

Greater Arizona Educational Leadership
AZBSN Arizona Broadband
Stakeholder Network
Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council
COVID-19 DIGITAL ACCESS TASK FORCE

Meeting Zoom Transcript

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Disclaimer Notice: The following is the meeting transcript recorded Using OttorAI. Better than the Zoom Transcript but still needs work. Does not identify the speakers.

Okay, we are recording. I'm sorry you all had problems logging in this morning. This morning, we may end up keeping a chart. Some of our folks don't think are going to be joining us today just because of the problem we had. So anyway, let's, let's go ahead and get started. As always, I like to thank our sponsors. Here first health plan value, the sun United Way, satellite broadcasting communications Association, Kajeet and Tria wireless. And today, I'm glad welcome glad to welcome our newest sponsor. Okay, so Molly is still having problems getting in. So I want to thank our newest sponsor, Karen Ziegler, Karen Ziegler consulting services, Karen has been with us long before AZ BSN long before the task force. She has been a great partner and a great resource for the state of Arizona. So Karen, do you want to just say a few words? Yeah, thanks,

Steve. Sorry, folks, I tried to get on my computer as well. And I was struggling. So I'm not on camera. I'm just on my phone. But I just wanted to show my appreciation for AZBSN by sponsoring them this year. I remember having a conversation with Steve, pre pandemic, about the need for a group like this for everybody to come together, not just government, not just nonprofits, you know, carriers and the like. And I'm just really proud to be part of what this has come turned out to be. So most of you already know me. I worked for the State of Arizona for 30 plus years, and retired then contracted back with the department of administration, and ran the Arizona FirstNet and state 911 programs. And that's where I met Steve, Mark and many of you in that capacity, and also worked on the rural broadband initiative to basically build on the work that many of you done many years prior to me kind of kind of coming on the scene. And I formed a group to develop the first not the first but the state rural broadband strategic plan at that time to help us position ourselves for additional federal funding and kind of give a roadmap for the work that we knew that needed to be done in Arizona to expand broadband. So I left a Doa in 2020, and then started my own consulting firm. So I do a lot of financial and grant management consulting for public safety agencies across the country. But then most of you know me through my affiliation with community broadband advocates, and John Lucas, who I partnered with back in 2020, to work specifically on rural broadband projects. And so we have a lot of great projects that we're working with across the state. And I'm just happy to be part of this group. And just appreciate the few minutes, Steve to introduce myself. Thanks.

Well, you know, Karen, you, as I said, You've been a great resource for the state of Arizona and doing some great stuff with communities throughout the state. So we greatly appreciate your work. Thank you. Okay, I'm gonna skip several things just because I don't know who's online who's not online. And we're missing a bunch of people. Sandeep, Are you online by chance? He's not. Has anybody heard anything about the latest with the state broadband director position has been filled yet? Do you know

See, this is carried as far as I know, it's not been filled. I don't expect that to be filled for, you know, a little bit of time because they just advertised it. I actually have a meeting this week down at ACA. So I'll see if I can get a little bit of information. And maybe I can encourage them to send a representative because it seems like last couple of meetings. We haven't had anybody from ACA, which is understandable, but maybe we can get Sandeep to pop his head in, at least to get an update.

When I talked to Brian Sherman, he was suggesting that Sandy would be their representative for the for the time being until they get somebody on board. So I'll have to follow up with her And when I talked to him a couple of weeks ago, he was saying they were hoping they have somebody on board in 30 days, but don't know. Okay.

See, I heard that it wasn't gonna be until after the midterm election. Yeah.

Yeah. Well, that would be that would be my thought. But that's Well, anyway, we'll see. We'll see. We'll see. I understand that that is, theoretically is not a an appointed position. So we'll see. But you're probably right. That's what I was thinking Elena, that would be after the elections. But at this point, it's so it's so close. I'm assuming that's correct.

Yeah. And ACA is under it's a quasi governmental agency. You know, Sandra Watson was appointed by the governor. So even though it's, you know, it, it's probably not going to be until after the midterms? Yeah.

Well, that's, that's what I've said. While that position may theoretically not be at risk, but Sandra, technically could be I don't know that that would be the case. But depending on the elections anyway, we'll wait and see. The commerce authority is still a private public private partnership with its original charter. So theoretically, it's a standalone organization. But the governor in the charter is the chairman. Yeah. So you know, Sandra might be sitting back to see, you know, what the board landscapes gonna look like? depending on who's chairman? Yeah. So, you know, everything's kind of up in the air at this point. And we're just gonna have to wait and see. Oh, moving on. I don't know if Nicole is on the line today. But we have now added a talk with Nicole. And we've now added her as a to provide us an update on the work that she's doing here in Arizona. I think you all may know that. She is now within TIA is a federal program officer for Arizona. With and so we hope to get regularly updates from her. Are you on line by by? By chance, Nicole? Apparently not. Okay, so let's let's do some updates. And we'll see what happens. So model Are you online now?

Wow. Are you there? Okay, Holly, are you there by chance? So I know Molly has been trying to get online. Holly didn't look like she's here. So we're gonna move on? I'm sorry.

Do you just want to know, when you lock, try to log on to the meeting? It once it stops after registration, and you can't you simply can't log on?

Yes, we know that. Okay, that's an issue. And so we know that there's going to be people who some of the folks have liked you like you have found a workaround for a lot of folks that weren't able to get online. So I think we're going to keep this a fairly short meeting today. But so I did want to do a some some quick updates, though. So I don't believe Janet's online. Sophia. I don't think your online my one. Kelly are you Kelly? I'm sorry. Are you there? Sophia? Sorry.

I am I think so as my colleague Kelly, she can do up basis. She's like,

Okay, So Kelly, you're up? Yes. Yep, I'm here. Hi, everyone. I don't have an update. But I can't see anyone. But it's nice to hear everyone this morning. And thanks for pushing through with us, Steve. Sure. Kelly from the Department of Education, by the way. Sure. So Kelly, I understand you guys have been doing some cybersecurity workshops. Yeah, I don't know if Selby is on the call or not. But yes, what we did is, yeah, I'm on the call. Oh, great. I will tell you be the one to survive. She did a really good event. I'll let her share about it. So so just just a quickie Shelby, that you might want to advise people that your position has sort of changed. And so you're you have some different responsibilities and relationship with the Office of Digital Teaching and Learning. So do you want to talk about that first?

Sure. This is Shelby brown with Arizona Department of Education. Initially, I was the earache coordinator, which is I was working with Marlin Eaton. But essentially, we help schools obtain govern meant funding from USAC for, for connectivity and network equipment, because it's like a process and there's a lot of hoops to jump through as you navigate that process. So that's primarily what how I came in. But in going through those in meeting schools and whatnot, they asked if I would change my role to become the tribal and rural community coordinator. Just because I've been meeting a lot of folks out there, you know, obtaining a lot of great ideas and just kind of getting to know people across the state. So, as part of that role, I had developed a tribal Technology RoundTable. This was a from a suggestion from Misty at a Tuba City. She said, Hey, can we get a form of IT people together? So I thought that was a great idea, inquired with a bunch of tribal schools. And they said, Yeah, let's do it. So working with them on developing interests and topics. First one was bringing first one in August was bringing digital equity help to homes. And this last one was on cybersecurity. When Dirac had a big cybersecurity incident about two months ago, where it kicked out quite a few, quite a few brought services on their network, it was a ransomware attack, where they had multiple people that downloaded the link that just kind of spread bad things throughout their network system. So they had to go through and recover and re implement all of that and everything. And so I had Window Rock, is it person, Miss Sheldon

Yahzee share his story on what actually transpired. So it was very informative. It was a little techie nerdy, which was great for the IT people, but it was just kind of an understanding on what it is, you know, like what what actually happened, and now that there's some forensic analytics after the fact, he was able to share, you know, kind of what what transpired and whatnot. during that event, how it came to be, you know, what they, what they did, how they navigate the folks that helped him navigate the solution along the way, and, you know, just kind of as a little short plug, they are still in the midst of it. And also, again, once again, promoting the cyber cyber security readiness program on providing the five tools to school. So, Arizona. So that was my last meeting. And then I'm in the process of developing a few more upcoming topics. And my target audience is primarily IT folks in rural and tribal communities. But we've had had, you know, folks throughout the state that have attend, but it's been great.

That's it. Good. Thanks. So any questions for Shelby? Oh, I do have one last thing. I'm super excited about the Navajo Nation Bill con chapter Arizona award on the broadband cuz that is where my mom's family's from it and I'm quite familiar with that community. So thanks for that update in the email.

Okay, thank you. So, moving on. Cindy, Are you online? Doesn't look like it. Ilana. Ilana, do you want to do any update on the ACP awareness campaign?

I'm sure not a big update. We are actually winding down the the the the actual campaign, they advertise some of the advertising has stopped mostly the outdoor stuff. We're still still working with the ASU Experience Center. They still plan on taking ACP enrollment calls that we send their way. They also plan on hiring a couple more navigators as well as starting we're really starting to work with with them on the next step, which is providing digital literacy materials and help through the Experience Center. So that's going to be kind of the next phase, I guess she would say of what common sense is going to be doing. But yeah, so the the I mean, I've we're working on all the numbers, I can probably update next week on the number of we had over 1500 calls to the call center during the the 12 week campaign. But I can get like numbers as to like how many people actually really signed up how many people you know, had to go through other other methods and things like that. We're kind of crunching all those numbers now. So I should have an update on that. Probably next week from ASU. So, thanks, Elena. For Elena. Elena uihlein. I know you were trying to get online. Okay, so she's not here. Nicole is the Steve.

Just in terms of Erin, I'd like to report that we did corral her into joining ATIC's board or merry band at our board meeting earlier this month, and we're glad to have her on board. Okay.

Nicole, I don't think you're online. Derrick, I thought I saw you are you still here? I am, Steve. Although I don't I don't know that I have much of an update. I can suggest that. The the interstate Fiber project, the construction process is delayed by a few. I 17 is probably looking more like Well, early to mid next year. You and the operations and management RFP is I'm told imminent, although there's some suggestion that it may wait until after the election. And perhaps the new administration is seated but I think that's really all I have today.

I think a lot of things are gonna be on hold there for a while until after the election. Yeah, at least the election and then you know that the dust has to settle I suppose. Yep.

Okay. I don't know if Dave's online if he has anything to add that you didn't know already. Okay, moving on. So Wes, I don't think you're online but Rory, you are. And Milan. I don't believe you're online. Is that correct? Are you do you want to give a quick update on what's happening with the final mile.

We finished Sonoda we got text going out there to finish it up this week. They got I'm sorry. I apologize. A Holbrook we got second tower up in Holbrook. So that guy got lit up Friday night. So Holbrooks mostly done except for one small pocket. Then I guess we're Forest Lakes is still we got the first phase of the tower in there. So next week, we'll finish the rest of the tower and start bringing people up online. That's pretty much it. Okay.

Okay. Okay, any other updates this morning. So I'm sorry, I should have done this before. But we do have a couple of new people that I'm aware of, and maybe others who have joined us that I that may be on a phone call, and others who maybe didn't get in. So Nate, you want to introduce yourself quickly.

I am sorry about that. Yeah, appreciate being here. Happy to learn from all the experts on the call. Nate Tucker with Sandler partners. We are a master agent, our technology solutions broker work a lot in the telecommunication space with.

And let's see we had somebody else Riggs, do you want to introduce yourself real quickly? Sure. Good morning, everyone. Thanks for having me on the call. My name is Riggs Brown. I'm a consultant with Traverse Group. We are technology and government consultants here in town working a little bit in the telecom industry. And also just in the technology industry on the whole. So like Nate said, I'm here to listen and learn more than anything else. But I'm excited to be a part of the group.

Okay. Is there anybody else online? That's new today that we don't have their name on a phone call?

Going once, going twice. Okay. Well, I think I'm going to end the meeting today is Does anybody have anything else that they want to share this morning? Actually, I kind of wanted to get some information on something we got when that there's a group trying to deploy a city wide, wide CBRs network using the school districts. Does anybody have any information on that?

That is what what type of network that is. This is Sophia Department of Ed.

I don't know I got I was told last week. One of the groups in fact and so Paul was on your I think Paul from from college.

Oh, Paul Ross.

Yeah. So I thought

it was, what was that comment?

That was me, Derrick, I was just saying that sounds like the Phoenix college project. So that's what it sounds like.

Okay, so we probably need to reach out to him, because I don't think they know what they're walking into in terms of CVRs spectrum and what's going to happen in Phoenix in the next six months. So before they get too far with it, Verizon is about to deploy all their CBRs equipment, when that happens, most of that spectrum, and we've got a lot of it up right now, most of that spectrum is going to get wiped out for at least at least half of it. And with what everybody else with what other companies are coming in here with CVRs, it's going to get, I don't think that program might need to be looked at a little bit needs to be reviewed in terms of what its plan is based on what's going to happen to the spectrum itself. So if somebody is in touch with him, that might be a good conversation to have.

Well, you actually worry, you might want to, I can give you his contact information. And you might want to contact Paul, and just share that with him. If he doesn't already know. He does a pretty good job of doing a lot of research, but they may or may not know what's coming down the pike. So well, we've worked with him on his first phase projects, and I think is like, okay, like, yeah, it needs to be we need to reach out to him. Because I don't I don't think I don't think he doesn't know what he doesn't know is the problem. It's, uh, I think what he thinks is going to happen is not the reality of the you know, what's going to happen? So. Okay, I will, I'll reach out to him. Yeah, if he can shoot me his information. I had it before, but I apologize. I missed. Archive didn't. It's kind of a memory at this point.

Not a problem. Not a problem.

Whoever was asking that question, just say who you are asking. Oh, I'm sorry. This is where you tried wireless. Okay, I thought it was you Rory. I just wasn't 100% Sure, because I'm on the phone.

Yeah, we worked with Paul's first design. And to help him out with the idea. He was trying to do this earlier with a different product. And we explained to him, technically, that wasn't going to be a reality. And the city came out with a bid that was \$20 million to put Wi Fi across the entire bid across the entire city in 60 days, which wasn't a realistic project. This project is kind of starting to fall, it looks like it may fall under that same category. And I kind of want to help them out, make sure he doesn't walk into something he's unaware of. But when once Verizon comes in, they're coming in hard very quickly, that

spectrum that he thinks he's going to use is not going to be available. So especially with everybody else that's already in that spectrum. So anyway, all right. I'll reach out to you.

Sir, anything else that anybody wants to share before I end the meeting this morning? Well, I really apologize. Don't know what the heck happened. But I will reach out to zoom and figure out what's going on and hopefully we won't have another glitch.

Okay. All right. Thanks, guys. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thanks.

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