- Teachers (90 teachers educated so far on integrating technology into their classrooms)
- Parents (parent computer program to 1,300 families in New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury and Hartford). The program includes a computer, training, 1-year of high-speed service and technical support. (Through AT&T partnering they are able to extend the service to an additional two years).

**Partnerships** – CFAL partners with only corporations or universities, like Computer Science Corp., Pratt & Whitney, Electric Boat, Yale University, Quinnipiac University etc, taking computer donations from them. They do not take general computer donations because of quality issues. CFAL works directly with the Housing Authorities/Section 8 groups of each city: New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury and Hartford.

- **Goal 1. Increase technology access for low-income students and families**
- **Goal 2. Improve learning opportunities and educational outcomes for low-income students** (Impact shown to 750+ low-income students through improved grades.)
- **Goal 3. Increase technology skills for family members of low-income students** (9 hours training provided over 2-week period; small classes so training is as individualized as possible. Includes Resume wizard, emailing attachments, anti-virus software use etc.)

## **Q&A with Curtis Hill**

# Connecticut Broadband Internet Coordinating Council

---

McCoy asked about workforce development stats but Hill said that is outside their mission of public school children education. Chowanec asked about how ages of students chosen. Hill cited the criteria for the program:

- Home must have school age children k-12
- No working computer in the home
- AT&T land line phone service (They have been able to open it up beyond just AT&T service)
- Have to be low-income Section 8, HUD housing

Manzione asked if there was effort to provide internet & training on wireless devices since some families may opt not to have land lines. Hill said the focus is on an in-home computer because it becomes a shared resource among family members.

Vallée asked if the process is scalable. Hill said it is easily scalable and replicable. His original unsolicited proposal to the state 3 years ago was for 7,200 computers; so funding is the only hold back. Original numbers showed that 37% of the low-income families *did* have computers in the home so they were aiming for the leftover gap. However, spot research knocking on doors and information gathered from the Housing Authority, showed 62% did not have computers. \$900 cost per participant x 400 families would be \$360,000

**Howie Hodges of One Economy (OE)** was invited by Rob Earley. One Economy started 9.5 years ago.

**OE Key Goals** are making Broadband: *Available, Affordable, Adopted*. They have a Supply & Demand strategy. Hodges cited the PEW research 4 barriers to broadband adoption are:

- Cost of hardware
- Cost of provisioning (internet service provider)
- Literacy
- Understanding the value

**Partners:** Hodges cited the partnership with Comcast, allowing them to roll out their curriculum program to 22 cities. The 12-part curriculum for ages 14 to 21 gets youth engaged in the community; includes leadership training, financial literacy, personal development, digital literacy, civic journalism, environment/sustainability issues et al. Students earn a stipend. Through the program kids have logged 58K service hours.

OE works with other partners as well and it is through a Memorandum of Understanding with OE that CFAL, for example, is able to provide the 2 years of free AT&T service to participants in their program. OE has a major grant from AT&T to provide several thousand DSL lines for free and since OE has no physical presence in CT, they can deploy those DSL lines through CFAL.

OE looks at whether the technology introduction meets people where they can be found. They have an iPhone like pane on website that guides people to resources in their community, so OE is able to serve as an aggregator in that way. OE tries to be internet savvy for the internet amateur. It's not just building the technology bridges and infrastructure but maximizing the opportunities, providing relevant content, meeting people where they are. Hodges also cited OE's Public Internet Channel which received early support from Sen. McCain and then Sen. Obama.

**Policy Recommendations:** Get the Universal Service Fund (USF) to mandate inclusion of in-home access to broadband. Mandate the inclusion of infrastructure that permits "in-home" access to high speed Internet connectivity in all new public housing units and public housing redevelopment projects. Target affordable

# Connecticut Broadband Internet Coordinating Council

---

housing because that is where the low-income population lives; make it a home appliance that comes with the home.

- 1) Advocate for students with the USF e-rate program to allow for federal funding to provide 1 to 1 laptop for students grades 6-12
- 2) Expand Title 1 funding to teachers, students and parents who receive training in technology rich educational services & applications.
- 3) Expand and encourage civic participation, youth and seniors
- 4) State tax credits or other incentives to individuals or families who purchase services & equipment

Hodges said the focus should be public awareness, relevant content, and digital literacy, which is particularly important. Digital literacy is where limited state resources should be spent.

During the Q&A, Santino asked about how they handle machines that are damaged or broken. Hodges emphasized that they are not in the hardware business. He cited the service curriculum in which young people become, in a way, the “geek squad” of the neighborhood.

Manzione asked about WiFi and whether that is deployed as another solution. Hodges said, yes, they do both and perhaps more WiFi. He cited a complex in Los Angeles where the property manager is able to charge residents a small fee (maybe \$5 per month) to everyone using the WiFi.

## **Council Term Dates**

Ann Bertini (Council admin support c/o CASE) said she spoke with Attorney Jenna Padula of the Legislative Commissioner’s Office who said that the two-year term cited in legislation takes precedence over the 2009 end dates in appointment letters that began in 2007, because of the fact that the council did not get under way until 2008. Re-appointment letters were secured for the two council members who had 1-year appointments starting in 2008: Rob Earley and Mike Chowanec.

## **STIMULUS UPDATES**

**DPUC** — Bob Mundy reviewed the status of the DPUC application. DPUC applied for \$5M grant for mapping. He said they may not get the entire amount but hopefully at least \$3.8M. There is a 20% match built into the grant. See data collection docket 09-08-04, DPUC Collection of State-Level Broadband Mapping Data. Co-Lead staff on the application attended the meeting with Mundy, Tom Sholtes, Utilities Examiner, and Frank Francisconi, Lead Rate Specialist. They are preparing to collect data after receiving the award through docket 09-08-04 which is already open.

The consultant that DOIT intends to hire will process the data for the GIS map. Bill Vallée noted that all 50 states are applying for the mapping grants. Some states have already received questions back from NTIA. Since there is \$250M available he is hopeful that CT will receive the full \$5M. Vallée also mentioned that the deadlines on all of the applications are sliding. If the federal government asks for unrealistic data deadlines after the award, then CT will push back. He added that process has been ad hoc but becoming more formalized through the NTIA process.

The Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA) has allocated \$350M nationwide for mapping. See the July 8, 2009 Federal Register at [http://www.ntia.doc.gov/frnotices/2009/FR\\_BroadbandMappingNOFA\\_090708.pdf](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/frnotices/2009/FR_BroadbandMappingNOFA_090708.pdf). The Recovery Act allocated \$250M for the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). See the July 9, 2009 Federal Register at [http://www.ntia.doc.gov/frnotices/2009/FR\\_BBNofA\\_090709.pdf](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/frnotices/2009/FR_BBNofA_090709.pdf).

**CT-Muni-Net BTOP application** — Jack McCoy updated the Council on his work with a group of municipalities that are applying together under the name CT Municipal Network. He handed out a map to illustrate the 3 clusters of cities

# Connecticut Broadband Internet Coordinating Council

---

across the state that are part of the network with the categories within the application of connecting social, education, municipal and economic development services. They are Fibernet cities - 9 cities in 3 clusters. The group of city IT managers from each municipality with wide range of skills joined together in developing the application. The main downside in the process was that it does not cover all of CT and he cited the lack of a middle layer of government (county) organization making it difficult to respond with policies that include multi-town implementation plans. The group submitted a 3,000 page application.

After discussion about the county level of government issue, McCoy pointed out that the CT Muni Net could become an enabling entity for shared service. He said shared services are being emphasized by the state and are of interest to towns big and small. High bandwidth connectivity could help with that - citing the example of towns wanting to implement the town of Clinton's level of high-tech video surveillance for public/youth safety, or Manchester's municipal/School connectivity but not having the experience. Such expertise could be shared across the network.

Manziona asked about towns that did not or could not partake but were in the pathway of the network. McCoy said that the group developed a legal agreement for town's to join together as members of the "Connected Cluster Towns" or as "Pass-through Towns" whose Municipal Gain utility space allows them to provide a path for the CT-Muni-Net to connect the clusters and to later join the network if they desired. He cited the example of East Hartford which became a pass-through town enabling West Hartford and Hartford to actively join the northern cluster.

**Dept. of Information Technology (DOIT)** — Bill Vallée updated the council on the DOIT application since he is the Governor's Office point person helping all of the agencies with their applications. He had provided a handout of the executive summary of the application from the NTIA site. The application is for \$110M and includes projects for DOIT, Department of Public Safety (DPS) and CT Education Network (CEN). DPS has money which is helping with the matching contribution.

McCoy asked about restrictions of "need to own" by the state. Vallée said DPS-911 does lease or own projects and 911 is moving to IP; DPS has a contract with a provider. McCoy recommended that '**need to own**' could be a policy issue for the Council to address with the legislature.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Manziona briefly recapped the Sept. 1 meeting of the Council with Matt Fritz of Gov. Rell's office. He said that Fritz called for a volunteer to review CT-focused ARRA proposals and Manziona volunteered for the task as Chair of the CBICC.

He also mentioned that one of the stimulus applications includes an allocation to cover administrative needs of the council, recalling that it was for \$50K over 5 years. Vallée reported that it is part of the mapping grant, a line item in the 500K set aside for "planning."

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Rob Earley mentioned another organization called Broadband for America (<http://www.broadbandforamerica.com/>) that is also doing work to bridge the digital divide and might be worth looking into.

## **NEXT STEPS**

During the wrap-up, Manziona proposed that the next meeting on Dec. 14 be devoted to discussing a report and deliverables to the legislature for the coming legislative session. It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed and Manziona would request volunteers via email after today's meeting. The subcommittee will draft a report prior to the Dec. 14 meeting. Manziona called for anyone from the public who wanted to comment. There was none.

**Meeting Adjourned**                      **Time: 11:00 a.m.**