

ConnectME Advisory Council Meeting – Notes

9/25/12

Cross Office Building Room 104

1:30PM to 3:30PM

Discussion Topics

- strategic plan
- underserved
- extension policy
- tracking past grant awards

Advisory Council Members in Attendance:

- Fletcher Kittredge, GWI, Chair
- Ben Sanborn, Telecommunications Association of Maine
- Paul Schonewolf, Time Warner Cable, Area Vice President of Operations
- Linda Lord, Maine State Librarian
- Joshua Broder, President, Tilson Technology Management
- Jeff Letourneau, Executive Director, Network Maine (UMS)
- Rob Kelley, MTI Technology Board
- John Burns, Small Enterprise Growth Fund
- Wayne Jortner, Office of the Public Advocate
- Bruce Ballantyne, Fairpoint Vice President of Operations

Strategic Plan

There was continued discussion from the July meeting on the six focus areas: households; businesses; healthcare industry; education community; government services; and broadband industry. The Council reiterated the desire to focus on increase of adoption through targeted efforts in health care, education, and government. In turn, these areas will increase adoption in the three remaining areas. The take –away assignment for the group was to become familiar with the tactics and actions for health care, education, and government, and be prepared to discuss approaches at the next meeting.

Grant Award Extensions

The question of the need for a policy to define criteria for decision-making had been raised. The group decided to support the position that each extension request should be reviewed by the Board on the merits of the issue. Essentially, requests should be considered on a case by case basis.

Underserved

The issue of a definition for the term “underserved” had been raised previously. The group discussed the elements which might be taken into consideration (speed, price, etc.). It was concluded by the group that a definition for the term is not warranted at this time.

Tracking Past Grants

ConnectME staff is attempting to gather data relative to the success of each grantee in achieving the success they projected in the grant application. Staff has reached out to some grantees and will continue to do so. Future grant awards will require that grantees track and report this information.

Scoring Guidelines

This was not a planned discussion topic; however, considerable time was devoted to it. Ultimately, the Advisory council would like to see greater objectivity in the criteria used for the Community Support segment of the application.