

DRAFT  
Minutes  
California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) Administrative Committee Meeting  
CPUC Room 2200 (9:00am to 11:30pm)  
CPUC Room 2204 (12:30pm to 3:00pm)  
November 18, 2013

Chairman Selken called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.

**Members present:** Russ A. Selken, Linda Crowe, Alik Lee, Jeff Mondon, Ana Montes, Sean McLaughlin, Calvin Chang, David J. McClure (alternate for Richard Matthews).

**Public participants:** Robert Lehman from ORA and Christopher Frost from Alternative Techs. Sue Kincaid and Vanessa Anderson from RHA.

**Staff:** Niki Bawa, Jonathan Lakritz, Sindy Yun (until 11:30am), Lauren Saine, Larry Hirsch, Karo Serle, Kim Hua, and Christopher Chow from CPUC News.

Introductions

Public Comments – none

Approval of minutes – The minutes of February 22, 2013, meeting were approved upon motion of Sean McLaughlin and second by Jeff Mondon.

1. Discussion of CTF alternates for public hospitals and rural telemedicine.
  - Russ Selken will work with Calvin Chang on alternates. Sean McLaughlin felt that CPUC is missing advice from telehealth and noted that they are undersubscribed at the federal level. Sean offered to find a person that can offer information on telehealth.

2. Staff reports

Karo Serle reported on applications.

- Ana Montes asked why 34 CBOs were rejected. Karo explained that the rejected CBOs were due to missing documents, or did not fit program rules and did not provide services at valid locations.
- Russ asked if we give courtesy calls, talk to CBOs about the deficiencies; maybe leverage RHA on the workload to help follow up with deficiency applicants.
- Alik Lee would like a breakdown on all services that CBOs offer.
- Ana asked about the categories of eligible CTF services, such as 2-1-1 and Education. Karo stated that some applicants inadvertently list 2-1-1 as an eligible service, since the CBO provides referrals for the community. 2-1-1 eligibility is granted only through Commission Resolution. Educational Instruction must be provided at the location listed on the application. A discussion

ensued as to the difference between Educational Instruction and Advocacy and the issue of minority business owner groups and trade associations such as Chambers of Commerce.

- Jeff Mondon requested a split on Schools and Libraries on the applications report.
- Sean wanted to know the impact on the fund for each category.

Kim Hua – reported on Fund Status.

Lauren – reported on status of OIR and reviewed the Scoping memo.

- Sean asked if there is a process for staff will talk about their proposal for the OIR. Jonathan replied that it would be unfair to share our proposal to the Committee when there are other participants in proceeding.
- Ana commented that she thanks staff for setting up an email address for CBOs to participate and send comments.
- Russ expressed that the committee is still interested in providing comments to the proceeding.

Kim – Budget resolution

- David McClure asked why the CTF fund was increasing
- Sean wanted to know how to file comments; can everyone arrive at a consensus? Are there disclosure requirements? Sindy replied that AC members can file comments under through their organizations, but not under their name. Russ explained that the meeting is planned for us to flesh out issues and provide feedback to PUC. Russ asked if everyone filed initial comments, and spoke briefly about Bagley-Keane. Alik replied that there were not a lot of comments filed. Robert spoke of an increase that will affect all funds.
- Jonathan Lakritz explained that the budget process is different this year. The budget needs to be based on known and predictable expenses. DOF will audit us again. Ana wanted to know if it is possible to revise the budget amount. The amount may be too low. Jonathan explained the process may change over time, but most likely we will have to redirect funds. This is a big trial year. Sean also had questions on the resolution process and how it is connected to the governor's budget. Jonathan explained the process.

Larry – Discussed CTF claims for Libraries

- Linda Crowe stated there were 186 main library jurisdictions. Russ wanted to know if they are branches of individual libraries or are they grouped together. Jonathan believes that a fraction of libraries have applied for CTF. Jeff wanted to know why Larry didn't use actual numbers (Larry represented numbers from the data request). Larry explained the difficulties in pulling actual numbers from the claims, as there are different formats and numerous carriers.
- Linda brought up the issue with the libraries wanting to connect to CENIC. This would have a \$2.5 million impact. Sean brought up an issue with a lobbyist for CENIC asking for support to get CTF funds. Would like to keep groups updated on issues but can't send out communications between groups because of Bagley Keene. Ana wanted to know if this will have surcharge implications. Jonathan answered yes, would depend on the situation. Sean also wanted to

know if we can have a person from CENIC at the committee meeting to get their perspective. Russ stated that he would try to get a CENIC representative for an AC Meeting.

- Russ brought up issues with Education. K-12 has a program called Smarter Balance where 27 states participate in online testing (12-week window) that will take place in the spring for a field test. He also mentioned adaptive testing. Not sure of what type of bandwidth size would be needed and this does not include video. Bandwidth requirements will be different in the next 2-3 years. Students will be connecting school provided iPads to the network and some will bring their own devices; therefore it is possible to have more than one device per student. 14% of schools are not connected or not connected adequately (less than T-1) – which means higher cost to connect to internet. Russ also attended a meeting with LAUSD – 538 sites with T-1 to 40/100 Gigabit connection. 16-18 sites have 10 gigabits connections. Suggested that PUC should mirror FCC's new e-rate rule changes. Device access will be eligible for CTF and there are no limitations to schools. May affect CTF. Ana stated that eligibility is campus-based, not by number of students. Ana also spoke about the impact on ratepayers if surcharges were to increase. Alik stated that ORA has tried to determine the subsidy cost per student. They are having a hard time trying to figure that out right now. Russ sees the CTF budget increasing to \$150 million in the next 2-3 years.

### 3. Update on meeting with Commissioner Peterman

- Ana participated in a meeting with six non-profits and Commissioner Peterman. They talked about the services they provide and explained how CTF helps, how they bridge the digital divide and how they target low-income groups. Most organizations have computer access available to the community. Also talked about budget size. Niki Bawa noted how the small CBOs took over functions when libraries are closed. Ana expressed concerns that computer labs no longer exist due to lack of funding, and relayed an anecdote from a CBO that Afghanistan was more connected than California
- Sean expressed that we should have free public WiFi. Libraries should leave WiFi on after hours; Linda noted that libraries turn off WiFi when closed as a security issue.

### 4. Working group session on proceedings

- Russ stated that the committee could meet in January to discuss and provide recommendations to the proceeding. Sean brought up an organization called First Net, which directs funds for public safety by funding fiber connections and asked how those funds could be leveraged with CTF. Questions how does public safety interact with CTF and all other groups/entities? Russ stated that network design for public safety is different from everything else. Different staffing, different culture and police can connect to locate network for safety.

### 5. Next meeting schedule

- Primary is January 10, 2014; backup is January 21, 2014.
- Discussion on CENIC presenting at next AC meeting – Robert Lehman suggested CENIC talk about what are the potential needs for each group, what are CENIC’s capacity to meet those needs and at what price. Where does CENIC fit in to provide those needs? Sean wanted to ask CENIC to talk about tribal groups and how they can help with education.
- Linda suggested a small working session to prepare a skeleton recommendation for OIR. Russ and Sean may meet soon to work on OIR.

Lunch break – meeting will resume at 12:30 pm in room 2204.

#### 6. RHA Report

- RHA presented progress on outreach and the proposed work plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of outreach.
- Ana and Russ suggested RHA partner with non-profit groups to help with outreach. Because some CBOs are not familiar with RHA and may not respond to outreach. Jonathan explained that we can possibly include suggestions in a new contract. Russ asked RHA if they call folks to follow-up after outreach and the answer is yes.
- Sean supports outreach provided feedback that at one of the conferences that RHA attended they only passed out flyers. This was a missed opportunity to outreach further. He is also interested if the tribal groups are included and suggested RHA include the micro areas. Chris Frost suggested that RHA should use program activity codes and not NTEE codes. Jonathan explained RHA will sort out the CBOs that do not fit.
- RHA spoke about direct mail with follow-up call as the method with the highest response rate. Robert wanted to know about the target market and Ana thinks RHA should focus and target smaller groups rather than outreach to CBOs that offer Science and Tech (based on NTEE codes) which tend to be larger corporations.
- Sean expressed confidence in RHA, but suggested they could focus their outreach, and look at entities that were rejected for CTF to facilitate screening. The focus of outreach should be to CBOs in high cost, unserved areas. Sean further suggested that CTF could look to Lifeline in targeting. He also asked if Indian tribes were included in the outreach efforts. Jonathan suggested that the issue could be addressed in comments.

Meeting adjourned at 1:32pm.