Greater Arizona Educational Leadership

AZBSN Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network

Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council

July 13, 2020 AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Teleconference Report

Attendees

Steve Peters, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Tracey Beal, Kirk Busch, Michael Cohen, Jerry Crow, Steve Daurio, Terence Ford, Ian Hathcock, Holly Henley, Steve Hill, Bob Jacobson, John Kelly, Ilana Lowery, Tarma Liranzo, Derek Masseth, Sophia Mayberry, Mala Muralidharan, Peter Newbegin, Mauricio Orozco, Cody Pedersen, Lawrie Prickett, Alan Pruitt, Jeff Sobotka, Graham Taylor, Nicole Umayam

Updates: State Broadband Director, Arizona State Library, ADE

State Broadband Director Update

Jeff Sobotka, State Broadband Director, reviewed his recent activities. Jeff met with the Sun Corridor Network and ADOT regarding CARES Act funding, and a related RFI for consulting services will be released. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants for Arizona related to COVID-19 total about $10 million, and projects that are underway include Springerville, Yuma County, NACOG, and the Verde Valley. Jeff invites discussion on applying for this EDA grant program. The Telehealth BAT meetings will be focusing on specific projects rather than general discussion.

Jeff remarked that when federal broadband infrastructure funding is approved that will greatly change the situation. Steve noted that Jeff's contact information is on the task force website.

Arizona State Library

Mala Muralidharan, E-rate Administrator for Public Libraries at the Arizona State Library, reviewed her recent activities.

The E-rate applications are changing to a multi-factor authentication process. Mala will send links for upcoming E-rate webinars especially for tribal applications.

The Arizona State Library has successfully completed its Wi-Fi extension pilot project at five libraries (discussed at previous task force meetings), and is exploring extending this to other libraries.

The Arizona State Library is working with the Navajo Nation on changing their chapter houses to become library branches of their main library at Window Rock. Jeff Sobotka commented he would like to discuss with Mala and Milan Eaton how the chapter houses can be used for other applications such as telehealth. Mala responded that the more chapter houses get used the more the library resources located there will also be used. Mala added that the Navajo chapter

houses require last mile broadband connectivity. Steve Peters remarked that Janet Major suggested a BAT be created for the Navajo Nation, but Jeff responded that the Navajo Nation makes their own policy regarding NTUA infrastructure so he doesn't get involved with such policy issues. Steve added that Monroe Keedo of NTUA has attended some task force meetings. Ian Hathcock commented that Celluar One does a lot of work with the Navajo Nation and they are working on a bigger plan.

ADE Update

Sophia Mayberry, Project Manager in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Arizona Dept. of Education (ADE), stated the main thing their office is working on is how to support the Governor's recent executive orders relating to supporting schools' distance learning plans and the impact of delaying school openings on school funding.

The ADE Technology Task Force has met twice and is looking at how other states have approached solutions to the digital divide.

Derek Masseth, Chief Technology Officer at the University of Arizona and Executive Director of the Sun Corridor Network, responding to a question on how the three state universities will be handling instruction in the upcoming academic year, he believes the universities will likely adopt a hybrid approach with some students attending in person and some online instruction (which is particularly important for international students that must take classes in person given the new ICE regulation). There has been no discussion of delaying university instruction for the upcoming semester.

Subcommittee Activities

Steve Peters noted Henry Goldberg sent him and the leaders of the Education and Libraries and Funding and Resources Subcommittees new proposed versions of their recommendations for the preliminary recommendations document that structure the recommendations under appropriate categories and provide additional relevant information to support the recommendations.

Steve invited anyone who is interested in participating in the subcommittees to contact him.

Education and Libraries Subcommittee

The Education and Libraries Subcommittee met on July 9th. The subcommittee's draft recommendations were discussed.

Nicole Umayam reported on the pilot of the "Library Tech Helpline Service" which has hired library staff to provide phone-based tech help support, digital literacy training, and information regarding low-cost home Internet service offers. This pilot is going live today.

Nicole stated the Arizona State Library would like to make the State Land Department free public Wi-Fi hotspots map available to the public. Jeff Sobotka commented the public should be made aware of this resource as well as information on discounted Internet service offers. Mala Muralidharan added that people who don't have Internet access now need printed versions of such resources to use them.

Funding and Resources Subcommittee

The Funding and Resources Subcommittee met on July 10th to discuss the subcommittee's draft recommendations. Lea Marquez Peterson, the subcommittee leader, sent out after the meeting proposed actions to follow up on these recommendations in the future.

Technology Subcommittee

Steve Hill, co-leader of the Technology Subcommittee, stated Mark Goldstein delivered a presentation on next-generation wireless technologies at the July 7th subcommittee meeting.

Steve stated the July 14th Technology Subcommittee meeting will have two presentations: one by Simply Bits on their fixed wireless service and one by Viasat on their satellite broadband service combined with wireless mesh network access for communities.

The intention is to have two presentations at subsequent meetings (which will be longer) to build up a portfolio of solution options.

Communities Subcommittee

Alan Pruitt, co-leader of the Communities Subcommittee, reported the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross recently designated his Western Arizona Economic Development District (WAEDD) as a permanent district that is entitled to long-term funding. Alan stated the WAEDD now has three-year funding and broadband will be a priority.

Alan participated in a City of Yuma initiative that is pursuing a regional project with EDA. The WAEDD is on a short list of economic development districts that receive EDA broadband funding. Other Arizona entities also receive EDA funding.

Proposed Task Force Actions Following Up on Recommendations

Steve Peters presented the following list of task force actions meant to follow up on the subcommittees' recommendations in the future.

Actions

1. Finalize and develop recommendations - draft and distribute report/recommendations
2. Activate Communities Team
3. Review and develop user friendly portal for access to free provider and public WiFi access points. Cox Example. State Library Library Tech Help Line starts next week
4. Follow-up on meeting with Federal Reserve and develop strategy for accessing CRA Funding
5. Meet with Derk Masseth, Executive Director of Sun Corridor Network, to develop recommendations for framework/plan to extend Sun Corridor to all Universities, Community Colleges, K-12, maybe telehealth, communities and community organizations
6. Develop strategy to identify and better enable coordination, access and sharing of information about organizations and resources engaged in the Task Force, and others engaged in digital access initiatives
7. Update ATIC/GAZEL database and send newsletter
8. Prepare email for distribution of information about the task force

9. Major update of COVID-19 Resources Page on web- site - portal for access to information -funding, hot spots, tech support, professional development
10. Advocacy letter to ADOA to request public access to ECIVIS grants database via our libraries
11. Develop Funding Resources Opportunities portal on AZBSN web site(including Consultants list, Foundations and donors)
12. Send Advocacy letter to the Az Corp Comm regarding support for the Arizona Universal Service Fund expansion to include Broadband
13. Promotion of Funding resource page to all taskforce members to share in personal and business social media
14. Develop an ongoing Communications Strategy/Campaign to inform the public about funding and resource opportunities
15. Support the Governor's 2020-2021 budget request for $10 million dollars for ACA Rural Broadband Development Grants and additional funding for State Highway Fiber Infrastructure
16. Distribute info about Tech Soup technology donations and discounts for 501(c)(3) organizations (Libraries and other nonprofits?)
17. Collaborate with AzSTRUT to expand their device refurbishment and donations program to all schools/libraries/communities in Arizona. Set-up guides, processes and procedures
18. Solicit support for broadband access funding for communities via the AZCares fund created by the Governor's office.
19. Support creation of community Broadband Action Teams that may include schools, libraries, community organizations, local government, telehealth, etc
20. Identify, coordinate and develop locally relevant collaborative strategies for all organizations including school districts, libraries, universities, community colleges, nonprofit organizations currently or planning to provide local and statewide tech support and professional development.

Steve explained he will be looking for people to help accomplish these actions. It was noted that a timeline for doing this needs to be constructed.

Mala Muralidharan commented that the focus should be on getting the task force's preliminary recommendations document finalized this month before the school year starts. Steve will consider how to get the preliminary recommendations document finalized and approved, and how the task force meetings this month should be structured to do this.

Steve Daria noted that Terence Ford will send Steve Peters today the follow-up information on pricing of the Insight SLED Service Desk Support Model (presented at a task force meeting) and their distance learning bundle presented at a Technology Subcommittee meeting.

Next Steps
The next AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force overall meeting will be held on Monday, July 20th at 7:30 am.

This week, the Technology subcommittee will meet on Tuesday July 14 at 9:30 am, the Education and Libraries subcommittee will meet on Thursday July 16 at 9:30 am, and the Funding and Resources subcommittee will meet on Friday July 17 at 10:00 am.

Henry Goldberg and Oris Friesen will write up a summary report of today's task force meeting.

Appendix: Chat from Zoom

From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: (7:38 AM)

[file: Next-Gen Wireless Overview V01H.pdf]
  Presented last Tuesday on Next-Gen Wireless Overview & Outlook to the Technology Committee and have since updated with some additional dozen slides and tweaks. New version Vattached FYI.

From OELAS to Everyone: (7:42 AM)
  Sorry I'm late. My computer didn't have its coffee.

From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: (7:44 AM)
  The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government approved its fiscal year 2021 funding bill by voice vote on July 8, 2020. For fiscal year 2021, the draft bill includes $24.64 billion in discretionary funding, an increase of $808 million over the 2020 enacted level. The bill includes $376.1 million for the FCC, an increase of $37.1 million above the FY 2020 enacted level that includes funding to implement new broadband mapping legislation. Additionally, the bill includes $61 billion in emergency funding for the FCC to expand availability of broadband to unserved areas, as well as multiyear funding for broadband mapping and replacement of telecommunications equipment deemed to pose a national security threat to the United States.

From Malavika Muralidharan to Everyone: (7:52 AM)
  Legislation to watch

From Malavika Muralidharan to Everyone: (7:52 AM)
• 	Remote Learning During COVID-19 Act
• 	Accessible, Affordable Internet For All Act (Senate | House)
• 	Emergency Broadband Connections Act
• 	Moving Forward Act

From Nicole Umayam to Everyone: (7:53 AM)
  Broadband Adoption and Opportunity Act, introduced by AZ Rep O'Halleran:
https://ohalleran.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/ohalleran-introduces-legislation-connect-students-and-families-computers

From Tracey Beal to Everyone: (7:54 AM)
  I will be right back.

From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: (7:56 AM)
  Also unofficial, but ASU has said the same thing. Its Fall semester would start on time (Aug. 20) with a hybrid mode

From John Kelly to Everyone: (7:57 AM)
  Phoenix Union High School District Announced it would start on time, but distance learning only until Oct. 1.

From BobAccount to Me: (Privately) (8:00 AM)
  Oris, you asked to speak with me last week and I defaulted. Have time later today? Thanks, Bob My useful email is bluefire@well.com or you can text me at 520-370-1259.

From Nicole Umayam to Everyone: (8:01 AM)
  https://sites.google.com/view/azlibtap/home

From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: (8:02 AM)

[file: Texas Medical Association TMA - COVID-19 Know Your Risk on a Scale of 1 to 10 2020.pdf]

From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: (8:02 AM)
  Here's a great graphic from the Texas Medical Association on COVID-19 Know Your Risk on a Scale of 1 to 10.

From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: (8:04 AM)
  Has anyone connected with the county schools superintendent?

From Mauricio to Everyone: (8:06 AM)
  Can we look into a texting outreach initiative or use an app to promote FREE resources???? Maybe carriers can promote as PSA???

From Tracey Beal to Everyone: (8:07 AM)
  Mauricio that is a great idea

From Nicole Umayam to Everyone: (8:16 AM)
  And we need to know if the discount offers/waived fees/unlimited data will still be available after July

From Lawrie Prickett to Everyone: (8:17 AM)
  Bulk texting is very possible but is most effective when user driven. A good method is to ask users to provide the email/text/phone to receive the alerts/messages/informtion.

From OELAS to Everyone: (8:17 AM)
  I want to second what Nicole said. I am also very curious about this.

From Tracey Beal to Everyone: (8:18 AM)
  Yes…We do need to have the best information we can have to get out to the public .

From OELAS to Everyone: (8:18 AM)
  OELAS = sophia

From Lawrie Prickett to Everyone: (8:19 AM)
  Mauricio we are using Survey Monkey to touch our schools and librarians sorry....libraries

From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: (8:20 AM)
  @Lawrie, I agree. Common Sense has a texting campaign focused on Tech Balance that targets low-income and communities of color. Maybe there's a way to launch a similar campaign through schools and libraries that offers resources, etc.

From Tracey Beal to Everyone: (8:20 AM)
  Ilana, what a great resource

From Lawrie Prickett to Everyone: (8:21 AM)
  llana. If be interested in learning more about your solution.

From John Kelly to Everyone: (8:22 AM)
  good article on Arizona and eCivis: https://www.govtech.com/computing/Arizona-Sees-Successes-with-Modernized-Grant-Management-System.html

From Lawrie Prickett to Everyone: (8:23 AM)
  Mauricio, BTW we have found texting to be one of the most effective ways of reaching our customers, so I believe your idea is very good.

From John Kelly to Everyone: (8:26 AM)
  My prediction: no special session until after November election if at all.

From Steve Hill to Everyone: (8:27 AM)
  consider twitter or facebook

From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: (8:27 AM)

[file: TextMessageCampaign-Poster-11x17 (1).pdf]

From Tracey Beal to Everyone: (8:27 AM)
  Yes to social media.

From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: (8:29 AM)
  @Tracey, can we set up a Facebook Users Group + page and other specific social media accounts and promote through our existing organization's social?

From Tracey Beal to Everyone: (8:30 AM)
  @ilana Absolutely

From Tracy R to Everyone: (8:34 AM)
  Sounds great!

From Mauricio to Everyone: (8:35 AM)
  Can we use the electronic billboards on Freeways???

From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: (8:40 AM)
  Happy to help where I can and where it makes sense to plug me in.

From Tracey Beal to Everyone: (8:41 AM)
  Thank you everyone!