

Greater Arizona Educational Leadership
AZBSN Arizona Broadband
Stakeholder Network
Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council
COVID-19 DIGITAL ACCESS TASK FORCE

Meeting Zoom Transcript

April 11, 2022

Disclaimer Notice: The following is the meeting transcript recorded through ZOOM. This document is not edited and contains numerous errors.

07:34:36 and Okay. Good morning, everybody. Good morning, Arizona.

07:34:45 Glad to see you all this morning, bright and early, some of you I had a chance to see actually in person last week.

07:34:53 That was kind of fun. So as we always do I always ask you folks, if you haven't all ready to please please please fill out our Google form and provide your contact, information, so we know who's participating how to reach you and so forth. I mean one of the strengths of the task force is people connecting with each other can't do that if they can't find you. So please please take the time to fill that out, and then we will have an interesting presentation with Mikhail. Is that how you pronounce your nam? Yes, you said exactly. Yeah, Makhail, with the digital connect initiative. Under the Gila River telecommunications interested project, and I know they're just gearing up.

07:35:44 But what can Florida to hearing your overview of Mikhail?

07:35:52 So again, just to reminder that after our meeting we do Kibitzing With Colleagues.

07:35:56 But those of you who don't know What that is after our meeting we stop the we stop the video the recording and no presentations, just sharing information, asking questions and so forth.

07:36:12 Totally informal. We have anywhere from 5 to 25 people who participate.

07:36:21 So that will happen after the formal meeting is over. and with that besides Mikhail, who will hear from later?

07:36:33 That we have anybody new joining us today. Anybody joining us for the first time today. Okay. again, thanks to our sponsors Care First Health Plan, Valley of The Sun United Way, Satellite Broadcast and Communications Association, Jajeet and Triad Wireless

07:37:00 Just a reminder actually coming up on. Is it the eighteenth? That is there's a holiday is easter Monday? Is that a problem for people hearing not hearing a Yes, Then we'll go ahead and plan to meet

07:37:24 Let's see what else I think that's all that I have at the moment. So let's just go ahead and get into our updates Jeff.

07:37:33 I saw You're online. you want to kick it off please guys, Steve driving. So I'm not gonna be joining y'all by video today. Couple things. Last week I got an opportunity to participate in the big Data Southwest Conference.

07:37:49 I want to thank the organizer and Mark Goldstein for inviting, me on panel. really interesting stuff.

07:37:56 But people at that, and looking forward to continuing to work with that organization also got a chance to see Steve out of his native Tucson for the first time in a while, which was kind of cool and many other folks that we see you know on the call quite a bit Mondays, but live and in person, which was great for those of you who have not had a chance to meet Sandip, are our new assistant broadband director. I encourage you to reach out to him directly and have a conversation.

07:38:29 Sandip is incredibly technical, and somebody that we're gonna involve in areas with partnerships, for example, with projects, with counties and tribes, and others.

07:38:38 Or to provide some technical resource. I would love to be able to spend much more time on those. But it's just not possible and Sandip is is much, much on a different level than I am even so project. And you're looking for some technical assistance, particularly on the wireless side.

07:38:55 That really is his area of expertise. got a quick update last week on the final model project.

07:39:03 It sounds like Wes, and Milan and the team were just moving forward, as as always, and the error project so obviously department of ed kudos on the work that you're doing this week is a lot of catch up going on. we've got a meeting with the Navajo Nation the next in our series of broadband summits.

07:39:23 It's gonna be held out of a little town in Utah up north of the 4 Corners area on Wednesday.

07:39:28 So that's going to be a big a big time issue in terms of just transportation.

07:39:35 That sort of thing 6 h each way. and and last and probably most importantly, we had our first meeting with the Governor's infrastructure staff last as part of the I. I. J. A bill. The State has to point the again. This is my term, and infrastructures are or director.

07:39:58 I don't exactly know what her title is as well as a team, and I had our initial call just to go over what we're looking to do for broadband got a very, very positive response they seem to like what

07:40:09 we're doing and that's good stuff not to say it won't won't change, and then we've got a meeting with the entire group this week from all the various agencies a dot and others so quite a bit

07:40:20 going on this week, and if you need to get a hold of me, as I've told you before, please text me, it's probably the best way as i'm a little behind on email thanks. Jeff, you have any timeline

07:40:32 of when you're going to have all of the grants reviewed and announced, So June thirtieth 2 thirties.

07:40:40 Cool. Yeah. and Sandip, I saw that you're online do you want to add anything.

07:40:45 Thank you so much, Jeff, again to introduce me. This is my second meeting with this team, really great to be here.

07:40:53 If anyone has any question, as Jeff mentioned regarding any technical implementation, any plan for future which will improve the broadband situation here at the State significantly, please feel free to reach out to me at Jeff mentioned.

07:41:07 He has lot in his plate, and i'm here to help him and help anyone else who is actually taking any initiative to implement any broadband plan or digital inclusion Distance learning telemarison.

07:41:20 Anything I can help help with at this point are moving so my email Steve Peters does have my email.

07:41:26 I'm gonna post it in in the chat box Please feel free to reach out to me.

07:41:30 Thank you. Everyone and look great to be here. So I could imagine Sandeep was in our telemedicine broadband action team call and provided some really interesting updates regarding kind of the state of the industry and how things

07:41:45 are going. So the please do reach out to him. Okay, then, Sam D.

07:41:49 By. I don't know. if you want to say anything about that. No, if Janet's on the line today janitor, you there, Janet here. Oh, good!

07:41:57 So we can hear from her. hear from you just a little bit, Janet Okay, welcome aboard, Sandip.

07:42:04 Thank you, sir. So, Kirk, you always covered from your conference.

07:42:10 Good job. I don't know if I don't know if I go that far.

07:42:17 But thank you. Everybody thanks everybody for the support. I think it was a great first.

07:42:20 Go around, Jeff. Thank you, for I mean your schedule.

07:42:23 So busy. Thanks for joining. Yeah. It was a great, great, great first event, looking forward to 2,023 to be honest with you.

07:42:32 But we got we just went alive and thank thank you, everybody.

07:42:36 And for the people that had trouble with the Zoom Sound, I felt really bad for that poor guy.

07:42:39 He had some medical issues. Our sound guy ended up with some medical issues.

07:42:44 It kind of affected his situation so we've got it all recorded, though, and even though you might not have had good sound on the zoom, it's all professionally recorded, and it'll be available for replay

07:42:57 soon. So thanks for everybody's patience too that was on a zoom.

07:43:01 Okay, Thanks, Kirk. So so moving on, Mama is not going to be able to join us today.

07:43:07 Holly, do you are you here? Do you have anything that you'd like to report on

07:43:14 No, not really Steve. we're just continuing to work out the details of that pilot telemedicine project with Pima County Public Library.

07:43:22 The and then We also, you know, our continuing our work with the Navajo nation with getting those chapter houses qualified as as branch libraries, so that they're er qualified and Nicole is also out

07:43:44 today, I understand. So i'm sure cindy has the report for their committee.

07:43:49 Okay, Okay, moving on, then, Cindy. And so Nicole is not here.

07:43:57 Cindy you want to give us an update on what's happening with digital inclusion, please.

07:44:01 Sure Let's see first just to give an acp update affordable connectivity.

07:44:12 Plan looks like looks like countrywide. They added a 173490 new subscribers.

07:44:23 They seem to be close to 200,000. a week across the country, and Arizona added 3,700 in the in that last week that it's being recorded.

07:44:33 So it's still moving. we we are holding digital inclusion network lunch meetings for practitioners every Other Week on Thursdays to discuss different projects.

07:44:46 Last week we revisited the affordable connectivity plan because common sense media is doing an outreach project as a pilot.

07:44:57 They're doing some targeted advertising i'll let Elena talk about that in just a second.

07:45:03 So we did a lot more conversation about outreach, and how to how to get the word out.

07:45:10 Still across across the State of Arizona. Elena, do you want to kick in right there? Sure.

07:45:17 Yeah, I can do that. So we're going to be doing a pilot in an area probably something that the libraries common sense are working on together.

07:45:29 So we're gonna work and see what area of Phoenix. maybe South Phoenix or Mary Bell Area.

07:45:35 And then we're also doing the same thing in a community in California.

07:45:40 We really want to do an outreach that is an advertising campaign that involves you know a little bit of out of the box, thinking, because we know that we have to go where where people are to get them signed up So that's really the plan we

07:45:56 want to launch something, perhaps very early, june we're working with an agency right now to for the assets and and and all of that.

07:46:07 And so I think drew's on the call too, if Drew or he was.

07:46:12 But if anybody has any questions, let me know we're just in the planning stages right now, but we are going to partner here on the ground with Nicole, and there's Connect Arizona and the libraries So can you tell

07:46:24 us what that? Oh, it's gonna be sure excuse me

07:46:31 So we're going to be looking at really a full-blown advertising campaign, and try to you know.

07:46:38 Do some metrics around the sign-ups for Acp for the affordable.

07:46:46 Well, we just talked about it with Cindy and her group, too.

07:46:51 So the affordable connectivity program. we know that there's 50,000,000 people across the country who are eligible and a fraction have signed up.

07:46:58 But Cindy just pointed out so drew you I see you're on the call.

07:47:03 Is there anything in particular you want to say there's not a lot going on at the moment, because we're just in the planning stitches?

07:47:10 Right now. we just needed to first have an on the ground partner, and so we're gonna be working with the state libraries on that.

07:47:16 Yeah, we're gonna ultimately want to have we're gonna ultimately gonna want to have a website where a user can enter the Zip code.

07:47:27 And be directed to digital navigators or enrollment support in their area.

07:47:33 So if you are doing that sort of work, or know someone who's doing that sort of work, let us know, and we can include you in that directory.

07:47:42 Okay, So we're also gonna have a buyers guide as part of that as well.

07:47:45 That's going to help people really try. to figure out from a provider standpoint where they can go and get not just the best deal. but you know they need to have.

07:47:57 There's a requirement and then there's also a need for certain speeds.

07:48:02 We've talked about this you know forever and it isn't good enough just to connect somebody they have to be connected in a way that's going to be meaningful and that's going to involve you know certain speeds and

07:48:13 for those of you that don't know what the affordable connectivity program, is it's?

07:48:16 Allow it's \$30, basically a \$30 stipend off of your monthly Internet bill for those that are that qualify for for that.

07:48:30 So it may not sound like a lot, but \$30 is a ton of money for people that, you know really really could use the help.

07:48:36 So Was there anything else drew that I missed that's all good.

07:48:44 So question question for you All the the back office stuff sounds great.

07:48:49 Help me understand the outreach. That was always a bit of a challenge.

07:48:50 I know that the State Library did a good job. There was a group we worked with called Wildfire that maps folks with have you know, difficulty with your utility, Bill.

07:49:01 And and really jumped out of the gate really quickly.

07:49:04 On this. But the outreach strategy is something that i've thought about a lot, and trying to figure out how else we can do this, and I don't know if this is something I don't know if your organization will be up for this

07:49:14 I I like this idea a lot, but in other parts of the country particularly in the East Coast, a lot of African-american churches and Catholic churches and others that they're doing that are in

07:49:27 low-income areas have been very active in this program.

07:49:29 Would it make sense to work with somebody like Tracy Beale or one of the other folks that that has ties to the Faith community to help get our enrollment numbers out?

07:49:38 Yeah, absolutely. jeff we're actually we've already. been in contact, And I see errands on the call, too.

07:49:44 So we've already been in contact with a number of on the ground groups to help with the effort.

07:49:49 First thing we want to do is, you know, get the campaign up and running, and then get the materials as well.

07:49:56 Additional materials out to just the groups that but just like you mentioned Jeff. Those we know we have to go to where people are.

07:50:04 So we're really trying to think outside the box in addition to you know, things like faith-based organizations and stuff.

07:50:11 You know, we want to hit things like laundromats Barker shops.

07:50:15 You know we just, we feel like the outreach, just putting it out.

07:50:18 There is not enough and just telling people to sign up is not enough, so we need to take it a step further.

07:50:25 And so I see Aaron shaking your head because they've got a program that we're gonna hopefully engage with as well as the libraries.

07:50:34 And so we can have some sort of a better, better and more concerted effort and pulling Wildfire in.

07:50:39 So those yeah, so absolutely. Yes, to everything you just said Oh, no that's great.

07:50:44 I just you brought a really good point and it's go to where the people are.

07:50:48 I think a lot of times we feel like everybody has to be done.

07:50:50 Everything has to be done digitally, and having somebody who already has an existing relationship in that community, you know who's a trusted partner.

07:51:00 You know, the more folks that have that kind of relationship that we can evolve from from the whole spectrum of our society, I think, is great.

07:51:06 So great job. Thanks. Well, we have to stop. We have to stop doing every we have to stop.

07:51:11 So sending people to go do things digitally when we're all on this call right now, talking about how so many people don't have access.

07:51:17 So yeah, we just we really just have to get out there.

07:51:20 And you know, pound the pavement and go grassroots.

07:51:24 And so we're gonna partner with all the right organizations. And you know, like I said, the advertising campaign will hopefully at least get the conversation started and point people in the right direction for help Lana has the has anyone verified that

07:51:38 the the existing service providers of all those people on their phone bills have let everyone know that this service is, or this opportunity is available to them. since the Fcc.

07:51:49 Made that one of the requirements for the service I mean that's a direct mailing right in their mailbox in their hand.

07:51:57 I'm not i'm not sure if all service providers have done that so far.

07:52:02 And a lot of those people may have signed up people who already have telecommunication services.

07:52:10 One of our goals is to sort of we've we've heard from partners that it takes about 7 impressions.

07:52:17 7 impressions is the average to get someone to act so like the Fcc.

07:52:21 Requirement was, I think, was just for one or just to have done it, so that alone may not be enough, and it also may not penetrate disconnected communities who maybe aren't connected to a telecommunications

07:52:34 provider. so we're gonna I don't know if they've done it yet, even if they have we still want to do it, because we just want to blanket the airwaves as much as possible.

07:52:45 Milan. There are some locals I mean there are some that have done it.

07:52:48 And they're and they're they're advertising it.

07:52:51 Cox is advertising to remind people to do it I've seen T-mobile has advertised to tell people to do it.

07:52:58 But you know again, just seeing a commercial or even if they see the commercial a couple of times, you know it's It's just not enough.

07:53:07 So with partnering with, you know, organizations and with univision.

07:53:12 And you know, like I said, just, you know, really making a concerted effort to get where the the people are, even if it is just another impression or 2 or 3 or 4 more impressions. it gets them really thinking about it and moving forward

07:53:24 on on the sign-up. So my own a couple of things and we're going to hear later from mikhail. But there are several providers here in arizona who are actually developing their their own digital inclusion initiatives and

07:53:42 and so I think that's important to know because many of them were new.

07:53:46 Their local providers and we we've heard from some of them already, and we'll be hearing from M.

07:53:53 Tale today. i'm just curious about and particularly folks like Aaron like you and you and Cindy and all.

07:54:02 Are we getting any information about how people are actually implementing it?

07:54:06 So they get themselves, You know we've talked over and over again about the issue of technical support.

07:54:12 Do we have any kind of feedback nationally in the state about people about actual adoption, adoption of which So, being able to actually use the technology, they're getting to get online or to to role in Acp Nope to get 07:54:35 online. I think it's part of a monitoring and evaluation and and a research effort that will that will undergird all of this.

07:54:43 So I think we need to get baseline data. get because I think there's still work to be done to understand who is really unconnected, underserved in the State.

07:54:54 I think some of the some of that work is ongoing.

07:54:57 Some of it has to begin as part of the digital equity efforts in the State.

07:55:01 And then I think once we have all of the stakeholders weighing in, and we start to get everyone in a room and sharing information will have a much better idea, and from there, as we're implementing processes and everyone begins

07:55:13 working together. we'll have a much better idea of progress that's being made so.

07:55:18 I think there there are some data, but I don't think that there is clarity really around around all of that.

07:55:25 Thank you. Anybody else? Yeah. , density.

07:55:31 500 days somebody else. So now go ahead, Laurie.

07:55:36 I was going to suggest that a lot of the schools have subsidized school lunch programs, and maybe that criteria is maybe that criteria could help identify other targets.

07:55:49 I know that some of our schools that we're working with have between 80 and a 100% of the students that fall under that category or rory.

07:56:02 This is drew from common sense. we yes, 100%.

07:56:07 There are a lot of those community eligible, free, and reduced lined schools.

07:56:12 All of their students are eligible for the Acp.

07:56:14 So, in addition to this traditional advertising campaign we're talking about, we're also going to try to develop some guides for school administrators just to do that sort of enrollment, because you can cut out most of

07:56:30 the eligibility work there, because you know that every single family you're in touch with can enroll.

07:56:36 So we're gonna be pursuing that as well and let me cap on.

07:56:40 This is the end of the sbi and milo might jump in.

07:56:43 That's a slippery slope too and the reason why is you have Ecf: So if the school is not in session, and they're eligible for Ecf which is going into its third window you can't have a student with the

07:56:53 usecf and acp because that's double dipping and somebody will get remanded from so very careful in the education to the schools through the schools.

07:57:03 It's an either, or and not of both, so both of them are subsidizing the connectivity one is for educational purposes with others, for every other reason to stay connected. so as you do the outreach to the school just keep that in

07:57:15 mind and protect the integrity of that ecf because that's what's keeping the students online, too. Thanks.

07:57:20 You know I I was gonna mention one, you know, overarching thing.

07:57:26 I think we need to remember that that digital equity does not just include K to 12 kids.

07:57:29 I think that there seems to be that thought and it's it's clearly an easy to to underfine group, but you know we have a very large senior population in their state that needs to be taken care of one of the

07:57:43 more interesting conversations ahead with the governor's office last week was around the department of Corrections, and and helping folks that are recently released from from prison, helping them get a backup on their feet and understanding the options.

07:57:54 That they have so they don't you know it's not a cycle of winding back up in prison public housing is another area that we need to take a hard look at.

07:58:03 So as I, as important as K to 12 kids are, and believe me, they are. We need to make sure that we put a pretty big tent when it comes to digital equity.

07:58:15 Absolutely death. Okay, let's move on Janet do you have anything?

07:58:23 Do you want to give us an update on of course what you're doing, and also the telehealth and libraries.

07:58:28 Initiative, please. Yes, thank you Steve and I'll start with telehealth and libraries.

07:58:33 We had a very exciting meeting last week, and next week our meeting will include the 2 librarians from the 2 pilot sites in Pima County, and Ken Zambos, who is the director of the

07:58:43 Pennsylvania County libraries has just been awesome, and I provided him with a stethoscope in a.

07:58:50 We have a 30 day software license, So that we can work out the protocols and and practice scrubbing the data and everything that we need to be confirmed with regards to implementing those technologies But I can't

07:59:02 think of a better way to increase digital equity than telehealth and being able to teach people how to take their own vital signs and giving us the opportunity to send our our medical students and nursing students out in the field they have some great human interactions So it's a really exciting

07:59:19 project, and and the stars are lining up. I also wanted to say that with regards to the Acp, you know, the community health centers have done a great job getting people signed up, and when they connect people to health care and get them connected to

07:59:32 snap benefits it's on their list of things to do and I think we've gotten a lot of bang for our buck with some of those primitive advertising tools like having handouts in Spanish and English on the

07:59:45 counter at the community health centers you know for people to be able to take that information home and process it if they're not ready to like.

07:59:51 Get signed up right then, and I also think in terms of the grassroots movement and investing investing our resources.

07:59:59 I can't think of a better way to improve access than hiring more digital navigators. and they're going to play an important role in the telehealth and libraries project as well because just like certified diabetes educators you're

08:00:11 not going to have digital navigators at all libraries everywhere, and we can.

08:00:16 So easily. Now video conference with them and maximize their time and have them very involved with with the telehealth pilot project.

08:00:26 So I think it's pretty exciting to think about as we as we roll out the first 2 locations in the telehealth.

08:00:34 World. we're hoping to have a director for our program in place by July the first that's the the deadline that I heard in the first week of May is the American Telemedicine Association, and and I hope that we've

08:00:46 got colleagues there who are interested in applying for that job.

08:00:48 We've been a national and international leader in that space for 25 years.

08:00:52 So We're, really hoping that they find a person who not only has a passion for for what We're doing here in Arizona, but it is also someone who's been involved in the Telemedicine space and

08:01:03 has the experience to help us move forward. can you clarify that you're looking for the director to replace Dr.

08:01:12 Weinstein. Yeah, Is that correct? Yes, for the Arizona telemedicine correct?

08:01:19 And and our program yesterday or Saturday, presented the first award in his name to a rural health professions program, and it went to the people in Yuma who just did from the Western area health education center who just did a very big

08:01:38 survey in Yuma, with regards to health care and broadband.

08:01:43 There was that included in their survey, as Well, so they were great. it's great that they won the award, and they've been going gangbusters out there helping prepare, and train the the bilingual health care workforce of the future and they

08:01:55 have an incredible library right next to their Hospital so we've done a lot of work there, and and it just works out that even though the western area a heck is in San Luis, which is 15 miles away from Yuma we've got

08:02:09 to really strong community and human Jeff has shared that you know they've pulled together all the constituents in that community to come up with solutions for their for their broadband, issues, and we hope now to do the same thing

08:02:24 along with sand deeps help for folks in Coconino county There's a lot of interest right now in Cocaineino County, and there are health care providers who would like to get together, and I'm hoping that They'll also

08:02:34 bring other other key stakeholders to the table to talk about coming up with a plan for Coconino County as well.

08:02:44 A couple of just upcoming events the biggest one is tomorrow it's our next in the series of grant workshops tomorrow is specifically on broadband grants and resources.

08:02:55 And I hope that you'll join us if you're interested it's from 10 o'clock A. M.

08:02:58 To 1130, and registrations on our website and i'll put that into chat.

08:03:03 We also have couple, i'm hoping to plan another one more in the Grant writing series that would be just about Arizona, and we've got a lot of foundation grants and a lot of things that are really

08:03:14 exclusive to to our population; and and even though the Aca broadband grants will be announced June the thirtieth, there will be more.

08:03:25 There will be more money, Jeff said. I have the video so we can.

08:03:29 We can look forward to promoting people and and promoting the idea that there are still great opportunities for people to write grants, to provide solutions to their broadband challenges.

08:03:41 Here. So Jeff said, He's in mark Goldstein's in Kimberlandnings in so I just need to pull together a date for that.

08:03:50 That will be in May or June. thanks and Just for those of you who don't know that Dr.

08:03:58 Weinstein was the godfather of telemedicine in the State, and they he did a phenomenal job of getting the telemedicine program going, and I have to confess I miss him a lot more than

08:04:09 I thought I would yeah and that's a not not just in Arizona. The godfather he really launched world class well modeled and copied.

08:04:23 You know, initiatives here that you really was a force for that globally as much, you know, as he was Regionally, Janet, you and Dr.

08:04:34 Weinstein go back long, many years. huh? Yes, and to be part of his team meant not just being active in in organizations.

08:04:43 It meant being president of those organizations who really he really nurtured careers.

08:04:47 And and this is from entry level to to pathology.

08:04:53 Experts in their field. He just really was someone who is all about stem and steam.

08:04:59 Lucky for me right? i've been involved in in recruiting the health care workforce the future and doing health career fairs for high school students.

08:05:06 And I hope my job doesn't change with whoever this new person is that's one of my favorite things to do.

08:05:12 And and if we want to really prepare and train a very diverse healthcare workforce in the future, it starts by recruiting an elementary school. right?

08:05:21 So I hope I still get to do the things that I've loved doing for 25 years, as well.

08:05:26 So Janet, the Arizona telemedicine program is one of, if not the top telemedicine program in the country.

08:05:35 And you know we used to be providers. We are no longer now with our new relationship with Banner.

08:05:39 We are not a health care provider. We used to be that niche and provides specialty care in prisons.

08:05:45 We were once in 9 prisons Well, now the prisons have their own network, and they've developed they probably got over a dozen really nice telemedicine carts and different spaces and places.

08:05:55 And and it's really we plant a lot of seeds that have doomed.

08:06:00 And and I think that that's been a big credit to Dr.

08:06:02 Weinstein as well interstate legislators, you know we were.

08:06:07 We were funded with a great pilot, you know we were.

08:06:09 We were assigned the challenge of finding 7 diverse sites for pilots, and one was a prison, and one was lhs, and one was a community health center, and that really did help plant those seeds and that was a 25

08:06:21 years ago. So now Arizona is in full Bloom, and we're really looking forward to the future great Thanks, Janet.

08:06:31 Okay, moving on. Excuse me. Cindy, did you have anything else you wanted to add?

08:06:36 On. We kind of moved on. But did you have anything else you needed to add?

08:06:45 Cindy, you still there. Okay, Moving on Arizona Department of Education, Sophia Mayoan. Telly.

08:06:55 You guys are on, Hey, Steve, How you doing? Yeah, for e rate?

08:07:03 Not really a lot of changes. gave that update last week about the food for the State broken down by category, one category, 2 for Ecf.

08:07:12 It's coming up the 20 eighth we're going to be have a new filing window opening that's gonna be.

08:07:20 We'll have the opportunity to finish getting laptops for every student in the State home use, and they should have take them home and keep them at home, and also the Ecf program will pay for Internet connectivity, whether it be at home or pay for

08:07:33 a hot spot for them to use at home through December of 2023.

08:07:40 We also have let's see no new training on the 20 eighth, the morning of the 20 eighth at 9 A.

08:07:47 M. A. Zoom call with training, for you know the schools that have not taken advantage of the program.

08:07:53 But when we look at the numbers, arizona schools came in, I think it was either seventh or eighth, 6 or 8 across the country, as far as amount of funding.

08:08:05 We've requested from the ecf program so looking at purely looking at the numbers it looks like Hererizona should be in good shape, so we should have already pulled in the majority of the funding that we're going

08:08:17 to be needing for our students at home so I don't suspect this next funding window will be a huge opportunity for Arizona.

08:08:24 But we're gonna take advantage of any and all that we can get. So we've done training on the 20 eighth tailbane stragglers do their submissions for the final mile.

08:08:36 Project. We have one complete 4 in process. we have another 4.

08:08:42 The Rfps are in the hands of the school districts.

08:08:45 I have the 3 of the school districts have sent me their selections I'm.

08:08:49 Waiting on one today. once that one sends me their selection. we'll have the final mile board meet wes and sean

08:09:00 We'll pull the board meeting together, they will vote to approve the selections of those school districts, and then the award letters will go out to those vendors, and which means next week those award letters should be out by then the week

08:09:13 after we'll be kicking off project meetings for those so that's an exciting opportunity.

08:09:20 That's about it. for me so karina or Sophia. if you're on the line, you guys can pick up, or I left off. Yep, I don't really have a ton to add as far as my role doing

08:09:35 some tech policy stuff. you know i'm still working on some partnership work between us and just office, and the Governor's office and State land that we're hoping we'll come to fruition in the next

08:09:46 month or 2. and this isn't super tech related but since we're, all a fan of teachers in this group the department does have some great teacher appreciation stuff.

08:09:55 So if you're looking for things to share for teacher, appreciation, feel free to head over to the department social media.

08:10:03 Okay. And Kelly, do you have anything that you want to add?

08:10:06 No updates. After my presentation last week I did just want to say thank you that I have been in contact with a number of people from this meeting.

08:10:14 So thank you to everyone for a reaching out, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with everyone. Sounds good, Steve.

08:10:22 I do want to add one more thing. So give me the opportunity to interview kids this past Saturday over the phone cut video interviews with kids for the State school.

08:10:35 What was it? What are their positions? Sofia? the Student Advisory Council, Superintendent Hoffman, has an all student council, and let me tell you, that was the most fun I have had in years talking to I think it was 9 students

08:10:47 anywhere from grade 5 to great think. tenth grade was the highest one I had.

08:10:51 I got the interview. These kids were the most impressive kids. I've ever seen and got to talk to

08:11:00 It just really made my year. You know. we work for these kids all year long.

08:11:03 We do everything we can to help them, and then having the chance to interact with them, one-on-one was just.

08:11:10 It was wonderful. So you know, if you guys get a chance to to work with kids directly, take advantage of it because they're fantastic.

08:11:18 Yes, okay, moving on. I don't believe Leah is a call today, Derek.

08:11:25 I think I saw it that you're on the call However, I am Steve. though I don't think I have much to add to what my colleagues have already covered today.

08:11:35 So I think we're in good shape I mean any more update on the highway projects.

08:11:42 No, nothing new. I mean everything's progressing along the the anticipated timeline, and and feels like it's.

08:11:49 You know we're well on our way to that conduit fiber in the roadway, you know, late this year early next.

08:11:58 Hey? it's so we've heard already from Milan about the final mile project.

08:12:06 Where do you want to have anything that you want to add?

08:12:07 200 , So what it looks like is we've through the final file project we've been able to start identifies various that we might be able to help the and both the offers any areas I reached out to violent Marla on

08:12:31 that if you can help us identify some of the areas that actually can use them.

08:12:40 Quicker response time for for services in the area that you know we're as a company. we're willing to take a look at that and see if we can't escalate that which the new program deploying out in the field

08:12:52 they the last couple months. so if somebody's aware of a small town.

08:12:57 That detail. Then we can know about these questions, hey? any questions for Rory or Milan about the final mile project? Okay, If not, we're ready to move on.

08:13:12 But I got to say it just blows me away and i'm sure, most of you, that what's happening here in Arizona is just phenomenal in the people are doing so Thank you all for all the great work you

08:13:24 do, Steve. This is Mark. If I make for a moment here in the updates 2 things on Wednesday.

08:13:35 One is that Drew Clark, who has a group called broadband breakfast. I've known him for a dozen years when he was a Illinois State director for broadband in the last recovery but he held holds

08:13:49 a weekly conversation or panel that's actually excellent. He was on my panel at big data Southwest conference last week.

08:14:02 Anyway. this Wednesday morning, 9 A. M. our time.

08:14:06 He will spend an hour with Alan Davidson, the Nti.

08:14:11 A Ed administrator is the title Talking about the Iija, the 42 point, 4, 5,000,000,000 that is going to come from Ntia primarily, and the other Ntia program.

08:14:25 So that will be recorded in available for streaming usually within a couple of days.

08:14:31 But it's live Wednesday morning at 9. and Then when stay at noon is the atic monthly board meeting and notices, and minutes for that will go out to you.

08:14:44 All. If I have your emails in the board list and probably 95% of you, I do.

08:14:50 So that's Wednesday at noon any other announcements before we move on to our presentation this morning.

08:15:03 If not, then let's move on to our presentation Mikhail. I'm going to stop sharing and turn it over to you.

08:15:13 But I wanted to introduce Mikhail on the sun.

08:15:17 Sun. Dust is the executive director the digital connect initiative. You know it's interesting to me every day.

08:15:24 Every time I go somewhere I talk to somebody to find another new organization that's involved in digital encoding.

08:15:33 And, as I mentioned, I think there's a number of providers here in the State who are really taking a lead and developing a digital and inclusion initiatives.

08:15:44 And so I was glad to run into his colleagues at the event.

08:15:47 The other day, and who, by the way, have been participating with us.

08:15:52 But anyway, Mikhail i'm gonna turn it over to you. I'm gonna stop sharing and let you do your thing all right.

08:16:00 Well, thank you, Steve I just I just want to say you know that i'm really humbled and amazed by all the work that you guys are doing. and it's really cool to hear so many other people interested in this work and

08:16:14 really engaged in in bringing digital equity to to those who need it.

08:16:20 . Okay, can I kind of interrupt you for just like please?

08:16:24 So West. I didn't realize I see you're on the call. I haven't seen you in a while Do you have anything more that you want to add to. what we've already talked about with the final mile project no Steve kind

08:16:36 of think of me as your prodigal I just returned but I won't I won't require you give me a ring off your finger and clothes

08:16:48 really here to listen, although if anybody's got a couple of \$1,000,000 laid around the final mile, we'll be glad to take it.

08:16:56 That's not say I just wanted to join and listen but everyone who knows me knows me.

08:16:59 There's no way i'm going to set through anything and just listen without saying some.

08:17:03 So there it is. Okay, Sorry, Miguel. I just wanted to be and see you once in a while, so we glad to have him on board.

08:17:12 Yeah, so go ahead, Mikhail. So Steve said.

08:17:17 My name is Mikhail Sunnest. I am a member of the Hila River Indian Community, and I worked for Hillary river Telecommunications incorporated.

08:17:27 We're pretty small, you know, locally owned privately owned and operated the phone and Internet service provider.

08:17:36 So as far as I know, we're the first in the nation that did that about 30 years ago.

08:17:41 We saw. Gi: I got started, and now they have. Now they own several subsidiary companies, including alluvian, which I know. Michael from alluvian, participate in these calls.

08:17:53 Native technology solutions. Grbc which is killer of our broadcasting.

08:17:59 They're the first tribally owned and operated low-power Tv station and they operate within the reservation boundaries.

08:18:05 And then. Now, sort of the the newest one is the digital connect initiative, and that's the organization that I'm representing this morning.

08:18:15 Dci started several years ago as just an idea in in the minds of our board members who were asking themselves.

08:18:24 You know we're we're doing all this work to bring infrastructure to the community members to lay fiber, and to make sure everybody has connected, and we're calling that you know digital and that's an aspect.

08:18:35 Of digital inclusion. But once the fiber is there, once the infrastructure is in place and people are quote, unquote, connected.

08:18:45 Are they using that Internet to that full it to its fullest?

08:18:48 But, you know, are they? Are they getting the maximal, beneficial use out of their Internet connection?

08:18:56 And so they started developing this concept of digital connect initiative to help on sort of the people side of things.

08:19:01 How do we help people get connected? Use the Internet for you know to help with an example. I heard earlier was telemedicine.

08:19:12 That's an excellent example, especially in rural settings like on a reservation having the the ability to call into your doctor do a video chat or something like that instead of having to drive to the hospital remote

08:19:28 learning work from home, you know, running e-commerce, running your business, a small business online.

08:19:34 All that type of stuff is an important aspect to consider of digital inclusion.

08:19:38 And so that's what Dci has been created to do we do digital literacy training.

08:19:46 Are again. So, as Steve said, we are just sort of getting started, and we have a lot of ambitions.

08:19:52 We have a lot of goals, so what i'm gonna do today is sort of just sort of present.

08:19:57 Our vision for Dci and the Healer River, Indian community, which we hope to expand beyond Kuba River as we as we learn and grow.

08:20:07 So i've been thinking about this sort of as 3 3 different tears, or you could think about it as like the 3 different timelines right in the near term digital literacy.

08:20:21 Improving people's digital literacy is sort of an immediate need that we can fill.

08:20:23 And so we've been doing that with trainings with elders helping them get connected, because they want to attend district meetings.

08:20:32 They want to attend community meetings, even just stay connected to that family just this past week.

08:20:37 It was just yesterday. Now, on Saturday I was at a community meeting of urban community members and helping helping them get their photos from their phone to their computer.

08:20:50 They wanted to do. I mean stuff like that you know where people really want to learn simple, essential digital literacy skills things like email and video conferencing.

08:21:00 So that's one and we help that with that all ages you know the young people.

08:21:06 We think they're they're digital natives meaning they grew up with technology.

08:21:11 So they must know everything about computers right Well, that's not true. They still need to take that time to learn typing skills, you know.

08:21:19 Stuff like simply not navigating the the Internet safely and securely.

08:21:26 So So those are the type of skills that we are starting with in the near term midterm.

08:21:33 We really want to help people who are interested in getting jobs in the tech field tech and communications through certifications, training, helping them to to get their education to.

08:21:49 You know a lot of the barriers to people pursuing these jobs.

08:21:53 And again, you know, i'm focused primarily in Indian country, right? So with indigenous populations, there are a lot of social barriers, social and community barriers, so things like transportation, or childcare things like that that

08:22:08 we really want to help people remove those barriers, or at least lower those barriers so that they can achieve their goals of, you know, entering the tech field and also opening up plenty more jobs so that there are roles

08:22:21 to be filled, so that's sort of the midterm where we want to help people with their jobs own.

08:22:28 And of course, I can't forget you know as I mentioned earlier. The entrepreneurs the small business owners.

08:22:31 We have a lot of creative people in here or in Indian community.

08:22:35 A lot of small business people who want to start their small business, but they really struggle because of the rural setting.

08:22:44 And again, just sort of lack of experience and the exposure to the technology that will help them run a successful business.

08:22:52 So we want to help them as well, getting their business off the ground and running them globally, and then sort of the third or long term aspect of what Dci is looking to do is helping is engaging youth in stem careers.

08:23:09 And you know, when we think about the the next 7 generations or of the healer of Indian community, or any indigenous community, we're we're talking about our the youth and you know our kids kids and our kids.

08:23:22 Kids, and if we can inspire them to pursue careers in the stem fields specifically more in telecommunications and information, whether it's coding or web development, or even newer technologies, like

08:23:38 threed printing, augmented reality or virtual realities.

08:23:43 You know we want to inspire the youth to pursue opportunities like that.

08:23:49 A lot of times. they just don't have the exposure they don't have you know they just aren't told when they're young, that this is a possibility for you and so we want to bring that to the youth.

08:24:01 Of our community, so that's sort of the the 3 I would say, like the 3 pillars of Dci, We're still sort of developing our

08:24:14 Our program. Our actual programming a lot of what we've done today has been sort of that first one I mentioned, which is digital literacy training.

08:24:20 We did one on telehealth Google using Google products.

08:24:26 And we again this video: conferencing differences between like webex and zoom and stuff like that.

08:24:35 And a lot of our audience has been elders to date.

08:24:37 But i'm engaging with the youth council healer has its own Youth Council.

08:24:42 And i'll be meeting with them later this month? to see?

08:24:46 You know. How can we start programs with them as Well, so that's that's pretty much my presentation, for for now this is Dci getting started.

08:24:55 Actually. So one last thing we have been when you guys mentioned Nti a, I think travel broadband connectivity program, because for indigenous nations the Ntia ran that TbcP has been the biggest source of funding

08:25:12 or investment in in broadband infrastructure use and adoption projects. ever, you know.

08:25:21 So that's a been a big deal in Indian country we apply for that one.

08:25:24 We're also applying for good jobs challenge to the Eda.

08:25:29 The the indigenous communities grant I think that's also an eda one. and so we've been doing a lot of grants applications and just kind of get get things off the ground and get things started so that's

08:25:43 sort of been our our role, and i've only been here for about 3 months.

08:25:48 So. so we're sort of like I said getting started with all those programs.

08:25:53 So thanks for giving me some time to present at the meeting today, and I would love to connect with with anyone on this call.

08:26:01 I I really enjoy the conversation up till now. so thank you.

08:26:07 And just fyi the announcement about the meeting that you've hopefully all got should have this contact information that we you might also want to put it into the chat with.

08:26:20 And then, mark here, I just wanted to go a little further on the Ntia Tribal Grant program.

08:26:26 Those applications were due September one. They were oversubscribed, I think, about 4 to one against the \$1,000,000,000 or so that was available, and only about 6 or 7,000,000 has been announced.

08:26:42 So far, mostly this, probably the smallest of their grants so we're still kind of waiting for the shoot of all on the bulk of that \$1,000,000,000.

08:26:53 So, Mikhail, Good luck with your application.

08:27:00 And then, if you go Wednesday, listen to Administrator Davidson or otherwise, know about that program.

08:27:08 There's another 2,000,000,000 that was approved in the Infrastructure Act to refresh the tribal broadband program at Ntia, and i've been on some tribal listening sessions and webinars with the

08:27:23 Ntia. It seems that that 2,000,000,000 will be split with some of it going to high graded applications from last September's round that were not initially approved against the \$1,000,000,000, and some new money and so don't

08:27:43 know if it's gonna be 1,000,000,000 for already applied ones that didn't make the cut and a 1,000,000,000 for new applications.

08:27:52 But there will be some split, so we are waiting for the shoot to fall.

08:27:58 I was involved in at least 3 tribal applications.

08:28:04 Again. Do September. One and we're waiting to hear but more money's coming there as well.

08:28:11 Oh, wow! yeah, thank you mark that's right so i've been reporting to my board.

08:28:16 You know they're like well when do you expect to hear that?

08:28:19 And I said, Well, they said march the 20 earth they said the spring of 2,022, so we're just waiting to hear the back.

08:28:26 But yes, I heard on on the tribal leaders consultation with nga, that there was sort of split between people who wanted a second round of funding for those who were unable.

08:28:38 The first time around, and those who said, Well, we already were oversubscribed.

08:28:44 Just use the fuse of money in the first round. So there have having to balance those 2 opinions.

08:28:53 Okay, Any other questions, comments, partners, that you folks are chef.

08:28:57 Go ahead. Question one of the one of the challenges we have and i'm just going to say up Front Kilo River.

08:29:03 Is it the pinnacle of our tribes here in the State, the Hila River?

08:29:08 Any community in the Navajo nation are from a technical organizational standpoint.

08:29:12 You know light years ahead of most of the other tribes.

08:29:14 Now there are other tribes like that. You have a pi Apache that are catching up quickly, but there are certain tribes in the State that we have not.

08:29:24 Connected with on a technical managerial level the way. that we need to, and and I've asked for for help from some more folks that that work in those areas I know in the past.

08:29:35 I know, with the alluvian with the Usda.

08:29:41 Reconnect. Grant was gonna be building to other tribes. i'm just curious what what the the philosophy is at the tribal level about working with other tribes to to either provide technical assistance or build rings

08:29:54 that connect back to Heila River. from from some of these other areas, because, believe me, they they do need to help.

08:30:01 And I would certainly appreciate the partnership if if the tribe was interested in working with the State on stuff on that sort of thing.

08:30:11 That's a good question. Yeah, and I mean I I probably i'm.

08:30:14 Honestly not the best person to answer that I mean you would 200 best to be directed to David Akerson of Alluvian.

08:30:23 He's the This general manager there and he could probably speak to that a little bit better, or or Jim Myers, I can give you their contact information.

08:30:32 He's a CEO of grti from what I understand with that project in particular is tribes are open to it, you know.

08:30:39 I mean it's the they want. to stay connected I think more of the biggest obstacles a lot of tribes have is just a lack of capacity or resources.

08:30:49 So maybe they're interested in working with the state or working with other tribes.

08:30:53 They just they're not there yet. they're focused internally, you know, and sort of building capacity there.

08:30:59 So that that's that's probably you know as far as the best I can give you right now.

08:31:04 But i'd love to you know stay in touch and direct you to my colleagues at G.

08:31:09 Rci in the rubio that'd be great i've met with David very sharp guy. they've got some incredibly ambitious plans for Piano County, and like I said we just like more we'd like to

08:31:18 push them to the to, maybe pushing to Southern Arizona if that makes sense.

08:31:22 So thank you. any other thoughts from michelle Okay, so cup with things for those of you who don't know I i'm not always as great about getting out the minutes and so forth.

08:31:45 By Henry, and and Oris used. to do and so you can download the chat right away, so that you will have any of the information that was provided in the chat. So if you don't know how to do that if you go

08:32:01 to chat, and in the bottom right hand, corner you'll see in whips, and you'll be able to download the chat and have that a immediately available for you. so I just wanted to to point that out so again it just

08:32:18 It's just phenomenal the great work that people are doing here at the State, and thank you all for doing that, and for joining us this morning.

08:32:26 If any other question. Yeah, sure. go ahead, Speaker Kelly.

08:32:32 Are you still on? Guess not. okay. I was curious if What she's had said in her presentation that they had the information from the Mississippi on their tech. and so I was curious.

08:32:48 Where it was at on the site because i'm on the site I don't see it.

08:32:52 So that's what was my question was for her Mississippi in Utah.

08:32:56 She had stated their toolkits. All right, Thanks. Okay, Anything else for today?

08:33:07 Well, I believe we might be done for today. then, mikhael. Thank you for joining us, and thanks for your presentation.

08:33:13 It's always great to hear great stuff that's going on and we welcome your engagement with us.