



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF BROADBAND ACCESS & EXPANSION

Connect New Mexico Council Kick-Off Meeting
January 14, 2022 | 4:00PM – 5:30PM
Virtual (via WebEx)

Council Members Present: Jeremy Lovato, Eli Guinee, Raja Sambandam, Joseph Navarrete, Bogi Maleck, Ovidui Viorica, Luis Reyes, Launa Waller, Katherine Crociata, Jim Ruybal, Christopher Becenti, Godfrey Enjady, Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Steve Grey

Not Present: Juan Torres

Meeting called to order at: 4:18 PM by Secretary Raja Sambandam, DoIT (delayed due to technical difficulties)

Secretary Raja Sambandam asked if any Legislators or Congressional Offices were present and provided an opportunity for introductions.

Secretary Sambandam proceeded to preview meeting agenda and introduced Matt Schmit, newly appointed Broadband Advisor.

Overview: New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion

Matt Schmit, Broadband Advisor for the Office of the Governor, provided a detailed presentation to the Connect New Mexico council members and discussed the establishment of the Office of Broadband and Expansion and its structure as established in the Connect NM Act from 2021.

Items discussed in presentation:

1. Council Roles and Responsibilities
2. Office of Broadband and Expansion, DoIT
 - a. Roles and Responsibilities
 - b. Annual Report and Plan
 - c. Next Steps

Matt paused to allow for panelist comment:

Luis Reyes: How he sees DoIT and OBAE working together as two separate entities; will all the Broadband offices within department communicate more in the future to discuss state and public uses.

Matt: OBAE needs to be a one stop shop and will help breakdown the silos and collaborate and be fully functioning between departments and agencies.

Luis Reyes: How will OBAE and PRC work together? Matt noted this is a great opportunity for collaboration and will add value to use the existing valuable resources already available.

- d. Digital Equity and Inclusion
- e. Mapping
- f. Planning and Capacity Building

Matt paused to allow for panelist comment:

Melanie Goodman, Office of State Senator Ben Ray Lujan, offered their office as a resource.

Jeff Albright, Attorney, and long-standing Board Member of the State Rural Universal Service Fund encouraged the council to eliminate administrative hurdles which have been impediments to deploying broadband to the underserved areas.

Mary Montoya, CIO PED, stated the SONM, including PED, has a court order requiring immediate access to high-speed internet access to all at risk students. PED has been working diligently but looking forward to working with OBAE to meet that requirement.

- g. Interagency Collaboration
- h. Characteristics and Best Practices
- i. Definitions and Standards
- j. Broadband Grant Program Framework
- k. Broadband Grant Program Reporting

Other Business:

Secretary Sambandam nominated Matt Schmit as Interim Council Chair; the motion was seconded by Christopher Becenti

Member Sekaquaptewa asked that the nominations be delayed and considered further once roles are established.

Launa Waller asked if the Chair of the council must be one of the 15 members. Legal Counsel will review the nomination of the Chair and provide advice.

Jeremy Lovato asked the nomination to be tabled and considered further.

Ovidiu Viorica was in agreement with Ms. Waller and requesting possible clarification regarding the appointment of the Chair.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Luis Reyes
Second by Bogi Malecki