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## **ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

### **1. Administrative**

- 1.1. Self-Introductions
- 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
- 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from July 14, 2021 Board Meeting
- 1.4. Treasurer's Report (Ron Schott)
- 1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations
- 1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in July 14, 2021 Minutes

### **2. Informational Presentations**

- 2.1. None Scheduled

### **3. Activity Reports**

- 3.1. Arizona Broadband Strategic Plan & FirstNet (Jeff Sobotka)
  - 3.1.1. Rural Community Outreach
  - 3.1.2. FirstNet Status & Outlook
  - 3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support
- 3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)
  - 3.2.1. AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Updates
  - 3.2.2. New Initiatives to Carry Out the Report's Recommendations
  - 3.2.3. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars
- 3.3. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (Steve Peters, Nan Williams)
  - 3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA)
  - 3.3.2. Virtual Laboratory Simulations Consortium
  - 3.3.3. GAZEL Innovative Learning Collaborative Initiatives
- 3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)
- 3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major, Jeff Sobotka)
- 3.6. Government Affairs (Mike Keeling, Mark Goldstein)

### **4. Information and Action Plans**

- 4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)
  - 4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter
- 4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)
- 4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)

### **5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings**

### **6. Announcements**

### **7. Adjourn**



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## **ATIC Board Meeting Minutes September 8, 2021**

### **Attendees:**

#### **ATIC Board Members:**

Jerry Crow, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Kirk Busch, Nan Williams, Andrew Bevington, Holly Henley and Derek Masseth.

#### **ATIC Associates & Guests:**

Steve Peters (AZBSN & GAZEL), Mala Muralidharan (Arizona State Library), Heather Floyd (Valley TeleCom Group), Barnaby Wasson (Arizona State University Technology Office), Steve Crooks (MDT Consulting) and Manny Villa (Sahuarita Unified School District).

**Quorum Met with 9 ATIC Board Members Present (Quorum = 8)**

Many thanks to Nan Williams and the Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA, <http://aztea.org/>) for the use of their Zoom Video account for video conferencing and dial-in capabilities and to the Arizona State Library for providing additional support.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021, and will be held fully virtually, as will all our meetings until further notice. The full schedule of remaining ATIC Board Meetings for 2021 can be found towards the end of these minutes.

## **1. Administrative**

### **1.1. Self-Introductions**

See the list of attendees above.

### **1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft**

**MOTION: To accept the Agenda**

**MOVE: Henry Goldberg**

**SECOND: Kirk Busch**

**Passed Unanimously**

### **1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from July 14, 2021, Board Meeting**

**MOTION: To accept the Minutes as submitted**

**MOVE: Kirk Busch**

**SECOND: Derek Masseth**

**Passed Unanimously**

### **1.4. Treasurer's Report**

Ron Schott, Treasurer, circulated via email the Desert Financial Credit Union statement with account and transaction details for Board reference, which are included at the back of these Minutes. In Ron's absence Mark Goldstein reported that current funds on hand total \$11,575.66 with no major recent expenses.

Steve is continuing to send out an AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force sponsorship package and will be contacting other potential funders.

ATIC still needs to work out an MOU before the end of the year with GAZEL about how future AZBSN sponsorship funding will be shared between ATIC and GAZEL.

Mark has said previously that ATIC needs to pursue its own funding, which would include sponsorships. ATIC needs to initiate a financial campaign for sponsors and other sources of funding to support and undertake new projects.

### **1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations**

Mark noted that we have an ongoing interest in acquiring more representation from rural communities and other groups, and he referenced the following

paragraph in the meeting announcement package.

ATIC is looking to expand our Board with additional stakeholder representation from Arizona's rural communities, tribal nations, and broadband providers. If you would like to be informed, involved, and influencing Arizona broadband policy and initiatives, please plan to attend Board meetings when you can and alert me to your interest.

We have twenty-three Board members and we can have up to thirty-five according to our bylaws.

Andrew Bevington suggested that we consider bringing John Lucas and Karen Ziegler on as Board Members because they are actively involved in rural broadband. Mark noted John used to be an ATIC Board member and Karen was asked to be a member a year ago, but we will ask her again. Steve noted Karen is an active supporter of the ASBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force and was an editor of the task force's digital access strategy report. He also said John and Karen are probably too busy to consider joining because they are working on various rural broadband projects.

#### **1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in June 9, 2021, Minutes**

**ACTION ITEM:** Mark had a previous action to contact Alan Pruitt Executive Director of the Western Arizona Economic Development District in Yuma as a potential Board Member.

This item continues to remain open for another month.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mark also had another previous action item to work with Jeff Sobotka to identify some rural representatives as potential Board Members. Mark may also talk to Gene Carl of Cox Communications and Toni Broberg of AT&T about Cox and AT&T potential ATIC Board members.

This item also remains open for next month.

### **2. Informational Presentations**

2.1. None were scheduled.

### **3. Activity Reports**

#### **3.1. Arizona Broadband Strategic Plan & FirstNet (Jeff Sobotka)**

##### **3.1.1. Rural Community Outreach**

No report.

### **3.1.2. FirstNet Status & Outlook**

No report.

### **3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support**

Jeff Sobotka, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), was unable to attend, and Mark provided a summary update of activities.

Mark reviewed the Digital Arizona Council strategic plan process that took place in 2012-2013 and which fed into the ADOA-led State Broadband Strategic Plan in 2018. The AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force published its Digital Access Strategy Report in November 2020. In the summer of 2021 KPMG was retained to do an update to the 2018 State Broadband Strategic Plan. As Mark noted in a previous meeting, the state legislature approved a bill enabling ADOT to deploy fiber along state highways and lease some of that fiber to telecommunications service providers. KPMG was selected by the ACA to update the 2018 state broadband strategic plan to focus on middle-mile fiber strategies as well as identify rural communities' need for broadband which can be addressed by upcoming federal and state broadband grant funding. KPMG was initially expected to deliver the results of its work within 13 weeks, in mid/late September. Derek Masseth stated that he is to get a draft next Tuesday but the authors may want 2 or 3 extra weeks to complete the work. Henry Goldberg noted that according to Jeff Sobotka's update at a recent AZBSN task force meeting the KPMG report is to be shared in October or early November.

The focus of the report will be on (1) middle-mile fiber strategy and planning including what entity should manage the state middle-mile fiber and (2) identifying needy rural communities to serve. The state is currently planning for deployment of middle-mile fiber along I-17, I-19, and I-40 and will be considering other highway and middle mile routes. This KPMG report will be an addendum to the 2018 state broadband strategic plan document incorporating some substantial new thinking. KPMG has held a number of networking sessions and interviews with stakeholders for rural communities and digital equity elements. Some AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force participants, such as Steve Peters, Mark Goldstein, Janet Major, Derek Masseth and E-rate representatives Milan Eaton and Mala Muralidharan have been interviewed. Steve Peters and Mark also met with them to discuss AZBSN, its recent report, and digital equity issues. KPMG is to provide recommendations for middle-mile fiber solutions and grant

opportunities for middle-mile and last-mile.

In a previous meeting Mark elaborated on the \$65 billion proposed for broadband purposes in the current bipartisan Senate federal \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package under consideration. A majority \$42.5 billion would go to the states as state block grants (Mark estimates likely about \$500-800 million to Arizona) and would be used primarily toward bringing broadband to unserved areas; \$15 billion would go to the USDA ReConnect program for funding rural broadband deployment projects with some tribal set asides and \$5 billion for libraries; and \$10 billion would be equally split between a bond program to fund public/private broadband partnerships and a digital equity program aimed at increasing broadband adoption. This funding would be over about a five-year period

Mark said he expects incoming federal funds to allow for the creation of a full Broadband Office under Jeff Sobotka at ACA. The state government has allocated \$140 million for broadband and digital equity. This includes \$100 million to ACA split into 2 parts dedicated to planning grants and other projects: \$75 million for the state Rural Broadband Development Grants (RBDGs) program funding community planning and infrastructure; and \$25 million for digital equity, but ACA still is determining how this will be structured. Mala Muralidharan stated there are monthly meetings of government broadband stakeholders, and the digital equity program structure will also be influenced by this and the KPMG report. The remaining \$40 million has been committed for ADOT middle-mile fiber along I-40 from Flagstaff to the California border.

Derek Masseth said the the winner of the middle-mile fiber deployment RFP has just been selected for the McGuireville to Flagstaff portion (Segment 1) of I-17.

Mala stated that there is a lot of interest in extending the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program with a \$30 instead of \$50 per month discount, and making the FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program permanent. The federal Broadband Infrastructure Bill has made Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) a low priority, and this may be revised.

In the July Board meeting Mark commented on two ASU projects: Lighting Up the Future, which has a statewide focus and direct community engagement, and ShapingEDU Universal Broadband, which is more national in scope and a policy think tank. (Both projects were summarized in that meeting.)

## **3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)**

### **3.2.1. ASBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Updates**

Steve Peters reported on the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force. The Task Force meets every Monday morning and is now attended by some 50 representatives from broadband service providers, technology companies, state and local government agencies, educational organizations, non-profit organizations and consultants. Updates are provided at the weekly meetings from Jeff Sobotka, the State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA); Sophia Mayberry and Milan Eaton from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE); Mala Muralidharan of the Arizona State Library; Janet Major, representing Telehealth; Derek Masseth of the Sun Corridor Network (SCN); and Lea Márquez Peterson, Chair of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC).

The “AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report and Recommendations (Digital Access Strategy Report)” was published in November 2020 and is available to be forwarded to appropriate parties. There is a landing page for the Report and one for the Task Force, both of which have been updated. People can download the Report from its landing page at <https://www.arizonatele.org/taskforce-report-2020.html>.

There are typically presentations made at the Monday morning meetings on relevant digital access resources of significance to the task force. Recently we heard from Andrew Metcalfe, President and CEO of Native Network, who provides network design and consulting expertise for tribes and communities to build, support, and operate their own networks and offers a variety of services, including partnering with Rachna Vas of Microsoft Airband on digital skills training for customers. Steve noted that Rachna is an active participant on the task force and is impressed with it. Microsoft is open to working with non-tribal programs and plans to talk to Jeff, Mala, Derek, and Steve about a Microsoft partnership. This is a real opportunity and needs to be followed up.

Henry Goldberg has created a database of all task force presentations delivered at our AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Meetings since the task force began operating on March 23, 2020. There have been 45 presentations delivered over the past 18 months through August 23, 2021. The database shows the presentation topic, brief description of the presentation, and the presenter for each meeting. Steve will convert this database to a Google Sheet which will be posted on the task force website. The Google Sheet will contain links to the corresponding task force meeting report (where the presentation is summarized) and the PowerPoint presentation (if available) or the meeting recording (if available). This Google Sheet will be updated regularly with new presentations that have been delivered.

Steve also reported that Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC) wants to apply for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant and Robert Alvarado, Vice President of Information Management & Technology Services of CPLC, wants to work with our task force on applying for this grant. Some AZBSN task force participants will have meetings with CPLC to discuss how they can apply for the EDA grant where broadband infrastructure and digital equity enable economic development in a selected region of the state.

Nicole Umayam and Cindy Hogan are putting together an Arizona Digital Inclusion Directory, describing all the organizations in the state doing digital inclusion work. Mala said they have sent forms to all such organizations, and the directory should be posted on the Connect-Arizona website in about four weeks. Steve wants to know how to get some task force recognition and publicity for this effort and how the task force can enable collaboration among these digital inclusion organizations..

Steve noted that the organizations dealing with the elderly and seniors are becoming involved, such as the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

There has also been considerable activity in the area of telehealth and the role being played by libraries.

Katie Boddy, Manager of the Local First Arizona “Arizona Economic Recovery Center”, will present to the task force on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The Arizona Economic Recovery Center enables communities and non-profit organizations to win competitive federal, state, and foundation grants. They would like to collaborate with our task force on helping communities and non-profit organizations with funding and planning resources for their broadband and digital access initiatives.

Steve also noted the success of the “Kibitzing with Colleagues” sessions following the Monday meetings. During these sessions people can engage with other participants in free ranging discussions without any set agenda or other formalities.

The highest priority project for the task force In the immediate time frame is organizing outreach for the new FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. Significantly, Arizona is consistently ranked among the top ten states nationally in number of households enrolled in the EBB program.

Another area of emphasis is the FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) that supports off-campus connectivity to the homes of students, school staff and library patrons.



### **3.2.2. Marketing the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report**

As noted at previous meetings, there remains a need is to develop a publicity and marketing campaign for distributing the report to all the relevant organizations. A marketing/planning committee needs to be created to plan and execute such a campaign, and the existing database of Arizona economic development leaders and decision-makers needs to be cleaned up and expanded.

Mark re-iterated that the planning committee to follow up on the task force's digital access strategy report recommendations should begin meeting. Steve agreed but indicated that he first wants to integrate recent attendees into the task force mix.

### **3.2.3. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars**

Mark mentioned at previous meetings a desire to initiate a newsletter with a broad focus on webinars and customers.

## **3.3. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (Steve Peters, Nan Williams)**

### **3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA)**

Nan Williams serves on the EDTech Committee for the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) which is rewriting the Educational Technology standards this year. She is also participating in the ADE Technology Task Force on the Digital Learning Subcommittee, and she is part of the ISTE policy group on digital equity access. She has also been working with the Arizona Rural Schools Association and their Final Mile Project (<https://www.finalmileproject.com/>).

Nan reported that the EDTech standards, Digital Teaching and Learning Guide, are open for comment. They can be found at: <https://www.azed.gov/technology/digital-teaching-learning>

AzTEA is seeking participation in the activities listed below:

AzTEA ISTE Certified Educator Sept 27th registration: <https://bit.ly/icef2021>

AzTEA Fall Virtual Conference 2021: Creating the Next Best: Finding Your Balance, Oct 23rd Registration <https://bit.ly/azteaf21conf>

AATM -Way Out West Math Convention 9-11,  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aatm-way-out-west-regional-conference-tickets-166995577267?fbclid=IwAR30NUCNKI8L25NOwS6MfAH-684YxUNRcEpmV8ZFItjAhBM1rChVMrsoZtU>

AZ Science Teachers Association 10-30 & 11-4/5 <https://azsta.org/>

AzED Link to DRAFT AZ Ed Tech Standards:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:c3c6a31d-c1f3-4854-8476-7a0421f5407c>

AZED Link to Public Feedback survey:

<https://selectsurvey.net.azed.gov/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=82M1m94K>

### **3.3.2. Virtual Laboratory Simulations Consortium**

No report.

### **3.3.3. GAZEL Innovative Learning Collaborative Initiatives**

There was no report, but Steve has noted previously that GAZEL needs to be reinvigorated. The GAZEL Board needs to reconstitute itself and purchase D&O insurance.

Steve still intends to call a GAZEL Board meeting to discuss future plans shortly. GAZEL is the fiscal manager for AZBSN. The AZBSN task force has been the main focus of GAZEL in the past year. GAZEL is a 501(c)(3) and so can more easily attract funding from sponsors.

Work is still going on to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GAZEL and ATIC on the AZBSN.

### **3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)**

Mala Muralidharan reported that Arizona has received \$98.3 million in E-rate funding, approximately 4.6% of the total amount awarded, which is great.

E-rate funds along with the state match of \$11 million (initiated in 2017) has helped build more than 1600 miles of fiber middle and last mile to date, and the fiber buildout is continuing.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released the draft E-rate Eligible Services List for Funding Year 2022 and it does not include cyber security products or services. There is a comment period until September 27 and Mala urged people to submit their recommendations regarding cyber security. The docket number is 13-184. Steve suggested that we may need a special group to address cyber security and has talked to Jerry Crow about this. Mala noted there are concerns from schools about hacking into student data, and individual libraries also have security issues even though the Arizona State

Library security falls under the Secretary of State. Nan said that state Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Tim Roemer is interested in cyber security and should be included in any such conversation in addition to Chris Richardson at ADE.

Mala noted that last week we jumped from 15<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> place among all states in the number of households that have applied for EBB funds.

Mala also reported that the second window (September 28<sup>th</sup> – October 13<sup>th</sup>) has opened for ECF funding applications. Arizona is 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation for ECF applications.

The Connect AZ website is on Wordpress now and its map of public Wi-Fi locations has received over 274,000 views. There have also been 1100 calls to the digital navigators. The average call length is 45 minutes.

The annual Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Conference is on October 27-29 at Crystal City near Arlington, Virginia, and features several speakers from Arizona.

See the detailed State Library Notes report, submitted by Mala after the meeting, on the following pages.

## ATIC 8 Sept 2021 State Library Report

Happy Roshashana to all our Jewish friends!

**E-rate : AZ 21 Waves of Funding** has been awarded **totalling 2.14 B** of that AZ has received **98.3 M** **Approx 4.6%**

**On August 27, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission released the draft Eligible Services List for Funding Year 2022.** While the FCC does not propose adding new (eg Cyber security) products or services, they do propose two clarifications:

- Equipment and the software necessary both will be supported
- E-rate will not support the purchase, rent, lease, or maintain equipment manufactured by companies on the prohibited list in the Secure Networks Act.



Note: EPC data used to calculate student count per state. Per-student amounts include ECF applications filed by libraries. Territories excluded in the analysis.

Initial comments to the draft Eligible Services List are due on September 27, 2021, with reply comments due October 12. The FY2022 draft ESL is in WC Docket No. 13-184

**E-rate \$\$\$ with the State match of \$11M (started 2017) has helped build more than 1600 miles of fiber middle and last mile**

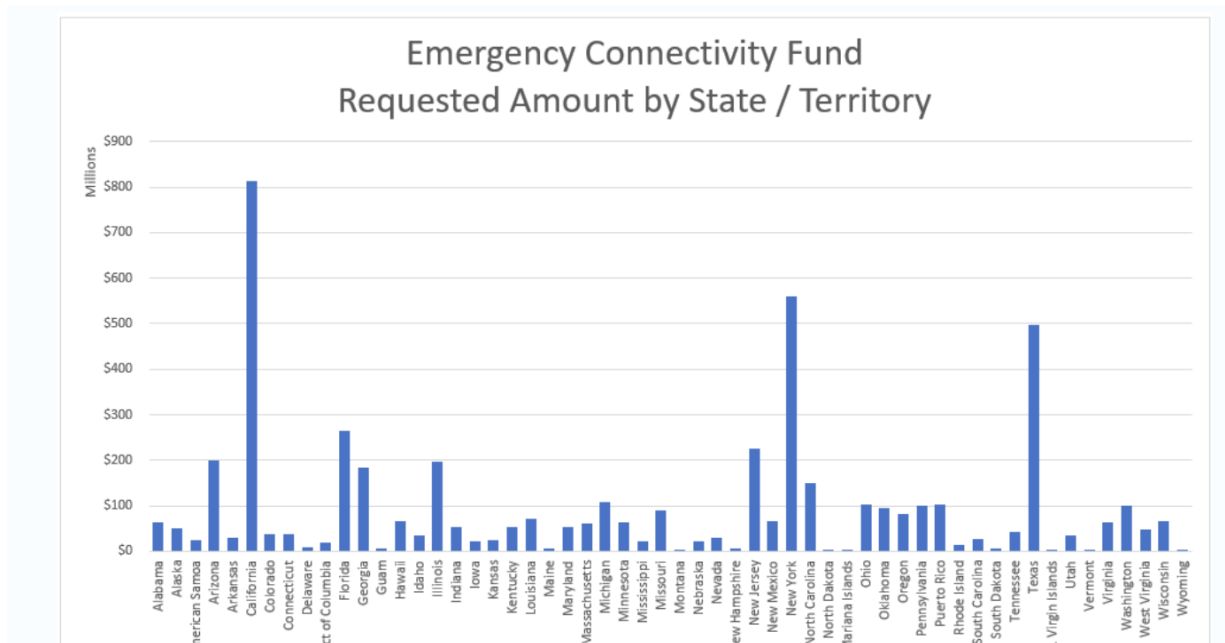
**Emergency Broadband Benefit** - 173,484 AZ households have applied so far. Arizona is now the top 10<sup>th</sup> States. (CA, FL, GA, MI, NY, NC, OH, Puerto Rico TX ). Georgia (182) Michigan (186) North Carolina (192), PN (182) are just a few thousand households ahead. Details on the EBB application process is at: [fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](https://fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit)

**Emergency Connectivity Fund:** On August 25, 2021, the FCC announced a second 15day ECF filing window. The 2<sup>nd</sup> window opens September 28 and closes to October 13. The initial filing window, which closed August 13, 2021, received requests for \$5.137 billion to fund 9.1 million connected devices and 5.4 million broadband connections as part of the \$7.17 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.

In a statement Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel said, “The Emergency Connectivity Fund is the single largest effort to bring connectivity and devices to students who lack them – and this robust response from applicants shows the tremendous need in our communities. This funding is an important down payment in closing the Homework Gap so that all children, regardless of their circumstances or where they live, have access to the tools they need to succeed. The pandemic highlighted like never before the difference a reliable internet connection can make in a student’s education, and we want to make sure that as many schools and libraries can apply for support this school year. The need is there, and the opening of a second application window reflects that. Together with the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, we are investing more than \$10 billion in American students and households, so more Americans can connect, communicate, and more fully participate in modern life.”

A state-by-state breakdown of ECF demand shows California had the highest request for \$812,045,890.55 and the least amount for \$1,314,000.00, requested by Northern Mariana Islands.

**Arizona Applicants applied for \$200M and is 6<sup>th</sup> Nationally. AZ’s ask was approx. \$147 per student**



Main issues for the slower uptake for Libraries. are:

- Record keeping about who borrowed the Hot Spots and Laptops. Libraries have very strong privacy policies to protect academic freedom for everyone. The Integrated Library Systems (ILS) do not retain the data. So Libraries have to maintain this manually.
- FTE involvement to make this work . Loss and damage of equipment – Libraries do not have the manpower to repair damaged equipment nor go after those that walk-away
- Libraries have been loaning Hot Spots and laptops for several years now using LSTA grants and lately the CARES Act and ARPA funding. These have less strings attached.

#### www.Connect-Arizona.com WEBSITE



Set up during the height of the pandemic, the site has had **5,399 unique site visits**, and **12,332 page views**. Most are referring from Facebook, public library websites, Arizona Department of Economic Security, and 211 Arizona. The **Emergency Broadband Benefit page** has the most views (**4,415 or roughly 1/3 of our total page views**). These numbers are just for the WordPress site, which didn't go public until April 2021. The precursor Google site had around 14,000 total page views from roughly July 2020-April 2021. To date, the **Free Public WiFi map** has been **viewed 274,644 times**. There are **1,944 locations** as of the last update, July 23, 2021.

#### DIGITAL NAVIGATORS

Between July 1 2020 – July 31 2021, the Library Digital Navigators have supported **1,139 calls**. We typically log between **20-30 tickets a week**. The average length of calls in July 2021's was **49 minutes**. Navigators can provide tech tutoring as well as friendly support when applying for confusing federal benefit programs.

#### TESTIMONIALS

Here are a few that stand out:

- "Thank you to Connect Arizona for all the help! This program has been a godsend for me. I've never felt comfortable working with a computer, but now I know I can. Their team is so patient and easy to work with."
- "I heard about EBB and didn't know where to look. Going through some of these sites can be a real jungle. Really appreciate the help from Connect Arizona. They got me to the exact site I needed to apply on and gave me helpful information on if I qualified and what I needed for documents. Also good information on my Internet provider and the best deal with them. This program really had my back!"

#### **Telehealth in Libraries: SHLB – webinar on Telehealth and Libraries 8-20-21:**

Telehealth in libraries is becoming increasingly important. Libraries play a critical role in maintaining the welfare and safety of our communities and enabling patrons who may lack internet access to connect to their healthcare providers. Join Craig Settles, author of the "[Telehealth Guide to Connecting Library Patrons to Better Health](#)," the Indiana Library Federation's Michael Williams, and ENA's Brian Hubbard spoke of best practices and tips for getting started in telehealth. They shared what Telehealth looks like in a library setting, use cases of libraries that have established their own telehealth programs, and the broadband infrastructure needed to facilitate these programs.

#### Speakers included:

- **Moderator: John Windhausen**, executive director, SHLB Coalition
- **Craig Settles**, industry consultant
- **Michael Williams**, president, Indiana Library Federation
- **Brian Hubbard**, senior manager of customer services, ENA

**Janet and I will be doing a summary of this webinar at the Telehealth Office hour tomorrow 9-9-21 at 12 noon**

#### **Broadband Legislation Tracking:** **SUCCESS Act**

**(July 22, 2021)** - Senator Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), and Representative Grace Meng (D-NY) [led](#) 40 members of Congress to introduce the Securing Universal Communications Connectivity to Ensure Students Succeed (SUCCESS) Act. This bi-partisan bill would extend the Emergency Connectivity Fund by five years and provide \$8 billion a year to schools and libraries for student connectivity off-campus, for continuing to provide Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers & Internet-enabled devices to students, staff & library patrons following the coronavirus pandemic. See <https://www.markey.senate.gov/news/press-releases/senators-markey-van->

[hollen-and-rep-meng-introduce-bicameral-legislation-to-close-the-homework-gap-ensure-students-continue-to-receive-needed-internet-access-after-the-pandemic-ends.](#)

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act:** After months of talks, the U.S. Senate passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act on 8-21 in a 69-30 vote. The bipartisan bill totalling 1\$trillion includes a \$65 billion broadband proposal, designed to “connect every American to reliable high-speed internet,” according to the White House. The “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act” sets aside for broadband and historic levels of support for digital inclusion. [Click here for details.](#) Below is a breakdown of the funding allocations relevant to the digital inclusion world:

***Digital Equity Act: \$2.75 billion (over 5 years)***

- \$60 million for state planning grants
- \$1.44 billion for state implementation grants
- \$1.25 billion (\$250 million a year for 5 years) for competitive grant program

***Broadband Grants for States, DC, Puerto Rico & Territories: \$42.5 billion, (AZ may get close ½ B)***

- This is a new grant program the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will manage. The deployment funds will be issued as block grants to states with rules defined by the NTIA.
- In addition to deployment, states can use funds from these grants for digital equity uses, including:
  - To deploy affordable networks in low-income, multi-family buildings
  - To promote broadband adoption
  - Deployment grant recipients (ISPs) must offer a ‘low-cost’ or affordable plan for consumers.

***Broadband Benefit: \$14.2 billion***

- Extends and amends the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, including changing the name to the “Affordable Connectivity Program,” paving the way for a permanent program
- All internet service plans are required to be eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program
- The program benefit is reduced to \$30/month
- Eligibility for the program is increased from 135% of poverty line to 200% of the poverty line

***Tribal Connectivity Program: \$2 billion***

- Extends the Tribal Connectivity Program created by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA)

***Middle Mile Connectivity: \$1 billion***

- Creates a grant program at NTIA for expanding middle mile access, which will help connect unserved anchor institutions and make last-mile buildout to unserved households easier and cheaper

***Digital Discrimination***

- The bill text outlines “digital discrimination” (a softened definition of digital red lining) and charges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with creating rules to enforce

**End of State Library Report**

### **3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major)**

Janet Major, Associate Director for Telemedicine Outreach, Education & Facilities, Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (<https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/>), is the lead for the Arizona Telehealth Broadband Action Team (BAT).

The BAT meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. There are 75 invitees and roughly half participate regularly. The BAT is looking to identify counties that need assistance.

Mala and Nicole Umayam were panelists on Janet Major's Telehealth Office Hour discussing the EBB program.

Mala reported on the SHLB conference on telehealth led by Craig Settles on August 20<sup>th</sup>. He talked about how libraries could help with telehealth in a library setting. Telehealth in libraries is becoming increasingly important. For more details see the above "ATIC 8 Sept 2021 State Library Report" by Mala. Janet and Mala will hold an Arizona Telemedicine Program Virtual Office Hours on Telehealth in Libraries on September 9th. Janet will send an invite out today.

### **3.6. Government Affairs (Mike Keeling, Mark Goldstein)**

Mark is finishing the broadband sections for the upcoming Arizona Technology Council (AZTC) 2022 Public Policy Guide. He received various inputs/feedback on this at the AZBSN August 30th task force meeting.

Mark asked Derek Masseth to comment on the Eduroam project. Derek said it provides an opportunity for education institutions to make their Wi-Fi available to other Eduroam institutions by using a Wi-Fi SSID. It is an identity referral concept, that uses Eduroam to provide secure Wi-Fi access to teachers and students at other institutions than their own. Responding to a question from Mala, Derek said that he would discuss with Mala how libraries could use the Eduroam service.

## **4. Information and Action Plans**

### **4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)**

As noted previously by Mark and Steve, the ATIC website is aging a bit. For example, the resources page is out of date. The website needs to be leveraged to publicize the COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report recommendations as well as using it for communications and public engagement, such as newsletters.



#### **4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter**

Mark at a previous meeting suggested that we should think about how to leverage some of the information sessions from the Monday morning AZBSN-COVID Digital Access Task Force meetings.

There remains a continuing need for volunteers to work  
(1) on regular maintenance of the Weebly ATIC website and  
(2) on providing a regular newsletter about all that's going on in the broadband world.

#### **4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)**

Steve is discussing with Mark and Kirk Busch subscribing to a CRM/E-mail management service to meet the needs of the AZBSN task force.

#### **4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)**

Nothing to report.

### **5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings**

Mark mentioned that the Arizona Technology Council will present the fifth annual Smart City and IoT Conference on Thursday, September 16, 2021, and Chris Richardson, Arizona Dept. of Education Acting CIO on loan from ASU UTO will be a speaker.

### **6. Announcements**

### **7. Adjourn**

## **Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings**

**Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings for 2021 are scheduled for the second Wednesdays of the month (except August and December) from 12:00-2:00 p.m. and will be held fully virtually until further notice. Board Meetings are open for all to participate. Please plan to join us.**

- **October 13, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)**
- **November 10, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)**
- **No Board Meeting in December (Happy Holidays!)**

# ATIC Special and Public Meetings

AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force continues to hold meetings every Monday morning at 7:30 a.m. See the Planning page at <https://www.arizionatele.org/covid19-planning.html> for details.

Also see Task Force information and related resources at <https://www.arizionatele.org/covid19-about.html>.

Future AZBSN newsletter, webinars, and roundtables are under development.

ATIC 09/07/2021	
Accounts	
• Checking	\$403.48
• ATIC 434041 04081-0400	\$403.48\$403.48
• Savings	\$11,550.66
• ATIC 073206 04081-0000	\$11,550.66\$11,575.66
• Available Balance	

**Desert Financial Credit Union**Arizona Telecommunications And Information  
ATIC 434041 04081-0400*Transaction History*Statement Period: **All Dates**Date of Statement: **09/08/2021****Posted Transactions (100)**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
08/11/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	<b>-\$26.81</b>	\$403.48
08/05/21	DRAFT #2219 TRACER 38891771	<b>-\$909.00</b>	\$430.29
07/23/21	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	\$1,339.29
07/16/21	DRAFT #2218 TRACER 38498478	<b>-\$400.00</b>	\$339.29
07/13/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	<b>-\$26.81</b>	\$739.29
07/07/21	DRAFT #2217 TRACER 38271329	<b>-\$10.00</b>	\$766.10
06/10/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	<b>-\$26.56</b>	\$776.10
05/11/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	<b>-\$25.56</b>	\$802.66
04/12/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	<b>-\$25.81</b>	\$828.22
03/15/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	<b>-\$27.66</b>	\$854.03
02/10/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	<b>-\$27.17</b>	\$881.69
01/22/21	DRAFT #2216 TRACER 34848688	<b>-\$445.79</b>	\$908.86
01/12/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	<b>-\$27.17</b>	\$1,354.65
12/23/20	DRAFT #2215 TRACER 34216767	<b>-\$800.00</b>	\$1,381.82
12/11/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	<b>-\$26.91</b>	\$2,181.82
11/27/20	DRAFT #2214 TRACER 33656699	<b>-\$800.00</b>	\$2,208.73
11/25/20	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	\$3,008.73
11/10/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	<b>-\$28.40</b>	\$1,008.73
10/13/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	<b>-\$26.91</b>	\$1,037.13