

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

Meeting Zoom Transcript

April 4, 2022

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

07:33:00 Okay. ready to get started this morning. Welcome everybody. good to see you all on a Monday morning.

07:33:08 I have a couple of things first of all that's been kind of a challenge for me.

07:33:14 The last week or 2. my wife has been as many of you know, has been sick, and she's been in and out of the hospital twice in the last week or so.

07:33:25 So a lot of my time, course, has been spent with her and had at the hospital.

07:33:30 So, anyway. so I apologize if i'm a little bit disconnected here.

07:33:37 So So please bear with me. and then secondly so let's just get started is there anybody new who's joining us on the call this morning.

07:33:52 Anybody knew. Okay, this is a This is Jeff. I was gonna save this for Milo and our reduction.

07:34:00 But I did want to introduce Sandip Bhowmick, Assistant Broadband Director, 602-806-1776
M 310-923-5524 sandipb@AZcommerce.com

07:34:06 Our new assistant broadband director for the State. I was wondering who that was.

07:34:11 So, Sandip, if you want to say hello for quickly.

07:34:15 Sure morning is still, and everyone thanks Jeff for introducing me.

07:34:20 My name is Sandip Bhowmick, i'm recently appointed Assistant State Program Director. I'm, working with Jeff on any upcoming broadband project, have a strong background in wellness and telecommunication industry. For last 7 years, and as well as communication side of the military. Looking forward to working with you all. Thank you so much.

07:34:44 Great glad you could join us this morning and welcome to our 2.

07:34:47 Our team and the jeff's team I should say so i'm glad that 5 to have you anybody else.

07:34:53 That's new to the call this morning. Okay, just moving on next meetings 1118, and 25.

07:35:03 Hopefully, you will receive calendar invites can't tell these days with email what's working and what's not working and getting the word out to people. So today we're going to have a presentation from Kelly percy and I

07:35:22 pronounce your last name correctly. tell me yeah close enough.

07:35:28 It's crucial, but you know I respond to everything and it's actually going to be I don't think I'm telling tells how to school Kelly that it's going to be not only it's kind of a presentation

07:35:45 but really also getting looking at him for input from from this group about the work that's going on with department of Ed. So

07:35:55 So we're gonna try and make sure we have plenty of time for that and and then I want to just jump into mark of you online. Yes, good morning.

07:36:05 So, Mark, you want to kind of give us an update on on the conference.

07:36:12 I know I just had a call with kirk and Understand? we got a time change, and and also to remind people and about the reception if they can't be there for their whole conference. Sure, So this wednesday. April the sixth.

07:36:26 Will be big data southwest data center and smart city iot infrastructure summit delayed a couple of times for the pandemic.

07:36:37 So it's an all day. event physically in Phoenix, the Willow Conference Center, which is near 40, Fourth and Broadway fully hybrid.

07:36:49 So anyone who wants to participate remotely welcome to do that for all a part of the day.

07:36:56 So the morning is well up mostly about the Day Center world citing technology.

07:37:05 Other issues in the afternoon moves into the telecom and broadband space.

07:37:13 So you're right there is a slight shift in time there's a edge iot mobility panel at 145 my broadband in digital equity panel, which had been I think 4 is now 3 30 so minor

07:37:32 change and timing There, there for myself and 3 others jeff Sabotka drew clark who runs a national program called Broadband Breakfasts and broadcasts live who I've known for a Dozen years since the

07:37:55 last recovery does great work in highlighting broadband issues in a weekly program and other other things as well as Brian Daley, who some of you will know from this call He's a Vp.

07:38:13 At at and t back East in involved primarily with fiveg and 60 G.

07:38:20 Standards. he'll be on that panel as well and then that will be followed at 4 30.

07:38:25 Now by a workforce development, education and esg panel that Aaron car. Jordan will moderate.

07:38:35 I'm not sure who all is on her panel but at that same time 4, 30.

07:38:42 There'll be a parallel session of breakout session. That, Jeff and I will host our I'm.

07:38:49 Hoping Jeff is is my co-host there as well as well as on the panel for broadband providers.

07:38:56 It's the formation of an atic broadband provider working group.

07:39:03 We're calling it where we want to give the providers who have no real statewide association across industry sectors, or something in the cable industry.

07:39:18 Is something for more. The constructors, the Arizona Wireless Association.

07:39:24 But we hope to give that a launch as a home where broadband providers come and discuss issues, and perhaps plan actions or collaboration.

07:39:36 Then that closes out the event. The workforce development and panel and the breakout session for providers and the receptions Now, at 5 30, going into the evening, so you've you can register for free I will go find the link and

07:39:54 put it in the chat. so and you can attend all or part of the day.

07:40:03 So, for example, if you just wanted to come for the 2 or remote, attend for the broadband and digital equity panel the workforce an education panel. you can do that remotely. but You go ahead.

07:40:20 And register with an ati she code kirk we'll be getting out zoom links for the event show.

07:40:30 There'll be one for all day and there'll be a second zoom link for those that are gonna go to the breakout session.

07:40:36 But you should get, I believe, from Kirk today a calendar. Invite, if you, if you've registered with both those links, or of course, welcome to come on site to So let me pause there, and see what

07:40:51 questions are any we have. So mark I just got the I just got off the phone with Kirk, and of course he's getting get moving on the conference, so he's not going to be on the call today.

07:41:02 She me, but he did send me an updated email and I haven't even had a chance to look at it.

07:41:07 But I will send out an email to everybody with all the updated information and agenda and everything.

07:41:14 After this call this morning Great. so so again, I just want to emphasize to all of you that although it's obviously not the most important part of the conference.

07:41:25 But there, there is a free reception which I looks like.

07:41:30 The time has now changed the but if you can't make the conference.

07:41:35 I encourage you all to come and join us, for the reception and interact with everybody and all the folks that have been on these calls and Haven't seen each other in person, and a long time to come.

07:41:47 Join the reception. great and endor Jet. You know that the late afternoon the broadband?

07:41:55 Did you divide? the education or provider session rolls right into that reception?

07:41:59 So, you know, if you can dedicate a few hours rather than the whole day.

07:42:04 Certainly come mid-afternoon and stay with us.

07:42:08 Yep. So so, anyway. and then mostly, I think most of you know that Kirk has been an active participant in this task force and and good friend.

07:42:17 So certainly like to support him also in the conference. So any questions or comments from Mark and i'll try to get the update about the conference out a little later this morning.

07:42:34 Thanks, Steve. The link and code are in the chat now.

07:42:37 Thank you. Okay, Thanks. All right, Mark. This is Mala. Just a quick question.

07:42:43 Would this like be recorded? Because if there are parallel sessions, we may not be able to attend

07:42:49 The conference will be recorded by yes and made available I don't know that the breakout group will also be recorded.

07:42:59 So the the conference, the main conference is smaller I don't.

07:43:05 I don't even know about whether there's a crew that is, you know, with additional capabilities to film the breakout session.

07:43:14 Thank you. Well, well mark if you're gonna be online.

07:43:20 Right. we need to grab it in zoom you're right?

07:43:22 Yeah, it should be pretty simple to do there's actually gonna be a professional recording of the day, though.

07:43:28 Well, okay, any other questions for Mark. So again, encourage you all. and hopefully, we'll be able to if nothing else to see you at the reception in the evening.

07:43:38 Okay, moving on. I guess it's time well it's just a reminder that we do.

07:43:44 We are going to be doing our Tibetan with college after this meeting.

07:43:48 So anybody who wants to hang out online and just can share information ask questions, or whatever.

07:43:55 Again you know that that's an informal we don't record that session and excuse me there's no agenda, no presentation or anything else.

07:44:05 It's strictly informal sometimes it lasts 10 min, sometimes it'll last for an hour, and a half.

07:44:11 So, and again, you know. welcome to drop-out as you choose.

07:44:15 So, but I encourage you to all join us for that and then on.

07:44:22 Let's just go ahead and get started with our updates So, Jeff, you want to kick it off, please.

07:44:29 Thursday, and the the big news obviously is, Sandy will be joining us as assistant broadband director. Much needed help.

07:44:38 You brings a really unique technical background to what we're doing One of the things that we talk a lot about with our rural areas is we've got these amazing projects in the pipeline and some of our counties that

07:44:51 will bring connectivity to the communities themselves in some cases just, you know, middle mile to the communities.

07:44:58 In other cases directly to homes and businesses, which is obviously our preference.

07:45:01 But there are other situations that quite frankly need to be covered, and wireless is usually the best one.

07:45:09 I mean the obvious one, or folks that decide that they want to be part of the community.

07:45:13 But they want to live, you know, 1020 miles outside of the community.

07:45:17 And how do we connect You know wireless is usually the best option rather than building? you know individual fiber outs another thing that's really important to what we do for those of you who live in Maricopa

07:45:26 county. We probably don't think about this as much but is agriculture when you look at it places like Piano County and Yuma County in particular, there's a lot of agriculture going on I always say

07:45:40 this statistic that 90% of the lettuce in the country in the wintertime comes from human county.

07:45:43 So whether you're in chicago or miami you're getting Yuma lettuce So it's a big business, and and helping them get to the next level a lot of that's going to be done with

07:45:54 wireless networks applying for Federal grants to build out these kind of networks.

07:45:59 Sand. Deep has that type of background that can help us he's also going to be the best of better ever on some of these grant applications.

07:46:07 I mean he could tell you a little bit about his education background.

07:46:11 But he knows this stuff backwards and forwards, and is able to bring a technical level of expertise that we really need.

07:46:18 As we move forward, another announcement that I wanted to make.

07:46:22 Probably not mind to make, but I figured I would go ahead anyway.

07:46:26 Sonya Nez is the new broadband manager for the Navajo nation.

07:46:32 I get a chance to meet her a couple weeks ago at our broadband summit and have a call with her and others for those of you who are not familiar.

07:46:40 The Navajo nation is dedicated \$208,000,000 to broadband and that's all coming out of Sonya shop.

07:46:47 So yeah, she has more money than I do and but that's exciting.

07:46:51 They're working with us at the State Level I know that They've had discussions with Patchy County, Navajo County and Cocaine County as well.

07:46:59 And this is going to be be definitely a group Effort again to give you some scale.

07:47:02 The Navajo nation touches 4 different states it's the size of West Virginia.

07:47:08 It's a big project we're super excited to get up there.

07:47:12 The next broadband summit meeting is in Utah and a little town.

07:47:17 He was 50 miles north of the 4 corners area but you'll always be a fun drive for myself, and we're going to go up there in a couple of weeks and continue to move forward.

07:47:25 So that's exciting. as well the can you send me her contact information, our put it in the chat either way, and we hopefully, we can get her engaged.

07:47:36 Yeah, that that'd be great they've been great partners and continue to be.

07:47:41 We work with all of our tribes, some are much more active.

07:47:46 The you have a pi Apache is another tribe that we're spending a lot of time with right now with the I 17 project and helping them to to reap the benefits of that project in terms of connectivity in their

07:47:57 area. The Hila River Indian community here in the Marco County area have been great partners.

07:48:03 You actually have their own celac company called the Luvian and we're excited to see them expand as they look to build a place like Florence and Coolidge and other areas in Piano county So tribes are a big part of What we

07:48:15 do and we're excited to have sonya on board here moving forward, and i'll see if I can get around these calls, Steve.

07:48:23 Oh, really, all I had for this week. I did ask a couple of weeks ago.

07:48:27 There were some questions around the treasury funds and one request that I had made of the group is is maybe to come up with a list of of priority areas that you feel that there should be spend on i'm still anxious to see

07:48:38 that I think that that's something as we go into these discussions, you know, having different viewpoints of how we should spend it.

07:48:47 Just to remind everyone the the treasury funds were getting a little over \$192,000,000.

07:48:52 What's most interesting about that is the flexibility we have and what we spend them on.

07:48:57 Lot of the other programs. the Arpa program, the Ija are very focused on specific things.

07:49:04 Even the digital equity program has definite things the treasury is probably the one that's probably the closest to a block.

07:49:10 Grant that we have. There are some restrictions in terms of connecting folks at 100.

07:49:16 100 is their preference. 120 over 20 is is doable, but that's not that's not doesn't have to be the main requirement of the project, so you know, as you all have qubitsing

07:49:27 in with colleagues. and other discussions I would absolutely appreciate your input on that. and that's something that I can bring to the table from outside groups.

07:49:34 I've always said that that I certainly don't have all the best ideas. and I can tell you firsthand just in working with different groups.

07:49:41 People like joy whiting out in in apache county and Steven Mark.

07:49:46 I've brought some really good ideas to the table that that weren't mine.

07:49:50 So if you have ideas on that, please let me know and again, that's all I really have for today.

07:49:55 So, Jeff, 2 things one is let's i'll be in touch with You see, if we can schedule an online forum about the Treasury funds and have a discussion about that and not take the time in this meeting to

07:50:11 do that. The second thing is, we had some discussion a while ago, and want to coordinate with you about also having another session.

07:50:21 And and I need your help, and identifying all these different communities who have projects that are going on, so that we can also first of all get them gates with us here, but also have a separate forum where all these different communities who are

07:50:37 working on various projects, can get to know each other share information talk about best practices and so forth.

07:50:45 So i'd really like for us to make that happen also with the next couple of weeks.

07:50:52 Yeah, Steve, some of that might be tough. I mean, obviously, we have a lot of folks that are applying for grants.

07:50:58 I just go about a coaches county. got There a broadband survey out yesterday, I believe, or Friday, so there's there's a lot going on It's ever changing I can certainly try to put you in contact with some of those folks but

07:51:10 This is definitely an evolving process in some cases we have 3 different groups on the same area.

07:51:18 So. but i'll do what I can to get you the information hey?

07:51:22 Well, let's let's talk about that offline so the last thing, Jeff, do you have any updates on what's happening with the grants, and what the timeline is to make the announcements about grants Well, you know

07:51:34 Terry Orman is our Grants manager, and I have to defer to her on all this stuff.

07:51:38 But the guideline that she put out to the applicants was June the thirtieth to receive I'm, hoping to get bring that in a little bit we're in the process of evaluating

07:51:48 grants, and there are some good ones that's all I really can tell you at this point.

07:51:52 Okay, thanks. Sandy, do you have anything else that you want to want to add?

07:52:01 Whereas as Jeff said I'll be helping Jeff with any upcoming projects, and we are working on the grand application right now at this very moment, and happy to see all these great ideas on top of that if anyone

07:52:15 has any question regarding a hybrid hybrid fiber and well as network.

07:52:21 That's what I have been designing doing and optimizing wireless network, for at and T.

07:52:28 And Verizon, after graduating college with my degree in telecommunication engineering.

07:52:33 So also I build some massive, large-scale private network in East Coast for iot application when it comes to agriculture in building fiveg network, and any big venue network I one of the network, I would I would mention

07:52:50 is like this year super bowl network, which at and T.

07:52:55 Just finished in super bowl, stadium, and state from Stadium in in Glendale.

07:53:00 So anyone has any question regarding any iot infrastructure network.

07:53:03 A smart city broadband, based on fiber and well as mixed network.

07:53:09 Please feel free to reach out to me my email address I already posted in chat.

07:53:15 Please feel free to email email, and we can definitely hop into a quick phone call.

07:53:19 If if I can help you with anything. and Sandy, But will you be at the at the summit on Wednesday?

07:53:26 Yes, great look forward to meeting you there yeah your name's awfully familiar.

07:53:32 You've been involved somewhere on the way with us before yeah I I was.

07:53:39 Yeah, Okay, well welcome. Glad you're gonna join us and and help Jeff, because he really needed it.

07:53:47 We're right on Mala. Yes, as we all know the era Deadline was on March.

07:53:56 The 20 s, and the Russell. some applicants who are doing their late applications.

07:54:03 Fcc. normally accepts at least 14 days after that deadline.

07:54:10 Without appeals, and then those who are applying after that will have to put in an appeal as well.

07:54:19 The tribal libraries, however, do have a new tribal library.

07:54:22 Let me qualify it. Do have a show to apply until no 26

07:54:30 So that window is still open. Arizona applied for nearly a \$120,000,000.

07:54:39 Schools and libraries together for Internet and internal connections.

07:54:43 I did put it in the chat a link to the U.S.A.

07:54:49 Annual report that they released the 2,021 annual report.

07:54:51 They released it on March the 30 first, and the link to that is posted in the chat.

07:54:57 As far as easy F is concerned. Yeah, Ecf has a class.

07:55:04 They open the third filing window. they announced the or Fcc.

07:55:09 Announced the opening of it. The window will be open on Itspril the 20, eighth, and until May the thirteenth

07:55:20 And the Commission anticipates a minimum of a 1,000,000,000 dot of \$1,000,000,000.

07:55:25 That's what they think would be available after the first 2 rounds. of commitment and disbursement it actually is.

07:55:37 A calindrome. If you look at it, date the funds that are available.

07:55:41 They would not know until they have actually dispersed the amount, and that the deadline for this person, any of these funding is 60 days after the deadline.

07:55:59 The application deadline. So that would be I mean. So I, after the service delivery deadline. The service delivery for the first 2 rounds is June, the thirtieth of 2,000, and 23 and the third round is

07:56:14 December thirtieth of 2,023.

07:56:19 So it. It would be interesting to see how sec deals with this issue.

07:56:25 I think they the that is a possibility that they would limit it.

07:56:31 If the if there are more applications than the \$1,000,000,000, and they would limit it to the highest discount applicants, so that we've got to decide with our schools and libraries where the lower discount applicants would even need

07:56:52 to apply, or should bother to apply for this for the next round of Ecf.

07:56:58 So let's we that's that's an interesting situation for us to to have to face and the third project that i'm working on is the Ebb.

07:57:11 Now acp the affordable connectivity program as of March the 20 eighth there were 243,000 households that had signed up for this program.

07:57:24 Arizona is still around eleventh or twelfth in the number of households that have applied for Acp, and I do want to put in a plug for connected to Arizona site where the

07:57:40 the media kit is available in case anyone wants to grab it to the promote and publicize any questions back to you, Steve.

07:57:52 Okay, any questions from Mala. Okay, thank you, Mama Hobby, Are you online? I am. But I don't have anything to add, Steve.

07:58:01 Thank you. Okay, and I don't know I haven't looked out.

07:58:04 I was just looking to see who was here. I don't know if Nicole's online But we're gonna jump right into an update cindy and Nicole you have anything that you want to lots a lot of

07:58:15 stuff happening digital inclusion 3: yeah I'll just quickly Add: So we are using Connect Arizona, which is an initiative of the State Library to be a clearing house of information for the Acp, But a lot of that

07:58:32 relies on our partnerships, and all of you guys to help get the word out.

07:58:36 And so we are actually trying to work with common sense media and Elena, who's on our call today to do some targeted outreach here in Arizona as a pilot to see how some of that strategic

07:58:49 advertising can help to boost our numbers and trying to use our statewide digital navigator program through Connect Arizona to help spread that work.

07:59:00 So hopefully. we'll see even more people who are eligible for this discount.

07:59:07 Be signing up there right that's your doing some great stuff. Nicole, It's really awesome.

07:59:14 A city village takes a village. i'm sorry digital inclusion the ndi, a just published couple of weeks back, but I only found out recently I haven't seen it posted here before a digital inclusion coalition

07:59:30 guidebook kind of an interesting guide for the leadership and organization of digital inclusion efforts.

07:59:37 So I did put that link in the chat where you can go download the Pdf of it.

07:59:43 Okay, Thank you. Anything else, Cindy, Are you online today?

07:59:49 Yes, Yep. When else, Cindy? Yeah, just a couple of things.

07:59:53 So So we have lunchtime meeting for practitioners this Thursday at 12 o'clock.

08:00:04 The topic is tech support, and what it means in the digital inclusion ecosystem.

08:00:09 And I can. So anybody who wants to attend that any practitioners want to attend that can get in touch with me, and i'll put my my info in the chat here.

08:00:23 Yeah, I also posted the the link to the media kit for that connect.

08:00:30 Arizona developed for the acp but that in the chat.

08:00:38 Let's see, I think that's offered today Steve okay.

08:00:44 So again, Cindy and Nicole and you guys have been doing some really awesome work where we appreciate it.

08:00:52 Let's go on Janet or you online I don't think so.

08:00:58 So while I do, you have any updates that you want to talk about regarding the telehealth and libraries?

08:01:05 Project. Not really. At this point we are still working on some of the logistics and the nitrities working with the health Department at team accounting to get some sign up sign offs on the nurses who will be at

08:01:25 awful and out of work. We are, however, planning an inauguration somewhere early, June.

08:01:38 We don't have dates yet, and we are still working on the program and the logistics of all of that.

08:01:44 So yeah, And we are working with the nurse who coordinator at U.

08:01:51 Of a to get her students signed up for the program.

08:01:55 Lots of moving parts, and it's coming together. but I don't have anything more to report on.

08:02:01 That yet? Right? Okay, Any questions for mama okay i'm gonna jump, skip the arizona department of education for a minute. Leah: I don't think you're online are you Okay, Derek: Yeah, I'm: here

08:02:23 steve but I don't I don't have much update today.

08:02:28 And any any recent updates about the highway projects.

08:02:33 No, not on top of last week. not not much new in the last week at least.

08:02:43 All righty. Well, then, we're gonna just jump right into our tea presentation.

08:02:48 And so we're gonna go to the Arizona Department of Education.

08:02:51 First of all, Sophia, before we get to Kelly.

08:02:54 Sophia or my one. You guys have an update.

08:03:00 Sure we gave the the U. 8 update last week.

08:03:05 As far as the final mile project or a broadband project updates.

08:03:10 We've got this year. We have another \$7,000,000 with our projects that have been requested.

08:03:16 So those are now in the pipeline that'll take us around 150,000,000 for the all the broadband projects for the final mile projects.

08:03:25 We have one that's completed in process due to complete in the next 60 days; in the another, 4 that rfps have been published.

08:03:36 Our sees closed. We've received bids on all of them, and the scroll districts are now in the bid evaluation process.

08:03:44 So. so i'm hoping the end of by the end of this week those districts will have their selections finished, and then we can bring that back to the final mile board for them to approve, and we can make the awards, and

08:04:00 issue bo's and get 4 more working and I believe That's going to use up our \$1.5,000,000.

08:04:08 We had from my rough calculations, so far which means I will be out looking for funding again from Governor's office and Department of Education and Corporation Commission, and whoever else I can make borrowers go from that's where

08:04:25 we are okay? Well, that's a you know that project is pretty awesome.

08:04:30 Greory, do you want to add anything about the final mile?

08:04:38 Sorry no violin. but Ronn basically gave the update.

08:04:41 I do think that what are the one of the interesting things?

08:04:46 Was the fiber the difficulty of said getting 5 or some of these places with, and so we've we've planned that better into our next.

08:04:57 If if we're involved with any future projects we're more aware to make that into put that in our planning schedule, One of the odd things was that they can't even get the switches.

08:05:06 They're having delays. they need me getting switches to hook up the fiber.

08:05:09 So now it gets in the supply chain beyond even the construction cost construction.

08:05:13 Part of it. No, it's going great violence been helping out significantly.

08:05:17 So we're We're pretty close to getting I think though the second Milo, I think we actually completed 2 of them to all of the people up in Rim Rock.

08:05:27 So the last person was connected up about a week, and a half ago, so that part's done all the all the we're starting the construction of more infrastructure out there, anyway.

08:05:36 But other net were caught up. Good, good, Roy, Do you want to just tell people who you are?

08:05:42 My apologies. I'm with triad wireless I'm, the CEO, and the chief engineer on the projects.

08:05:52 Okay any questions for for my one or her roly if not we're going to just jump into our focus presentation this morning with Kelly, as she is the program manager for the office of digital teaching and learning as most of you know

08:06:12 That's a new program under the arizona Department of Education, and I'm just going to turn it over to you, Kelly.

08:06:20 I'm going to stop sharing and if you have anything you want to share.

08:06:25 Please go ahead and great. Okay, i'm gonna first pop something into the chat so that you can have the urls tell the things that i'll be talking about.

08:06:38 So you can pull those up and explore on your own as I go.

08:06:39 But I will share my screen and dive right in. So thank you for the introduction, Steve.

08:06:46 My name is Kelly. I work for the Arizona Department of Education, and slowly but surely i'm starting to meet all of you, which is great.

08:06:54 And again i'm trying to do 2 things at once not successfully.

08:06:58 Okay, So I want to be able to see your faces as I present.

08:07:02 If you have questions, feel free to pop them in, a chat or just say them. Once I start presenting, I won't be able to see the chat for a little bit.

08:07:10 So, Steve, if you need to time in and share any questions from the chat, please definitely let me know.

08:07:16 All right. right So here we go so we released from the office of digital teaching and learning our new strategy, and if you're not familiar with the office, the office is new to the department of Ed, and this i'm sure you've

08:07:31 heard me say this: if You've met me before I will be a broken record.

08:07:35 I'm sure. for the first year this office came from Superintendent Hoffman. she appointed a technology task force that started in July of 2,020 as a result of Covid and having the realization of exactly how many

08:07:48 students in the State of Arizona did not have access to digital learning.

08:07:53 The tech task force met for a year. They made several recommendations, the biggest of which was developing this office.

08:07:59 Digital teaching and learning. The very first thing that we did was an assessment.

08:08:03 When we sent this out to all of the districts and charters to gather information from them, and get an understanding of where they stand with their practices, their resources, and their needs.

08:08:14 From that we wrote a full assessment and a strategic plan which we just released.

08:08:18 I think a week and a half ago so let's see right now.

08:08:24 Do you see the Url code? the Qr: Code? Okay, all right.

08:08:29 So if you use that or any of the links in the to chat, that will take you to the web page, which will show you many things.

08:08:36 What all of which i'm about to show you so the vision and the the mission of this office ultimately is about reducing that digital divide and providing schools with the resources that they need to be successful in meeting their digital teaching and learning

08:08:50 goals bridge connects succeed has been one of our tagline that we use everything that we do falls within that.

08:08:59 And again what we're trying to do, is really shrink that digital divide maybe a month or 2 ago, the department of Ed released their five-year strategic plan.

08:09:10 So everything that we're doing falls within those 5 priority areas, and you'll see on our slides how that works then for us as an office.

08:09:19 These are our 3 key areas that we're working on so we're working on building community.

08:09:24 We're working on gathering the data and measuring progress and we're working on solutions and resources.

08:09:31 So everything that we do is about building that community, so that the lease which an Lea is a local education agency which are the schools and Arizona.

08:09:40 So we want to bring them together, so they can share what's working for them for one another, and learn from one another, but also connect them to you.

08:09:48 The solution expert experts which could be many of you in this call hand hint.

08:09:53 So you'll see there at the bottom right of each screen that little white box that shows how we connect back to the strategic plan for the entire department.

08:10:03 And then our strategy. So again it falls within these 3 areas.

08:10:07 The community the data collection, and the solutions and I'm going to go through all of our findings and the solutions that we have from this assessment that we conducted back in November so as i'm going

08:10:20 through all of these slides I put out to you the call to action, and thinking about the work that you do every day.

08:10:27 How does that inform or support our schools? our schools have a lot of needs?

08:10:37 And certainly the Department of Education and even the governor's office does not have all of those resources available.

08:10:41 So this office is looking to get creative. How do we bring the community together to solve some of those gaps and reduce those gaps and everything that I'm going to talk about falls within those 3 areas of devices skills and

08:10:55 connectivity. All right. So our findings are divided up into 7 areas, the first of which is digital devices.

08:11:04 So we know that from our findings there is a need from schools across the State for refresh plans.

08:11:13 Many schools had access to funding that they had never had before because of Covid, and they were through the Cares Act or Esther funds able to access funding, and they could purchase devices and they could do things

08:11:24 they had never been able to do before. We all know that money is running out And now schools are in a place of realizing.

08:11:32 We have a 1,000 devices that we purchased, and we are in year 2.

08:11:36 They have a 3 year warranty. What happens when that warranty is up?

08:11:39 What happens when a time to refresh these devices? Where is that money going to come from?

08:11:44 And then also protection plans. So these are students we're talking about this is K.

08:11:49 12 things happen, devices get dropped. they get tossed around in backpacks.

08:11:54 So warranties are needed loss and theft warranties.

08:12:00 And then from this assessment we know that chromebooks are the most popular and most widely used devices as well.

08:12:08 So some of the solutions each of these pages has it divided up.

08:12:12 So on the left side you'll have the findings on the right side.

08:12:14 We have the solutions and we're listing the solutions that we are starting to work on. And again, I am looking to all of you to add your input? here. What is it that you do? that could be helpful?

08:12:27 What is it that you see that you could do to help reduce the need for more resources or offer more support?

08:12:32 So some of the solutions here, when it comes to devices, would be number one, using the purchasing power as a State to help drive down that cost.

08:12:42 What can we create? As far as economies of scale? So device is a service rather than just purchasing a laptop?

08:12:48 Are we able to create and negotiate contracts where schools can purchase the laptop with the bells and whistles that are needed with those protection plans with white glove service for asset management

08:13:01 we're working right now on some proofs of concept with devices, a service which is great.

08:13:05 But again, this is a pilot that we're working on to see how this works, and then we would look at Great.

08:13:12 This is successful. Now we have to figure out how to find funding and help this work for the schools, and then also sharing knowledge.

08:13:19 So how do we share practices and the How to's for like for things like refresh plans and support services?

08:13:30 The next area connectivity. So this is definitely the group to be talking about this with we know from our findings that a quarter of the students in Arizona lack access to digital learning the majority of schools don't track

08:13:46 connectivity. And then we know in rural areas that the number can be as high as 75% of students that do not have connectivity at home.

08:13:56 So again we're constantly looking at this solutions not only what did we find?

08:13:59 But now, what are the solutions and the action steps that we can start taking?

08:14:04 And I go back to you economies of scale and contract negotiations.

08:14:10 And this is also speaks heavily to myelin's work, and a lot of people on the screen and the work that you're doing with the final mile and the middle mile project really trying to get broadband out to

08:14:21 these areas, not only to the students but to the communities.

08:14:25 And then alternative connectivity solution. So, Jeff, this morning I think it was Jeff speaking about wireless, and we know that hotspots are used as well.

08:14:34 So again, just trying to look at the needs and come up with resources and solutions that meet the needs of the communities where they are, and with what they have right now Shall we?

08:14:46 Yes, and we'll have more time for questions and discussion later.

08:14:52 But as you go through this stuff, what you anticipate the the State may or may not address versus local school districts, and what they're going to have to come up with in terms of okay it's.

08:15:07 Got it here i'm this is so I can't see the top of the screen. I think this is digital skills. So again, our analysis and our findings and our and here we know that there is room for advancement and

08:15:18 more support when it comes to training staff and students we'd like to consider families as well.

08:15:25 So students and and staff have these devices? Do they have the training that they need to use the devices?

08:15:33 Use them effectively, and you use the content as well and we'd like, as I said before, to expand this to the families as well.

08:15:39 So if something happens at home and the student is using a device, and they're not able to connect or access something we'd like to include families in that training, so that they have the knowledge and the skills as well to be successful when using those

08:15:54 devices at home or in the classroom let's see, we also know we asked some questions about standards.

08:16:02 So the State does have standards when it comes to computer science.

08:16:04 And at tech. and the goal of this office is not to create new standards, but to help provide the resources and support.

08:16:12 To better use the standards that already exist. so some of the solutions. these are things that we've been working on already.

08:16:20 We're always looking for the low-hanging fruit, and I will definitely pay major props and kudos to the common sense Media People who are on the call.

08:16:28 Now I think Elena is here and drew common sense has been a great partner for us, and I know they've been a great partner for many in this call.

08:16:35 We've already been offering webinars and training sessions on digital citizenship with common sense media.

08:16:42 Those were were great they're quick 10 min sessions that are Wednesdays at one, and they're live, and it's 10 min of content that is applicable and then 10 min of Q.

08:16:53 And a through our feedback and our research we definitely learned that schools are a little bit weary when it comes to more webinars.

08:17:02 They don't want to sign up and and possibly waste an hour of their time in a webinar, so worked with common sense to come up with this new structure of 10 min of content.

08:17:12 Drop in, get your content and leave. And that went really well.

08:17:15 Our next one is coming up, using the same format with asu in a couple of weeks.

08:17:21 Again. we're always looking to leverage the state, resources what is in existence, now that we can use and and leverage and put into place and put into reach for our school communities.

08:17:32 And then, as you saw before, community, a community is a big part of our strategy.

08:17:36 And how do we bring schools together to share the knowledge that they have?

08:17:39 Now, what's working we're trying not to use the phrase best practices we're using best better or common practices we just want to have she shared knowledge of hey?

08:17:49 This is working for me. Let me share it with everyone else.

08:17:55 All right. dated security. Another hot topic for sure. and this is an expensive topic.

08:18:03 There is definite need for data and security resources and practice practices and funding. This is an expensive area, and it's often unaccessible.

08:18:14 So we can see this in the in the data that not all of our schools have the ability or access to complete risk assessments, professional or self conducted.

08:18:26 They don't, have the measures to reinforce sipa compliance, and they don't have access to data and security training, or, if they do, it's very expensive.

08:18:36 So again, I put the call out to those here in this meeting, as far as what are the resources that you have in these areas?

08:18:43 What could we be sharing with our schools? What can we do to create something new?

08:18:47 And we proactive. to support our schools. but we know that our schools, as with many businesses, are at risk when it comes to cybersecurity, and it's costly.

08:18:57 It's complicated It's time consuming it takes staff and I will say that the department of Ed our Cio Beth Neely has been working with the Arizona Department of Homeland.

08:19:10 Security, and there is some progress happening there there are some grants available.

08:19:14 So there is work that's happening and again. we're really trying to use the community within arizona to bring the resources forward for our schools, policies, and procedures.

08:19:24 This is another area. where it is about community. So like I had mentioned before that our Cio is working with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

08:19:34 We are trying to post and publish and share in a learning repository of sorts.

08:19:40 The best practices when it comes to cybersecurity.

08:19:43 This is a a big issue there's a lot of interest in it, and so we want to share those common practices and the information, and get it from the experts. to then share with the schools and we can make them into quick easy how tea.

08:19:55 Guides. but we do know that a lot of our our schools don't have fully approved and implemented policies and procedures.

08:20:04 So One thing that we did a few weeks ago in our newsletter was I reached out to a number of schools, and Nebalis, unified, was very great and gracious, and nay, and generous, and they shared their

08:20:15 full it manual. it's not 85 pages They shared it with us.

08:20:19 We put it on the website, put it in the newsletter and we're sharing it with schools.

08:20:23 So that again, looking at what are other schools doing maybe they're doing something that that works for us, and just because no galous is sharing it.

08:20:31 They're not. saying we're perfect but they're saying, this is what we have take from this what you can use that might be helpful.

08:20:36 And so again, our solutions building those resources, sharing those resources creating seminars and access to training and information and those communities of practice bringing practitioners and educators together.

08:20:52 Classroom innovation, i'm getting to the end I promise classroom innovation here.

08:20:55 So again, our findings digital content. content mapping the policies

08:21:02 There's definitely room for support and advancement here and for innovation.

08:21:06 We know that some schools are using extended reality, and how is that working for them?

08:21:11 And is this something that that could be expanded the solutions that we're working on again?

08:21:18 I always go back to that purchasing power of the State.

08:21:20 The contract negotiations, and also sharing that information.

08:21:23 So this office, collecting the information and sharing it and pushing it out and creating opportunity for groups in and educators and practitioners to come together to share what's working, and what they'd like to learn more about and then lastly, is the digital transformation and this one is more about the culture

08:21:44 and the framework. These are quotes that we pulled from that assessment, and you can see here that the findings that we have from here, and this is not what everyone is thinking.

08:21:55 But these are some of the thoughts and comments polls from that assessment that that digital learning is temporary, that there are other areas to focus on, that are a priority.

08:22:04 Right now we'll deal with this later, or even thinking that when Kovat goes away so will digital learning.

08:22:10 And and we know that this is life as we know it.

08:22:14 Now this is not going away. This is an area that is only going to grow. So we're looking at shifting that framework and that culture and that thinking so that everyone can be participants in society.

08:22:26 Now and have that access. I am probably speaking cindy hogan's language right now, and really working on that that digital inclusion.

08:22:35 And again, this is through those communities of practice and bringing people together to share what's working, and how to make improvements and continue to grow.

08:22:45 So again I I ask how you can help thinking of these 3 areas.

08:22:49 What is the work that you're doing how does it support or inform the work of the schools, and their needs, and then I think about one more slide that i'll throw up here.

08:22:59 This is my email, and then also, that Qr code will take you back to the web page.

08:23:08 And then, when you're on that site just click on all the the navigation pain on the left right hand side and click through things, and then also those Urls are in the chat so i'm going to stop sharing because I think

08:23:22 I've reached the end. so Kelly before I forget can you send me your presentation so I can share it with it.

08:23:30 Yes, of course. Okay, So I think there might have been a few things in the chat.

08:23:37 I can see Rory message V. directly so i'll take a look at that, Rory, but I do want to open it up for for conversation and thoughts.

08:23:45 It doesn't have to be immediately about what you can do to support.

08:23:49 But just thoughts in general, and I see Jeff is raising his hand.

08:23:52 Hey, Kelly, this is great i'm very very excited about the work that you all done, I mean Obviously, this the committee's been going at this for a while, and it looks like you guys really took this seriously and probably the one

08:24:04 thing that struck me and i'm glad to hear that you're you're open to this is is definitely working, you know, with myself and Myelin and and many of these other projects. they're going on and trying to update

08:24:15 it. if you're not already I think the person you should be talking to is well, is Aaron car Jordan with Asu on the digital equity side.

08:24:26 I had some really interesting discussions with her recently about this and There's a ton of overlap between a lot of what we're looking at at the state level in terms of digital equity.

08:24:34 One of the things we're getting is we're getting a \$100,000,000 specifically for digital equity and trying to plan that out.

08:24:41 And and and you know, check those boxes. I mean, Obviously, digital equity move is beyond K. to 12 kids.

08:24:46 But that is a big part of it, and I think a lot of the lessons learned over the pandemic in terms of you know device, retention, and reuse, and and and you know security.

08:24:57 These. These are the things that I think we need to involve in our discussion.

08:25:00 So i'd love to pull you into those discussions if you're up for that absolutely.

08:25:03 Yes, and Aaron car. Jordan has been instrumental.

08:25:07 She was a part of our assessment team to help develop the assessment to determine what questions we're asking what Kpis we're measuring.

08:25:15 She's been phenomenal Thank you for that Aaron is presenting to the task force next room.

08:25:22 Your head the game i'll tell you what yeah thanks so What else?

08:25:28 What else do other ideas and suggestions looks like? John have?

08:25:32 Has you signed up, Kelly? Just a quick question how, in terms of school districts in particular, subscribing to your newsletter?

08:25:40 How is that going you feel like you're getting good reach to the folks that you're really trying to serve. Oh, there's always room for improvement, and I am so the goal here is to be as transparent as possible we have published that

08:25:55 full analysis. There, isn't anything that we are are you know sweeping under the rug.

08:26:00 We have about 1,500 people who have subscribed to our newsletter, always looking to increase our reach.

08:26:04 And could use help in that for sure. and at the same time we are slowly building our contact list.

08:26:13 As far as you know it, directors within the schools and then we're also trying to work with the academic and curriculum directors as well, so that we can speak to both sides of you know what's happening and make sure we understand

08:26:24 that, but I appreciate the question, and could definitely use help in in raising awareness.

08:26:30 I am trying to insert myself and impose everywhere it in meetings, gatherings anywhere, so that I can talk about this office and what we're trying to do because again we are about 5 months old.

08:26:44 And so the work is new, and we have no brand awareness.

08:26:51 So, Charlie, i'm sorry sherita did you want to say something.

08:26:56 Yeah, I wanted to ask a couple of questions. I printed the document, but I haven't ready yet, so if your answer is, go read the document.

08:27:02 That's fine i'm going to get there because I know i'm just curious on the percentage like the you know how many schools are in the State, and the percentage like that.

08:27:13 Actually in. Is it a good demographics of our breakup of who responded in the sense of your smaller districts, responded, or your larger ones didn't, or what that looks like and like?

08:27:28 I know no numbers are real, true numbers. But how are the numbers looking?

08:27:31 If you broke it out. Demographic wise, I guess.

08:27:35 Yes, excellent question. So it is in the document, but I will share with you on top of ahead what I know.

08:27:42 So, as far as representation and response rates response weight, we had a 21% response rate, which we did not know what to expect.

08:27:49 This is our first time doing it. And again, we basically just made cold calls and did this for the first time, creating our own list.

08:27:58 And our goal is that this assessment is not a one, and done, We will continue to do this on an annual basis.

08:28:03 If not, buy annually and grow that list And then, as far as representation, while we only had 21% response rate, we did have a response from every single county.

08:28:14 So we were excited about that that we were at least able to get, you know, responses from across the State

08:28:23 And then, as far as demographics, and representation we are trying to drill down as far as we can, and consider things, as far as you know, charter versus district, and I believe if i'm recalling correctly we had about

08:28:35 a 6. Out of those who did respond. 66% were districts, 33% charters.

08:28:44 But then also drilling down for us to have an understanding more on things such as tribal nations and so socioeconomic status of the schools.

08:28:55 You know the the populations. of the schools are serving so really trying to look at the information that we're getting, and then how that applies to the populations.

08:29:04 I can see there's a couple more hands. But go ahead. I think sure you might have unmuted.

08:29:10 Yeah, no, I was just gonna say, thank you thank you yeah no problem.

08:29:13 I can see joy's got her hand up hi Kennedy

08:29:17 I was just wondering if any of the county school superintendents have approached you about this information specifically, and doing a short presentation or answering questions. At one of our association meetings.

08:29:32 I have reached out to some I have not I guess.

08:29:36 Let me rephrase no one has reached out to me directly, but I think that's just because they don't know that I exist, But I have reached out.

08:29:43 I've been in contact with West and Melissa, and working with the Arizona World School Association, looking at when are the next meetings that I can invite myself to, and then we have been reaching out to

08:29:54 rural areas intentionally. So robbie and sean and Kristin and I don't remember last names, but trying to work on, you know, if we are having gatherings or opportunities where we're sharing information

08:30:07 I'm. trying to be in communication with them as well for for everything.

08:30:13 But if there is a specific list, serve, or a way where my information can be pushed out like I said I would love to impose anywhere possible.

08:30:22 Great, so I I do believe we have another associations meeting coming up in May.

08:30:27 So let me see about giving a presentation just information wise and then, because that's usually the conduit that most people use is through the county school superintendents to get the information to the leas.

08:30:39 So i'll just ask i'm not the President of Association.

08:30:43 I don't control the agenda but I can certainly ask to have the information getting out that way, because I think it's what would be very beneficial.

08:30:49 That would be wonderful. Thank you so much joy so kelly i'm interested about the conversations that you folks are have been having with the Homeland security.

08:31:01 I know that we've actually been trying to get them to present to this task force because they created this new cybersecurity initiative, and have not had a lot of response from them.

08:31:14 Which is frustrating because I was particularly interested in understanding the scope of the initiative that they're taking, not only in supporting the State agencies, but how are they supporting school districts and communities is that within

08:31:30 their scope is that outside of their scope of interest and resources and that sort of thing, because, as you of course, have identified cybersecurity is a critical issue that we haven't done a good enough job then addressing I just

08:31:46 related to that. Is how there's I assume the schools of which are pointed out or struggling with that whole issue of cyber security.

08:31:55 And is there something we can do to convene to help convene a group to look specifically and cybersecurity, best practices, and and so forth?

08:32:07 I'm typing notes at the same time so so what i'm hearing is 2 things one is is, you know.

08:32:14 Can. I would be happy to talk with Beth, my Cio.

08:32:17 She is the one who meets with the department, of homeland security in Arizona, and has regular meetings with him, and they and I think recently, within the past few months, and I might be don't quote me, on that but I think recently it

08:32:31 is been brought to their attention that this could be shared with schools as well.

08:32:35 So there response has been great in including schools in the work that they're doing, and I can communicate with Beth.

08:32:41 Would it be possible to have him and Bath come and present to this group, which I think would be great?

08:32:47 And then you had mentioned something about. Is there something that this group can convene?

08:32:54 What was the second part of your well? it was, you know.

08:32:56 Is there something we can do to? Well, first of all, to help you identify the cybersecurity resources here in the State.

08:33:03 There are several cybersecurity, professional organizations here in the State.

08:33:09 I don't know if Jerry pro is online today.

08:33:12 But Jerry's been very active with several of those organizations, and it would certainly there's an FBI group that have been National FBI group that that meets and So there's lots of other

08:33:27 We've heard of course i've heard from fema college, and a number of the universities and community colleges are developing cybersecurity.

08:33:34 Initiatives. both in training cybersecurity, professionals, can also be a resource.

08:33:41 So being able to help identify what the those resources are here in the State.

08:33:46 Maybe something will can also help with that would be great in fact. So I just put something in the chat. i'm responding to people's questions.

08:33:53 I just put a link to the chat that it manual I reference that's shared it's on that website.

08:33:59 And then again, I am looking for specifically cybersecurity I'm.

08:34:04 Looking for best practices or any practices that I can share out with the schools.

08:34:09 At this point in time there are some schools who are advanced in succeeding in this area, and they typically have more financial resources than schools that don't. And so the schools that don't have those financial resources tend to be the ones who are struggling

08:34:21 more with the cybersecurity. So how can I help share you know what's working well with those who don't have that access.

08:34:28 So speaking to that point, number one, I will ask and see if we can get the visitors to come, you know, and speak about the cybersecurity in this meeting, but that also would love to hear from this group, or be you know if there are

08:34:42 names or people I can contact who will within cybersecurity that might have resources.

08:34:45 If I could be connected to them, because I really don't know them at this point in time that would be really helpful again.

08:34:54 Perhaps that's something that we might want to have a separate meeting for is specific regarding cybersecurity and bringing some of those organizations to the table.

08:35:07 Great. I am putting my email in the chat because a number well, maybe I didn't send it to everyone a number of people have reached out with questions or wanting to connect and I just ask if you can send me an email i'm not sure I can

08:35:19 find yours. but i'll put mine in the chat and I would love to have discussions and and learn how to collaborate.

08:35:27 And you know learn about what you're doing and How we can plug it into what we need to do for schools.

08:35:34 All right. Thanks, John. I see what you just put in there.

08:35:37 Thank you. everyone for the time today. So what else? What other things?

08:35:44 That people have suggestions for Kelly. I have a suggestion, which, of course, I know every teacher will be like.

08:35:53 No, I don't want to do this word giving me more responsibilities, but just also getting the teachers ready and able and trained to use the computers, and because, like I know for me, I had a teacher's aid that, was working and 08:36:10 when my organization and her she was in the stem field.

08:36:15 But her computer skills were very limited, and so when we went virtual she did not.

08:36:21 She ended up quitting, because that was foreign to her but so you would think someone that's working in Stem would be able to get on zoom and understand.

08:36:29 But she Couldn't like the 2 were separated and so getting teachers comfortable in that space, as well, I think would be something that can be some Ceos or whatever that.

08:36:43 I'm not a teacher, so I don't know your is correct terminology, and all that stuff.

08:36:48 But I think when teachers are comfortable with something, then it relates to the kids and how they feel about it.

08:36:55 Yes, you are absolutely correct, and that is something that we learned as well through the assessment is the need for the the skills development for the not just the students, but the instructors.

08:37:08 And we have done a lot of benchmarking with other States and and other State departments of education, and Mississippi has been a great one for us to work with Mississippi.

08:37:18 They themselves joke that they they make a joke and It's just a joke picked before the pandemic.

08:37:24 They were last in education, and then, after the pandemic, they jumped all the way to first.

08:37:27 They have done remarkable work as far as devices and digital learning and the programs that they have to provide training for their their teachers. and through that and working with them I have learned the best thing to start off with is one providing those

08:37:42 foundational skills and opportunities for training, and then also, at the same time, those for the best practices.

08:37:48 How to take that your the foundational level skills to the next level. So exactly what you're saying that there are many teachers who who need that help and assistance to be able to to be successful.

08:37:59 And that is definitely something that I think there's a lot out there that's available.

08:38:04 And now we're trying to to collect all of that and get it in front of the teachers, so that they know, but also in front of the administrators, so that they know and can help push that out to the the educators, as well so thank you for

08:38:16 that that input yeah, Kelly. So a number of years ago, before the pandemic and all this, I used to use the term the digital divide. and I used to talk about the halves and the have nots the tans and the

08:38:29 cannons and the wheels, and the will nots.

08:38:31 And again we've repeat to death and need for having the technology and those who have it when those who don't.

08:38:38 But then I also put into that middle category the teachers and many of them who have said, I know this is important.

08:38:46 I'm willing to do it, but you got to take me by the hand.

08:38:49 You got to help me support me, and train me and i'm willing to do that.

08:38:53 And then there's the will not i've been teaching for 30 years.

08:38:58 I'm gonna continue to teach that way don't care about technology don't want to do it, and then of course, a lot of those, of course, are older teachers and so forth.

08:39:05 But I think there's still a lot of that you know going on of teachers who are saying the don't know how to do it.

08:39:13 Don't want to know how to do it i'm gonna continue to teach the way I have been.

08:39:17 Yes, I think it you know it like you're saying there's there's no perfect solution.

08:39:22 So we're trying to provide information that will meet everybody where they're at, and hopefully give people the tools that they need.

08:39:30 But it's not going to work for everyone? for sure how how are you guys working with Aztec?

08:39:36 Oh, yeah, Well, I just I work with Nan on everything.

08:39:39 So. man, I just will text her. with random question but but definitely working with as he and they're already very involved with you know, the technology space within the department of Ed.

08:39:53 They're involved in in groups and advisory groups with other areas and other units.

08:39:59 So I again, and sometimes i'm I don't want to create new things.

08:40:03 An additional thing for people to participate in i'm looking for How can I look at what's already happening and insert myself into that?

08:40:09 But as tea is definitely a big resource for us and I so i'm sorry so so my other question which I guess.

08:40:15 I asked earlier. Kelly is So as we go ahead and try and address all these things about.

08:40:22 Do you see the in terms of funding becoming an issue about what its local school districts are going to need to do what the State department's going to do in terms of providing support as well as how do we find the funding to

08:40:36 address a lot of these issues. And, John, maybe you have some so many thoughts about that also.

08:40:46 All I can add, Steve, is that school districts spend a lot of money on technology, support and training and tools and devices.

08:40:55 And think. One of my principal ambitions out of this whole effort is that they will get a lot more for the money than they currently do; that that there would be a lot more efficiency, a lot more effectiveness a lot more

08:41:09 utilization from kind of better organizing. it. but but fundamentally that that number 88% don't have a refresh plan for their devices. That one's scary.

08:41:20 The the cyber one is scary, I think there are some distinct areas where some additional funding, whether it's incentive funding grant funding is gonna be necessary.

08:41:29 But I think these guys Otl is doing really good foundational work to make sure we're focusing on what really is the most important way to get progress made, and not just what I and others on the tech task.

08:41:43 Force. we're guessing at a few couple of years ago.

08:41:47 I think we're learning from mississippi in other states what to do, and and maybe in some cases what not to do.

08:41:52 So I just, and Kelly, I guess, other than Mississippi.

08:41:55 Other States that are other other otl kind of peers you're, you're able to collaborate with and share.

08:42:02 I like that phrase common practice with Yes, Utah has, I think, the exact same office, the office of digital teaching and learning.

08:42:12 So Utah has been a great resource. California Does not have one, but they are actually reaching out to us to ask questions.

08:42:19 And about what we're doing. nevada has put us in contact with the number of resources that they're using.

08:42:23 So we really are trying to to look elsewhere at where there has been success.

08:42:28 Indiana as well. indiana's got a great dashboard online, we which we kind of modeled hours after.

08:42:35 So they've got a great dashboard where they are sharing their assessment data.

08:42:38 And so that's where we came up with our idea was to put ours out the same way.

08:42:43 There's a lot of really good what not to do is over the last 20 years in the chat.

08:42:47 We talked about smartboards that's certainly good example so hopefully.

08:42:53 Things have changed, and things are better, things are more accessible.

08:42:56 I know that one of my biggest issues is vendors will sell exactly the way schools want to buy 2, and until schools change the way they buy vendors will continue to do that.

08:43:05 But I know a lot of the vendors are ready for a different model as well.

08:43:10 Yes, absolutely learning from, you know, trying to learn the lessons, the hard lessons which actually, I would say, Mississippi and Utah have been great about sharing what you know.

08:43:17 Tell us what to skip past so that you know we don't make the same mistakes, and they've been great about sharing.

08:43:24 You can see there are hands from let's go with corey yeah, Cory Christians, i'm on the humble, unified school district governing, board and I can tell you that the number one reason which i'm sure

08:43:40 you figured out that there isn't a good refresh plan for technology is because there is simply no money, and the reason people are dumping all the sessor funds into it is because they've had a need for years and

08:43:51 years and years for technology. And now they're like hey?

08:43:56 If we get 5, 7, 10 years out of this technology it's better than not having it at all.

08:44:02 So to me the real issue is, if there it be possible.

08:44:05 Or is anybody tried to You talk to the legislature specifically about this issue, and see if they can provide technology-specific funding for schools?

08:44:16 Great question, and that is something. So you know, internally, we do have, you know, our unit who who works on?

08:44:23 You know, I think we we propose a certain number of budget requests each year. And so this is something that we are working internally on It's looking at the needs and and what are the big asset that we need to make so

08:44:35 Yes, that is, is on the radar but I can't speak to what will actually be presented.

08:44:39 I believe they're presented in september but that is a part of our process internally also trying to look at you. know.

08:44:48 Can we create a funding how to like work within the agency, determine what grants are available already in existence that are available, and then also outside grants, and creating almost a how to that?

08:45:01 If you know, if you need money consider these options here's a here's a funding guide not necessarily a guarantee, but at least providing options.

08:45:09 And again that's the goal of the office is look everything we're, providing it is options not necessarily prescriptive. You must do this.

08:45:16 But here are things that we have found that could be useful to you.

08:45:22 Funding, as you mentioned is, I would say, the biggest one.

08:45:24 Yeah, the I mean the grants are the grants are helpful but they put us in the same boat as esther funds.

08:45:30 I mean It's like we get them They go away even in Yava Pipe County.

08:45:33 We've been using the forest fee management association monies to replenish some of our technology. But the feds have been so slow about replenishing those funds that we can't even rely on those so

08:45:47 it's. I mean really to me the real fix for this is if the legislature can say well going to actually spend some money on technology for our schools.

08:45:58 It's really going to be the only way that school districts can get consistent funding year after year after year to have in place a replacement cycle.

08:46:07 Thank technology, and that is something that's exactly what Mississippi did.

08:46:11 There's a lot of money going into it so I hear what you're saying, and I don't have an answer right now.

08:46:18 But I will be pushing this forward. Thank you. I appreciate that. And I appreciate that.

08:46:23 The feedback and the input I mean, this is exactly what we need is to hear from the people who are, you know, doing the work in the weeds with this, and then last hand, I see is Sharia.

08:46:34 And am I saying your name correctly? Yes, yes, you are so.

08:46:37 Something that just popped into my head. So, as most of you know, I work for the city of Phoenix as well.

08:46:41 And so here we lease our copy machines on a five-year lease.

08:46:45 So maybe if there's some brilliant companies out here on these calls can create a leasing option for chromebooks, or something like that on a cycle, because ours are every 5 years or 3 to 5 years and then that takes a lot

08:46:58 of the pressure off of the school districts that can't support them. So like for my staff, we just call it a tech company.

08:47:04 They come out, hey? a copier? So, as Cory was saying, change in the mindset of how we get devices, and how we do it.

08:47:12 And so then you kind of get on a cycle if we start leasing laptops or chromebooks for schools.

08:47:18 Just an idea, absolutely. I have jotted it down. Thank you for the the thought and the inputs.

08:47:24 Yeah, Well, we Can you hear me? Yes, yes. yeah. We had discussed in our task force when we had our technology.

08:47:35 Subcommittee, which John Chair John Kelly chaired.

08:47:40 Insight, made a major presentation on their devices as a service offering, which was interesting because it covered devices.

08:47:51 And, you know, leasing devices and everything needed technical support that could be provided.

08:47:57 I don't large scale to school there and I know there was another company as well.

08:48:04 That was into that sort of thing. So that's definitely available in the State, and could be looked at us you know, for a large field contrasts.

08:48:17 Absolutely. And then the other thing I was thinking about was the professional development of teachers.

08:48:23 I know that in our task force report the wrote in November the twentieth 20 that Asu had a major program during Covid to train teacher for know teaching during the pandemic, and i'm assuming that

08:48:40 that could be extended in the future to train teachers generally on digital teaching.

08:48:50 Yes, you're right and and they are another group that I am working with.

08:48:53 In fact, we have a new small webinar series coming out with them.

08:48:57 They have their virtual training for teachers, which has been, I think, very successful and widely used.

08:49:05 And so we are looking to see you know, what can we do to to extend. they're, I think, kind of in a place right now.

08:49:12 I think they go through their funding goes through july and so it's a bit unknown right now, but fingers across that.

08:49:20 That is something that will continue because it has been successful and and used.

08:49:26 Thank you. People like John and Mama and mark and and auras and others.

08:49:35 We're engaged as long as 20 years ago. I think 1520 years ago, in creating the greater Arizona De-learning Association, which is now greater on a educational leadership.

08:49:48 And we actually had a Tiger House advocate, whose unfortunately is 2 not able to participate anymore.

08:49:56 But we thought that issue about technology. Now, again, technology has changed since then.

08:50:03 Technology and education has changed. But i'm willing to bet and John you probably have a better sense of this than anybody that i'll bet that the legislature still does not understand where technology comes into play with education in today's

08:50:17 world, and if we're going to get support from the legislature, it seems to me that we're gonna have to do some education with them, and really helping them to understand it's not just well give us more money we certainly need

08:50:30 to that, but really understanding where technology intersects with education in today's world, and how all the needs that you just identified are really important, because otherwise we'll just never get the money as you know, just getting money, from the

08:50:46 legislature for education generally is is a challenge. But now the the pandemic has raised that awareness to some degree.

08:50:56 But I will venture to say and i'm speaking just from off by the top of my head that out of the Legislature really has no clear clue about where technology intersects what the challenges and the issues

08:51:09 are in Today's world once covid goes away or doesn't go away, or whatever, as you point it out earlier, that it's not.

08:51:16 It's not just the covid issue now and is going to continue on into the future, and so related to that Kelly.

08:51:24 How do you see, you guys proceeding, and actually taking putting some meat to the to the issues that you identified and put in coming together and figuring out, what is all this going to cost? What do we need from the legislature?

08:51:40 How do we advocate for that? And again, as you pointed out, where can we find other funding sources?

08:51:45 But it's i'm sure it's a huge amount of money, and I guess some of that is is going to be local and some of that's going to be funding from the State and or the feds Yeah, John has to solve all that Kelly go

08:52:00 ahead like, Where do I start? Can see. let me just offer that the legislature gets a bad rap, and and most of the time it deserves it collectively. It doesn't have a clue about a lot of things But there

08:52:15 are always individuals, and you have to identify which which individuals can be a responsible champion.

08:52:21 There are bills that went in through the Legislature that you died.

08:52:24 Fortunately, along the way there were very specific about content filtering for schools.

08:52:30 And now there's one that's on the floor maybe this week about publishing every every learning resource that every teacher uses for any circumstance.

08:52:41 I mean it's just an overwhelming they they understand that it's important.

08:52:45 But they they they don't it's important for different reasons for them.

08:52:49 So I think we're when with this ed tech task force recommended the creation of the office of visual teaching, learning.

08:52:56 The first thing they said was don't depend on the legislature first, you know, create the office, develop some some history and some success.

08:53:08 Make sure you got schools on your side that way. You can actually show how anything the Legislature does.

08:53:14 Later will add value as opposed to reinventing the wheel and doing exactly the opposite of what needs to be done.

08:53:20 So I think that's the caution about going to the Legislature.

08:53:25 A lot of work has to be done before we get to that.

08:53:27 I have shared with certain legislators, when I felt it was a appropriate.

08:53:32 The fact that this office exists, they don't know it exists most of them, and I think we we just want to be cautious about how we present it, and so it has a chance to do what needs to be done as opposed to

08:53:44 what the legislature think needs to be done, and the other thing. and this goes back.

08:53:49 You, and years and years remember when the School Facilities Board had standards for devices per student.

08:53:57 What was it? One to 5 or one to 3 or one to 8?

08:54:01 John the First, and it had to have a CD rom and i'm, guessing that if we dove into the school facilities, board documents, all the men need 600,000,000 of them that that standard still is is the one that applies So

08:54:18 that's another area that's Now under the department of administration no longer its own agency.

08:54:23 So that's That's another area where If the Legislature ever funded the school facilities board to the point that this court settlement in Roosevelt V.

08:54:33 Bishop would require. Then we might have some additional money for Cory and for the other governing boards around the State to do things.

08:54:42 But I also think we need to get some of these school districts out of the business of inventing reinventing technology support.

08:54:49 There has to be some common platform support and to make more efficient use of the money that's out there.

08:54:54 But that's it schools election that's not something the state is ever going to provide on a top-down basis.

08:55:00 And i've said too much. So so kelly another issue which I think you addressed to some degree the issue that they've been wrestling with for a long time, and that's vetting the technology teachers adopt because

08:55:17 you know, people don't want to be dictated they don't want to be told.

08:55:23 But how do they value all these different technologies that are out there?

08:55:25 And right now i'm guessing that it's a wild wild West.

08:55:29 The teachers go out and pick whatever they choose and maybe that's Okay, maybe that's a good thing, i'm not saying necessarily bad.

08:55:37 But there's good there's bad there's tons of stuff out there.

08:55:40 How are you guys going to try to address that issue at all?

08:55:43 Yes, and I do see. Cors got his hand race of Cory.

08:55:45 I have not been missing You but i'll answer this excellent point, Steve and I like the phrase that you use as far as the Wild Wild West.

08:55:54 Yes, so you know, schools are doing what what works for them and to John's point. Who, John, by the way was on that task force?

08:55:59 I'm sure everybody knows that schools are you know doing what works for them, and in some many cases reinventing the wheel, because, you know, desperate times call for desperate measures.

08:56:10 I need something to fix this problem right here now. So the goal of this office and at this point in time is we look at this.

08:56:18 Strategy is looking at. Okay, if we want to prevent a menu of options, if you will. who's going to vet that it can't be the department of Ed saying we think this is the best solution for you So this is where we're looking at

08:56:29 How do we use these communities of practice? these groups of you know gather groups of people to be able to provide that input to say, You know.

08:56:38 No, that's a that's a terrible idea we've got a few proofs of concept in the work speaking to the device as a service program.

08:56:44 Also one where we would be using a service that provides the vetted options, especially when it comes to data and privacy.

08:56:55 Because if you are, as we all have to click the terms and conditions like, I acknowledge that I have read the 332 page terms and conditions.

08:57:02 Nobody does that. So there is an actual service that we are looking at right now.

08:57:10 As a proof of concept that does that work and it's a it's a nonprofit.

08:57:15 It is a a membership based group used by schools across the country. where there has been success with that where they can see.

08:57:23 Oh, this has been approved, invented. It meets the data and security.

08:57:26 You know rules and and things that we need as an education agency, and I can see the district next door is using it.

08:57:33 And here's what they say about it so that is one thing that we're looking at.

08:57:35 But then again, also looking at pulling groups together for people together, and providing an opportunity for them to provide insight.

08:57:44 As far as you know, this is a viable option, or this is not so.

08:57:49 Again. The The agency is very clear that we do not want to be the ones in asylum, saying you that we think will work well for Cory Cory.

08:57:58 What was is your question? Go ahead, court I just have a couple of comments the first thing is that when we're looking at the possibility of subscribing to devices as a service having them turned over every once in a

08:58:16 while we did something similar with printer I'm also the county librarian for Yava Pike County.

08:58:20 We did something similar for our libraries here and when we did the cost analysis.

08:58:25 We're paying about 40% more for those printers than if we just would have purchased them.

08:58:30 So that's the tricky piece, of that is making sure you're getting the return on investment for that versus just buying the devices themselves.

08:58:39 Of course the big benefit is a consistence in you're paying X.

08:58:44 Amount each year, and you can rely that it's gonna stay on stay that amount which is a big benefit.

08:58:49 Yeah and then go ahead. Oh, I was gonna say a couple of other things in in Yava Pike County.

08:58:55 We have the Ava pipe county education technology consortium and it's most of the school districts in the county are a part of it, and there are certain things we offer like countywide broadband subscription.

08:59:07 Services we're actually charging through our through an rfp process.

08:59:12 We went to with cable one or responsible glad I guess they are these days.

08:59:17 They're paying about 80 cents a meg for Internet Once they built out that networked all of our schools and libraries, and they're also looking at expanding that out into providing it support as well for the school.

08:59:31 Districts. So there's, where we that kind of models where you could start seeing some of those economies of scale is now a school district with 20 admin or a 20 teachers administrators.

08:59:48 Everybody there. we normally couldn't get a good it person can just rely on the central location to provide that, and we're pretty excited about it.

08:59:58 And on that same front like with the student information system at Humboldt. We're working with Nau, and they provide that service for us, and that saves us about a \$100,000 a year.

09:00:08 So there's several options that do exist and if States are interested in looking at some of those options.

09:00:16 I know Tim Carter are superintendent of schools here.

09:00:19 2 constantly goes around and talks to folks about how it's worked for us here, and and what may work the other thing.

09:00:28 I was on that same front, unless the legislature scrap that i'm not sure the status of it is that there was a bill out there for \$10,000,000 that we're supposed to go to consortium efforts of

09:00:39 school districts. If they want to work together, providing a service they're gonna provide \$10,000,000 cumulatively for for people that wanted to apply that funding.

09:00:51 And I think we may have applied for some of that.

09:00:52 If if the program exists. last thing is We're kind of in a unique situation right now, where Michelle Udall is going to be head of the Education Committee, who is also a teacher.

09:01:08 So if there's anybody in the legislature who's going to understand the issues that teachers administrators are facing End is a proponent of schools.

09:01:18 Now is the ideal time to go to the legislature with some of those issues are asked that we might have, because i'm betting may be a lot more receptive right now than they have in the past that

09:01:30 that's my 2 cents I'll i'll Zip it now.

09:01:34 Thank you, Cory. I didn't know John wanted to add input to that.

09:01:39 No, but Cory, I think everything you're talking about with the avat pie consortium, and the and the the \$10,000,000, which I think passed last year, is exactly informed.

09:01:52 The blueprint that the long-term planning committee of the Antique Task Force had in mind.

09:01:56 So we had you. You, your folks and Tim Carter have already contributed to that vision.

09:02:00 I think Odette Otl is just taken to the next step, and trying to dig into how that how that can work better.

09:02:05 So I'm going to interrupt for a second so we're way past our ending time, and I think rather than kind of going into Kibbutzene.

09:02:15 I think we are kept it seen and i'm just going to leave it open, and anybody who wants to stay online and continue this discussion.

09:02:23 Let's just do that that's okay with everybody yeah Well, I've got to did you have a 9 A. M.

09:02:31 I can be 5 min late to it so i'll stick on for a few more minutes.

09:02:34 This is A has been a great conversation and a lot of input that.

09:02:38 I can share back internally, you know, especially, you know, speaking about the Legislature and John.

09:02:44 I really have appreciated your input and insight today. Thank you for being here and staying on to address that Kelly.

09:02:52 Are you going to be at the summit on wednesday I'm not.

09:02:55 I'm at another conference, i'm there's a conference in Lawlin for the Arizona Association of State business officials within, schools and i'm presenting at that on Wednesday.

09:03:07 So I saw this morning that the times are the exact same time.

09:03:11 So I will somebody from the department, and particularly your program be attending the you know.

09:03:19 Don't know but I will find out i'll work with with my boss, and see if that's on her calendar, and I think there was a link to it so I can get all the details. I don't know if

09:03:30 my one, I think, is off is left but I also don't know if my one's planning to attend or not, and even best, and we have a map path I haven't like that and so you know this that would be a

09:03:45 good opportunity. there's going to be folks I believe from Google and Intel and others who are in the education space.

09:03:54 Yeah. and so I think it'll be a good networking opportunity. Absolutely.

09:03:59 So encouraged to have somebody there, if they can do it.

09:04:05 Just one more thing access. But before Kelly has to lead all those great things that were being said about you have a county ken.

09:04:15 Carter is just so adapted a lot of things that he thinks he does.

09:04:20 One of them is technology, Not every county is that organized Kelly.

09:04:24 So to have this information given to the county school superintendents would be great.

09:04:28 Just so it's on their radar because I do think it takes a group effort to make sure everybody gets the information, and instead, so I'll get with you about trying to get with with us on our our association meeting that would be

09:04:38 great joy. Thank you so much. I appreciate that and so Kelly is a State gets money for digital inclusion funding. but this certainly fits into that, and we're talking about the need for technical support for devices.

09:04:55 I mean the whole range of things that we've been talking about for the whole population.

09:05:01 Not just the education space, but that's going to be I think is consistent, including the whole technical assistance issue that not only the schools are facing, but we that we know is a lot issue absolutely and I and I know you got to

09:05:17 go. So thank you, Kelly. Thank you very much more ways to have this more conversation about this.

09:05:26 Yes, thank you, Steve, for the platform today. and everybody who stayed on and I'll be in touch. I think I've got lots of emails. So thank you.

09:05:33 This was great about my bye, bye, Oh, no! So anything else that anybody else wants to talk about.

09:05:40 Share tibets with. I just John brought up the blast from the past about school facilities board the one computer per 8 students.

09:05:53 No one was really thinking or supporting individual device ownership that was to ensure they could have computer labs in the schools.

09:06:02 This was probably circa 1,995.

09:06:06 The mozilla or the browser netscape browser was just really launched in 93, and the net was barely taking off.

09:06:15 So just wanted to clarify i mean we've obviously moved to a a one to one, or in some cases 2 to one and 3 to one model for a computer ownership.

09:06:29 Yeah. And, for instance, Mark, that reminds me the story of this, this legislator who complained to me when I was at Gita about her hard drive, was failing on her on her laptop and and or, on

09:06:42 her computer and I said, Oh, that's serious what's going on, she pulled out of the drawer of floppy disk.

09:06:49 I said that's not a hard drive, she said no see and she banged against the table.

09:06:53 See it's hard Yeah, I don't know yeah hey? and you're right.

09:07:03 The 3 and a half inch ones went into art shells, but I mean I started with 8 inch floppies, and they were indeed floppy, and then 5 butter in floppies.

09:07:13 But yep, they went to hard. Shell correct. Oh, dude, you got all the way back to the kiss Sets to start talking about the 5 years right?

09:07:24 I remember those disks I have a question that's a total different topic.

09:07:31 Well, Mark's still on the line mark I got an email from Kirk about the revised Agenda for the summit on Wednesday.

09:07:41 Did you mention earlier that he is the one that's gonna be sending out the Zoom links.

09:07:46 I'll be there in person, but I have several in Apache County.

09:07:51 Who are We're completely dependent, I have a skype chat.

09:07:56 I need to 2 zoom links from him so correct.

09:08:00 But do note that the program starts to now not at 8 but at 11 o'clock, right?

09:08:07 And he he sent out an update I'm gonna send out a final blast to my provider's list.

09:08:17 But I was hoping to actually be able to include the link in that.

09:08:19 I see Brian daily on Who'll be on my panel on Wednesday.

09:08:23 Hey, Brian? and so joy in answer to your question also that I'm going to be sending out I have to look at what what he's at me this morning.

09:08:35 Now then, mark you, and I need to connect and make sure that we have a good summary of.

09:08:40 Here is the times and the reception, and all that sort of stuff as well as the links.

09:08:46 So I can get that out asap to the whole task force with more details.

09:08:53 So let's. let's work on that mark asap I personally am super super excited about being there in person, and actually meeting some people.

09:09:06 But but also just the information that has been pulled together.

09:09:10 That applies specifically to those I work with and serve.

09:09:13 The educational component, the workforce, the digital divide component, all applies.

09:09:20 And having not been on this meeting, and been with everybody here I don't know that I would have even known about or had access to it.

09:09:25 So again. Thank you so much for everyone in the everyone appreciate it. i'm really excited about it, and so cory i'm glad you joined us today.

09:09:38 Is this your first time or second time that you've been on the call it's the first time I've been a part of this.

09:09:43 I hit the digital equity. Yeah, meeting yep this is it's great that there's so many folks that are willing to get together and discuss these problems.

09:09:58 Were having with education, technology, and other areas, and see if there's some ways we can find some solutions.

09:10:04 Well, I think that the report that kelly presented today. really kind of provides the outline of here's a lot of the issues, and hopefully, we can continue to work with with the department that put some meat to the you know one of the things you can't get money,

09:10:23 from people. If you can't tell them what you really need so to say, here's the problems. but here's what we need.

09:10:27 Here's how much it's going to cost and and and so forth.

09:10:32 And so hopefully, we can work with them and help them to put some meet on that on those poems.

09:10:38 Yeah, definitely, , , , , , , , , are you on the school Board for just one of the school districts

09:10:49 both. so So usually when i'm usually when i'm in these meetings, I have my county library and hat on.

09:10:56 It just so happened that, some of the issues were directly related to education.

09:11:05 Oh, okay, I didn't realize you work for the the county library.

09:11:09 I I get sometimes my cell phone service on my phone it's just so Spotty and I get no connected in me.

09:11:15 So sometimes it links in and out but you work for the county libraries.

09:11:17 But you're also a school board member in humble school district yes, that's correct, and they're doing some pretty cool stuff.

09:11:26 , joy, which you're probably gonna but well Well, that you know every time i'm just like i'm just thinking of a fire I can't keep up with everything and he's not trying to help ,

09:11:56 and things like that, because consortium is going through a bit of a transition right now as well.

09:12:00 And so he's really great thing to try to keep up on the technology at all that's one of my goals.

09:12:05 So Okay, yeah, it's crazy Tim Tim carter is also run lee on our lead on our county wide broadband initiative, and i'm on that team with him.

09:12:19 And we just got We just the you have a by county board of supervisors just made a \$12,000,000 award to all tease, provide high-speed broadband to about 10,000 of our homes.

09:12:35 So we're moving ahead on that that front too, and we're hoping we can get some bigger gains because they've allocated a total of \$20,000,000 to that end.

09:12:43 So we still have about 7 and a half unallocated I don't know how implies what's that right?

09:12:53 He sends emails out of the 4 o'clock and then I know he made it.

09:12:59 He sent me. No, that like 4 o'clock in the morning so I I will.

09:13:02 I will want to ask you this. Did you ever find a project manager?

09:13:06 I know tin has put on an Rfp. for project manager, and then measure that.

09:13:11 He retracted that, and I at least gave you asked a couple of times that had been filled, because Apache is going through the same thing. I've been here, but we went through the Grant process because we didn't have to be able to pull together

09:13:26 in a way that being able to do it. we do profit manager at the end of looking at the process, you're going to find a project manager for some grants or for the project manager for grants or for the project?

09:13:41 Have you, did you, to that position, or how is that going?

09:13:42 Yeah, I I think I caught most of what you were saying.

09:13:44 So we were. We did put out an Rfp. for project manager to run the broadband project.

09:13:53 We were not happy with the responses we received, and kind of rejected.

09:13:56 All bids. I think the Board is gonna do that officially at the next meeting.

09:13:59 If they haven't done so already. but the big challenge we were having was with the arpa reporting We didn't.

09:14:06 We didn't want to deal with the arpa reporting on the broadband project, since it exceeded \$10,000,000.

09:14:15 A lot more restraint went into what we could do with those funds.

09:14:18 So that was the big piece we wanted this project manager to handle.

09:14:23 Now what we, what the county did is is a separate piece.

09:14:28 Was, they hired Ernst and Young to handle the remainder of the Arpa funds.

09:14:34 The other \$26,000,000. So they it turns out ernst and young, bid on the entire 46,000,000 that we got in Arpa funds, which included the broadband project.

09:14:45 So since they're gonna take care of the reporting aspects for Arpa, we just decided we don't need a project manager.

09:14:52 We'll just handle it internally Tim is kind of running point on that in Frank Vanderhorse and I are on his team to make sure that the the broadband Good morning.

09:15:04 This is our goal expected. What's that Oh, Michael Michael be sure you mute, how he did so Cory.

09:15:16 I haven't followed up also with Tim but I think at least the last time I saw and I know it's been a while that they were looking to hire actually have a staff person versus hiring consultants which

09:15:31 we most. many of the communities have done where they've actually hired consultants to help put together broadband plans and so forth.

09:15:40 And so you know, we actually, Mark did a great job of putting together a directory of consultants who provide assistance to communities, writing grants and doing community planning and writing grants.

09:15:57 So, mark you, have that list with. Yes, I I posted every couple of months here, but it is up on the Azbsn resources. page.

09:16:09 I need to follow up on that thank you certainly because that's what we found is that a lot of the communities didn't have their own capabilities?

09:16:19 Didn't have their own staff or people who were knowledgeable about broadband planning, and grant writing, and all that.

09:16:26 And again, we have consultants who are knowledgeable and experienced in doing that, and it makes more sense for the counties to or communities to contract with them rather than trying to just hire someone the specific for that project which that's my

09:16:41 opinion. So it's 100% what's going on in Apache County.

09:16:45 We do not have a Grant writer We don't have a grant manager of our project managers and that have expertise in that. you're interested in and being there live and in person so with that I think we're done