

**May 24, 2021 AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force
Teleconference Report**

Attendees

Steve Peters, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Marni Anbar, Tracey Beal, Meghanne Bearden, Karen Beshak, Andrew Bevington, Melissa Boydston, Steve Burrell, Kirk Busch, Gene Carl, Jerry Crow, Michael Edmonds, Marcelino Flores, Terence Ford, Ian Hathcock, Holly Henley, Karen Hewitt, Steve Hill, Cindy Hogan, Shereka Jackson, Debbie Kovesdy, Linda Leatherman, Glen Lineberry, Tarma Liranzo, Jim Logan, Ilana Lowery, Derek Masseth, Sophia Mayberry, Clarence McAllister, Georgina Monsalvo, Mauricio Orozco, Stephen Peterson, Lawrie Prickett, Tracy Rexroat, Paul Ross, Andy Sinclair, Jeff Sobotka, Graham Taylor, Joy Whiting, Ken Zambos, Karen Ziegler

Task Force Updates and Events Webpage, Participants List, Kajeet Digital Inclusion Grants, Local First Arizona Economic Recovery Center

Task Force Updates and Events Webpage

Steve Peters continues to add information relevant to the task force on the Updates and Events webpage of the task force website. This webpage/newsletter now includes information on such topics as the new NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grants program, Arizona broadband legislation, the FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund, and Kajeet Digital Inclusion Grants (see below).

Steve includes a link to this webpage in his e-mails to the task force, and strongly encourages task force participants look at this webpage regularly for important information on programs, events, and contacts.

Task Force Participants List

Steve noted that the task force participants spreadsheet is located on the main task force webpage. Only people who have filled out the Google form on the website are included in this spreadsheet, so Steve asked all task force participants to fill out this form. This spreadsheet 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.

Kajeet Digital Inclusion Grants

Kajeet, one of the sponsors of this task force, is offering Digital Inclusion Grants to help organizations provide members of their community with safe, reliable access to remote learning,

telehealth services, and other essential online resources. Grant winners will receive a pilot program with the Kajeet digital equity solution of their choice – WiFi hotspots, bus WiFi, or building WiFi. Each pilot program includes, hardware, a year of data on the network of their choice, and access to a Kajeet device and data management portal. Applicants can include: K-12 Schools and Districts, Tribal Schools, Colleges and Universities, Public Libraries, Non-Profits, and Cities and Municipalities. The application deadline is June 4, 2021.

Local First Arizona Economic Recovery Center

Steve stated he and Mark Goldstein will be following up with Kimber Lanning, CEO of Local First Arizona, to discuss how our task force can collaborate with their Economic Recovery Center on assisting communities with broadband grant applications. Mark noted that he has provided Kimber with the directory of Arizona broadband consultants that he had constructed as a project of our task force. See a summary of Kimber's presentation to our task force in the May 10th task force meeting summary report.

Updates: State Broadband Director, AZ State Library, ADE, Telehealth, Sun Corridor Network

State Broadband Director Update

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

Jeff noted that the next ACA Arizona Broadband Workshop will be held on June 2nd, and will cover federal, state, local, and philanthropic programs that can support broadband infrastructure and digital inclusion programs. There will also be an Arizona Broadband Workshop on June 9th focused on Tribal Broadband (this is specifically for tribal communities and by invitation only). Jeff added that these broadband workshops and follow-up regional technical assistance sessions are a good place to make connections, and he invited all task force participants to attend the June 2nd workshop.

Jeff discussed the new NTIA \$288 million Broadband Infrastructure Grants program. This program will provide \$5 - \$30 million grants, and the due date for applications will be in August. This program will be discussed at the June 2nd Arizona Broadband Workshop. He is looking for communities to work with service providers in applying for these grants, and a 10% match will be required. Jeff is asking for service providers to submit proposals to him by June 18th so that he can work on assembling the best possible Arizona application for this program. He added that communities that are receiving FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) funding are not eligible for this program. Mark Goldstein commented that the Benton Foundation has published a good summary of the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grants program (see the Appendix 1 Chat for a link to this publication).

Jeff will be traveling to Yuma and Payson this week.

.Arizona State Library Update

In the absence of Mala Muralidharan, E-rate Administrator for Public Libraries at the Arizona State Library, Holly Henley, State Librarian, reported on Mala's recent activities.

Mala is continuing to be involved in outreach for the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. She has sent the task force EBB outreach e-mail and information about the resources

available to the Maricopa County Library Council. Mala is also working with GenTech to promote EBB.

Telehealth

In the absence of Janet Major, Jeff Sobotka reported there is a new initiative of the Arizona Telemedicine Program, Local First Arizona, and the League of Arizona Cities and Towns to work on finding places that can apply for telemedicine grants to support Arizonans on Medicaid.

ADE Update

Sophia Mayberry, Project Manager in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Arizona Dept. of Education (ADE), reported on recent ADE activities.

ADE is continuing its campaign to get students re-enrolled in public education.

Milan Eaton and Sophia are working on understanding the new E-rate Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) rules, and he and Sophia will be e-mailing information on this to the schools. Steve Peters noted that Mala Muralidharan will be discussing the ECF rules with the task force once the rules have been finalized, and he will send out information about workshops discussing the ECF.

Sun Corridor Network Update

Derek Masseth, Executive Director of the Sun Corridor Network (SCN), reported on recent SCN activities.

Derek discussed the “Lighting Up the Future” project recently launched by ASU, The Institute for Digital Progress, the Arizona Commerce Authority, and the SCN. Derek stated that this initiative intends to be complementary to our task force in addressing the digital divide in Arizona. Those leading this initiative are bringing in their contacts and ability to host meetings with Arizona communities. Derek discussed with Dominic Papa (ACA Vice President for the Smart State Initiative) the need to acknowledge the work of our AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force on the same goal of addressing the digital divide in Arizona, which was not done at their May 18th kickoff webinar. Derek believes the synergy between the two activities will emerge over time.

Mark Goldstein commented that the Lighting Up the Future initiative will undertake specific technology projects such as constructing the broadband wireless access network for the Moya elementary school in the Isaac School District, and will hold a series of regional listening sessions (posted those on the Updates & Events webpage), as well as be a policy partner with our task force. Derek added that they are expanding broadband wireless access to other schools in the Isaac School District. Steve Peters concluded he will have discussions with the Lighting Up the Future initiative on how best to collaborate with our task force.

SEAGO GIS Mapping Tool Presentation

Steve Peters introduced Stephen Peterson, Economic Recovery Coordinator of the Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO), having met him at an ACA Broadband Workshop where Stephen discussed the SEAGO GIS Mapping Tool. Following is a

summary of key points from Stephen's presentation, and the recording of the meeting including this presentation will be posted on the task force website.

SEAGO is a regional planning agency serving as a coordinating link between municipal, county, tribal, state, and federal agencies, and serves southern Arizona's four counties of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz. SEAGO's programs focus on issues that often cross jurisdictional boundaries such as infrastructure, transportation, and economic development.

The SEAGO GIS Mapping Tool is intended to assist the region with its broadband planning. It originally mapped the region's community anchor institutions (CAIs) such as schools, libraries, medical facilities, fire departments, and prisons. They have added to this mapping tool the region's telecommunications transmission lines and rights-of-way (ROW). Also included are irrigation districts and economic opportunity zones (for funding purposes). Layered onto this mapping tool is US Census American Community Survey (ACS) data on unserved/underserved populations in each census tract showing data such as the number of households with no Internet access or no computer. Stephen demonstrated this GIS Mapping tool's capabilities during the presentation.

Stephen stated this mapping tool can be helpful in signing up households to apply for the FCC EBB program. The data on unserved/underserved households identifies those in need of access, and the CAIs in a census tract can assist with outreach and education of such households in applying for the EBB. Their GIS Mapping Tool can also be compared with the I3 Connectivity Explorer tool discussed by NTIA at the last Arizona Broadband Workshop to identify the Internet service providers in a census tract. Stephen noted that he would like to collaborate with our task force in doing EBB outreach. He added that he would like to add places of worship to the CAIs in the tool because they are also important for EBB outreach.

Stephen noted they have worked with NAU on community surveys of Internet access speed tests, which will help coordinate better with service providers on where the needs are. He also recommends that regions get a hold of ADOT ROW maps (discussed by Brad Burgess at the April 21st Regional Technical Assistance Session following the 2nd Arizona Broadband Workshop) to understand how to build broadband infrastructure in their areas.

Steve Peters asked if Stephen is driving this broadband planning GIS mapping in southeastern Arizona. Stephen responded that he has been tasked to lead this broadband planning work, and he coordinates this with a regional broadband planning subcommittee consisting of the county CIOs and others. Steve stated that the task force consultants directory could be useful to counties in this work.

Mark Goldstein commented that taking into account of the CAIs in the SEAGO mapping tool is valuable for broadband planning, and CAIs are missing in the FCC broadband mapping tool. Mark added that he has a 2014 spreadsheet of CAIs in the state that may be useful to SEAGO (see Mark's link in the Appendix 1 Chat to access this).

Jeff Sobotka commented that the NTIA, EDA, and USDA together have about \$2 billion in broadband funding programs this year, and Stephen's work is a good example of how people can interconnect at the ACA Arizona Broadband Workshops to work effectively to apply for federal grants.

Paul Ross, CIO of Phoenix College, emphasized that such mapping tools are incredibly valuable in broadband planning, and they have done a lot of such mapping work in Phoenix and

Maricopa County. These tools give a good picture of the CAIs and relevant ACS data in a region. Their mapping tool has 27 layers of data.

Steve commented that the task force could convene a state GIS Mapping workshop/webinar with Stephen and Paul presenting, and Jeff Sobotka agreed this would be useful. Jeff added that it is important for this task force to drive local broadband activities as new service providers enter communities, and mapping tools can help with this.

School Connect Work with Faith-Based Organizations

Following up on Stephen's comment about adding faith-based organizations to the GIS Mapping Tool, Steve asked Tracey Beal, Executive Director of School Connect, to comment on their work with faith-based organizations. Tracey stated that School Connect determined from Jeff Sobotka and the County School Superintendent's Office that the City of Phoenix school districts had a need for 12,600 computers. School Connect worked with Scottsdale Bible Church, who raised \$1.5 million to provide computers (at a cost of \$190 per laptop) to schools in Phoenix and Maricopa County that were distributed with the help of the United Way and Shereka Jackson (KTAR radio reported on this). See Tracey's details on this in the Appendix 1 Chat. Linda Leatherman, Faith-based Coordinator for Pima County, commented that she is working with Cindy Hogan on EBB outreach through faith-based organizations and will also contact Tracey. Mauricio Orozco added that School Connect has had many initiatives with school districts over the years, and faith-based organizations are important to work with because of the trust they have in their communities.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Outreach

The task force continued to discuss its work in organizing outreach to low-income households to apply for the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program (discussed at previous task force meetings). The EBB program enrollment process began on May 12th, and has limited funding (\$3.2 billion nationally) and is of limited duration, so the task force would like to assist Arizona low-income households in signing up before the funding and time run out.

Tracey Beal (Executive Director of School Connect) is taking the lead on organizing the task force's EBB outreach activities, and is working with Ilana Lowery (Arizona Director of Common Sense Media), Cindy Hogan (Digital Equity Project Manager of the United Way of Tucson & Southern Arizona), Nicole Umayam (Digital Inclusion Library Consultant at the Arizona State Library), and Mala Muralidharan (Arizona State Library) on this.

Tracey reported that EBB program applications are being submitted nationally, and there was an e-mail from the FCC that over 1 million households have successfully enrolled as of May 21st.

Tracey stated that they are sending EBB information to as many Arizona CAIs as possible, and will help them get people signed up. They have received media coverage from Channel 10 and NPR, and Ilana has sent out a press release.

Marcelino Flores, Special Staff for Workforce Development of Pima County, discussed EBB outreach work at Pima County. They are working with various state agencies and organizations (e.g. Pima County Library and faith-based organizations), and have provided them the EBB toolkit. They provide computer labs for people who don't have access to computers to enroll, and are following up on lessons learned from enrolling households with service providers. They are also doing outreach with social media (want to post weekly there) and other media.

Marcelino has done some preliminary analysis to answer questions on how long the EBB program funding may last and how many households they may be able to enroll in Pima County. He estimated that the EBB program could last 10 months based on some assumptions about national enrollment rates, but the duration of the program depends on how many households enroll for Internet service and how many use the computer purchase subsidy. Henry Goldberg commented that there are about 9 million Lifeline subscribers (out of 33 million eligible for Lifeline) nationally that are all eligible for EBB, so if all of these enrolled in EBB and used the \$100 computer purchase subsidy, the \$3.2 billion EBB funding would be exhausted in several months after that. Marcelino also explained he constructed a spreadsheet of potential EBB enrollment in Pima County, where if 48,000 households were sent outreach information over 10 weeks, 4800 of these may engage with the information, and 1200 of those may actually enroll. There are about 186,000 Lifeline subscribers in Arizona (out of about 709,000 eligible households). Marcelino would like to see this task force track the number of households that sign up with service providers.

Ken Zambos, Manager of Pima County Public Library, reported that they are focusing on training the adult service staff in their library system to inform patrons about EBB and assist them in applying. They offer scanners, computer, and Internet access to patrons to help them apply. It can take more than 1 hour for library staff to assist someone to apply. They are also working with the library communications department to distribute thousands of flyers and to do social media posts on EBB.

Cindy Hogan reported that she will meet with the Ajo School District Superintendent suggested by Wes Brownfield to discuss an EBB sign-up project there. She also spent time at a Tucson public housing location signing households up. Cindy noted that households have different situations so the application process varies from household to household. There is a 2-step process for enrollment: 1) submitting the EBB eligibility application to USAC, and 2) approved household then goes to the service provider to sign up (different service providers have different approaches to signing up). Lifeline subscribers are already eligible for EBB so it is easier to sign them up. There are some bugs in the enrollment system that need to be corrected.

Next Steps

The next AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force overall meeting will be held on Monday, June 7th at 7:30 am (no meeting on May 31st which is Memorial Day).

As noted above, the next ACA/NTIA Arizona Broadband Workshop (on broadband funding sources) will be held on Wednesday June 2nd.

Tracy Rexroat, Program Specialist at ADE, noted she is organizing a group to teach students about automated systems.

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

Appendix 1: Chat from Zoom

Debbie Kovesdy to Everyone (7:38 AM)
Thank You Oris!!

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:41 AM)

Benton Foundation has a good summary of the NTIA \$288M Broadband Infrastructure Program at <https://www.benton.org/blog/ntia-has-millions-broadband-infrastructure> and there are more program details at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=333684> FYI.

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:59 AM)

The most recent edition of Broadband Communities magazine (<https://www.bbcmag.com/>) has an article “Saddleback Communications’ Fiber Network Serves as Blueprint for Advancing Tribal Broadband” available at <https://www.bbcmag.com/community-broadband/saddleback-communications-fiber-network-serves-as-blueprint-for-advancing-tribal-broadband> FYI.

Joy Whiting to Everyone (8:04 AM)

Thanks Mark...I need this information for tribal lands!!

Lawrie Prickett to Everyone (8:18 AM)

I am interested in any mapping data.

marcelinoflores to Everyone (8:19 AM)

Broadband mapping discussion would be great

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:19 AM)

[file: AZ BAP Community Anchor Institution CAI Spreadsheet 2014_12_15 Final.xlsx]

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:20 AM)

Here's the AZ BAP spreadsheet with >10K Arizona CAIs in 7 categories from late 2014 for what use it may provide today. CAIs don't tend to "move" though some close and others come online.

Tracey Beal to Everyone (8:20 AM)

Below is a link to the video that Scottsdale Bible Church did when the kids got to open the lap tops!

<https://www.facebook.com/scottsdalebible/videos/1230800410691594>

Next is a link to a talk radio interview that KTAR did with one of the pastors at Scottsdale Bible Church.

This morning, Pastor Rustin had the privilege of being interviewed by KTAR radio host Mike Broomhead about the results of our Bridging the Digital Divide project. You can listen to the short interview here.

Stephen Peterson - SEAGO to Everyone (8:21 AM)

Thanks for the share Mark

Jeffrey Sobotka to Everyone (8:23 AM)

Great job Tracey!

Ilana Lowery to Everyone (8:23 AM)

Yay Tracey and School Connect!!

Paul Ross to Everyone (8:26 AM)
FYI churches, their physical properties appear in many 'gap' areas.

Terence Ford to Everyone (8:26 AM)
Nice work here Tracey :)

Mauricio Orozco to Everyone (8:28 AM)
Tracey, our community is very fortunate to have you! Thank you

Tracey Beal to Everyone (8:28 AM)
It is great to work together!

Paul Ross to Everyone (8:29 AM)
Great work everyone connecting with local communities.

Tracey Beal to Everyone (8:29 AM)
It's such a privilege to work with schools and local communities!

Streven Burrell to Everyone (8:35 AM)
You said months, label is "weeks". ?

Tracey Beal to Everyone (8:35 AM)
Media that responded to Ilana's Media Release: Channel 10, KTAR and NPR locally

Jeffrey Sobotka to Everyone (8:39 AM)
Need to drop. Thanks everyone!

Mauricio Orozco to Everyone (8:42 AM)
Any efforts to target or data around mobile home parks? Many undeserved, from families to seniors live in this type of housing.

Tracey Beal to Everyone (8:44 AM)
Our Connect-Arizona EBB page had 290 views in the last 7 days.
Yes, Marcelino! Social media is great!

Paul Ross to Everyone (8:48 AM)
Connecting people of a matrix of services is a key element.

Tracy Rexroat to Everyone (8:51 AM)
Tracy.rexroat@azed.gov

Appendix 2: Registration Information for Attendees at Today's Task Force Meeting

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Job Title	Email	Phone	Mobile
Marni	Anbar	DISCOVERosity Zone LLC	Creator-n-Chief	Marnibo1@mac.com		
Tracey	Beal	School Connect	Executive Director	tracey@schoolconnectaz.org		
Meghanne	Bearden	Wildfire	Director of Public Policy	mbearden@wildfireaz.org		
Karen	Beshak	Kajeet	BDE	kbeshak@kajeet.com		
Andrew	Bevington	PCSO	Director	andrew.bevington@pima.gov	15207248213	15205999987
Melissa	Boydston	VSUW	Vice President	mboydston@vsuw.org		
Steven	Burrell	Northern Arizona University	CIO	steven.burrell@nau.edu		
kirk	busch	BigData Southwest	ceo	kirk.busch@bigdatasw.org	4803344997	
Gene	Carl	Cox Business	Sales Manager Public Sector	gene.carl@cox.com		
Jerry	Crow	Digital Forensics and Cloud Security	Cybersecurity Professional	jerry.crow@computer.org	4804515954	
Michael	Edmonds	City of Tucson	Mayor and Council Assistant	mikemedmonds1@gmail.com	929-244-9477	929-244-9477
Marcelino	Flores	Pima County	Special Staff	marcelino.flores@pima.gov		
Terence	Ford	Insight	Solutions Executive	Terence.ford@insight.com	6025701540	
Oris	Friesen	ATIC	Secretary	oris@cox.net	6026891084	6026891084
Henry	Goldberg	ATIC	Vice Chair	hgold52@aol.com	480-609-9279	480-433-3536
Mark	Goldstein	International Research Center	President	markg@researchedge.com	602-470-0389	
Ian	Hathcock	SBL dba Cellular One	Director of Sales	ihathcock@cellularoneaz.com	19282057713	
Holly	Henley	Arizona State Library	State Librarian & Director	holly.henley@cox.net		
Karen	Hewitt	VectorUSA	SLED Broadband Manager	kahewitt@vectorusa.com	6022837446	
Steve	Hill	Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association	President	shill@sbca.org		
Cindy	Hogan	United Way of Tucson and Southern	Digital Equity Project Manager	chogan@unitedwaytucson.org		
Shereka	Jackson	Future Stars	CEO	futurestarsaz@hotmail.com	6232210902	
Debbie	Kovesdy	GenTech	CEO	debbie@gentechsupport.com	6025711014	6025711014
Linda	Leatherman	Pima County	Faith-based Coordinator	Linda.Leaherman@pima.gov		
Glen	Lineberry	Arizona Student Opportunity	Director	glen.lineberry@azsoc.org	4803293677	
Tarma	Liranzo	Engineered Tower Solutions	Program Manager	tarma.liranzo@ets-pllc.com		
Jim	Logan	SimplyBits	Dir Sales and Marketing	Jiml@simplybits.com	5205459253	
Ilana	Lowery	Common Sense Media	Arizona Regional Director	ilowery@commonsense.org		623-341-0177
Derek	Masseth	Sun Corridor Network	Executive Director	dmasseth@suncorridor.org		
Sophia	Mayberry	AZ Dept of Education	Project Manager	Sophia.mayberry@azed.gov		
Clarence	McAllister	Fortis Engineers	Principal	cmcallister@fortisengineers.us	4802219002	
Georgina	Monsalvo	Stand For Children	Organizing Director.	gmonsalvo@stand.org	5202758728	
Mauricio	Orozco	Care1st Health Plan Arizona	Community Engagement	morozco@care1staz.com		
Cody	Pedersen	Smith Bagley Inc. dba Cellular One	ICT Senior Business Consultant	cpedersen@cellularoneaz.com	19282053395	
Stephen	Peterson	SEAGO	Economic Recovery Coordinator	speterson@seago.org	8319157729	8319157729
Lawrie	Prickett	Smith Bagley Inc dba Cellular One of North East Arizona	State & Federal Program Specialist	lprickett@cellularoneaz.com	9285370375x2	9282051604
Tracy	Rexroat	AZ Dept of Education	Program Specialist	tracy.rexroat@azed.gov	16023640322	6026498439
Paul	Ross	Phoenix College	Associate Vice President CIO	Paul.ross@phoenixcollege.edu		
Andy	Sinclair	Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult	Community Actions Programs and Services Capacity	asinclair@azdes.gov	4802632271	4802632271
Jeffrey	Sobotka	Arizona Commerce Authority	State Broadband Director	jeffs@azcommerce.com	6024320004	
Joy	Whiting	Apache County	Apache County School	joy.joywhiting@gmail.com	9283377539	
Ken	Zambos	Pima County Public Library	Manager	ken.zambos@pima.gov	5205945573	
Karen	Ziegler	Karen Ziegler Consulting Services	Principal	karen.ziegler@karenzieglerconsulting.com		