

## June 28, 2021 AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Teleconference Report

#### **Attendees**

Steve Peters, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Yasmin Badri, Tracey Beal, Andrew Bevington, Kirk Busch, Gene Carl, Michael Cohen, Hap Connors, Milan Eaton, Michael Edmonds, Marcelino Flores, Ian Hathcock, Karen Hewitt, Steve Hill, Cindy Hogan, Shereka Jackson, Erik Jolly, Debbie Kovesdy, Tarma Liranzo, Ilana Lowery, Janet Major, Derek Masseth, Sophia Mayberry, Clarence McAllister, Andrew Metcalfe, Randy Mifflin, Mala Muralidharan, Mauricio Orozco, Chris Pasterz, Cody Pedersen, Lawrie Prickett, Tracy Rexroat, Paul Ross, Michelle Simon, Andy Sinclair, Roniyur Singh, Troy Smith, Jeff Sobotka, Paul Stapleton-Smith, Paul Trujillo, Rachna Vas, Albert Velarde, Manny Villa, Joy Whiting, Brad Zerbe, Karen Ziegler

## Task Force Sponsors, Events and Updates Webpage, Participants List, New Report Relevant to the Task Force

#### Task Force Sponsors

Steve Peters again thanked Care1st Health Plan Arizona, Valley of the Sun United Way, the Satellite Broadcasting & Communications Association, and Kajeet for providing sponsorship funding for this task force. The sponsors are displayed on the task force website.

Steve is continuing to seek further funding support for the task force's upcoming work, and welcomes any organizations interested in becoming sponsors.

#### Task Force Events and Updates Webpage

Steve continues to add information relevant to the task force on the Events and Updates webpage of the task force website. Steve includes a link to this webpage/newsletter in his emails to the task force, and strongly encourages task force participants look at this webpage regularly for important information on programs (e.g. federal grant programs), events, and contacts. Steve regularly updates this webpage with new announcements and activities of interest to the task force.

#### Task Force Participants List

Steve noted that the task force participants spreadsheet is located on the task force website, which currently has about 80 participants listed. Steve again asked attendees to fill out the Google form on the website to be included in this spreadsheet. This is a good place for task force participants who are looking to connect with others on the task force.

Attendees at task force meetings showing their position and contact information are also included in an Appendix of each task force meeting report.

#### New Report Relevant to the Task Force

Ilana Lowery reported that Common Sense Media has collaborated on a new report from New America and Rutgers titled "Learning at Home While Under-Connected". The report addresses the use of Internet and computers by low-income families during the pandemic, and notes that a majority of such families are "under-connected" with insufficient and unreliable access to the Internet and devices. See Ilana's link in the Appendix 2 Chat for more information on this. Steve noted that there is a link to this report on the task force Events & Updates webpage and on the agenda for this meeting's webpage. Tracey Beal commented that this report concludes that the top reason for low-income households being under-connected is affordability.

#### Updates: State Broadband Director, AZ State Library, Telehealth, ADE

#### State Broadband Director Update

Jeff Sobotka, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), reported on his recent activities.

The ACA has retained KPMG as the external consulting firm to provide an update to the state broadband strategic plan focusing on middle-mile fiber strategy/planning. KPMG will send invitations to some task force participants to discuss broadband planning and policies.

The State of Arizona through the ACA is seeking to formally support an eligible project for the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grants Program (\$288 million in national funding available for this new 2021 program). The grants are designed for public-private partnerships between states or subdivisions of states and private service providers who will provide fixed broadband service in an eligible service area (primarily intended for rural areas). ACA had requested submissions of expression of interest in applying for this grant program, and the ACA intends to select an eligible project from the 25 applications submitted to formally endorse or serve as a co-applicant for the grant.

The last ACA/NTIA Arizona Broadband Workshop will be held on Wednesday, July 14th at 10:00 am. The topic for this workshop is "Broadband Adoption and Use – The Secret to Sustainable Networks".

Jeff reported that the ACA Rural Broadband Development Grants (RBDGs) program funding is still waiting to be resolved by the state legislature. Jeff hopes to get started on the application process for the RBDGs program in late July or August.

Mark Goldstein commented that he heard at an Arizona Technology Council meeting that the state budget may provide \$140 million for broadband/digital access including \$75 million for the RBDGs program, \$40 million for fiber deployment along I-40 from Flagstaff to California, and \$25 million for digital inclusion programs. Jeff responded that he can't speculate on this at this point.

Jeff noted that he will be on vacation the week of July 5th.

#### Arizona State Library Update

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

Mala reported that the USAC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program tracker shows that about 95,600 Arizona households have applied through the USAC National Verifier website as of this date. The households must enroll with service providers after they are qualified to be eligible for EBB. Mala added that some libraries have received calls from EBB-participating service providers that they have devices they can distribute to eligible households.

The FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program (discussed at previous task force meetings) provides \$7.17 billion in support to schools and libraries for off-campus primarily home connectivity for students, school staff, and library patrons by covering purchases of broadband connectivity and laptops/tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, and routers. The ECF application window opens on June 29th for purchases for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. Milan Eaton and Mala will be doing ECF training for schools and libraries. The FCC has published an ECF FAQ sheet on their website, and USAC and the FCC have been doing training webinars on the ECF.

On June 25th, the USDA, FCC, and NTIA announced an interagency agreement to share information and coordinate the distribution of their federal broadband deployment funds in accordance with the Broadband Interagency Coordination Act. Mala noted that it is important that these federal agencies know what each other is doing so they can share information on where broadband/fiber is deployed and allocate their broadband funds optimally. Jeff Sobotka commented that he is a big supporter of such coordination, but it may delay getting projects approved for funding.

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Broadband Expansion Task Force today released a set of draft recommendations to ensure greater accessibility and coordination to close gaps in broadband service. As mentioned at previous task force meetings, Lea Marquez Peterson, Chair of the Arizona Corporation Commission and a participant in our task force, is a member of this NARUC task force. The NARUC task force proposed recommendations in five areas: broadband mapping, enhancing broadband program coordination (e.g. including state utility commissions in NTIA initiatives), ensuring that broadband providers who received federal funding meet their committed obligations, supporting non-traditional providers (e.g. electric and gas utilities), and resources for adoption of broadband in rural areas.

See Mala's written report in Appendix 1 for more information on the NARUC task force recommendations as well as the other areas discussed above.

Kirk Busch commented that at a recent Arizona Technology Council MedTech Event, Congressman David Schweikert of Arizona was a keynote speaker and when he was asked about broadband needs for telemedicine responded that new Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite services would address all the needs. Mark Goldstein noted that LEO satellite services will not meet the broadband needs of large institutions (e.g. hospitals) and 5G services for example, so those at the Arizona Technology Council meeting were shocked by Congressman Schweikert's response and Kaiser requested a meeting with his office. Jeff Sobotka noted that LEO satellite services, such as SpaceX Starlink and Amazon's upcoming service, are intended primarily for remote rural areas and are not suitable for rural cities like Kingman that may need fiber for manufacturing plants for example. Jeff stated he is meeting with Senator Mark Kelly's staff to better inform them about broadband issues, and it is important that all federal government officials be better informed in this area. Steve Peters added that Steve Hill, President of the Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association, will deliver an update on satellite services to our task force likely at our July 19th meeting.

#### Telehealth Update

Janet Major, Associate Director of Education & Facilities for the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) and Chair of the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA), reported on recent telehealth activities.

Janet directed the task force to an mHealthIntelligence article published this month on telehealth's wide use in tribal communities. The article discusses the use of telehealth by the Chinle community of the Navajo Nation, which provided iPads connected to a cellular network reserved for first responders to enable telehealth from homes and also set up telehealth kiosks in chapter houses. See Janet's link to this article in the Appendix 2 Chat.

ATP has partnered with the Arizona Dept. of Health Services on providing "Virtual Telehealth Office Hours", in which Janet and other experts will be discussing and answering questions on the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program on June 30th from 2:00-3:00 pm. Janet thanked Mauricio Orozco of Care1st Health Plan Arizona for sharing information about this with their clients. Janet noted that Arizona is currently 9th nationally in signing up low-income households for the EBB program. Steve Peters added there is a link to this event on the task force Events & Updates webpage.

#### ADE Update

Sophia Mayberry, Project Manager in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Arizona Dept. of Education (ADE), and Milan Eaton, State E-rate Director at ADE, reported on recent ADE activities.

Sophia reported that ADE sent out last week an Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) package on the program and trainings to schools last week. Milan will be providing ECF training to schools on June 29th and will hold a Q & A session on ECF on June 30th. Steve Peters noted that the task force Events & Updates webpage has a link to Milan's ECF training session. Milan added that ADE also has a new ECF webpage.

Milan reported that the ADE/Arizona Rural Schools Association Final Mile Project (discussed at previous task force meetings) has posted the RFPs for the five school districts and are waiting for the responses to these. Steve Peters added that the task force Events & Updates webpage has a link to The Final Mile Project website (which has posted these RFPs).

Sophia also stated that ADE is sharing resources for Pride Month with schools.

Kirk Busch noted that Chris Richardson, Deputy CIO at ASU, has been appointed the new acting CIO of ADE for at least 6 months.

#### Microsoft Airband Presentation

Steve Peters stated John Kelly introduced him to Rachna Vas, Business Program Manager for Microsoft Airband. Following is a summary of key points from Rachna's presentation to the task force, and the meeting recording will also be distributed with this task force meeting report and posted on the task force website.

Microsoft has an overall vision of connecting everyone on the planet to the Internet, and Microsoft Airband is focused on expanding broadband connectivity and digital inclusion programming in rural and tribal communities in the U.S. Rachna stated there are about 16 – 18 million people in the U.S. that don't have access to broadband, and about 11 – 14 million of those people live in rural areas. Rachna manages Microsoft Airband's activities in the West Coast and Mountain states (including Arizona). Microsoft Airband has the goal of connecting 4 million people to the Internet by July 2022, and they have connected 3 million people so far.

Microsoft Airband vets and selects ISP partners to work with them on providing broadband connectivity and digital inclusion programs in rural and tribal areas, and they particularly work with regional ISPs to reach as many people in these communities as possible. They are partnering with Native Network in Arizona to work with tribal communities. Microsoft Airband coinvests with their ISP partners on broadband infrastructure (e.g. cell towers or fiber), and also provides them with technology and network design expertise in such areas as their Microsoft Azure cloud computing service.

Microsoft Airband is heavily focused on providing digital literacy skills and educational content. They work closely with their ISP partners on various digital training programs for digital learning, telehealth, and economic development: virtual training, online training working with 4H, and custom job skills training for employment. They offer custom training by Microsoft staff on Microsoft products for schools or businesses, and their partner ISPs provide a Microsoft call-in number for any technical questions.

Microsoft Airband is also working with states/counties/communities to inform them about federal funding programs such as ECF and EBB, and work with schools and communities to maximize the use of such programs to provide connectivity, devices, and digital skills training. Many of these communities have not heard of the various federal funding programs and feel overwhelmed with the number of new programs. Rachna stated that Arizona is very well organized in the digital access area having a State Broadband Director, State Library, Telehealth programs, and this COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force to coordinate among different organizations. She stated our task force could be a model that can be shared with other states.

Mauricio Orozco, Community Engagement Manager of Care1st Health Plan Arizona, asked about the best short-term strategies to enroll low-income households in the EBB program. Rachna replied that Microsoft Airband has a program in California, where its ISP partners do EBB outreach and provide devices. Rachna added that she wishes tribal administrators and rural governments would do more to spread the word about EBB because there are underserved communities in some states that have not heard about the program. Mauricio noted that Care1st Health Plan Arizona's Medicaid clients qualify for EBB, and with COVID unemployment benefits ending many people looking for jobs will require broadband to do this. Rachna replied that Microsoft Airband is providing free services for digital skills training so people can work remotely, but there is a significant problem with adoption and inertia in rural and tribal communities so people must be motivated to use these resources.

Steve Peters noted that Andy Metcalfe, CEO of Native Network (Microsoft Airband's ISP partner in Arizona), will present to our task force on July 12th, and asked Rachna what is the best way for our task force to take advantage of Microsoft Airband resources. Rachna responded that Microsoft Airband offers a "White Glove Service" to provide school and businesses with free training on Microsoft products, and Rachna will set up a meeting with Steve to discuss how our task force could help with the rollout of this service in tribal and rural communities in Arizona.

Marcelino Flores, Special Staff for Community and Workforce Development in Pima County, commented there has been promotion of Amazon Web Services in Phoenix and Google platforms in Pima Community College, but he has not seen a survey of what cloud services and other systems are being adopted by businesses in Arizona. He added that businesses would have a strong motivation to use Microsoft Airband cloud and digital training services. Steve Peters added that he is on the Pima Community College IT Advisory Committee.

Cindy Hogan, Digital Equity Project Manager of the United Way of Tucson & Southern Arizona, commented that in her experience people tend to be focused on their immediate concerns and it is difficult to get the attention of people in rural communities about digital access programs even though there is a lot of information to be shared. Rachna responded that when she meets with county administrators she asks for school administrators to be there so they understand the issues and solutions offered by their ISP partners. Cindy replied that rural/tribal communities need to understand both funding programs available and adoption solutions.

Rachna noted that Arizona has a good approach in having broadband/digital access plans for the whole state, whereas in many other states counties compete with each other for limited funding without a coordinated approach and it is overwhelming for administrators to deal with. Steve Peters noted that Jeff Sobotka has been an advocate for Arizona communities to have Broadband Action Teams and develop regional plans. Rachna responded that she would like to speak to Jeff about this, and how these may expand to work with Native Network.

Shereka Jackson asked if Microsoft Airband programs have to occur in the tribal communities, and Rachna replied that the programs can take place outside the communities to reach as many people as possible.

Mala Muralidharan stated she would like to meet with Rachna to discuss Arizona State Library digital access activities, including the Connect-Arizona website which provides a free Wi-Fi locations map for the state and a helpline for answering any digital questions, as well as a digital literacy package they have developed with CARES Act funding. Mala added that Arizona libraries are also addressing broadband adoption issues and heavily promoting the EBB program. Rachna responded that she would like to meet with Mala to discuss how Microsoft Airband's White Glove Service program could be incorporated into their digital literacy activities, as well as working with the Arizona State Library on interacting with their ISP partners, devices, and the ECF funding opportunities.

Steve Peters concluded that there are a number of organizations involved in our task force, such as the Arizona State Library's leading-edge digital access work, that could benefit from meeting with Microsoft Airband. He would like to set up a meeting with Rachna, after Andy Metcalfe's July 12th presentation to the task force, to discuss a task force state strategy for working with Microsoft Airband.

#### **Next Steps**

The next AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force overall meeting will be held on Monday, July 12th at 7:30 am (no meeting on July 5th for the Independence Day holiday).

As noted above: 1) the final ACA Arizona Broadband Workshop will be held on Wednesday July 14th at 10:00 am; 2) Janet Major and other experts will be discussing and answering questions for the Telehealth community on the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program on June 30th from 2:00 – 3:00 pm; 3) Milan Eaton will be doing training on the ECF program for schools

on June 30th at 11:00 am. There is also an "ASU and Future of Tech Commission Townhall" on July 8th at 10:00 am, and the "Lighting Up the Future" 3rd Roundtable on "The Utilization Gap" on July 12th at 4:00 pm. See the task force Events & Updates webpage for more information and to register for these events.

Steve Peters noted that he will be taking vacation in July but will participate in task force meetings and continue sending out his regular task force announcements. Mark Goldstein may moderate a task force meeting if there are any issues with Steve doing that during July.

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

# Appendix 1: Mala Muralidharan Report on: FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB Program), Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), USDA/FCC/NTIA Coordination Agreement, NARUC Broadband Task Force Recommendations

**EBB** 95,604 – signed up. This is 3.1 % of the numbers that have applied Nationally. Janet Major is organizing a Telehealth Office hour for us to **Tele-Health** – **office hours** - **Wed June 30**<sup>th</sup> – **EBB 2 -3** 

**ECF** Window opens tomorrow 29<sup>th</sup> Milan is doing Office hours and I am doing presentations during this week to various Library groups. FCC 's official presentation is on <a href="fcc.gov/live">fcc.gov/live</a>. The FCC published FAQs on their website yesterday here: <a href="https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund-faqs">https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund-faqs</a>

#### Sharing Broadband deployment federal funding information USDA, FCC, NTIA

On June 25, 2021 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced an interagency agreement (PDF, 274 KB) to share information about and coordinate the distribution of broadband deployment federal funds. In accordance with the *Broadband Interagency Coordination Act*, the respective Cabinet and agency leaders announced that their agencies will consult with one another and share information about the distribution of new funds from the FCC's high-cost programs that support broadband buildout in rural areas, the USDA's Rural Utilities Services grant and loan programs, and programs administered or coordinated by NTIA. The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Broadband Expansion Task Force (NARUC) today released a set of draft recommendations to ensure greater accessibility and coordination to close gaps in broadband service.

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 represents the interests of State public utility commissions before the three branches of the Federal government.

The task force, commissioned in 2020 to help solve the broadband availability gap proposed recommendations focus on five areas:

- broadband mapping,
- enhancing broadband program coordination,
- ensuring that broadband providers meet their obligations,
- supporting non-traditional providers and
- adopting broadband.

Specific action items covered by the recommendations include increasing state commissions' presence and participation in initiatives sponsored by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration; creating legislation to remove barriers to electric and gas utilities' ability to provide broadband service in unserved and underserved areas; and urging the FCC to consider transitioning the temporary Emergency Broadband Benefit Fund into permanent increases in the Lifeline subsidy.

NARUC Broadband Task Force Recommendations Approved June 25, 2021

#### 1. Broadband mapping

• Congress, NTIA, and the FCC should work with the states to provide an overlay to the US broadband map with information showing where broadband is actually available for installation, including detailed information on the amounts provided or committed by all federal and state sources. This will help states, Congress, and federal agencies identify what money has been made available for specific areas to assist in preventing overlapping funding. Encourage new funding sources for broadband expansion be funneled through existing programs where possible. If new programs are needed to fill the cracks between the CAF II, RDOF, state, and other programs, they must be carefully coordinated with existing programs.

#### 2. Enhance broadband program coordination

- Revitalize and aggressively use the Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service to
  provide information on broadband availability through quarterly state-FCC information
  sharing calls. This information will allow the states and the FCC to better target universal
  service funds.
- Increase state commissions' presence and participation in initiatives sponsored by the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA), particularly, the State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) and the Digital Inclusion Leaders Network (DILN)
- Identify public utility commissions' role in broadband deployment and adoption and
  participate in state-level broadband initiatives. Where appropriate, commissions may
  wish to communicate to the state legislature or executive office an interest in leading
  statewide engagement on broadband.
- Priority should be placed on providing broadband service in unserved areas.

#### **Appendix 2: Chat from Zoom**

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:42 AM)

There's some early analysis and color on the apparent \$65B in the current \$1.2B overall proposed infrastructure package associated with broadband in the article Telecompetitor: Let's Put the Potential Billions of Broadband Infrastructure Funding into More Context 6/25/21 at https://www.telecompetitor.com/lets-put-the-potential-billions-of-broadband-infrastructure-funding-into-more-context/ FYI.

Ilana Lowery to Everyone (7:43 AM)

The new report I referred to is from New America and Rutgers — with involvement from Common Sense Media collaborators — on lower-income families' tech experiences during the pandemic found that rates of home internet access and computer ownership are up substantially

from 2015, but many children from families with incomes below the national median (\$75k) still lack the essentials; and even among families with computers and broadband internet access at home, a majority are "under-connected," meaning that they report insufficient and unreliable access to the internet and internet-connecting devices. Additionally, the research showed that the digital challenges of remote learning hit families in the lowest income bracket and those headed by Black or Hispanic parents hardest.

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:50 AM)

Here's the link to report Ilana mentioned:

 $https://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout\_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout\_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout\_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout\_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout\_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout\_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout\_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout\_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout\_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout\_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout\_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and\_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz\_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671889/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671889/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/11967189/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/11967189/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/11967189/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/11967189/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/11967189/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/11967189/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/11967189/katz_and_rideout_-thtps://www.arizonatele.org/uploads$ 

\_learning\_at\_home\_while\_under-connected\_gfrh1ao.pdf

#### Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:58 AM)

NTIA has launched a new, public facing broadband map integrating demographics, crowd sources results, and various data sets with the FCC collected coverage information at https://broadbandusa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ba2dcd585f5e43cba41b7c1ebf2a43d0 FYI. The new go to public tool for first stage evaluation of broadband gaps and needs. Still bound by legacy, limited census-block based fixed broadband, but better, more granular data is now being collected and will appear before long. Some criticism already about the quality and accuracy of the mish-mash of sources however.

Janet Major to Everyone (8:02 AM)

https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/tribal-communities-see-benefits-and-challenges-in-using-telehealth

Ilana Lowery to Everyone (8:04 AM)

Reminder: Virtual event hosted by ASU in partnership with Hosted by ASU in partnership with the Future of Tech Commission and Common Sense Media: "Advancing Digital Equity, Access and Tech Innovation for Workforce" https://bit.ly/3x2kdK3

July 8th; 10 a.m. to noon

Mauricio Orozco to Everyone (8:06 AM)

Any efforts by the schools to share this information through their summer feeding program? Thanks

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:07 AM)

Posted last week, but bears repeating. NTIA has launched a 2nd updated Federal Broadband Funding Guide with information on more than 80 federal programs across 14 federal agencies available for download as a PDF report and Excel spreadsheet at https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/federal/federal-funding FYI.

Janet Major to Everyone (8:09 AM)

[file: ecf-girls-tablet-desk-books-library-facebook.png]

Janet Major to Everyone (8:11 AM)

There are some great social media templates for Facebook and Twitter on the website fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund

Milan Eaton to Everyone (8:21 AM)

Dropping off to prep for my 0830 meeting. Have a great week!

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:23 AM)

Beyond the broadband components in the big pending infrastructure package, the bipartisan Broadband Reform and Investment to Drive Growth in the Economy (BRIDGE) Act was introduced on 6/15/21 and would provide \$40 billion in flexible broadband funding to states and tribal governments. The BRIDGE Act prioritizes unserved, underserved, and high-cost areas with investments in "future proof" networks that will meet the long-term needs of communities while supporting efforts to promote broadband affordability, adoption, and digital inclusion, encouraging gigabit-level Internet wherever possible and increasing choice and competition by empowering local and state decision-making, lifting bans against municipal broadband networks, and allowing more entities to compete for funding. See Senate announcement at https://www.bennet.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?id=34FF0174-151E-41D9-BC3D-66957B8503A8 FYI.

Janet Major to Everyone (8:31 AM)

Offering learning badges and certificates are a good model - so folks and businesses invest in professional development

marcelinoflores to Everyone (8:33 AM)

Businesses need to recognize those badges and certificates WIOA requires Industry Recognized Credentials, nationally recognized preferred, locally recognized are acceptable

Janet Major to Everyone (8:35 AM) some states do not have a broadband director

Roniyur Singh to Everyone (8:39 AM) I have to step off but thank you everyone.

Tracey Beal to Everyone (8:39 AM) connect-arizona.com

Janet Major to Everyone (8:39 AM) https://connect-arizona.com/

Ilana Lowery to Everyone (8:41 AM)

The problem continues to be online resources, while necessary, often don't get seen if people don't have broadband access.

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:41 AM)

Kirk Busch has dug up the replay of the AZTC Medtech Forum last week on YouTube. You can view his question about broadband and Congressman David Schweikert's response at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wywUOJ1N0Ek&t=1164s

Cindy Hogan to Everyone (8:42 AM)

Exactly, Ilana! And say the words "Digital Literacy" to Joe Q. Public and see how he responds!

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:44 AM) mala@azlibrary.gov is my contact information, Rachna

Tracey Beal to Everyone (8:46 AM)
Thank you, Rachna! Appreciate the information!

Manny Villa to Everyone (8:47 AM) Happy 4ht of July everyone! Thank you!

Debbie Kovesdy to Everyone (8:47 AM) Thank you. Always great meetings

Ilana Lowery to Everyone (8:47 AM) Thanks everyone!

## Appendix 3: Registration Information for Attendees at Today's Task Force Meeting

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Job Title	Email	Phone	Mobile
Yasmin	Badri	We Care Tucson	Executive Director	Ybadri@wexaretucson.org		
Tracey	Beal	School Connect	Executive Director	tracey@schoolconnectaz.org		
Andrew	Bevington	PCSO	Director	andrew.bevington@pima.gov	15207248213	
Kirk	busch	dfg	sdfgd	kirk.busch@gmail.com		
Gene	Carl	Cox Business	Sales Manager	gene.carl@cox.com	16026904175	
Michael	Cohen	ATIC	Senior Reseaarcher	mikey1145@yahoo.com	5203906647	
Milan	Eaton	Arizona Department of Education	Erate	milangeaton@gmail.com	6233326357	6233326357
Michael	Edmonds	Thrive in the 05	Steering Committee Member	mike.edmonds@tucsonaz.gov	929-244-9477	
marcelino	flores	Pima County	Special Staff	Marcelino.flores@pima.gov		
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