Greater Arizona Educational Leadership
AZBSN Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network
Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council

October 26, 2020 AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Teleconference Report

Attendees

Steve Peters, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Tracey Beal, Darren Bell, Karen Beshak, Andrew Bevington, Kirk Busch, Michael Cohen, Zech Crook, Jerry Crow, Will Davin, Alexandra Dominguez, Terence Ford, Ian Hathcock, Holly Henley, Steve Hill, Shereka Jackson, John Kelly, Ryan Kelly, Tarma Liranzo, Karyn MacVean, Derek Masseth, Sophia Mayberry, Mala Muralidharan, Peter Newbegin, Becky Nutt, Mauricio Orozco, Cody Pedersen, Lea Marquez Peterson, Lawrie Prickett, Matt Riegel, Michelle Simon, Jeff Sobotka, Bill Stribrny, Graham Taylor, Karen Ziegler

Task Force Recommendations Report, Marketing Committee, Stakeholders Database, Task Force Participants, Task Force Planning

Task Force Recommendations Report

Steve Peters stated the task force recommendations report was completed last week (as posted on the task force website), and was passed over to Insight to add graphics for the final publication format. Terence Ford stated Insight has almost completed the graphics treatment and will deliver the report to the task force tomorrow October 27th.

Task Force Marketing Committee

Steve noted that task force participants who wish to be on the task force's marketing committee, which will work on the distribution of the task force recommendations report and overall marketing of the task force, to contact him.

Stakeholders Database

Steve stated he has constructed an ATIC/GAZEL extensive database of broadband/digital access stakeholders (e.g. state government officials, city and county managers, community economic development managers, technology company representatives), but this needs to be updated and supplemented. He asked task force participants to send him names and contact information for those they would like added to this database.

Task Force Participants Survey

Steve will send out a link to a Google Form for task force participants to fill out their organization, job title, and contact information so this is up-to-date for all participants.

Task Force Planning

Steve stated that after the task force recommendations report has been distributed, he will be discussing with the task force an implementation plan for recommendations that the task force could work on. Henry Goldberg asked if we should wait for feedback on the report and funding that will be provided to implement recommendations, and Steve responded that he thinks there are activities the task force can work on before this.

Updates: State Broadband Director, AZ State Library, ACC, Sun Corridor Network

State Broadband Director Update

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

Jeff stated ADOT is moving forward quickly on its fiber deployments along I-17 and I-19, and has met with the Sun Corridor Network to discuss how they could make use of this.

The Town of Springerville had received a $50,000 state Rural Broadband Development Grant for planning, which they are now using to apply for a grant with the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA). Jeff noted that he is working with the EDA on developing a statewide strategy to apply for federal broadband grants. The Yuma Broadband Action Team (BAT) is doing countywide planning for such applications.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced today that 154 tribal entities nationally will receive 2.5 GHz spectrum for rolling out new wireless networks, and can partner with the private sector to do this. Mala Muralidharan asked when we can find out which Arizona tribes received this spectrum, and Mark Goldstein responded that 10 Arizona tribes were granted this spectrum (see the Appendix Chat for the announcement on this).

Jeff also noted that a new service provider will be entering the market in Douglas.

Mark Goldstein asked Jeff about ADOT's RFI for fiber middle-mile infrastructure deployed along state highways to reach rural communities (discussed at previous task force meetings). Jeff responded that they received great responses on this, and a report on the RFI responses will be issued in the near future, but there is no decision yet about a follow-on RFP.

Arizona State Library Update

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

Mala stated that she is the Arizona representative for The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB). SHLB will be holding a webinar on October 30th on "Successful Strategies for Obtaining E-rate Category 2 Support" for school/library internal connectivity (discussed at the last task force meeting). The E-rate application deadline for Category 2 support will be around April 2021.

SHLB has six upcoming policy initiatives: increasing funding and improving administration of the FCC's rural health care program, streamlining and strengthening the E-rate program including the E-rate to the Home initiative, ensuring broadband funding programs include community anchor institutions, increasing competition through additional access to licensed and unlicensed

spectrum, simplifying and strengthening the Universal Service Fund, and developing more accurate and granular broadband maps that include community anchor institutions.

Forrester Research published a report on telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are expected to be 900 million – 1 billion telehealth consultations in 2020. Broadband is needed for various telehealth consultations such as transmission of X-ray images.

ACC Update

Lea Marquez Peterson, Commissioner of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), reported on her recent activities. Lea met with ACC staff to discuss issues related to the modification of the Arizona Universal Service Fund (AUSF) to support broadband in rural high-cost areas (as discussed at previous task force meetings). She also met with CenturyLink and will meet with another service provider to discuss this.

Sun Corridor Network Update

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

SCN is a registered E-rate service provider and is involved with E-rate applications for the upcoming 2021 grant year.

SCN is working on establishing a point-of-presence (POP) in Yuma.

SCN is advancing their core network capacity to 400 Gbps from Phoenix to Tucson.

There is work underway to deploy their EduRoam community-based Wi-Fi on the Navajo Nation and in Page/Coconino County.

They are working on providing SCN access to Cochise College in Douglas.

SCN is involved with a Project Overcome grant application to provide private LTE, CBRS, and point-to-point microwave for the Roosevelt School District in Phoenix.

As mentioned by Jeff Sobotka, SCN is working with ADOT on the education broadband possibilities associated with their fiber deployments along I-17 and I-19.

Arizona County Supervisors Association Broadband Resolution

Steve Peters reported that the Arizona County Supervisors Association Summit approved the following broadband resolution: "A Resolution of the County Supervisors Association of Arizona urging state leaders to leverage federal resources, regional and tribal partnerships to complete critical first mile and middle mile infrastructure necessary for statewide access to broadband". This includes establishing smart highway corridors to create first mile and middle mile broadband infrastructure across Arizona, and increasing ongoing state investment and leveraging federal funding for expanded access to quality, reliable, and affordable broadband in rural Arizona.

Kajeet Presentation

Kajeet delivered a presentation of their wireless solutions. Bill Stribrny, Vice President of Sales and Account Management for Kajeet, introduced Kajeet team members attending today's task force meeting: Matt Riegel (Sr. Business Development and Strategy Executive), Karen Beshak (Business Development Executive for the West Coast including Arizona), and Darren Bell (Systems Engineer for the West Coast). Bill Stribrny and Matt Riegel delivered the presentation. Key points from the presentation are summarized below, and the full presentation will be posted on the task force website.

Kajeet is most heavily focused on providing wireless access solutions for education. They provide students with mobile hotspot devices (called SmartSpots) that come with LTE access service from the major wireless service providers (AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile, and US Cellular). The Kajeet Sentinel cloud-based service manages the devices and wireless services, tracks student use of the devices, and provides CIPA-compliant filtering that blocks traffic from non-allowable student uses such as Netflix and Hulu. Sentinel provides school districts reporting/analytics on utilization rates per group, number of hours spent online, average data use by hour of the day, and sites used and blocked. This reporting data can help school districts justify their funding for the wireless solutions. Kajeet provides a device management system to track devices issued to students and when they are due to be returned. They also provide additional resources to survey how many students need Internet access as well as provide information on the availability of their solutions.

Kajeet also offers "SmartBus" access for students to work while on school buses or access via Wi-Fi to school buses parked in community locations during the COVID-19 school closures. Mala Muralidharan noted the Arizona State Library has a pilot project with Kajeet where students use Kajeet filtered hotspots to access community-located bookmobiles equipped with Insight antennas, and the E-rate program funds such bookmobile Wi-Fi access.

Kajeet has 98 deployments in Arizona so far including 47 public school districts, 5 library/higher-ed/non-profit, 21 Native American (working with federal Bureau of Indian Affairs), and 12 charter/private schools. They have 25 SmartBus Wi-Fi deployments.

Steve Peters asked about Kajeet applications beyond the education space. Matt Riegel responded that Kajeet is moving into the IoT and enterprise space, in particular telehealth, where patients have SmartSpots in their homes that connect various devices such as computers and blood pressure monitors.

Mauricio Orozco asked if Kajeet can prevent students from using apps not allowed by schools. Matt responded that Kajeet creates a very secure system for school districts such as blocking all VPN use and constantly monitors all uses by students.

Shereka Jackson asked about problems with students bringing computers to community centers where there are school district restrictions on them being used. Matt responded that Kajeet can work with computer vendors and school districts to overcome this as appropriate.

Next Steps

Kirk Busch reported that Big Data Southwest is holding their inaugural National Data Center and Smart City Infrastructure Summit Thursday October 29th (see Appendix Chat for free registration). The event will be recorded for those that cannot attend.

The next AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force overall meeting will be held on Monday, November 2nd at 7:30 am.

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

Appendix: Chat from Zoom

From Sophia sophia.mayberry@azed.gov to Everyone: (7:27 AM)
  Hi friends I can only join for 15min feel free to message me in that time.

From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: (7:39 AM)
  While we await graphic layout, you can download our draft Task Force report (V01D) at https://www.arizonatele.org/uploads/1/1/9/6/119671885/azbsn_covid-19_task_force_report___recommendations_draft_v03d_10_21_20.pdf

From Sophia sophia.mayberry@azed.gov to Everyone: (7:44 AM)
  I have to go. Email me if you need anything.

From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: (7:56 AM)
  FCC announcement on Tribal EBS licenses at https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-grants-first-licenses-25-ghz-rural-tribal-priority-window and 10 AZ tribes indicated in Grantee by State PDF at https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-367726A3.pdf

From Terence Ford to Everyone: (8:16 AM)
  Team, I need to break for an 8:30 Mgmt Meeting shortly. Terence

From Jeff Sobotka to Everyone: (8:30 AM)
  Need to drop. Have a great week!

From Mauricio Orozco to Everyone: (8:30 AM)
  Are you able to block web browsers like Brave or Apps like Discord? Kids are using these technologies on their school district devices to get around school firewalls and block tracking activity.

From Tracey Beal to Everyone: (8:31 AM)
  Thanks so much for the great presentation. I need to jump off for the next meeting!

From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: (8:31 AM)
  Kirk Busch's Big Data Southwest is holding their Inaugural National DataCenter&SmartCity Infrastructure Summit this Thursday, 10/29 from 9AM-1PM. Free registration at https://www.bigdatasw.org/.

From Becky Nutt to Everyone: (8:34 AM)
  Hi All--I have to sign off. Thanks Steve (Peters) for the invite! Very informative!

From Malavika Muralidharan - to Everyone: (8:37 AM)
  Have to jump off ThanksKajeet Thanks Steve

From Lawrie Prickett to Everyone: (8:41 AM)
  Thanks Matt, great presentation! Love your product