



October 5, 2020, AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Teleconference Report

Attendees

Steve Peters, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Robert Alvarado, Andrew Bevington, Melissa Boydston, Kirk Busch, Michael Cohen, Jerry Crow, Will Davin, Alexandra Dominguez, Terence Ford, Ian Hathcock, Holly Henley, Steve Hill, Shereka Jackson, John Kelly, Alan Kost, Tarma Liranzo, Ilana Lowery, Derek Masseth, Mala Muralidharan, Peter Newbegin, Mauricio Orozco, Cody Pedersen, Lawrie Prickett, Alan Pruitt, Michelle Simon, Tracy Rexroat, Jeff Sobotka, Graham Taylor, Nicole Umayam, Karen Ziegler

Task Force Recommendations Report

Steve Peters stated that he is making some final changes to the draft task force recommendations report and then will e-mail today a link to a Google Doc version of the draft report for task force participants to review. Steve is looking for comments (not editing) on what's in the report, what may be missing from the report, and what things should be removed from the report.

Mark Goldstein stated he believes it is important to transfer the finished task force report to Insight soon for putting the document in professional publishing format. He is anxious for the task force to enter a new phase of re-engaging with various Arizona broadband stakeholders, including by refreshing the task force website and issuing newsletters.

John Kelly noted the Superintendent of Public Instruction ADE Technology task force met on October 1st and has five subcommittees working in different areas. There should be relationships/cross-fertilization of work of the ADE task force with our task force. Terence Ford asked if there is a plan to deliver our task force report to the Superintendent Kathy Hoffman, and John Kelly responded that Sophia Mayberry of her office is on our task force so that should happen.

Steve will also e-mail a link to a Google Form for people to fill out their organization and job title so he has good up-to-date information on all the task force participants.

Updates: State Broadband Director, AZ State Library, Sun Corridor Network, Arizona Technology Council Public Policy Guide

State Broadband Director Update

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

Jeff met last week with the city of St. Johns mayor, economic development officials, and Broadband Action Team (BAT). St. Johns received a \$50,000 state Rural Broadband Development Grant (RBDG) for broadband planning, which they will be using to apply for a federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant. Jeff expects that St. Johns will have an effective broadband solution for the community by the end of 2021, and will be a good model for other rural communities. He remarked it is important for service providers to get involved with rural communities in applying for federal grants. Mark Goldstein asked if the St. Johns report will be available to external parties, and Jeff responded that he will distribute it to those interested when it is ready.

Jeff is having ongoing meetings with the Governor's Office on priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The RBDG grants will be extremely important in filling in gaps with federal broadband grants and money may be set aside for matching funds for federal grants. Steve Peters asked if the Governor's previous request for \$10 million in RBDG funding is sufficient, and Jeff responded that is the figure that has been talked about and they expect substantial federal funding to be available in 2021.

Jeff met with the Navajo Nation Council on their CARES Act broadband funding and the possibilities for fiber infrastructure along I-40 and Route 191.

Jeff will be in Tucson on Friday October 16th, and would be happy to meet then with anyone on this task force in the Tucson area.

Jeff noted that the Telehealth BAT is meeting on October 6th. The BAT is identifying gaps and trying to match those with federal broadband grants upcoming in 2021.

Jeff remarked that he is looking forward to seeing the published task force recommendations report.

Arizona State Library Update

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

The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB) met with the FCC last week to discuss the \$24 million proposed for broadband mapping in the federal government HEROES bill. Several states have initiatives underway for broadband mapping because the current federal broadband mapping has various deficiencies: There is no mechanism for ongoing updating, specifies if only one household in a census block has broadband then the whole census block is served, the speeds reported are not accurate or adequate, and some of the technology is outdated and not capable of providing the speeds required today. The FCC is receptive to the state broadband mapping initiatives. The HEROES bill proposed national funding of \$24 million will not be adequate to fund all state broadband mapping needs and would have to be supplemented by the states.

The USAC window that was opened to apply for additional E-rate funding for schools' increased bandwidth needs caused by the COVID-19 crisis (discussed at previous task force meetings) will be closing on October 16th. So far, \$5.7 million has been requested in this new window.

Steve Peters asked if SHLB is focused on anchor institutions. Mala responded that SHLB uses the phrase “To and Through” for anchor institutions because they are important for communities’ broadband solutions, such as health care facilities that are not eligible for E-rate funding.

Sun Corridor Network Update

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

He is working with Cochise College to bring them on board with SCN in Douglas.

SCN is a registered E-rate service provider, and so schools and libraries can get their E-rate services through the SCN. Derek is working with various E-rate customers to assess their needs and prepare for the 2021 E-rate application process in terms of either building new infrastructure or working with ISPs to access the SCN.

Derek is engaging with the Navajo Nation, which have Chapter Houses that are now considered libraries for E-rate purposes.

The Maricopa County Community Colleges are coming onto SCN this fall.

There are new deployments upcoming in Page of CBRs wireless access and EduRoam community-based Wi-Fi. Derek explained that EduRoam is a service that enables students/faculty/staff of educational institutions to connect securely to Wi-Fi at various locations.

The SCN is continuing the advancement of their core network to 400 Gbps capacity.

Steve Peters commented that most of the SCN funding comes from the three state universities, and asked if this task force could help with raising additional funding or staffing for SCN. Mark Goldstein added that Derek should look at the recommendation in the task force report about initiating a strategic planning process for SCN. Derek responded he would look at the task force recommendation and discuss this topic with Steve.

Arizona Technology Council Public Policy Guide Update

Mark Goldstein reported on the Arizona Technology Council 2021 Public Policy Guide for which he prepares the broadband policy sections. Mark noted that CompTIA used to provide most of the federal broadband policy section for this public policy guide, but withdrew from doing that. Mark has developed a fairly extensive federal broadband policies & principles section for the public policy guide, and put a link in the Appendix Chat to look at this and invited comments from task force participants. The public policy guide will be published in October.

Chicanos Por La Causa Presentation

Robert Alvarado, Vice President of Information Management & Technology Services of Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC), gave a presentation overviewing CPLC. Following is a summary of key points from the presentation, and Steve Peters will put the full presentation on the task force website.

CPLC’s mission is to deliver economic and political empowerment to Latino and other segments of the population it serves. It provides four pillars of services: health and human services,

housing, education, and economic development. It partners with various organizations as needed to provide these services.

CPLC's Information Technology Division has three departments: networking, information systems, and information technology help desks.

The CPLC "Help Our Kids Connect" project has established a fundraising process to provide computers for those in need, and they are partnering with AZ StRUT on this. So far they have provided computers to 450 families, and have identified many other households that require computers from the large population they serve. Many families also require Internet access, and they are trying to raise funds for families to purchase the Cox Connect2Compete discounted Internet service for low-income households. CPLC is also trying to provide digital literacy training as well.

Robert stated that CPLC would like to partner with appropriate participants in our task force to accomplish their digital access goals, and put his contact information in the Appendix Chat. Shereka Jackson noted that Mobile Beacon sells hotspots for \$120 per year that can help families get started with Internet service (see link in Appendix Chat). Will Davin of T-Mobile stated he would discuss with Robert whether CPLC can take advantage of their new program (discussed at the last task force meeting). Nicole Umayam of the Arizona State Library and Derek Masseth of Sun Corridor Network remarked they would also speak with Robert. Steve Peters concluded there are lots of opportunities for task force participants to collaborate with CPLC, and he may set up a future meeting to discuss this.

Next Steps

The next AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force overall meeting will be held on Monday, October 12th at 7:30 am.

This week, the Technology subcommittee will not be meeting.

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: (7:37 AM)

[file: AZTC Public Policy Guide - Federal Broadband Section 2021 V2C.docx]

Wrapping up the Tech Council's 2021 Public Policy Guide. Here for the first time is the federal broadband section that I've authored replacing some slimmer spectrum reform fodder from CompTIA we've used in the past. Interested in any feedback you may have.

From Shereka Jackson to Everyone: (8:24 AM)

<https://www.mobilebeacon.org/legal/legal-info/>

From Nicole Umayam to Everyone: (8:24 AM)

We have an ongoing list of discount internet offers on Connect Arizona:
<https://sites.google.com/view/azlibtap/get-online/internet-offers?authuser=0>

From Robert Alvarado to Everyone: (8:25 AM)
Robert Alvarado

From Robert Alvarado to Everyone: (8:25 AM)
Robert.alvarado@cplc.org 602-257-6715 Sorry team have to go thank you for having me present. Look forward to further discussions.

From Melissa Boydston to Everyone: (8:29 AM)
Will, can you add your contact info here?