

Greater Arizona Educational Leadership  
**AZBSN** Arizona Broadband  
Stakeholder Network

---

Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council  
**COVID-19 DIGITAL ACCESS TASK FORCE**

**Meeting Zoom Transcript**

**February 6, 2023**

Okay, let's go ahead and get started All right. Welcome everybody once again to our show

Excuse me. So what's the agenda for today? First of all, as always, we'd like to thank our sponsors here First Healthplan Valley of the Sun United Way. Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association Triad Wireless and Karen Ziegler Consulting. So I want to thank all of you, as always. Is there anybody who's new to us today besides Shaun, which, who we're going to introduce in just a second? Anybody else who's new to us this morning?

Well, this afternoon, excuse me.

Going once, going twice. Okay. So unfortunately, no updates from Sandip and Nicole, both of them are in Washington for an NTIA Summit. So they will not be joining us today, which unfortunately, is a reason we move to 330. But it is what it is. So we're going to move on. So I just wanted to run an idea by you. I've been thinking about the Task Force about naming renaming the Task Force, draft course we're dropping COVID, which I think we've already done, and calling it Broadband and Digital Access Task Force. What do you think? Thoughts? Comments? Let's go on. Yes. Anybody else? Yes. No?

This is Cindy. I'm not really sure. But Xs. Steve.

Yeah, we can change. I don't know what did it what do you think Cindy? Digital Inclusion? Didn't? You know, we course we use that term when we first created the Task Force? And of course, obviously, the world has changed since then. Yeah. What are your thinking?

That's actually really cool, because you could actually work.

I'm sorry, who was That? And what did you say? Otherwise? \$50 I think people are unmuted somebody. Yeah. Can we have a little time to think about it, Steve? I haven't. Yeah, sure. I'm just just trying to think about, you know, adding the broadband just so it's clear. And I understand Cindy, and I both thought the same thing about, you know, digital access was okay for us when we first started. Maybe not now.

Right. It's a little passe. Yeah.

I like just being broadband. You know, like, everything's digital, right? Yeah. We don't call it digital banking. Is it digital broadband? I mean, to me, that's getting to be more of a buzzword than then then a word that speaks, especially with regards to this group. It's not.

I'm sorry, Janet, I missed that. Can you restate that place? I'm not sure if digital is the right word, because it is very overused and meant to mean a lot of things. Like we don't say digital banking, we don't say digital broadband. And broadband seems to be that the biggest area of expertise here and with regards to access, but I think a name change is a great idea. I think it would be great to open the doors and brainstorm it.

Me too. Yeah.

I don't want to spend more time on it today. I just want him to bring it up for you to think about and then we'll, we'll revisit it again. Okay.

That's fine, Steve. I put broadband and digital engagement instead of x. But that could be one choice. That's all I like to think about. Okay.

So I know digital equity, digital inclusion digital access to. And so we'll just have to think about it.

Like that engagement part that that's great Mala. Thank you. Yeah, I think that kind of, you know, engagement cannot happen unless you have access. And equity is kind of I don't know. It's like you're running a bank. I think engagement because we want to get them engaged a little more than they are, even if they do join, or do get access, we'd like, you know, it's, it's using it. It's, it's another word for adoption.

Okay, well, let's, let's revisit it, we will spend outside at some other time on an agenda specifically for us to in the meantime, if you have additional thoughts, you are welcome to put it in the chat, send me comments or whatever, and then we will revisit it. But I thought it was time we of course, drop COVID. And that makes sense, some time ago. Okay. Ready to move on.

So I don't have a formal presentation scheduled for today. What I want to do is what we do every few months or so is to have sharing, where we have four or five people who step up and want to just tell people who they are and what they do. We have a lot of new people who have joined us. And so we asked you to take five minutes to share who you are. And we're going to get to that later on the agenda. I just wanted to give you a warning that I may call on you, unless you volunteer. So that's the tentative plan for for today. So with that, moving on, I want to introduce Shaun story, who's an account executive for the desert region with CALIX who was a prime sponsor of the march 2022, National Tribal Telecommunications Association, tribal summit that's sponsored that hosted by Elon River, telecommunications. And Jenny actually had brought that to my attention. And so Shaun, so I want to say two things. Sure. I'm going to introduce Shaun, let him just briefly tell you about CALIX, and then he and Jenny can share just a little bit about the conference. And then at a future meeting, we're going to have more information, sharing more about the conference. I had a conversation with one of their people today. There, that conference is just absolutely phenomenal. And so don't want to take the time today. But we will get into more details about that conference coming up, which is again, march 28, through the 22nd. So So Shaun, without I'm gonna turn it over to you quickly.

Yeah, hi, everyone. Nice to meet you, Shaun story from CALIX, I support our desert desert region, which actually consists of Arizona and New Mexico. So just wanted to everyone to kind of understand where I was the ter geographical territory. CALIX, if you're not familiar with CALIX is basically started as a broadband equipment provider and has reverted more into what they consider a software provider. We're providing kind of an ecosystem for broadband providers to not only roll out their broadband, but basically be inside of the home providing, you know, security measures for children. Parental Controls different avenues and means of being inside of a broadband home. A couple of things that Calix really one thing I enjoy with CALIX is they provide a lot of resources that broadband service providers can actually utilize anything from what we call a broadband Academy, which is kind of a five step educational program. You know, anything from how to, you know, somewhat acquire funding or go about acquiring funding, how to design different kinds of networks, building out those networks,

ensuring sustainable broadband operations, and then marketing those as well. Calix really prides itself on not advertising its name. Typically, any of our equipment and services usually are highlighted by whomever the provider is. And so that's kind of what we do, I'm excited to be, you know, here and you know, you guys allowed me to join, want to provide any kind of resources I can to, to assist and you know, just really be ingrained in providing any kind of assistance. Along with that we are a major sponsor for NTTA. As I stated, I think this will be my fourth NTTA. And it just grows every single year, very educational informative show that they put on and absolutely excited to be there. Hopefully can meet everyone in person, if you show up to that, and then I will also share any kind of information or resources if anyone has any interest. One thing I usually like to send out is, you know, our complimentary broadband Academy, which is what I stated five step kind of educational program that a lot of people, you know, may find beneficial in the broadband and Digital Access World.

Okay, Jenny, do you want to say anything about the conference coming up? Yes. Hi. Sorry about that. Yeah, I would agree with what Shaun is saying. We've participated for a number of years and TTA. The organization itself, just as a refresher, you guys may already know this. But there for 20 years, there's been about a dozen tribal telecoms that have been really providing the services to their, to their own members. And then off reservation as well. Obviously, one of the most successful ones in Arizona is Gila River. So like Steve said, they're hosting this conference, and they have for quite a while now and, and really what the sentiment there is leveraging the expertise of those original founders of the organization, it's kind of that, you know, we don't want others to walk uphill, both directions, barefoot, it's really about, you know, sharing resources and gathering the brightest and best experts for Indian countries. So some of the some of you that haven't met me before, I'm one of the founders of Native Network, and we work almost exclusively in in this vertical. And one of our favorite customers is there in Tucson, Arizona, the Pasqua Yaqui, and we've been working with them since about 2019. So and they are a recipient of the NTIA TV CPE, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Funding. So we've got about five people there on the reservation this week as we speak. And so it's exciting to finally see, as many of you know, NTIA funding took a very long time to get announced. And then also, a lot of environmental assessment happens before these projects can actually start. So the timing will be great to be there in March. CALIX has been an awesome company that has really stepped up and supported all of these initiatives. And I really like seeing how companies like CALIX are really leaning in and really wanting, you know, it's not a transactional kind of relationship. It's it's really a partnership with tribes, especially because there's a whole area of expertise and the ability for tribes or, you know, sometimes municipalities to run these fiber networks and these broadband networks once they're built. So really exciting that it's happening in Arizona, because it's a big deal.

Yep. So I had just brief conversations, and I don't want to spend a lot of time because we will have an TTA representative come hopefully next week to provide more detail about the conference. But a couple of things that I suggested that we might want to that they might want to consider this talking about Broadband Action Teams of how because some of the reservations don't have broadband and don't have plans and don't have teams, and that that might be a good way to help get them get going. And they kind of like that idea. And then talking about there is some parts of the conference that are we're talking about digital equity and so forth, but thought that we should maybe talk some more about that. So you're going to hear more about that, again, because we have future discussion about this conference. I think last year, we found out about the conference a week before. And it was kind of short notice for a lot of folks. And if, if you want to go and can't afford it, they are not going to provide free

registration. But maybe we can find somebody, who might be willing to come to pay for your participation, if you can't afford it. So any questions or comments about that? It's a huge conference. Fernando, did you have a comment?

I just have a comment about CALIX equipment. I was 24 years installing, maintaining and repairing Internet services for a big local communication provider. And they manufacture good they make a good product man. It's dependable. And I just felt like gay. They're on here. That was my job, residential, fiber, DSL VDSL technology. And it was, it's a great product. All I wanted to say, Here you go. Sean, there's a good endorsement for you.

Thanks, Fernando.

Steve, can someone put a link to the conference in the chat? Yeah, and I right now, Mark, I believe. And Shaun, correct me if I'm wrong. But right now, that page is only looking for sponsors right now. So there isn't a lot of detail yet about the conference itself. Last time I looked, that was the situation. But I did. And I will send it out with my announcement.

And I believe you had Sonia's email on the page I had looked. She's heading everything up. And I know, we'd be more than happy to answer, you know, via email to anyone as well, for attendance or questions.

Well, I said, hopefully next week that we will have someone come and really provide an in-depth overview of that conference, it's pretty phenomenal, and is a great way to reach out not only to the tribes here in Arizona, but throughout the country. One of the comments that we shared with me was the fact that they are trying to reach out to some of the tribes who of course, don't have broadband don't have email, and so they can't even connect with some of the folks in, in other parts of the country. And so there you go. Okay, ready to move on.

So I think you already know and I had sent this out, but ACA has posted two job descriptions, the broadband grants and Compliance Manager, and the link is, I've sent that out last time, and I will again, and also the digital equity program manager. So both of those positions have been posted. And Sandip asked that I made sure we get it out to the Task Force.

So okay.

Many of you are interested or you know, someone who might be please pass that information on. So, let's see. So moving on. The next thing is, those of you who attended last week, know that we had a good meeting with Lyle Ishida, who is the chief of the Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division of Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau with the FCC. And among the things that he shared with us is that that the FCC Chairwoman Jessen, Jessica Rosenworcel, is going to visit Arizona. Originally, she was planning to come in February, and that has been postponed to a date. I don't know if there's been any update to that. So I don't know that there's a date yet for her to be here. So the tentative plans are for her to visit to do visits in Tucson and Phoenix and have a press conference in the morning by each of the mayors, an ACP navigator training, following those press conferences, and then in the evening, possibly four to seven of public ACP sign up events. And so we had a meeting with several of our folks and Lyle to begin to map out how we can help with that and reaching out to both Phoenix and Tucson. to collaborate with them and helping to promote that. Several people on this call Ilena, do you want to add anything more? Mala any of you who attended that meeting. Want to add anything more at this point?

I don't mind going first. But I think last time Erin was saying she'd like to go first. So I'll let her do an update. And I'll follow up. Okay. That's just on this just on this meeting with Lyle, on this topic. Yeah. Thank you Mala. So, we actually had a State Library meeting about this today. And so this is fantastic timing. So we've been starting with the list of libraries from the public library survey that was brought up in last week's meeting, we are drafting a communication to go out to them to kind of give them a heads up that the FCC is willing and able to send them materials regarding ACP. And so we're starting with that. And then we have started brainstorming other ways for libraries to be engaged. And once the dates are set, we'll be able to move forward with some of those plans. We are looking at it you know, obviously, from library perspective, and so finding ways to engage the trusted location of the library within the community is that the FCC would like to reach out to specifically as our main goal.

Thank you. And, Mala, I don't know if you wanted to add that. But before we do that, Ilena, do you have anything else that you want to say about what's happening with Phoenix at this point?

Are you there? Apparently not. Mala did you want to add something, just that we do have a database where we collect actually, data about all of our libraries. We do once a year we do public library statistics. So it's we're going to pull out the addresses from those with the names of the directors and send it to Lyle with you know, the request for Spanish and English flyers. And of course, as I said, we will have to prep them about the receipt of these so that they know we're also hopefully trying to see if we can engage them in the train the trainer's so see how many of them are willing to do online training, not we don't have the funds to get them to the look location, unless they can pay for their travel themselves, you know, which means driving out and gas and mileage. So it's up to them if they can do that. But we'll try and make this as successful as possible by getting, you know, as many people trained to be trainers to do the ACP. Sign up. And this this last week, I mean, it's jumping, the number of households signed up, we have 357,000 households that are now signed up, which is about you know, 6000 more than what we had at the last count last meeting last week. So something is happening. And, you know, a lot of people are getting signed up, libraries are already doing a lot but I think this will get them through the the doubts difficulties that they have, and it'll help them let FCC also know about what the grassroot level doubts are, you know, what is it what is happening? What is it that is a stumbling block and those kinds of things. So, FCC would benefit from their participation as well. And the other thing I wanted to point out was that we are working on a tribal library that Chairman, Jessica Rosenworcel can visit working with our tribal librarian, and let's see whether we can make this visit also meaningful to her.

She is planning to also do some kind of tribal visits and we don't know what that looks like yet. So we had a really good I think, some really good conversation, and we are going to try to set up a meeting regular meetings with Lyle to really map all this out. Unfortunately, I've been trying to reach it a while I know he's been busy. But you know, he's made it clear as I think maava indicated that they're willing to provide materials. They will sound digital navigator was to help do the signups they will provide the training and so forth. So it's a really great opportunity for us to get some real recognition. The other thing we talked about was seeing if we can figure out how to not do just one location, but multiple locations, even Tucson and Phoenix. Those are big cities. And so if somebody has to travel to one site, and medication, that's, that's not a feasible option. So anyway, we'll you'll be hearing more about that. As soon as I can reach Lyle, I will set up another meeting and invite anybody who wishes to participate. I'm sorry, go ahead.

Sorry, this is Joy Whiting. I was just listening to Mala talk about Chairwoman visit to Arizona and possibly to some tribal lands. I just information I would love to get superintendent next day. He's the superintendent at Chinley Unified School District. It's one of the largest school districts on the Navajo Nation. I've had several conversations with him about Internet access to his school district and to the students that are in his school district. And it's just really tough. And he said he had a question answer period in the public forum during an impact aid conference with Chairwoman Rosenworcel. About solutions for this, I would really love to get him connected. He knows a lot more about with Humala or anybody else who could navigate when she comes to Arizona to bring him there, or anybody else from the Navajo Nation that that you see fit. I just know that superintendent Nantais is somebody who I work with directly because he's a school superintendent. He's boots on the ground, he understands the problem. He's very forward thinking he was born and raised in chin Lee, and he was voted the Superintendent of the Year by the State Superintendents Association. So he's very knowledgeable, he understands a lot. So if there's any way I could navigate getting him in touch with or being a part of this information, I think it would be really helpful for him and his school district.

So Joy, I don't know that we'll actually, although we discussed it, and everything was very preliminary, at this point about whether we could reach out to other communities outside of Tucson and Phoenix. She's gonna have limited on the ground time. So I don't know how that's going to evolve at this point in time. But having said that, that of course, everybody in this taskforce will get notifications about when she's going to be here, where she's going to be, and what's going to happen, and you are going to be more than welcome to invite anybody that you think should participate.

Okay. So if there's information that you send out, I can just send it to him, and maybe he could come to Phoenix to see her.

Okay. Absolutely. Absolutely. Thank you. So, so everything is preliminary at this point. We haven't finalized anything right now. Other than we know, she's coming to Arizona at some point. And she's going to do those three things. And that's about the extent of the details we have at this point. Okay, thank you so much.

Sure. Anybody chime in? Sorry, this is Mala. And I was thinking if we were going to do a statewide, Blitz, you know, sign up blitz on that day, you know, she's not going to be able to go and see it, but she would get a report back afterwards, you know, maybe the end of that week or something, we can show her how many people signed up. And that might be a good thing for superintendent to maybe make happen at the school. If we can get if we could get a couple of people there to be trained as trainers on that day, and then sign people up later that that afternoon, because schools again, like libraries, or trusted places where people go to come with their information. And schools have fax machines and other things that they might need to or copying copy machines to copy and attach the information the documents that they need. It's harder to do it easier to do it at schools and libraries that have the equipment.

So Mala or anybody else. Is her visit primarily focused on the ACP or are there other topics she's expected to address? It's mainly ACP and probably probably ERate and broadband for the tribal libraries. Because that I think that's been a focus of late, you know, trying to get more tribal libraries to and schools.

So even though she may not be able to get to other places in the state, that Lyle, we'll be here. He's going to be bringing people they're going to be bringing trainers to do navigation training. So there's

going to be lots of other opportunities even though she He personally may not be able to be in other places. So again, don't know all the answers to that at this point.

Great, thank you.

I just wanted to say I dropped my email in the chat again, too, if, if folks are interested, I'd be happy to facilitate that conversation with our tribal library consultants. If there are specific people that we should, you know, get in contact with.

Erin, I will I'm sorry, I have not reached out to you sooner, I will look at the chat and get your email.

No worries. Thank you so much. Thank you.

So I know people are putting some suggestions of who should be invited. And we'll again, we'll open that up once we kind of get a better handle on how we're going to proceed with all this. And again, we'll be sending out a notice of our next planning meeting, if you choose to participate.

So Michelle, you have the post, put something in the chat. Do you want to talk about that quickly? Um, that meeting tomorrow afternoon is with FCC Community Outreach Division Manager, Kayla Hernandez, with Jolla. And tomorrow's meeting is for service providers and county city town administrator personnel. It's really to talk about the importance of ACP and do a Q&A session about barriers or successes related to ACP, you know, what are the providers seeing what are the administrators seeing, so that they're all kind of on the same page, as we are attempting to advocate for these types of events in our communities. Our administrators are aware of what's happening. So this was this is a focus on Pima County, they reached out to the county administrator's office. And so I coordinated this through Connect Pima we did have a meeting last week, that was really more for like helping organizations and she did a train the trainer type of thing. And I did. I did record that. So Steve, I'll send that recording to you so you can share with the group.

So if you're interested in that meeting, please check the chat because I probably will not get a notice out about that before that meeting tomorrow. So if you're interested, please check the chat and check that link. Got away I believe Michelle, the Kayla works with Lyle.

Great, awesome. Okay, anything anything more about that?

Okay, moving on. Just a reminder that the FCC wireline Competition Bureau is seeking comments on permitting the use of E Rate program funds to support advanced or next generation firewalls and services. Mala, do you want to just do one more quickie about that? About the cybersecurity Yeah, yeah, shall be enclosed in a put together a document that they have indicated what we'd really like in that cybersecurity eligible list. Mainly, what we're looking at is for it to be a part of Category Two in the era eligible services. And the reason is because Category Two is underutilized, it is based on the square footage for libraries and on the student count as far as schools are concerned. And although there is a finite amount per organization, it is not getting fully utilized for various reasons, which I won't go into details here. But by including it as a part of Category Two, it's it will serve multiple purposes. And that's what they are focusing on. There's also they're also asking for an increase from 85 to 90%. On based on the discount rate, right now, it's capped at 85% of the NSLP figures, that is the maximum that anyone can get, but if they cap it at 90, because there is funding, there is funding. So we are not looking for extra funding from somewhere else that is unused underutilized funds available, and the minimum at that for for C to to make it into make it to 3600. So anyway, those are details that someone who is

applying for re re could be more concerned about but that is exactly what they are looking at. It's advanced firewalls.

Okay, thanks. Thanks, Mala. So let's do some other updates. And then we'll come back to doing our digital our might be you get your elevator speech ready, because I may be picking on you, if the clarifying question. So about the hearing in cybersecurity, are you saying the goal is to play cybersecurity as a whole under Category Two or only the advanced firewall?

The whole whole cybersecurity whatever is required, except that if it is a part of the bundled internet service, and leased equipment, then that's different. But if, if they if it is something that they are purchasing, then it would be purchased.

Okay, thank you.

Okay, moving on. So of course, Sandip is not here today. Mala. Do you have anything else that you want to talk about regarding Library's Erate? And then we'll Erin, you may have some things. I don't think I don't think Janet Majors is here. I'm sorry. Yes, I did see you, Janet. I apologize. So might want to also do an update on what's happening with telehealth and libraries. And then Jana, we'll get to you because I know you've got some things coming up also. So Mala, you want to do a quick? Yeah, very quick update. Gigi someone's nomination as the fifth FCC commissioner is still still pending. And we're hoping that that will get resolved soon. Every time we think it's going to happen next week. It's not going to happen. It's been pushed further. So that is delaying several other approvals at the FCC that we have been waiting for, including the cybersecurity discussion. The congressional approval.

Yes, it does need the condition. Good luck. Yes, I hope they don't think this whole the two next next two years are going to be lame duck session? I hope not. Look at kind of it is very, very political. I wish it had gotten approved earlier because we could move on with lots of things. Gigi, was there. The mapping issues and other thing that we've been looking at seriously. I know, we've had several discussions about this in the past. The map, you know, the National Broadband Map is also on broadband now. And I don't know if anybody looks at broadband now. Seriously the that they have the show such as stark difference between what FCC has the figures they have, and the figures that broadband now has FCC talks about people without broadband internet, according to them is 6.5. According to broadband now, it is 13.1 Huge difference, it's almost double, more than double. That's about 22 million people, if it's translated into numbers, who are in excess of what FCC says, who do not have adequate internet access, and that is just 25. Down and three up, that the population that broadband now says, do not have internet access, much more than what the FCC has. So there is there's a lot to challenge and I can put the challenge process link in the chat after I'm done talking, you can look at it. Although the challenge deadline passed on January 13. There's bound to be another one coming up. It's estimated that that's gonna be around June 30. But we don't know yet. And there was there was request by a number of states including Arizona to to delay that deadline, but was not much success in that however, when Lyle was on last week, he said that even though the quote the formal date had passed, that they're always looking at challenges. So don't if you feel like you still want to provide input that you can do that.

Right there is I mean, there's always going to be another chance for them to look at it. Although they want to get probably they want to get the beat money out was, you know, and this their process is quite lengthy to get that through to beam. So I guess it may affect the bead funding, but we can't do anything about it.



So just to clarify Mala. And you can chime in also that that bead money will be allocated based on the on those maps, if I'm not mistaken.

Right. That's right. That's right. And how we utilize it once we receive it. We can base it on our maps for the unconnected or the unconnected. But the total money that will that we will get will be based on FCC math.

Okay, anything else?

Yeah. Very quickly. I think I'll let Janet talk about our Community Health Center. Deserts, Anita community health centers. The Health Fair, is that what Janet, will you do that? Or do you want me to give an update on that?

Not hearing Janet, go ahead and give us give the update. There were 102 160 community members showed up and participated in different activities. There were 31 different vendor tables and activities, including our Talking Book Library. The mammogram when the Lions Eye testing, they tested 30 eyes. Although they said they were so far inside that a lot of people missed them. But one of the reasons one of the things that they did that was very successful was to have a bingo chart. So the bingo squares, had all of those 31 different vendors and you had to go get a stamp from each vendor that you have visited, they set their desk, the table, and then come back for a price. So that that drove a lot of people in to where they were for the eye testing. The connector is on a website also with the ACP information and a slideshow on it, which Brandon had done was on full display in the patio and in the porch to the entrance to the desert sun health centers. So that was that also had a lot of visibility and viewing. There were more than 50 flyers ACP flyers that were taken. I don't know how many of those will turn into enrollments. Then there they there were things that there were lessons learned that we are trying to put together in a report. And hopefully we'll have the report out janitors helping me with that. And hopefully we'll have the report out by the end of this week. And they will be things that we can learn for the next event that we're planning to have in the Navajo Nation. area for two tribes, the Navajo Nation, Navajos and one downtown in the Tohono O'odham tribes, that will we're still still very much. That's the planning stage nascent stage of doing that planning, but it's got to be in the summer. Back to you, I don't think I have anything else that I can add right now.

Eric Garcetti, you Janet. And in just a minute. Erin, do you have anything that you want to report on?

I just want to say thank you to Mala and Janet, for having that information out there. Again, it was really wonderful. And actually it has brought up a conversation within the Connect Arizona team to add a little bit more of a push on trying to figure out how people get to us because as Melissa said, how many of those are going to turn into ACP signups? We don't know, right? How many of those people who see the Connect Arizona information end up reaching out for ACP or for any other bit of help? And a lot of that comes from the fact that, you know, that group was stood up as an early pandemic response, and now has, you know, definitely has some time to reevaluate some of the information that we asked the clients when they call so we're going to try to do better information gathering with the clients to connect Arizona to find out how people find us. So it'll be interesting to see if any of them say, Oh, I saw the flyer. So those are that's it for me right now. Thank you for the time. Appreciate it.

Thanks, Sarah. Any questions for her? I don't think Holly online. Holly, you're not here yet.

Holly said she has another meeting and she might be late if she shows up. I don't know if she anything else.

So Janet, are you there? Yes, thank you. I've been plugging things into chat so it won't take very long I wanted to add a couple of things to what Mala and Erin said, you know, there are definitely some valuable lessons learned, we want to show up at any community health event that there is if anybody hears of any, because we sure do want to keep the keep the ball rolling with regards to all these great resources that there are libraries and the work that we did with ACP. Chicanos Por La Casa sent this really great guy who'd spent, you know, the whole day, a couple of hours of his time there talking to families and people about ACP. But it really made it evident that we, it's kind of like pre production, it would be really helpful if people showed up at an event like that with with all their ducks in a row with a checklist if we can get the checklist out to people in advance so that when we have people available to help them sign up, they start at the beginning with already having everything they need before they connect to the internet to go through the process, because that's been very frustrating. Our super smart colleague here Cindy Hogan put together a draft of such a document. And Mala says that she spoke to Lyle about it, and that Brandon is also putting together has put together something because to have that in Spanish and English would be a game changer. We could have signed some people up I think if we could have helped people get that organized, when we had all the resources there to do the sinus. So when we had that meeting with Lyle, that was one of the things at least I raised and I think people all concurred is giving people the information in advance. So they actually come prepared. And how do we do that? Because it's it's not just for that event. But for all of these events, as we as you indicated, as people coming prepared with the information that documents they need to be able to get signed up.

Right. And that's why everywhere I go, I leave behind a trail of Spanish and English handouts from the FCC website that spell out what the program is, firstly, you have to hook them in, you know, you have to bait them with the hook. And then they go back and read it at home and go, Yeah, I really want to do this, how do I do it, and then they're gonna call our friends that digital navigators. And then they're gonna show up at the library and ask the librarians to help them. So I think we've come a long way. And there are things that we can do to make it more efficient. And that was a really valuable lesson learned. And it was an awesome community. And we look forward to going back. This is the first time they've had that community health in three years. And they had the fire truck and the ambulances and the little train with the kids and everything. It was really amazing. And a lot of fun. I shared a couple of links with a great article in today's Tucson paper that is talking about more technology and more places in southern Arizona and ways in which the NTIA is investing money in Arizona, which is great news for everybody. Mauricio shared a really valuable document in chat for anyone who knows a lot about telehealth like we're used to.

And, you know, the public health emergency is really going to be over in May, according to recent announcements. So the bad news is that might change some billing for things like phone calls and services that we've been used to getting in the telehealth world during the pandemic. But a lot of that I think is still going to be ironed out the really good news. From the billing perspective, from access we had, we helped produce the annual legislative day for the Arizona rural health conference on Tuesday last week. And the director of access has said that, you know, they're also going to be working towards billing for the time for C hrs and community health reps. And these are people who are also our digital navigators, they have been historically and they will be in the future, the people who will go to the chapters and go to the library and have their neighbor, sign out that blood pressure cuff and work with them, or have them sign out that tablet to get connected to a breast cancer support group. These are truly the digital health navigators. And for that to be billable is going to be really impressive. And

rightfully so that's going to help the war in diabetes in our state. So be tuned for legislation and ideas that we can continue to support in the telehealth world because that's how great things happen and changes made. And it's been just a pleasure to work with Mala on the telehealth and libraries. And I look forward to expanding that in both the north and the south and anywhere we can take that program. There have been some wonderful grants small grants written for up to a dozen I think rural Arizona library. Some of them focus on nutrition, some of them focus on job skills, and we're hoping that some of them will also focus on telehealth and and we'll be here to tell you all about it. Thank you.

Hey, thank you, Janet.

So Janet, you're gonna be at the Bio5 Open House this week. Yes, you were there last time. We're here.

I was and I will be there. Yeah. Excellent. Yeah, I get to bring my grandson this time hopefully won't cry when it's useful for the Wildcat. Actually, I think that's when I met your husband. But can you just tell people quickly what Bio5 is? Oh, off the top of my head. It's a really interesting area at the University of Arizona. It's a building that brings together medicine at We're culture science, engineering and who's the fifth one? You know, it's been a wonderful place. And from a design, my experience in every area of expertise has been facility design, not only for telemedicine, but theater and, and the idea was great, and the building is great. The idea was to put together multiple use areas, labs, where all five of those people are working in the same space. Now, one thing that wasn't anticipated is what about when you want to have that private conversation in that space. So balancing out the office space with the lab space and work is workspace has been what's going on, and it's in a great neighborhood. It's by the Health Sciences innovation department. So these are people who are doing amazing things like finding the little Corona spikes on the virus and things that it is all because it's interprofessional amongst those five disciplines. So it's kind of like stem steam in a science way, all incorporated into a building design.

You know, the other thing I wanted to emphasize too, that I put in chat, I've been calling it grant leftovers, I love leftovers. So that's a term of endearment. But on Wednesday, the day after tomorrow, we're learned design apply Inc, some really super smart professional grant writers and I are getting together to look at what's still left on the table, there's still a lot of money on the table. And there are folks who I hope wrote successful ru SDLT grants, there are other grants now that are still there to look at things to invest in technology and telecommunications connectivity. So it's a three hour program. The first hour Wednesday morning at nine will be tips on grant writing itself, if you really want to know some hot tips, and they know some hot ones. The second hour will be healthcare funding opportunities specifically. And then the third hour will be on tribal funding opportunities. And it's both in person at our downtown beautiful classroom, and Van Buren or you can also register attend by zoom. And we really do. Yes, the end.

Thank you, Mala, that the group that's that awarded was awarded the great grant today was the University of Arizona \$3 million to invest in in technology and devices and ways to get people connected in southern Arizona. So great things are happening. And it's all it's all been crazy January. But come February, here we are, there's still plenty of grants out there. So if you're looking to do remote patient monitoring, or something that that requires managing devices for people, that's that's where we are right now. And it's a great idea. And we would love to partner with anybody who wants to work on a project.

So I'll have to go back and look but I, I have been trying, when I send out the reminders of the meetings, and the summary of the meetings to list a lot of these events and activities that are going on, go through

the chat and those transcripts, and find any of these kinds of announcements and try to include them. So if you're interested in what's happening with these things, please review the emails I send out, because you'll find the links to times and locations and all that kind of good stuff.

And save the chat. And I'm going to go ahead and put another document of distance learning telehealth events that I send out every month because there are some really great things coming up especially people who want to know about the end of the public health emergency and all that kind of stuff.

And so just FYI, if you save the chat, and of course I also send out the chat, but you cannot do it after the meeting is over the chat or you're going to get his text and link, you will not be able to download the files that are included in chat. So if you want those files, review the chat and save that the files to your computer. Okay, and then I will try to also to download those and make them available in with the Sunday. Okay.

Anything anything else? If not, let's move on. Philip. I know you're online, you want to give us kind of an update? What's the latest with the Department of Ed? I'm always online, Steve. So for us at 80 we're still kind of working on our qualitative assessment to get into cybersecurity because we have to see the need in K 12. Long, Metro and roll. Karina is still working with her colleagues on that and once we get past the these are metrics we want to look at we'll start producing questions and everything. Shelby's working working with her interactive technology on particular school with particular schools on Minecraft for education, and was a robotics and such. Kelly crusius hosting a technology townhall with K 12 In Safford next week. And then I actually just had my first focus group or cooperative purchasing program for kids well, today And then I'll have another one on February 22. So a lot of things getting prepped for and moving to begin the year. And that is our update for today. Okay, we've, uh, Karina is online. I don't know if she has anything else to add. And I don't lie when you're not online either. Okay.

All right. Moving on. Cindy, you have anything you want to share? Sure, um, I, a group of us from the Arizona Digital Inclusion network, went to a couple different things. Last week, we had a meeting with a small meeting with the MTI a digital equity director, to talk about to talk just about Arizona and our experience here, that was a really, really good meeting really in depth. Really enjoyable. It was great, great conversation. And then the next day, we went to the smart region summit that was put on by a combination of ASU and the digital equity Institute. They had a lot of national speakers, breakout groups. Some really good speakers from here as well, Alex Harvard, who comes to this group, and as a member of ADIN is also also presented about digital navigating really, really energy packed day, lots of information, and the governor was there to speak in the evening along with this same NTIA digital equity director. And, yeah, a lot, a lot of great information come out of it. For me, I'm still kind of processing it. So ADIN is working on getting letters out that kind of state who we are and, and how we want to help the digital equity plan be developed. So we're we're drafting letters to the governor and to the state broadband office just to see just to say how we would like to be involved and what we can do to support their efforts and represent the digital inclusion practitioners of Arizona that are members of our group.

Okay. Any other anything else? Any questions for Cindy? Okay, moving on. I don't believe Erin is here. And of course, no, Nicole is not here. Derek. I don't think you're online either. So I think we're, we're done. Rory, are you here today? I don't think so. So we're done with the updates. So I'd like to take the next 10 or 15 minutes. First of all, are there any other announcements? Going once, going twice. So actually, I wanted to do have a couple of quick announcements. So I've included in our send this out

with my email that the National Skills Coalition, in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, has released, closing the digital skill divide a real time snapshot of demand for digital skills in the US labor market. And so they have a report that's out, and you can download that report. And then on February 22, they will be having a webinar, closing the digital skill divide the payoff for workers business in the economy. And excuse me, and I will have the link for that also. So if you're interested in any of that, I think that's pretty important. I know, Cindy, you've been talking about the the issue about workforce development and digital skills. Great, thank you. And then the last thing that I have, and I've mentioned this before, is that I had been contacted by a teacher. It's a Harris elementary school, that they're doing a stem showcase from five to 7pm on Thursday, March the 30th. And they are looking for folks to come have tables, interact with students share information and so forth. I gotta tell you, I had a phenomenal conversation with that teacher. She is just really super. And so if any of you are interested in spending a couple of hours with students, it's a great opportunity for the young further students.

It's a steam lab. They're Steamers. Yep. Yeah, that's right. Yeah, I do. I stand corrected it as a steam lab. Okay. So with that, I'm going to stop sharing

And now I'd like to just open it up. I'm looking, if you don't volunteer, I will volunteer you, particularly some of our newer folks. And I see Dan Stormont that Dan, you have been here a long time. Glad to see you back. So are you there?

I am here. Yeah, I stopped by every now and then I see I need to change my background. But anyway. Yeah, it's good to be here. Now since you moved into the afternoon. I can drop in every now and then I have actually dropped in on a few others. But yeah, good to be with you.

As long as I've got you, you want to tell people quickly about who you are what you do. Sure, glad to do it. Dan Stormont. I am a Program Specialist with Microsoft Philanthropies. TEALS program used to be the regional manager for Arizona. That's now Reggie Korea, who's up in the Phoenix area. So if you haven't connected with Reggie, please do reach out to him. But yeah, I'm mostly working on sort of the back end things like you know, all the tools we need to make things run smoothly through our rhythm of business and of course, still curious to see what's going on and especially in the education space and in the broadband space, which is why I dropped in today. Okay, any questions for Dan?

No, and once going twice. So Jan Jan Schiller again. Jan, I know you've kind of introduced yourself before, but you want to tell people you've been just awesome. And helping us to, even though I've been very delinquent, working with you, but but you're just awesome. And helping us to do our strategic planning. Want to just tell people quickly who you are?

Yeah, so thank you for that lovely introduction, Steve. My name is Jan Schiller. I am a partner in Berkshire consulting and we specialize in delighting our clients by transforming their strategies into results with project management. So I'm happy to join you and be a part of the work you have coming up to kind of update your strategic plan.

Sounds great. And who else Catalina Do you want to tell people who you are?

I am Catalina I'm from Triad Wireless. Okay, and I want to just tell people quickly about Triad Wireless? Although we have people who participate from Triad add frequently but do you want to just tell people again, about who Triad is. um, yes, we provide service in the areas that mostly like Cox and CenturyLink cover like Forest Lakes we started buckeye. We also have Tonopah, he lives in Morristown, Patagonia, Rainbow Valley surprise, Waddell in Whitman, we provide the tribe artist is the internet for them and

different school areas that we're also putting on we do the residential Internet services. I am their business account manager here. Hey, thank you, Catalina. Thanks for joining us. Anybody else want to share who you are what you do?

Michael was at Duke, did you want to say something? Oh, no, I'm just grumbling at my computer because I'm having trouble getting you getting you on the computer. I've got fine on the cell phone, but I can't get through on my laptop. Okay.

So Mauricio, want to give us a quickie update. And you've been a great supporter. And we probably wouldn't be around if it hadn't been for you. So you want to tell us a little more about you again? Well, it's not me. It's actually CareFirst. We are one of the access health plans here in Arizona, currently serving Northern Arizona, but our sister health plan covers the rest of the state. So we basically cover the whole state on their different health plan names. Thank you for that. I am the Community Engagement Manager. And As Janet mentioned earlier, I did put into the chat, a toolkit that was created by access. And I thought maybe we can borrow some ideas. I know that we have done a great job since COVID. Started as far as creating toolkits for what was the EBV. Now the eight. The new program is ACP and there's going to be a high emphasis in the next couple of months. Because if you look at the toolkit, and the reason why the toolkit was created, is that the public health emergency will be ending and there is an actual date now April 1, is the official date. And there's going to be a lot of effort into making sure that 600,000 Arizonans do not lose their access coverage. So there's gonna be plenty of events out in the community. And I think it would be a good idea to maybe piggyback or to find out where those enrollment events are gonna be. Maybe we can be there. To promote the ACP, when people are trying to renew their Medicaid, there's gonna be a lot of events out in the community, out in school side in libraries and other locations. So it might be a good idea to start looking for those opportunities for us to be there with them when they have this events. And this community assisters are basically a statewide network of people that actually asked for exactly the same information that's needed for the ACP program. So the people that go there are already going to have most of the documents needed to not only renew their Medicaid, but also have an opportunity to enroll into the ACP program. So that was the reason why I included that in the chat. So we can look at some of the strategies that they're using, they're looking at hashtags, they're looking at 32nd psa announcements, they have examples of flyers and little postcards that could be downloaded. So maybe we can borrow some of those ideas for our own benefit, moving forward, have a ratio who would do you know, who is people or organizations that are leading that and who would who mention, as Janet had mentioned, she's very well aware of the ones that work at the community health centers are the federally qualified health centers throughout the state. But there's also another list of application assisters, that's probably included in one of the links in that toolkit. That will be probably posting a calendar of events, where they're going to have all these outreach events and enrollment events. So the community does not lose their benefits. And they can update their contact information because they haven't had to renew their Medicare or Medicaid benefits for almost two years, because of the public health emergency. But now the time has come where they're gonna have to, you know, do their renewals and update their contact information. So that's why it's going to be a huge effort throughout Arizona to have these different events in all parts of the state.

So Mauricio, is that coming through your organization's now that's coming from the state is coming from Access, which is the Medicaid administrator, or just one of the contractors that are contracted with access?

So Mauricio Could you find or maybe you know, who the the person is the lead that we should connect with, obviously, along with you to talk about how we can best sync up with them?

Yeah, I definitely can do that. I don't know if Janet still on the call or not. But I know that she has really good contacts with the federally qualified health centers. And I can find out information about the other assistance navigator agencies or application assisters. And I can share that with the group.

Okay, Janet, I think you're you were just here a minute ago. There you are. Anything, but I'm here? No, that's great. And like I said, Mauricio is is really quite the telehealth expert. He's living on the on the boots on the ground level in helping people get connected to health care. And this really is going to be an important time to provide as much help as we can. And I'm also working with the Arizona diabetes coalition, because we want to be sure that as we look towards I'm still keeping people connected to services, and the idea of providing training for CHR is and CHWs. We do want to be sure that, you know, we're helping all of those organizations come together, anytime, every chance that we can to work on all of those issues, because it is it is a very difficult time. And as he said community health centers, they're all over it. And you know, I know in the border health office out west, Amanda Geary and her folks they do have in their intake list of things to do ACP it right up there with snap and lifeline and all the federal assistance programs and it is a lot of the same application data that you need to get signed up. So, you know, we're all on the same team. And I think that the more we can share those types of events that are happening that we can support, you know, the more we can help so So Erin, I don't know if that's this falls into your bailiwick or not because I No, you're bored with nothing to do. But that and I guess the same for you Mala, in terms of the state libraries is that it seems to me that here's, you know, another big network with a lot of outreach activities that are already planned that we need to figure out. How do we incorporate ACP and collaborate with that with those efforts that are already underway? If you have any thoughts you just happy to support in any way we can, right?

Absolutely. That's nothing to do. But what can be better than helping Mala you eating bonbons and signing people up for ACP. But it's a really good point, when you think about it, the resources and the libraries, there's a beautiful library next door to the hospital in Yuma that you can invite 90 people, and it's like, you know, Zoom ready in the room, you know, to be able to invite people, I think, to the library to learn about, you know, many of these issues, I think that's going to be important. Yes,

I agree. And we can Oh, sorry, Shereka was talking over you. I apologize.

So Mauricio, this, No, you aren't sorry. This is, this is a perfect way to collaborate. Because it's a big, this is a big issue. Not the not ACP per se, which is obviously a big issue. But all the other stuff you were just talking about, now put integrating ACP into that dialogue. So we definitely have to figure out, how do we best coordinate and collaborate on Yeah, and just so that everybody knows, because I know we have people on the call that they serve other states or other markets. This is a federal initiative. It's not just in Arizona. So every state is going to have to come up with their own strategy to make sure that they tried to keep people enrolled into their health care, or use for other alternatives, because maybe they're not eligible anymore because of income reasons. So this is a national effort. And as it says, in the toolkit, it could impact 600,000, Arizona, and so there's gonna be a big effort in getting the word out and trying to keep people connected to their health care.

So some more Mauricio, one thing that comes to mind for me, is that we need to connect you with Lyle, Ishida, he's got resources, they can print flyers. They'll send people out. They'll bring computers, they'll sign up people. And so we definitely need to connect him with this. I would not that I'd like to speak for

anybody. But I think Lyle would probably jump on this opportunity to tie in with the with what's happening.

Yeah, as soon as I get the state leads for that I'll share them with the group. I do know one of them is with Vitalist Health Foundation. Okay. His name is Marcus Johnson. And he's pretty much involved as the leader for the statewide effort for application assisters.

So if you wouldn't mind reaching out to him, and then maybe the three of us could have an initial conversation, and then figure out what's next. Sounds good. Okay, thank you, Mauricio, anybody else before we end for today? I know Lucy, you always like to share some things.

I just haven't had a chance to meet with Janet yet. I've been meeting with people kind of offline. And then Erin, you know, I still need to kind of get with you. But I just want to remind this whole healthy digital navigation readiness components, you know, we're here ready to help, we've got kind of some curriculum that we've recently developed, because we're seeing this need in Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Arizona, with regards to filling that gap so that the libraries can really serve as a, you know, kind of a full service Community Health Hub there. So Janet would be awesome to maybe put your eyeballs on the type of training that we've got, and see if it can be of any service to you guys.

One thing that's obviously clear, and, and isn't any surprise to any of us, is that there are lots of different networks out there. And we need to, I guess, step up our efforts to connect the networks, while we have a lot of different people on this call. But Mauricio, like the group that you just talked about, is really important for us to connect with. And of course, Janet libraries and all these different people. And so the best that we can sync people up, particularly now with regard ACP is is really a good thing for us to do. Okay, anybody anybody else want to share, chime in, jump in before we end for today?

The other thing that, you know, I'd like to add to what Mauricio is plugging up for people who do not have access right now, we have distributed, the schools have distributed 1000s of hotspots to the children, hundreds of 1000s of hotspots to the children, what some, when summer rolls around, those hotspots are gonna go back to school. And those people who had access, if they're not enrolled in a summer school program, they're not going to have internet access at home, unless they sign up for ACP. Because thinking that we have a hotspot and that is sufficient is not going to work. It's not if they if their children are not in school, the hotspots are not going home with them. And those that we lend out, from the library, we don't lend out indefinitely, we lend it out for a short period, to stimulate their interest to use it for a particular event purpose, whatever they need it for. They're applying for a job and they need access for a week, 10 days, till they finish the job application they had they borrow a hotspot and they have it available. But the they don't have it at home 24/7 to use after that event, or schoolchildren sign up is past, you know, so they do need ECP. And the more ways we can tell them about it, the better it is for them.

Mauricio, What's the timeframe for people to have to get all that done?

Well, the official date when they have to start renewing and updating their information is April 1 of this year. So it's coming right up. And as soon as I hear back from all of the events that are going to be scheduled, and the contact people, I'll let you guys know. But as you can see, the toolkit is pretty comprehensive. To get people kind of getting ready and start, you know, getting the word out now, as far as how to keep their benefits, how to update their contact information, I assume this whole process is going to probably take maybe a year, so it's not going to happen all in one day. They're gonna go in



waves. But the official date will be the start date because they had they had been extending this date for almost a year, every three months. There's an extension that there's been plenty of extensions, but now we actually do have an official date. So it's gonna happen.

Well, we definitely Mauricio need to talk with Marcus. And definitely connect you guys with Lyle, also. I think he would, you know, again, not wanting to speak for him, but just from what I know of him, I think he would find this to be a great, a great opportunity. And it's a great opportunity to leverage resources so you can have a bigger impact. Yep, absolutely.

Okay, anybody, anybody anything else for today? If not, I think we are done for today. Thank you all for for being here today.

We'll see you next week. By, everyone.