



**Telephone Network Transition Agenda
Dec. 3, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

PUCO Staff, Connect Ohio, Ohio 911 Program Office, Frontier, Level 3/MACC, OTA, AARP Ohio, Hannah News, Windstream, CenturyLink, Southeastern Ohio Legal Services, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Ohio Consumers Counsel, OCTA, Ohio Poverty Law, Buckeye Hills-HVRDD, Cincinnati Bell, AT&T, Fibertech, Legal Hotline Managing Attorney/Pro Seniors, NRRI and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.

Welcome and introductions

Discussion questions

1. What information does the collaborative need in order to determine the number and characteristics of basic local exchange service (BLES) customers in Ohio? What granularity is required, e.g., serving wire centers, exchanges, census block etc.?
2. What information is necessary to determine the identification of alternative providers to BLES customers?
3. What information is necessary to determine the prospects of alternative providers where none exist today?
4. What type of tracking systems or database should the Commission establish for the identification of BLES customer's without sufficient alternative services?
5. Any other information you feel will be beneficial to the collaborative.

Stakeholder comments in response to discussion questions

Incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) comments

- ILECs and CLECs stressed the importance of:
 - Considering the activity occurring at the Federal Communication Commission (FCC)
 - Recalling that the climate is changing for customer and technology migration
 - Understanding that ILECs may not be a good source of information on alternative providers due to lack of awareness or inability to use information due to competitive reasons
 - Resolving pole attachment problems

- Understanding that receipt of Connect America Fund (CAF) monies does not mean the company plans on withdrawing its copper facility and requires that a company offer a voice component comparable in price to the company's urban rate

Consumer advocates and non-ILEC/CLEC comments

- Consumer advocate and non-ILEC/CLEC groups discussed:
 - How will the collaborative function in relation to disseminating information to the public, addressing sub-topics that arise during the sessions, and PUCO collaboration with other state agencies?
 - The need for the study of granular information, including the need to identify which areas have no cellular service, are the most at risk exchange(s), or do not have reliable broadband service
 - How does the Commission intend to find prospects (alternative providers) where none exist? Will the Collaborative survey ILECs and alternatives providers, such as wireless carriers, cable and/or broadband providers?
 - Need to collect migration or availability of migrating technology before the companies can actual file for abandonment or withdrawal of BLES
 - Need to determine if the available alternative provider is reasonable and comparatively priced
 - Need some avenue for BLES customers to self-report to collaborative about the availability of reasonable and comparatively priced alternative services, potentially through some form of tracking system
 - Need to build a system with multiple levels to address the needs of each county
 - Does acceptance of CAF monies require a company to offer BLES for the six-year period?
 - No set date for next generation (NG) 9-1-1; 9-1-1 system must operate on legacy as well as wireless technology.
 - Interested parties can dial in and listen to monthly meetings of the ESINet Steering Committee for details on the transition to wireless. Please see <http://911.ohio.gov>.

Staff comments

- Collaborative will meet at least four more times (Jan. 19, Feb. 18, March 24 and April 28), with each meeting addressing a different topic
 - The topic for the next meeting is consumer protection/public safety. Stakeholders will be able to represent a brief presentation on that topic.
- A report of the Collaborative findings will be released in September with a reporting of information in the aggregate. Competitive or proprietary information will not be released.

- PUCO staff need more than migration information; needs to know where the BLES customers are located and what alternative services are available to them
- Some of the data currently available to PUCO staff is old and/or based upon a small sample.
- Need to identify where there are gaps in service
- Does Connect Ohio intend to integrate/overlay voice components with its internet and broadband information in Ohio?
- Survey will go out to all registered ILECs and CLECs.
 - Not all registered CLECs offer BLES.
 - At some point, expand to survey wireless and cable operators

Assignments/action items

- Staff will be compiling a survey to distribute to the ILECs and CLECs initially.
- Staff will contact FCC to invite them to give presentation on status of Federal Proceedings.

Next Meeting: Jan. 19, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the PUCO offices