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PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Name of Organization: Broadband Task Force

Date and Time of Meeting August 18, 2016, 9:00 AM

Place of Meeting: Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 South Carson Street
Room 3137
Carson City, NV 89701

This meeting will be video conferenced to the following location:

Grant Sawyer State Office Building
555 East Washington Ave,
Suite 4406
Las Vegas, NV 89101

If you are unable to join the meeting in person, please use the following numbers:

Northern: 775-687-0999 or
Southern: 702-486-5260

Access Code: 70987 then push #

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
Britta Kuhn, Vice Chair

Ms. Kuhn called the meeting to order at 9:03 am

Members Present: Jeff Fontaine, Denise Inda, Britta Kuhn, Kevin Judice, Dr. Kim Vidoni, Randy Brown, Todd Radtke, Shannon Rahming

Members Excused: Caleb Cage, Randy Robison, Scott Gutierrez, Ed Anderson

Guests: Brian Reeder, Brent Legg, Lindsey Harmon, David Peissner, Brent Hutchinson, Tony Prestigiacomo

Staff Members: Dale Ann Luzzi

A quorum was declared.

- II. **Public Comment** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

There was not public comment.

- III. **Approval of the Minutes from the June 16, 2016, meeting (For possible action)**
Britta Kuhn, Vice Chair

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Rahming seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- IV. **Remarks and Announcements from the Vice Chair**
Britta Kuhn, Vice Chair

Ms. Kuhn thanked the Task Force members again for all the time, energy and effort and for their input into the final report. Today's meeting will focus on recommendation number three, the education component, from the report.

Ms. Kuhn went on to ask the Task Force how to prioritize the recommendations, which of the recommendations will have the greatest impact, which ones can be executed easily and gather feedback on how we can effectively implement some of these.

- V. **Announcements from Task Force Members**
Britta Kuhn, Vice Chair

Ms. Kuhn called upon each member for comments or announcements.

Ms. Inda told the Task Force that Ms. Kuhn, Ms. Harmon, and several Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) staff traveled to Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to get more information about their fiber sharing program. Ms. Inda said the trip was very valuable and NDOT is going to continue to explore the fiber sharing program and have submitted a Bill Draft Request (BDR) for the 2017 session. Ms. Kuhn said that UDOT does this work with a contracted staff of three. Dr. Vidoni wanted to thank Ms. Kuhn publicly

for all the work she put in drafting the annual report. She went on to say that Ms. Kuhn broke the information down so that “lay” people could understand it and she learned a lot reading the report. Ms. Rahming seconded the comments made by Dr. Vidoni. Ms. Kuhn thanked Ms. Harmon for “reading draft after draft after draft”.

- VI. Report from Connected Nation and Department of Education: Regarding Plans for a Statewide E-rate Consortium and Upcoming Broadband Grants
 Brent Legg, Connected Nation
 Dr. Kim Vidoni, Department of Education

Mr. Legg reviewed for the Task Force the three reports that Connected Nation commissioned by the Nevada Department of Education. Mr. Legg reviewed the key findings of the recommendations in each of the reports. The first document “Summary Results and Analysis of the 2016 Nevada School E-Rate Survey” (Attachment A). E-Rate is a component of the Federal Universal Service Program. It is a tax on your telephone bill which is a 3.9 million dollar program. In 2014, the program was modernized and the program was increased by about 60%. This made a shift in the way a school district could obtain internet wide area network (WAN) and internal connection services. Mr. Legg reviewed the results of the survey for the Task Force. All 17 public school districts and 18 of the states 41 charter school participated which is a strong participant rate. Mr. Legg navigated the Task Force through the results. The comparative analysis document was the next one reviewed. The Nevada Department of Education asked Connect Nevada for a “comparative analysis” of this data between Nevada and Utah for the 2015 funding year (Attachment B). The big take away is that Utah is spending more local, state and federal resource on internet and WAN but they are also realizing a significant return from the E-Rate program as a result. Mr. Legg concluded by saying that Nevada schools receive less than their counterparts in Utah from the E-Rate program. He went on to say that UTEN data indicated that Utah as a whole is paying considerably less on per median megabit, per student bases. The median school in Utah is on par with connecting the urban schools in Nevada. If Nevada is looking at forming a statewide filing consortium and the state were to receive a 70% discount rate this would have an impact on both Washoe, which is currently only receiving a 60% discount. This would benefit Washoe significantly. Mr. Legg then directed the Task Force to the document “Options for Statewide School Connectivity Governance: Reviews and Recommendations” (Attachment C). The conclusion of this report is “Nevada schools districts can no longer afford to “fend for themselves” and pursue connectivity individually. With a concerted effort from state education leaders, and support from the Governor, Legislature, and the new E-Rate program, Nevada could dramatically improve its school connectivity landscape in a very short period of time”. Dr. Vidoni reviewed for the Task Force the “Broadband and WAN Access Improvement Matching Grant” (Attachment D). She said that this RFA is a

re-release of the Nevada Ready 21 grant request that went out earlier. The funds that were not allocated were carried over to this new RFA. Dr. Vidoni said a major difference with this RFA is the district collaboration. Ms. Kuhn said that we need to get the word about these funds and bring in providers who can seek and use these funds.

VII. Discussion on Establishing 2016-2017 Task Force Priorities (For possible action)
Britta Kuhn, Vice Chair

Ms. Kuhn will be sending out the list of recommendations to the Task Force members. The Task Force members will be asked to rank the recommendations in order of priority. The Task Force will then drill down on the recommendations from there.

VIII. Update on Middle Mapping
Lindsey Harmon, Connect Nevada

Ms. Harmon updated the Task Force on the projects she has been working on as it relates to middle mile mapping. The Tahoe Prosperity Center received a grant from the State of California to implement a dig once policy as it relates to the California side. They have commented dollars to continue the project on the Nevada side. Ms. Harmon has also been working with NDOT on the US Parkway project to see if it is a viable asset moving forward. Another project is closing the gap for eastern Nevada and interconnect two carriers. And finally, working with Zayo and their wholesale rates for transport to get last mile carries to build local loops along highway 50. Ms. Harmon provided the Task Force with several maps (Attachment E) that showed what has been mapped. The focus is on the education gaps. Identifying the data moving forward and solving some of the short term problems that we know are bigger issues. Connect Nevada is hosting two provider workshops to discuss some of the higher level issues. Ms. Harmon said all the Task Force members will be invited.

IX. Update from the Statewide Interoperable Coordinator (SWIC)
Andy Gagliardo, SWIC

This item was tabled.

X. Consider Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
Britta Kuhn, Vice Chair

Ms. Kuhn will send out an email and ask for input from the Task Force members for agenda items for the next meeting.

- XI. Next Meeting Date is September 15, 2016. The meeting will be video conferenced between the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Room 3137 in Carson City and the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4412 in Las Vegas.
Britta Kuhn, Vice Chair

Ms. Kuhn confirmed that the next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2016.

- XII. **Public Comment** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

David Peissner, Gigi City Nevada made the following comment: "I have been dealing a lot with all these school districts, boots on the ground, providing carriers for the circuits. When the discussion about redundancy and there maybe funding available. There is a big question about that because a lot of the school districts don't think E-Rate funding will pay for redundancy and that they have to give it a different name. When you talk about redundancy you are talking about cost."

Mr. Legg made this response "Dave is correct. E-Rate will not pay for redundant connections. When we talk about building a resilient network, what UETN has done is build a network for other reasons is naturally resilient and it is funded and support by E-Rate. There primary objective was not to build out multiply pathways. Cost is definitely a factor in building alternative pathways to the internet. And it is especially problematic in a state like Nevada where there is not network and therefore naturally there is no other resilient path out to the internet. Mr. Peissner thanked Mr. Legg for his answer. He said he wanted to get this on the record.

- XIII. Adjournment
Britta Kuhn, Vice Chair

Ms. Kuhn adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am