

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

September 17-18, 2001
Room 531-N—Statehouse

Members Present

Senator Tim Huelskamp, Vice Chairperson
Senator Larry Salmans
Senator Jay Emler
Senator Chris Steineger
Representative John Faber
Representative Carl Krehbiel
Representative Doug Gatewood

Staff

Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Nogle, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Richard Hays, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees

William Sanders, Chief Information Officer, Kansas Department of Human Resources
Christine Ross-Baze, Director, Child Care Licensing and Registration Project, Kansas
Department of Health and Environment
Carlos Usera, Information Technology Director, Kansas Department of Corrections
Major Bill Ramsey, Central Region Commander, Kansas Highway Patrol
David Lake, Administrator, Emergency Medical Services Board
Doug Jorgensen, Senior Special Agent, Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Steve Woolington, Director, Division of Operations, Kansas Department of
Transportation
Andrew Scharf, Deputy Director, Division of Information Services and Communications,
Kansas Department of Administration
Matthew Volz, Intelligent Transportation Systems Engineer, Kansas Department of
Transportation
Jerry Niebaum, Planning Coordinator, KAN-ED
Marty Wiltze, Chief Information Officer, Kansas Turnpike Authority
Don Heiman, Executive Chief Information Technology Officer

Monday, September 17
Morning Session

Vice Chairperson Huelskamp called the meeting to order due to the absence of the Chairperson. Attachment 1 was distributed in response to a request for information from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) comparing the budgeted costs with the actual costs of SRS Information Technology (IT) projects over the past five years.

The minutes for the August 22, 2001, Joint Committee on Information Technology meeting were approved (motion by Senator Salmans; seconded by Senator Emler).

William Sanders, Chief Information Officer, Kansas Department of Human Resources (KDHR), reported on the agency's Tax, Appeals and Benefits Self-Service Project (TABS), which is intended to improve claimant service and employer tax environment (Attachment 2). Noting that the present service reduces a claimant's time of unemployment, he estimated TABS will shorten an individual's unemployment and therefore reduce payroll taxes. Further, he said the agency's workload, which increased 50 percent this year is projected to increase another 25 percent next year. TABS is intended to respond to this increased workload by initiating an Internet claim service and redirecting an estimated 20 percent of the workload. The new system will establish an employer resource center (and reduce employer inquiries), improve the call center workflow with a routing system, and institute a workload management and imaging system. The project, approved by the Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO), has a \$2.3 million contract with a vendor for design and development. Funding comes from the US Department of Labor. Answering questions, Mr. Sanders said the data used by SRS for the Kansas Payment Center originates with KDHR's W-4.

Chris Ross-Baze, Director of the Child Care Licensing and Registration Section of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), highlighted the agency's proposed project to provide a web-based information system for management of child care licensing, inspection, compliance, and enforcement (Attachment 3). She said the project is one part of the agency's response to an FY 1998 Post Audit report recommending more effective service delivery. She said the system will enable KDHE to share information with the public, the Juvenile Justice Authority, SRS, Kansas Department of Education, the State Fire Marshall's office, and other local agencies. She said the system will facilitate the licensing of the 11,400 childcare facilities and agencies in the state and aid in the 13,000 child care inspections and 3,000 complaint investigations made annually. She said the estimated \$1.2 million cost will come entirely from federal funds through SRS.

Ms. Ross-Baze said KITO had not yet approved the project. Members desired assurance that the system will be able to share information with other agencies. Answering questions, Ms. Ross-Baze said the system will have no access to Kansas Payment Center information; however, she said a system alert would automatically inform offices of canceled childcare licenses. Most importantly, information regarding childcare centers will be made available to parents through the Internet. The Committee requested from KDHE regarding the childcare licensing project, copies of the DA518 and DA519s and other corroborating information. (These documents were supplied to members later in the day and included as Attachment 9.)

Carlos Usera, Byrne Grant Project Manager, Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), reported on a new project called KASPER (Kansas Adult Supervised Population Electronic Repository), which includes an offender documentation system, an offender information management system, and links to the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) and the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) systems (Attachment 4). He said the project, which originated from a need to integrate statewide offender supervision information, will develop workflow procedures and data relationships to provide seamless information exchange among all areas of local and state law enforcement as well as with JJA, OJA, and CJIS. It will also provide field technical support, will integrate communication services and hardware, and will convert AS/400 data to SQL2000. To be fully implemented by June 2002, the system will cost a total of \$942,114, with 75 percent paid by federal funds and 25 percent from the State General Fund. Mr. Usera said the costs were included in the KDOC budget. Answering questions, he said the project was designed for mature systems, but that OJA was building a more versatile system to accommodate rural areas. He said state law enforcement has three repositories (the Juvenile Justice Information System, CJIS, and KASPER), each of which can, within certain parameters, exchange data with the other systems.

Afternoon Session

Major Bill Ramsey, Central Region Commander, Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP), reported on the use of the 800 MHz communication system currently being installed by KDOT (Attachment 5). He said the system, deployed over the eastern two-thirds of the state, provides clearer communication without skip interference. Answering questions, Major Ramsey said KDOT furnishes the radios and maintenance of radios to the KHP. Senator Salmans expressed concern that areas still on the low-band radios, especially Emergency Medical Services, could no longer communicate with KHP. Staff provided Attachment 6 in which KDOT described the original estimated cost of the 800 MHz system. The plan was conceptually approved by the Joint Committee on Computers and Telecommunications in 1994.

David Lake, Administrator for the Emergency Medical Services Board (EMS), discussed the 800 MHz radio system and how EMS is involved (Attachment 7). He stated that KSA 65-6138 requires the EMS to establish and maintain a statewide EMS communication system, but that the law predates the now obsolete 400 MHz system. He noted that local EMS units have a patchwork communication system which includes the 400 MHz, 800 MHz, cellphones, and VHF radio technology. In 1994 a National Highway Traffic Safety Board study recommended EMS participate in the 800 MHz system. However, the cost prohibits many local units from converting to the 800 MHz system. Answering questions, Mr. Lake said that EMS units that have the 800 MHz system like it, but it is too expensive for rural areas.

Doug Jorgensen, Senior Special Agent for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), reported that the agency has been using the 800 MHz system since FY 1994, purchasing radios for agents across the state as KDOT installed towers. He said the radios were exceptional assets for the KBI, enabling agents to contact local law enforcement officers,

and have proved invaluable for agents in the field. Answering questions, Mr. Jorgensen said each unit costs about \$3,000, with service provided by Motorola.

Steve Woolington, Director, Division of Operations, KDOT, reviewed the history of the 800 MHz system (Attachment 8). He noted that the original schedule and cost (14 years, \$16 million) was accelerated to 8 years and the final cost, which includes additional towers, will be \$34 million. He said the project will be completed in the spring of 2002. Edwin Geer, Installation Technician Authority for KDOT, answered some of the questions. He said using microwave rather than fiber-optic cable is less expensive and provides 99.9 percent reliability. He said that local units may request transfer of ownership for the 400 MHz towers and that many rural units are doing so. The Committee also requested information from KDOT regarding the reasons for the increased costs relating to the \$34 million expense of the 800 MHz radio project.

Tuesday, September 18 Morning Session

The Vice Chairperson noted that, as requested by the Committee, Ms. Ross-Baze had provided further information on the origination of enforcement actions taken by KDHE (Attachment 9). License suspensions and other actions originated from several sources: routine inspections, the result of background checks, child abuse registry, and complaint investigations.

Andy Scharf, Deputy Director, Division of Information Services and Communications (DISC), gave an overview of the KANSAN (Kansas Agency Network) that provides voice, data, and video to all state agencies and other units of government in Kansas. He noted that KANSAN is a leased network created by state contracts with telecommunications network providers (Attachment 10). The backbone supports KANWIN (the Kansas Wide Area Information Network), currently a data network, which eventually will evolve into an integrated services network for data, voice, video. The backbone also includes the CJIS network, serving local and state law enforcement agencies in Kansas. Mr. Scharf stated that DISC provides 24-hour, seven days a week management and support for the network through a central control center in Topeka. He said DISC has twice redesigned the network to utilize the latest technologies, the last time in 1998.

Answering questions, Don Heiman, Director, DISC, said that long-distance rates are the same for all state agencies, with the rate being established each May and revised each August. He said long distance rates continue to drop (projected 3.3 cents per minute), while connectivity rates continue to rise as demand for bandwidth increases. Mr. Scharf said DISC plans to expand telecommunications services to create a Network Access Points backbone (NAPS). An original RFP for NAPS proved too complex, causing DISC to award separate contracts for specific services. Answering further questions, Mr. Heiman said the current long-distance contract is with AT&T for two years and includes 38 million minutes at an approximate cost of 4.0 cents per minute.

Matthew Volz, State Intelligent Transportation Systems Engineer, KDOT, reviewed the Kansas Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), which he described as the use of electronics, information technology and management strategies to increase the safety and efficiency of highway traffic (Attachment 11). He said a new program, called Scout, is a joint venture with the Missouri Department of Transportation that monitors Kansas City roadways for congestion and accidents. He said the Scout Advanced Traffic Management System will be completed by December 2003. Another system being developed by KDOT and other state agencies is Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Network (CVISN), an initiative to grant permits, perform inspections, check records, and weigh commercial vehicles, without requiring vehicles to stop. Another program will provide visual weather and road conditions to interstate travelers. Mr. Volz noted that all these systems require a communications backbone, and to that end, KDOT has contracted with DTI of St. Louis to install a fiber-optic infrastructure along 700 miles of Kansas roadways. This project, begun in 1998, is nearing completion and will provide KDOT with OC-12 bandwidth expandable to OC-48. Mr. Volz said KDOT will own the conduits, handholes, and fiber-optic cable, which will be available for use by other state agencies. He estimated administrative and maintenance costs for the project to be \$2.3 million over the 30-year life of the contract and will provide a benefit to KDOT estimated to be \$74.2 million.

Answering questions, Mr. Volz said the contract with DTI will not preempt contracts with other fiber-optic companies. He said video cameras on I-135 were for monitoring traffic and did not have capacity for surveillance. He said administration and maintenance of the infrastructure would not show up as a line-item in the budget. Members expressed concern that fiber used for KAN-ED should not displace private involvement in KAN-ED. Members also requested that any further contracts with fiber-optic firms include a requirement to disclose existing fiber. Staff noted that such a requirement may require statutory change. The Committee also requested from KDOT, information about what other states received in value by allowing fiber-optic firms to lay fiber cable on public rights-of-way.

Jerry Niebaum, Planning Coordinator for KAN-ED, updated the Committee on planning for the KAN-ED network, a statutory initiative of the 2001 Legislature assigned to the Kansas Board of Regents to provide a broadband technology-based network for K-12 schools, higher education, hospitals, and libraries in Kansas (Attachment 12). He said a user advisory council and work groups are currently developing a plan to be presented to the 2002 Legislature. He said funding will come from local, state, and federal sources. Answering questions, he said KAN-ED will be available to private schools, but he was unsure about private hospitals. He stated the network will use existing services and will address the present discrepancies existing in access costs throughout the state.

Marty Wiltze, Chief Information Officer, Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA), provided information on existing fiber-optic cable along the Kansas Turnpike right-of-way (Attachment 13). He said agreements with Sprint, AT&T, AllTel, and Williams Communications include a nondisclosure clause prohibiting him from giving specific details. However, he said payments to KTA range from a one-time payment of \$1 per mile to an annual fee of \$1,700 per mile and allowed KTA to own a percentage of existing cable. Answering questions, Mr. Wiltze said no contract prohibited other fiber-optic companies from crossing KTA's right-of-way.

JCIT members discussed topics for future meetings. The Committee agreed not to meet on October 8-9, 2001. The next JCIT meeting is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, November 14-15, 2001.

Prepared by Gary Deeter
Edited by Julian Efir

Approved by Committee on:

December 14, 2001