

MINUTES OF THE E-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Deena Horst at 3:37 p.m. on February 19, 2002, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary
Dean Samuelson, Assistant Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Richard Hays, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer

Others attending: See attached sheet.

Richard Hays, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO), reviewed e-Government policies related to strategic planning. (Attachment 1) He noted the pioneering efforts of the Information Network of Kansas to provide electronic access to state services, saying that adjustments must be made to move to a further level of service to Kansas citizens. He quoted Don Heiman, former Executive CITO, regarding the vision being carried out by the current Strategic Information Management (SIM) Plan, that ". . . all Kansas citizens will have access to necessary information and government services when and where they need it, without regard to geographic location or personal income." He further cited the goal of Dan Stanley, former Secretary of the Department of Administration, "...to provide electronic government services to all Kansans." Mr. Hays acknowledged these goals, but stated that there has been no plan, program or implementation strategy to achieve these goals. He made these recommendations:

1. Establish a task force with IT experience from state agencies to develop a strategic plan for e-Government;
2. Establish a steering committee from executive-level state personnel with oversight responsibilities over the strategic plan; and
3. Allow flexibility within certain guiding principles for each committee to accomplish its task.

Noting the difficulties in preparing for Y2K mitigation, Mr. Hays expressed concern that similar mistakes in management and inventory may be made regarding state-sponsored web sites and applications, urging the Committee to develop coordinated e-government initiatives. He also noted that 54% of U.S. households have Internet access, saying that traditional methods of conducting state business must be maintained in tandem with e-Government deployment.

Representative Lane noted his attendance at an ITAB (Information Technology Advisory Board) meeting that afternoon, where he learned of the SIM Plan, which he noted is already in place to address Mr. Hays' first recommendation. Representative Tafanelli commented that ITAB currently provides a governance structure for state IT, and that the ITEC (Information Technology Executive Council) is already in place, a fact which addresses Mr. Hays' second recommendation. He said augmenting the present system within the present architecture would be more suitable. Answering questions, Mr. Hays said that he was hired by and works under the authority of the LCC (Legislative Coordinating Council) to help staff the Joint Committee on Information Technology and the ITEC. Representative Holmes observed that, because of the reluctance of telephone and cable companies to provide access to rural Kansas, a dual system for government services will continue to be needed. He said another task force was unnecessary, since the problem of access is the lack of funding initiatives. Representative Cook said the downward trend for IT costs will continue to expand access to more citizens. Representative McLeland noted that KAN-ED is one of the finest educational initiatives in the past 50 years. Representative Burroughs expressed concern that e-Government initiatives maintain full accountability; he expressed appreciation for Mr. Hays' recommendations. Answering questions, Mr. Hays said that this year e-Government policies were included in the SIM Plan. He noted that the AccessKansas portal needed more uniformity throughout its web sites.

The Chair asked the Economy, State and Local, and Technology sub-committees to evaluate **HB 2719** to make sure the bill is satisfactory.

The minutes for the February 14, 2002, meeting were approved as printed. (Motion, Representative Goering; second, Representative Gatewood)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. to allow further meetings by sub-committees. The next e-Government Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2002, in Room 526-S.