

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

**Meeting Transcript**  
**January 24, 2022**

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

07:34:15 And we are also doing live transcription.

07:34:20 So with that, let's just jump into our meeting this morning. First of all want to welcome you all hope you all had a good weekend.

07:34:32 And let's see, so scheduled for meetings coming up. February, January, 24, which of course there's today the 31st February's 714 and 28. Now meeting. On February, the 21st which is President's Day.

07:34:52 I wanted to make sure that you were all aware of that.

07:34:56 And just a reminder that For those of you who may be new that we do our kibitzing with colleagues, after this meeting. It's a strictly informal session for people to want to chat get to know each other. Ask questions get input and so forth. So we encourage you all to hang on the line if you choose to do that.

07:35:21 And before I move on. Do we have any new people joining us this morning.

07:35:35 Okay. Going once, going twice, three Soda Garcia, yeah Hi, I'm new here.

07:35:48 Valentine's Day. Good morning everyone. Good morning so soda can you tell us who you are and who you're with.

07:35:55 I'm actually a new intern I just arrived a couple of weeks ago, I'm interning at Owl and Panther. So Hi everyone.

07:36:25 First of all, I want to remind you that we do have our updates and events and updates on the website. And then as you probably have seen that I am starting to include a bunch of announcements in the email invitation for the meetings, and so try to give you a quick glimpse of some of the key things that are happening, but I do encourage you to go to our website.

07:36:53 The events and updates web page for additional information, including a fairly good overview of all of the funding opportunities that federal state funding opportunities and key events and so forth. So I encourage you to check that out every week.

07:37:14 Next thing is that we are launching. We were very fortunate to have some folks step up and sponsor us last year and we're going to be needing more money as we continue the work of the task force and some of the new initiatives will be taking on.

07:37:31 So we are looking for sponsors. And there's a link on this page, and I will be sending a separate email to all of you asking for your support. So I'm hoping that many of you can step up and provide us some additional funding.

07:37:48 If you have any questions, I'm certainly glad to talk to you about that.

07:38:02 So again, just a reminder if you haven't done so, as I do every week. If you have not gone to our Google form and put into your contact information with your organization phone number, etc.

07:38:15 Please do that, so that we have a good record of everybody who's participating in the task force, part of the whole benefits of the task force is people being able to connect and collaborate with each other, can do that if they can't find you, so please take the time to do that.

07:38:46 Well, later sent me an email that many of you know that she is chairwoman of the Arizona corporation commission. And we've been having some discussions and as has the commission about changes to the Arizona Universal Service Fund. And so she sent me a note that, that they're going to be looking at some changes to that Universal Service Fund, and she has asked that we scheduled a meeting of this group, anybody who chooses to be a part of that discussion before February the fourth. And so I'm going to be scheduling a meeting hopefully by the end of this week for anybody who would like to participate in that discussion and help us to find me late, our recommendations about the Universal Service Fund, and what we would like to see what changes we would like to see. Again, it's only our recommendations, but we certainly would like to provide our input. Any questions or comments about that.

07:39:56 Okay, moving on, quickly.

07:40:01 So Mark you have an event coming up that you wanted to talk about. Sure, if you might let me share. 07:40:59 Go. Great. So, in the past I helped ASU law school, produce a series, as two series of lunch webinars onsite events on blockchain in FinTech way, with a bit of a pandemic break we're back with a series called state of innovation seen in Arizona. 07:41:24 So, I am moderating the kickoff section that will be on that topic on a number of emerging sectors. Here bio industry blockchain and FinTech smart cities and autonomous vehicles Dominick Cruz Steve mentioned is moved on is still going to present on that that topic and software as a service. There's a guy Greg head with a great entrepreneurial startup background here that publishes a list called Greg's list, which is all the open jobs in the software and apps section session sector in Craigslist where do you get that name Mark Craig's List right. I know it is it is funny and I do follow Craig's List his competitor for things, so it's actually, it's a great panel.

07:42:26 It's at 12:10pm, based on classroom availability at the law school. Next Thursday, it's free it's hybrid into fully you know obviously love to have you come on site, if you're comfortable and that's

practical for you serve you lunch and have you visit there, but it's also fully hybrid so you're welcome to participate remotely. I've put a brief thing in the chat with the registration form linked, and the other two sessions may be somewhat less interest to the bulk of this group.

07:43:11 but it's followed after this session by sessions on intellectual property law for entrepreneurs and funding and deal flow for entrepreneurs, we wanted to start it out with this kind of overview and heads up and look forward on the Arizona innovation scene. And I'm sure you'll get to it but I also put the link for the tech councils Tech Connect winter edition that featured first mile project and sun corridor network and a couple of pages on a AZBSN with quotes from you and Jeff and others. 7:44:08 By the way, Jeff, thank you very much for your endorsement in that article, really appreciate it. 07:44:16 Thanks, Steve, at least I could do.

07:44:19 Does anybody know if Tim Carter still looking for a broadband coordinator or he found somebody. Anybody know? Are you talking about Yavapi County. Yeah, yeah, they're still looking to my understanding as of last week. OK, so again, Tim Carter, you have a Yavapi County school superintendent is looking for broadband coordinator to help them with their planning, if you are interested or know somebody who might be interested please contact him.

07:44:54 And next Sunday Europe again to to request support for your participation in the national Digital Inclusion Alliance conference.

07:45:11 Cindy Are you there. Yes. Thanks very much, Steve.

07:45:15 I'm Cindy Hogan I'm Digital Inclusion Ambassador this year, I worked through AmeriCorps and I'm working for literacy connects.

07:45:25 And I'm going to go to the national net Inclusion Conference, put on by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, coming up in February.

07:45:35 And I'm only receiving a really small stipend this year so I'm looking for some help to cover the cost of this conference, which is going to be close to \$2,000 right in that range.

07:45:46 And so if anyone has the wherewithal to help me with that a little bit or the whole thing, or know someone that might be able to contribute.

07:45:55 I sure appreciate it and you can contact me in the chat, and we can go from there. I'm looking for reimbursement for flight registration meals and four nights in the hotel.

07:46:06 Thank you very much. You bet. So Cindy has been a tireless worker with digital inclusion here in the state of Arizona, probably one of the most knowledgeable people about what's happening digital inclusion and keeps track of what's happening at the federal

07:46:21 level.

07:46:23 And just as been in CO chairs our digital inclusion network group. And so she, we'd really like to see or find some support to attend that conference itself.

07:46:37 So there you go, Sandy. Thank you. You bet. And that school connect you online.

07:46:47 Maybe not here today.

07:46:49 Just a reminder the school Connect is during the sixth annual summit on the 25th at Grand Canyon University, then they've been a great partner with us and encourage you to attend that is waste the last I saw is still a live event.

07:47:06 So, it is I'm actually one of the table facilitators for that so yes it is still a live event they're following safety protocols for covered. There's also a link.

07:47:17 If you're not comfortable going in person that I can probably dig up and share with you if you want to share out to others that they can do the live stream.

07:47:27 Okay.

07:47:28 I didn't I don't think I saw that or maybe I saw it got a notice and, and didn't catch it. Anyway, thank you I would like to definitely share that.

07:47:41 there.

07:47:43 Okay. And then moving on, quickly.

07:47:49 Excuse me. Cindy and Nicole I don't know if you're online I didn't check the list of attendees, about the ZBS and digital inclusion directory and network.

07:48:04 Sending Nicola guys have anything to add about that.

07:48:07 And, yeah, Nicole is not able to attend today.

07:48:12 We're kind of trying to define where what the.

07:48:19 Let's see, she sent me an email this morning.

07:48:23 Our goal for

07:48:30 our goal for this sort of subgroup of this group is the digital inclusion, kind of network team.

07:48:39 And we're aiming to identify barriers and facilitate the relationship building of participants.

07:48:47 And the topic we've been, we discussed last week was the transition from the EDP program to the ACP program.

07:48:57 It's a new group we're just getting started. We're trying to figure out kind of the dynamics, and we'll keep everybody posted as it evolves.

07:49:06 Right. Thanks, Andy.

07:49:08 Any questions for Sunday.

07:49:13 Ma, and I've challenged again I don't know if you're online about excuse me the tele health and libraries project, Janet is not online, and we were making slow progress progress as a pilot project is concerned, we are getting together the best equipment

07:49:36 that the project means, and working with an au to see if those are the right ones. And also there was an expression of interest in the then in northern Arizona for a pilot project again similar to what we are doing in.

07:50:01 People County, but we want to get this project underway first before we can think of anything else that we can do with Northern Arizona. So right now we are still in the early stages of getting all the equipment and putting dotting the i's and crossing

07:50:19 the T's are great thanks Mama.

07:50:25 Somebody anybody new join us so Katrina.

07:50:28 I think you might be new to our group this morning.

07:50:34 Trina Parker.

07:50:38 Yeah, I'm here, I'm from Tria wireless.

07:50:42 Okay, thank you for joining us this morning. Anybody else knew that we need before we move on.

07:50:50 Okay, well, let's jump into our updates real quickly, Jeff.

07:50:57 Hope you're feeling better.

07:51:02 I know you've been sick man a good thing. Yeah, let me give you a quick update hear my voice is a little off so I apologize if I'm understandable.

07:51:09 Three things I wanted to emphasize number one, our Arizona broadband development grant is do a week from today on the 31st, please get those in there will not be an extension.

07:51:20 We've had a couple folks there step forward and said unfortunately they're not going to be able to get it done.

07:51:25 Due to RFP, and other things, and, you know, we expect to have additional funding throughout the year.

07:51:31 But this is important, the quicker we get started on these projects, the less expensive they are and the quicker they will get done. As you can imagine with this much money floating into the space, both government and private.

07:51:45 The cost of the raw materials, the cost of crews has gone up quite a bit. So, the quicker you get it done the less expensive it will be.

07:51:54 I've had incredible response we expect this thing to be very much oversubscribed incredibly competitive, as I've explained to everyone if you are not selected that doesn't mean you have a bad project we're going to have more rounds of this grants and

07:52:08 different programs to fund different projects.

07:52:11 This is very much focused on the infrastructure, we have quite a bit coming in terms of digital inclusion.

07:52:19 There is money obviously in the ij fund which everyone's talked about the clarification of the Treasury rules around digital inclusion are actually very favorable to what we'd like to do, and I have some ideas about that as well.

07:52:33 Next up we are still in the process of hiring an assistant broadband director.

07:52:39 I'm going to say part of that was put on the backburner with me being sick last few weeks but we're going to ramp that up here pretty quickly. So if there is an interest on your end please do.

07:52:49 get me your resume, and get over to a zip recruiter and getting all the sites that that we put the information out.

07:52:57 Lastly, our middle mile strategic plan.

07:53:00 We're working with the governor's comms team and we have to work around their media focus, the date that we're hearing is two weeks from now first week of February, so expect to see that as well.

07:53:12 So those are the three big updates I've got Steve and very happy to be back right Jeff Thank you when. Glad you're feeling a little better just take it easy and get well soon.

07:53:26 Okay.

07:53:27 Mama got any updates for the State Library and Holly I believe you're online. Also, if you have anything and Nicole is not with us today,

07:53:38 and start to direct update and let you know maybe Holly will update on anything else.

07:53:48 For as far as he did funding is concerned.

07:53:50 We've Arizona has been funded for almost 98% of what it applied for. So that's about 100 and \$3 million dollars.

07:53:59 This 21 2021, the application window for 2223 opened on January 12. And the last date, it closes on March 22, the last day to put out RFP is a month before that that's February 22.

07:54:19 So these dates were monitoring and making sure that the schools and libraries are applying and not missing the deadline.

07:54:29 The other concern that we are the rest of the Erie Task Force and other strategic partners are looking at is FCC is aim to nationalize the K 12 and libraries purchasing.

07:54:49 This is, this is a sweeping change that they are proposing to the electronic program.

07:54:55 They are looking to nationalize the moment and shifted away from the local economy. And that's the most radical change that I have seen since I've started working on it a 20 years ago.

07:55:13 The at the risk of oversimplifying I will just mentioned a key aspect of it, they, they want to start a new bidding portal where the service providers have to upload their responses to the RFP is therefore 70s, the service providers will not be allowed

07:55:34 to send their responses directly to the applicants as it is being done. Currently, there shouldn't be no communication between the service provider and applicants related to their request outside of the bidding portal.

07:55:52 They also are saying that the bidding evaluation criteria and the worksheets and the people list of people who did the evaluation, their title their relationship to the applicant.

07:56:05 All of that must be uploaded any memos board meetings documents related to the selection process has to be uploaded and has to demonstrate compliance with the Edit program.

07:56:20 Competitive Bidding tunes.

07:56:21 The major concerns about doing this is that it's taking the bidding process management of the bidding process away from the local procurement and forcing the applicants to consider.

07:56:46 Non responsive bids sometimes just, you know, robot bids that appear on on the portal.

07:56:46 It eliminates the local bidding rules, you know, like for example, even in our own case in Arizona.

07:57:03 We have state master contracts, and those contracts both through rigorous process of procurement. and this.

07:57:04 This is going to become an issue with them because the dates that they would consider for the process would not match with the State Procurement dates because State Procurement starts almost one year before the end of the current procurement current award

07:57:22 date it takes that long for the State Procurement to work. But then, with, with these rules they will have to follow the national guidelines to set guidelines for the date of opening a bid and the date of considering it and the data of awards and all

07:57:39 those kind of things it's, it's kind of a one size fits all that they're looking at. And that's not gonna work.

07:57:45 When we look.

07:57:47 The funds for learning data and analysis for the funding year, 2021, and didn't find that, that there were any major procurement issues that were addressed.

07:58:06 So there were about 44,000 contracts that were submitted to the funding support program, and 4000 service providers provided goods and services under the contract.

07:58:19 Many of them a lot number of them were small.

07:58:24 Mom and Pop kind of service providers in local areas, who needed help, even with uploading to the 470 on the, on the current site, and if they, they can answer it with this one single portal that we have.

07:58:42 I can't imagine what is going to happen when they have a second portal with new set of guidelines and tools for them to deal with it. And the smaller applicants as well this is, this will put a lot of burden on them.

07:58:55 So, if any, my request to a CBS n is, if there are any concerns that any of you as service providers small service providers, or as applicants have.

07:59:12 I would really like to talk to you about it, because we are trying to roll all this into through the Iraq task force as a task force to FCC to show them that there is, there is a concern and is a genuine concern in establishing a second quarter for bidding.

07:59:38 bidding. Other than that, I don't have any other updates Steve.

07:59:42 This is where we're in the throes of getting the RFP is and applications done for this year's application.

07:59:51 So, there's not much else that I'm doing currently other than monitoring those and helping the applicants.

08:00:00 Through this process. So, our several questions.

08:00:04 I assume that Shelby is been engaged in some of this Yes, yes, we have a task force eat a task force and Shelby as well.

08:00:15 We're working through them.

08:00:17 We will certainly be working through the state librarians as well in through consular, we will be working through funds for learning which is another major event Consulting Group and erase Central.

08:00:36 All of them are gathering data, we're gathering data, the stage of who's going to be affected how they will be affected how serious the problem is, and examples that we can take to FCC.

08:00:53 So, also out of the system affect the role of the State Library in that while I am the Department of data Yes, for that matter, in terms of people find for these funds.

08:01:09 It will make our task, a little harder to try to help applicants through another portal to do this. It would also mean that every single one of those beds that that is appearing on the, the new building portal, if it happens, will have to be evaluated

08:01:34 using a new set of rules and regulations which we have to train them on. And it's going to be a burden on the State Library as well as on the Department of Ed, to try to get the small applicants through this process.

08:01:47 It also means that there will be fewer applications, especially the ones who will drop out of this process will be the small applicants who actually need it the most.

08:01:59 They are the ones who are going to be affected the most by this.

08:02:07 I didn't tell him I want to you online by chance.

08:02:12 Don't think so. Okay.

08:02:15 All right.

08:02:18 Let's move on. Any questions from Allah.

08:02:19 Allah you do have anything you want to add. No, I just wanted to let people know that they can contact me via email or phone. You have my phone number you have my email address on the registration, and I'm happy to take any examples, especially I would



08:02:38 really like to know how it affects you.

08:02:42 As our input.

08:02:46 Through the task forces.

08:03:04 The, la, la task forces really shall be Task Force. Thank you.

08:02:55 Tommy Do you have anything you'd like to add. I know I think mama covered it all. Thank you, Steve. Okay. You bet. And so moving on. I don't think Janet's online today.

08:03:05 And moving on department of education so fear my one.

08:03:10 Kelly, you guys have anything you want to share with us this morning.

08:03:15 Hey Steve it's Sophia.

08:03:18 Morning. I'm the main thing that you may have heard out of the department is that we've been messaging around the, the looming deadline that the legislature has to suspend the budget limit for schools.

08:03:36 I will put the link to the op ed that Superintendent Hoffman released even though she's on maternity leave, around that so you can kind of see what's going on, you have any questions about that issue, feel free obviously to email me.

08:03:49 The other thing is I know that Kelly and the Office of Digital teaching and learning are already up and going on their first like webinar training group meeting of sorts that's going to be for school technology leaders, and I'll make sure to share information

08:04:04 on that, when we have a date and a link to join online.

08:04:09 So Sophia, you might want to I know I've seen some information and emails, but you might want to share a little more details about this one we deadline with the legislature, because it's good could be very devastating for the schools.

08:04:26 Sure. And the best way to understand the how devastating it could be if you don't already like the superintendent's Facebook page, she's posting some county by county counts of how devastating it will be.

08:04:38 That's the best way to kind of keep an eye on some of the numbers but basically, in the 80s, there was a budget spending cap, put on schools, and usually every year.

08:04:49 The legislature just votes to override it so schools can spend all the money that they already have been given, because this is money that the legislature has already said schools have, but this spending cap doesn't let them spend it.

08:05:01 And for big districts like Chandler and Mesa, we're talking cuts in the \$50 million mark, they are very very very big. And so it's definitely something to keep an eye on this would have a huge impact on school who I'm sure you already know are really

08:05:17 hurting right now with Colvin teachers being out, 30 and 50% of students being out. So definitely something to keep an eye on but this is money schools already had been appropriated but won't be able to spend, unless the legislature X to change something

08:05:32 about the spending cap like I said I will put the link to Superintendent Hopkins op ed, where she explains it in even more detail on the jack.

08:05:41 Thank you, and Kelly I believe you're online, do you want to add anything.

08:05:46 I am here but no Sophia did a great job thanks to see.

08:05:51 Okay. And we, we, I don't believe you're online. So, Steve, I don't hear, Steve, but I do have kind of an announcement of by or about her. She's taking this Friday to the Arizona energy Consortium, so her remarks will be more energy focus but if there

08:06:13 are questions we can certainly steer her towards some broadband discussion.

08:06:20 and that that will be at nine o'clock this Friday that's a free virtual only meeting of the Arizona energy Consortium.

08:06:28 Kurt put the link in the chat. I'll repeat it in the chat just so it's a bottom of the screen for now, but she is speaking at a free freely accessible meeting Friday at nine.

08:06:43 Okay, thank you.

08:06:45 And, Derek I didn't see you online are you online with us now.

08:06:52 I take that to be a no and West Brownfield don't see you online either.

08:07:00 And so I think we're done with our updates, anybody have anything else any other updates before we move on to our presentation this morning.

08:07:12 Going once, going twice in order to give you a quick update on the ears of the final project I'm sorry about that.

08:07:18 No, no problem. No problem.

08:07:34 Next week, and rim rock next week, and should have those up and running in the next two to three weeks, and then force lakes is still waiting for some parts to come in so we probably won't have that in line to mid March, but that's a supply chain issue

08:07:49 with steel and towers, unfortunately.

08:07:52 So, that's it.

08:07:53 Okay, thanks for you.

08:07:56 Okay, if there's nothing else let's move on to our presentation this morning. And I'm pleased to welcome Lisa Cuccinelli, who is kind of a leader in an organization called shaping edu and also with the Arizona State University broadband access and equity

08:08:17 initiative.

08:08:18 And so, I participate when I can and those meetings as Mark and several others who may be on this call.

08:08:28 And she has done some really great work particularly meeting with some key people with the FCC related to the new changes, and the affordable connectivity program.

08:08:41 And so we're glad to welcome we service morning.

08:08:45 She's been participate in meetings recently.

08:09:02 So without Lisa I'm going to stop sharing and turn it over to you. Yes, thank you so much for all the correct information about you.

08:09:09 Did you share it. Well, I'm going to go ahead and share my screen here.

08:09:17 Okay.

08:09:20 So, um, it's a good to be here, and I have been attending and I've learned a lot from attending and I hope that I can share a few things from a meeting as recently as Friday, with, with the FCC regarding the affordable connectivity program.

08:09:42 I am the innovator in residence for a su shaping Edu I'm also an instructional technologist, and an SD certified educator. So I'm in the K 12 education arena as well.

08:09:57 I'm what I wanted to talk about today.

08:10:00 And I'll just give you kind of a timeline of events, but we all know about the Affordable connectivity program.

08:10:08 And from my involvement with the FCC and a community here in Florida where I live.

08:10:33 I'm Lyle Rashida who's the outreach coordinator for the FCC has coined the name supermarket program, and I'm going to get explain that to what it is.

08:10:30 It's more of a grassroots program that I'm actually kind of piloting for the FCC, that will be done in local communities. So I thought it was best for me to kind of share a timeline of how this whole thing started and where we are today.

08:10:52 So, I'm in February, 2021, we launched with the shaping edu, we launched it we said, If I can interrupt Can you just tell people quickly about what should be new to us.

08:11:08 Oh, I'm sorry yes okay so shaping Edu is part of the Arizona State University's initiatives to create innovation, and to connect the university with, you know, outside, both local, national and global people in different projects.

08:11:33 There's a project about AR and VR there's a project about tool kits for learning and you know online learning, and I head up the project for broadband access and equity.

08:11:45 So we meet, I love.

08:11:48 We can give the link and I'd be happy for all any of all of you to attend our meetings, which are at 4pm. Eastern Time on on Florida.

08:12:00 Every Tuesday afternoon, and we welcome anybody and everybody to come to the meetings.

08:12:08 So, our main goal is to get participants, access to broadband. So, in February 2021, we, with the help of some of you are in K 12 education probably know Alice Keeler she comes to our meetings from time to time and she's a friend and she has over 60,000

08:12:29 people on her Twitter so she was able to tweet out at the height of covert and at home learning that we wanted stories from consumers were who were the fat lack of broadband was affecting their ability to work to learn and to access services such as telemedicine

08:12:51 that call was returned with over six within one day my email was given with, it just blew up my within one day I had over 60 emails from constituents from all over the United States, talking about the issues we gathered that'll into a story book which

08:13:11 I'll share all these links with Steve and then perhaps you can share it with you.

08:13:17 So, as after that I had contacted Jessica Rosen more so at that point time she was the acting chairwoman of sec and invited her to come to one of our meetings to talk about the BBB while she was at the meeting we talked about all these emails from consumers

08:13:39 and her goal. She told us was to hear stories, and as a result of us meeting with her they actually put a link on the FCC website where consumers can go in and put their story up because, as she said, in order to get legislation across.

08:14:00 They need to be able to show stories, so that that was all in early 2021.

08:14:08 Um, as a result of that we were then she then connected us with the chief of consumer affairs of the outreach division for the BBB, and that's why it was cheetah.

08:14:19 And he directed us to the FCC website and told us we should be downloading flyers posters brochures social media information. So I thought, well, why not.

08:14:33 So here's a picture of me I downloaded about 100 of those brochures, got on my bicycle, and it's an electric bike so I can go pretty fast and pretty far and went into a Haitian neighborhood.

08:14:46 I live in downtown Delray Beach in Florida, and handed out as many as I could possibly give. Well, once I showed him the picture. He realized that I think he realized we were the real deal.

08:14:59 And so he contacted me to help him with this prototype program.

08:15:05 So, again in November. We met again, and he explained the program that he would like us to support so anybody who comes to our meetings and I'd love for you to get involved in this.

08:15:19 He calls it the supermarket program because what it what it is, is, for example, kiosks would be set up, you know, you see those kiosk in a supermarket and you walk in and they're signing people up for something.

08:15:34 So the idea would be to get somebody local and have them through a train the trainer program which I'll talk about in a minute. Start these kiosks but it doesn't he calls it the supermarket program but it doesn't have to be a supermarket, it could be

08:15:51 the laundromat, it could be the local community center the church. Anywhere where people who need to be connected would be together.

08:16:00 So, once we had the idea of what we needed to do.

08:16:06 I am I have another my own philanthropy, I've been connecting students to broadband, not even just broadband access but just learning through technology through philanthropy I started in 2011 called Madagascar in my heart, where I would go every summer

08:16:26 to different locations in Madagascar set up labs for students bring laptops and get them connected. These are children living in abject poverty, he would never even seen a device.

08:16:39 And that kind of morphed into setting up in South Africa.

08:16:44 We have a lab in Myanmar, and then I support some labs in Haiti as well. So, this wasn't none of this, helping connect the poor was nothing that was really new to me.

08:16:56 So with that organization that philanthropy.

08:17:00 I had gone into a city here in Florida called Bell Glade, where if you had used Dixie crystal sugar in your coffee it's where the sugar cream canes are grown and the city is most of the, I think 90% of the inhabitants are below the poverty level they're

08:17:20 making maybe \$25,000 a year, and most are not connected.

08:17:26 They are migrant Haitian migrant workers so they move from place to place a lot, and I was able to go to an after school program to distribute iPads laptops, a projector different things I had collected up through my other philanthropy and met a son of

08:17:48 a pastor of the spell blade Haitian baptist church who runs this program, and he explained is concerned about his community where citizens couldn't be afforded to be connected.

08:18:00 So here we are with, I grow actually brought students because they helped with the collection of all the devices.

08:18:07 And so, a lie on the sheet of FCC thought this would be a great place to kick off this supermarket program.

08:18:18 So the rollout, and then here here's Lyle eeshita we did, we had our meeting with the, with the FCC and I brought in Marana St Clair who was the pastor's son, so he could tell a little bit about the demographics of Belgrade Florida and learn about how

08:18:36 we can connect with him to try to launch this supermarket ACP program.

08:18:44 So, I know you know all this households receiving \$30 a month will be eligible hundred dollar discount the qualifying income was raised to 200% in order to include the working poor.

08:19:00 But what he did what I didn't know, is to to be part of this. The FCC actually has to approve you. So, when lot when Marana explained everything that was going on and what's going on in his community right then and airline was she just said you are approved,

08:19:22 give me an address. Tell me how many brochures you want us to print up and we'll start rolling this whole program out.

08:19:32 So, here comes the data the numbers, we had to give him the zip codes of the area so we gave him the three main zip codes of the area that we're going to be helping and with that.

08:19:45 The FCC could look up how many people are already connected through the BBB.

08:19:52 We requested 30,000 fliers to be printed 10 in Haitian Creole 10 in Spanish, and 10,000 10,000 Haitian Creole 10,000 Spanish 10,000 English.

08:20:06 Now, here are the rules that I learned on on Friday so we're getting ready to of course roll out this whole program.

08:20:15 It will start with Connect training the trainer program and where we'll get two to three individuals who will serve as the main trainers.

08:20:30 And then the FCC will have a webinar where they will train the trainers and get us going.

08:20:38 The thing is when I met with them.

08:20:41 They are probably not going to be ready to roll out the train the trainer program that you back

08:20:59 there I'm not sure. Nice.

08:21:04 Albert could you Albert Could you please dr about that. Yeah.

08:21:08 Yeah.

08:21:07 Okay, so this is where my notes come in because I don't want to say anything wrong and it was quite interesting.

08:21:14 So we gave the mailing addresses, they've sent out the brochures, they're having the train the trainer video sessions that will be the, the first thing that happens okay and then a video outreach ticket kickoff event will will happen.

08:21:30 But here's, here's some of the rules.

08:21:35 The FCC is waiting for the order I was told well what's the order, while the order is the order of the rules, because the.

08:21:46 Although legislation has been passed the rules haven't been set yet and I see Cindy shaking your head so you know this.

08:21:54 And so they said they're sure that the \$30 per month is going to stick the 200 poverty level below the \$200 poverty levels stick. But anything else is not written in stone because the program exists by statute, and by law, and they still need to define

08:22:15 the directives of how individual providers will manage the program and how legal operate.

08:22:22 They don't have all the details of transition from EVB to ACP, and they're hoping this week, those rules will be set, but they really didn't want to even give a date because they actually have no idea.

08:22:40 So, while they haven't really received the funding yet.

08:22:46 They said it's okay, you can start the process for signing people up and everything but they don't want to release a PowerPoint for example for train the trainer, because they might have to make corrections so everything is kind of on hold, but not really

08:23:02 because they already announced it.

08:23:06 They said once the rules are available information can be collected for the train the trainer supermarket program.

08:23:15 So, and then that will be followed by a kickoff event where Marana st Hilaire who's the son of the pastor of this Haitian church as you can imagine it's a Haitian community and that's the gathering place.

08:23:29 He is connected with the mayor with the city manager so he's going to get all his people together and the ideas, we're going to get the entire city of Bell blade connected.

08:23:43 Now just a couple of interesting things I want to tell you that I learned and then I'm done.

08:23:48 One thing that I thought was interesting is they mentioned a were aware, I think I asked something about the illiterate.

08:23:58 And they mentioned, they want to be sure that you know yes somebody can fill out the application, it can be a child that lives in the house, but they don't want to really address that the SEC says we just want you to take care of that we don't want anything

08:24:14 in writing about the illiterate, or how it's done with them or how it's not done that they don't want to take responsibility for that. That's one thing that I learned all the Lyle kept saying, you can get them the whole way through the application but

08:24:28 you cannot sign for them, then they lose everything they lose their snap Medicaid SSI WIC whatever their own.

08:24:38 Another interesting thing is cohabitants will be able to apply.

08:24:43 So, as long as one person in the household qualified even if it's not your spouse, your child your parent your cousin your relative. As long as they're living in that household.

08:24:55 The whole household will qualify.

08:24:58 Another thing they're trying to do to make it a little bit easier. Is any child in the household, who qualifies us for reduced or free lunch, then qualifies also the whole household for for the ACP.

08:25:15 And then there was one other thing that was quite interesting so when they said, Well \$100 towards a device.

08:25:24 But the consumer has to give a minimum of \$10, and not more, they can't spend more than \$50. So I asked them well basically you're saying they can't get a device that's more than hundred and \$50, where are they getting a device that costs \$150, and then

08:25:45 I kind of answered my own question and ask them, and yes indeed.

08:25:51 Imagine and they couldn't say any, any providers, they couldn't use the word Comcast or Verizon or whatever they just said, Imagine salad.

08:25:59 But they meant Comcast.

08:26:10 They'll take a loss. Perhaps they have an agreement with Dell maybe they'll buy the devices for 250, they'll sell them to the consumer with through this program for 150 because, because that gets them in and then they'll be getting their \$30 a month.

08:26:21 And then that consumer will continue to work with them.

08:26:27 But, this is another thing I learned for example, you cannot have one provider where you're getting your \$30 a month. And another provider where you're getting the hundred dollars for the device.

08:26:40 It has to go all together with the one provider so it looks to me like those are agreements that they're making with those providers and the providers are definitely getting something out of it because then they're signing people up.

08:26:55 Right. And so, they also said they do not have the list of providers yet, and they said not all participate so that's another thing that they're waiting on.

08:27:06 But all in all, that's been the rollout, if this whole thing works, and we get our kickoff going it will be happening in March, probably late March, they said, and then the dream will be to get the entire city of Bell Glade and pokey connected.

08:27:26 And that's it.

08:27:30 Great job, Lisa. Questions, comments, anybody.

08:27:34 Yeah, this is Ronnie saying from somebody the food bank community resource center, I tried to get one of my clients application done online.

08:27:43 And I did it with her. My concern was that you couldn't edit the information. If you made a mistake.

08:27:53 Well, I don't know if anybody has encountered that mean right now we're in the process of having to call the number there but it made it really hard for her to edit her information and we kind of got stuck with the application done the wrong way.

08:28:06 And now we have to call and try to edit that information.

08:28:12 If you could get, give me your contact information I can send that straight to lie on the sheet is the head of all this, and we can help you with that.

08:28:22 Perfect. Thank you. I'll put it in the chat. Okay, thank you. Yeah, this is Cindy Hogan and yes, I noticed that that you know it's a, it's a government website, and it's, you know, a little bit inflexible it's hard to.

08:28:36 It's hard to back out when when something goes awry.



08:28:41 But, and the other thing I was curious I i understand the supermarket idea. I've worked to get people eligibility status by going through the website, but the second the second and final part of this is that they have to engage with the providers to get

08:28:59 to select a service and get get involved.

08:29:04 I'm always curious there I've talked to some other people nationally who have done that by sitting actually sitting with people while they make the call to the provider.

08:29:14 I didn't realize when I was doing the BB that that that was allowed or that that was acceptable but this year with you know when when the when the subsidy was \$50, and there was a \$50 service people could get the, especially the low income could get the

08:29:36 service for free for a month. This time it's going to be \$30 and the providers do not appear to have gone I know they may be, this may be part of the rules that are coming up but presently the lowest prices that I can see around Tucson are \$50 period.

08:29:54 So you're low income, and you're still paying \$20 a month, there's no more opportunity to get service for free so I wondered when you're doing supermarket sign ups.

08:30:11 That's just eligibility and. Unless Unless you're actually making calls to providers while you're sitting there in the supermarket I'd be curious to hear how you're negotiating that.

08:30:21 Could you stop sharing please. I'm sorry.

08:30:23 A couple of things that I wanted to say one thing is they're working on actually having the providers have they got this. Okay, by the federal government to have the providers, actually be a kiosk play a piano spot.

08:30:44 So, one of the places where the, they could go right to the Comcast office. And there'll be a kiosk there for signing up your other thing is, yes they still haven't solidified the list of providers I imagine they're negotiating with these providers to

08:31:03 make sure that the person who is signed up can get that \$30, not 50, and can get a device by only spending \$50.

08:31:31 Lisa Do you have a census, the FCC talked about, we talked about flyers, is the FCC plans provide any funding for outreach for all this. Yes. So that's the most 30,000 fliers, they're printing them at no cost, and to the this Marana.

08:31:43 They've already sent them out, he'll be receiving them, they pay the UPS or the FedEx or whatever it is, to send it. So there's, there's no cost to, there won't be any cost involved as far as train the trainer.

08:32:07 Any kickoff programs they said they'd even adverts, you know do social media blasts for the whatever community is doing this and so they really want to do everything they can to get a grassroots effort, they want to go in that direction I think they feel

08:32:20 like what the EVB. I mean, think about it, if somebody doesn't have broadband it's really hard for them to not navigate the website and try to figure all that out, which is why they're if this works, they're going to try to use this as a prototype for

08:32:35 a grassroots project and then there's one other thing I forgot to say, I wanted to collect data about.

08:32:46 We've seen it and Steve I know you've talked about it like things like well, one year out two years out five year out to see. Was this effective. Where are you now able to have telehealth, are you now connected.

08:32:56 How often do you send an email, are you able to use a device. And they said they don't. The FCC doesn't want to be responsible for doing any kind of a survey.

08:33:12 But anybody who does a survey and collects the data, again, kind of like those those emails that I told you about at the beginning of the presentation can submit that they'll use that are legislations but they don't want to have their own survey which

08:33:27 I find the only thing they're going by is that slide where I showed you, we had to give them a zip code, the zip codes, they know how many people are on DVD and then they'll follow with the zip codes to see who signs up.

08:33:42 So we said when you were talking about the flyers, that's just for your project and Florida, are they talking about a national program for that.

08:33:53 National anybody who goes on that website and requests.

08:33:59 But remember he had to approve it first.

08:34:04 You'd have to get to him, and he would have to approve for you that entire city or rural area, whatever it is, as long as they approve it, they will pay for it and send everything out.

08:34:17 So is there a place on the website to request that or do they have to send an email or call while to get that approval.

08:34:27 Um, I would suggest they go to the website and they send a there's a consumer link on the website where they can request.

08:34:39 And I imagine if it's a small number. You don't have to go through them for approval. But once you get like what we're getting the 30,000 fliers sense, well then they have to approve the project.

08:34:52 But this is what they want to do I got the sense that they're very very motivated to get this grassroots effort, off the ground and Lyle reports right to Jessica Rosen morsel, and she's continually asking him you know what are we doing grassroots What

08:35:10 are we doing what she wants to see stories and people and communities that are getting connected.

08:35:18 So Lisa you've done some great work.

08:35:20 Should we also try to connect with while maybe even have them join one of our meetings here. Further discussion with that what's your thought.

08:35:38 I think it would be wonderful. I'm sure he would we speak almost every we were like best season contacting you for other things as well but I think it would be a great idea and another thing that I think would be great, would be to get more on st Hilaire

08:35:47 Who's this pastor's son who is his community activists I mean I can do all I can to be in on the meetings and connect these two and, you know, try to get things going.

08:36:00 But in the end, Marana is the guy because he's got to contact his local Haitians leaders who come to his church to say Hey, will you put this in your laundromat Hey, would you bring this up at your community meeting or the city manager.

08:36:18 So the two of them I'll try to get the two of them on.

08:36:22 And so it'd be great if you could do an intro I've actually had planned to contact while after attending your meeting but if you could at least do maybe a brief intro and then we can follow up and see how we can schedule that be great.

08:36:39 Okay, great. The law is asked it will they do p essays for local TV.

08:36:46 I believe so because they're there, once it gets going, they told me they're planning on doing a lot of public relations liquid.

08:36:55 And I didn't get all the details of that but they did say that they're going to get started doing that as soon as it gets done.

08:37:03 As I said, as you know, anything with the government. We're just waiting, what's the waiting game right we have to understand that everything is going really slow because they have to get everything approved first.

08:37:15 I Lisa Marie she I was wondering, you did mention that if any, any child in the household qualifies for free school lunch program, they qualify. So my question is, is there an initiative, around, how did they get this data from school for who sharing

08:37:31 that data, so they can get the word out of maybe promoted and get people enrolled.

08:37:38 Yeah. Um, well the schools have that data, because it's a federal government program right so they can pretty easily identify Title One schools, Title One schools are also schools where the most of the students who qualify for Title One funds are, you

08:38:00 know, add or below the poverty line so basically any k 12 School gets their funding for special programs for those students at the school.

08:38:14 Due to that title one. So, and then of course there's the free pre lunch but that's all under Title One.

08:38:22 So the question is is the school supports the reach out, or is it the other way around or how does that communication, come together.

08:38:31 I, as of now I was, as of today, I would say the school would have to reach out but I, but the goal is to get community activists to help these families and the schools and the children and it's a huge job, and I think they don't even know how to do it

08:38:59 which is why I guess this program that I'm working on with them is kind of like the test, the litmus test. So we'll see how that all goes but any, any input anybody has or right now I'd love ideas about a survey we can do because I'll just say this one

08:39:15 last thing at shaping Edu we're having a something called the pen a challenge in February. February 22 if anybody would be interested in promoting broadband access at that challenge it's going to be kind of like a shark tank team that I'm leading.

08:39:32 It's going to be a one and a half day challenge the first day we're going to come up with our pitch. And the second day we're going to pitch, and with the idea of getting grants from different providers.

08:39:46 As a result of our pitch. So, hopefully with what's going on with this whole program, we can get some help.

08:39:55 Please.

08:39:58 was just gonna say the freedom which is lunch data that schools have is one of the most tightly held pieces of data on the planet, and even within a school district if you work in a school district if you're not in the right department and a half the

08:40:14 right approval. You will never know who has, who has not been granted rights under that program so if there's any using of data under that program. I would, I would, it would be like, Where did that come from because that program is the tightest program

08:40:32 on the planet that I've seen other than hippo. Well, actually. Yeah, it's, it's extremely tight so yeah but they could get the data about Title One schools that was school as a title one school and pretty much if they're a title one school they have to

08:40:49 have a certain amount of percentage, different students who are qualified for that so yes, you're not going to get like an individual student name.

08:40:59 Yeah, that's correct because Title One schools.

08:41:00 Once you reach a threshold and your whole school will be designated this title one, but there's a lot of schools who are either on the, on the edge of that.

08:41:24 And so then they would be precluded from this, this qualification so I think there's, there's worthy of a discussion that we had with the USDA. Because, you know, there's so many things that have been built off the data from the free and reduced lunch

08:41:29 programs which.

08:41:31 There's so many things getting tied to it but the reality is we have no visibility into it, unless you're part of that sacrosanct committee or group that actually has that, because it is extremely sensitive it's extremely private data that is collected

08:41:47 and decisions are made a ball.

08:41:49 Oh, I forgot to say that reminds me one last thing is that I don't know even what time it is, but, um, one last thing is that what I found. I put it on one of the slides and forgot to say that I the one slide where we went in and we gave technology and

08:42:06 iPads and projectors and things like that. And we spent the day with the children and we're worked with robots, that was a building of trust.

08:42:16 So we have to remember that when we sign up, I'm thinking of the children on a school lunch when you ask a family is there some is your child on school lunch program so, and the illiterate people they have to trust the person who's filling out the application

08:42:32 you're getting their social security number, you're getting sensitive information about their family. So and really important part of this grassroots that I don't think the federal FCC thought about is, whoever you're getting in there to launch this program,

08:42:49 the only way it's going to work, is that you have a trusted community leader, and that the people trust what you're doing, and, and the fact that you're getting this information to help them.

08:43:02 He told me summit. Some of the people were afraid to sign up because they owed money so they own, they didn't pay their bill for three months for pilot Comcast, so they think they're going to get in trouble but no they don't, they It doesn't matter how

08:43:16 much you owed I asked them specifically that question, they can still sign up.

08:43:34 They're not even allowed to enter that

08:43:28 law. They're not but they do, they do, they some of their, some of the independent provider processes that they don't go through the sack website, they actually are doing credit checks.

08:43:42 So they've had to, they've had to change that out of the rules and and come down a little harder in this in this new version, but that's what they were doing, as part of their process which are weren't supposed to do.

08:43:56 So did you have some other things so I know you're pretty involved in a lot of this stuff.

08:44:01 Yeah, I just wanted to say Lisa This is awesome.

08:44:04 I'm with Elena and I are with Common Sense Media we work a lot with schools. And we've contributed we've written comments to help shape the rules that the FCC is using, I know that they have been talking a lot about setting aside about 100 million dollars

08:44:23 to do grants to organizations like yours, and others to help them do this sort of work.

08:44:31 They're writing the rules for that process right now.

08:44:34 So I'll be monitoring that.

08:44:37 But yeah, this sounds incredible how are you finding people to do the on the ground kiosks and outreach.

08:44:47 You got so many flyers that so many people to contact that's a lot of manpower.

08:44:52 Right, so that's the trust issue that's the way Marana is the, you know, he's the key, the pastor's son is the key. Because this Haitian Baptist churches where everybody congregates there are 100 children that go there every afternoon.

08:45:10 From they pick them up at school they feed them they give them tutoring, because the parents are working until dark.

08:45:18 So, he is networks in with all the different community leaders of that community. So, the first thing we're going, will have to do is identify who those community leaders are at because he he has pockets also he told us there's pockets maybe of Hispanics,

08:45:36 even though it's that largely Haitian community, your pockets of Hispanic so they're going to want to work with their people that they know and they trust.

08:45:46 So, this is going to be a huge organization and honestly, we're just starting it so yeah maybe I could come back and after March or after April and and you know, hoping it seems like it's all going to go well but you know i'm sure there'd be some bumps

08:46:02 along the way.

08:46:16 I have a question.

08:46:08 I know that with the district that I'm collaborating with which is the somebody the Unified School District and many you can correct me if I'm wrong, but a lot of families didn't apply because all the students are on the free and reduced lunch.

08:46:23 So, it did not apply. They didn't apply for the lunch program because all the students right now because of coven are on the free and reduced lunch program that correct.

08:46:36 Yes, that's correct. Right.

08:46:39 Well, so remember I that was among the list of things that would qualify you for example if somebody in your family is on Medicaid if you're on WIC SSI snap Pell Grant.

08:46:54 You know if there's a child on free lunch so I imagine if they qualify for that. The, then you would want to go for a different direction right you'd want to identify if there's a member of the family or if the family is receiving any other type of government

08:47:12 service.

08:47:17 This is Marla, the MSRP students are eligible to receive their devices and internet connectivity to their schools through the ACF program.

08:47:30 So they you know that's one of the reasons why you see that they don't sign up. If they just have one child or children into in in that household, but the households that do not have children that are not on a recipe, you know, obviously because they

08:47:56 have children in school and every single child has signed up. They are, they're not in that category but there are other eligibility criteria. And if they meet those criteria, the poverty level, the loss of job and all those kinds of things, then yes

08:48:14 will qualify. Yeah, and I can't answer. I'd love to answer all really specifically all the questions but that's the feeling I got on Friday when I met with the FCC is that that's why they're not ready to really publish any PowerPoints, or train the trainers

08:48:32 yet because all those things that were, we're talking about right here there's they're trying to iron it out and do the rules, and they haven't really solidified the rules yet, then we'll be able to answer those questions.

08:48:47 Yeah, I wanted to just kind of bring up one thing has been a topic in the past.

08:48:53 When children get their devices from schools, sometimes the last word those devices, back when the school year ends. Yeah, and they're back to square one.

08:49:02 So, if someone were to participate in purchasing a device through this program, they actually own it and get to keep it or do they have to give it back if they don't continue on with the program, they can they can own it and keep it and you're right you're

08:49:18 right about the school devices because I'm in a school where we have Title One students, even as the school were allowed to keep the dump devices for five years.

08:49:31 At which time, they can decide either okay you can just keep them forever, or no we want them back. I've only experienced at least here in Florida with our county saying you can just keep them after the five years they're not.

08:49:45 They don't really ask for them back. There was a thing that I can't totally answer the question maybe somebody else here.

08:49:54 A good I didn't take notes on that but they were explaining to me that basically, I would call it like double dipping like if somebody's already getting things from one program in the family.

08:50:09 if they're getting a device.

08:50:08 Then, another person can also get a device so in other words they're saying one device per family, which I thought that was hard because if you have a lot of children.

08:50:18 Plus you need it to work. They're only letting you get one device for your entire family.

08:50:26 To work, we're pretty much out of time at this point, least a great presentation a great work you're doing. I'm really glad you were able to join us and, obviously, this is going to be an ongoing discussion, and that we need to look at how we're going

08:50:43 to be engaged and helping all of our folks and others, engage with all of this. And so I think it would certainly be useful to obviously to continue our collaboration with you, but also perhaps to meet with Lyle.

08:51:00 Yes, absolutely. I'll, I'll talk to it Lyle and I'm sure it'd be more than happy either him or one of his other key people from the outreach program.

08:51:12 Please say you've done some great, great work here.

08:51:16 As we all continue to learn that this is a hugely complex challenge here. It's not a simple let's get people connected and everything's happened because it's not quite that way is it.

08:51:30 Thank you.

08:51:31 Okay. Anybody else have any final questions or comments for Lisa before we.

08:51:37 Before we end the meeting for today.

08:51:40 Are there any other announcements anything else. People want to share before we end today.

08:51:49 Okay. If not, so just one quick thing, as you probably know, from my email last week as well as the announcement that unfortunately we've lost Henry's great work and and summarizing our meetings, and so forth and that's really unfortunate, but we are

08:52:11 doing a, we are saving the

08:52:16 transcript. But the qualified thought I had I will share that with you, but there were lots of errors. And so I just want to make sure you understand when you read it, that sometimes it doesn't make sense because of the way the transcript.

08:52:31 I'm going to be looking for some other options for maybe better transcription services.

08:52:36 But in the meantime I will share that with you. The video the registration, as I did last week, and or sent that out. So anyway just wanted to have have to do a disclaimer here right ours.

08:52:59 Okay, Yeah, that's right.

08:53:09 So with that, any other questions or comments and if not, we're going to officially end this meeting I will stop recording, and if anything you want to stay on line and Tibbetts, you're more than welcome to do so.

08:53:13 If they're looking for the link for shaping edu and all that so would you send that would that be available to that.

08:53:21 We will.

08:53:22 The chat if you put it in the chat we set that also I do set the registration.