

**September 28, 2020, AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force
Teleconference Report**

Attendees

Steve Peters, Oris Friesen, Mark Goldstein, Robert Alvarado, Tracey Beal, Amanda Bell, Andrew Bevington, Kirk Busch, Derek Casebolt, Jerry Crow, Terence Ford, Steve Hill, Dan Hunt, Shereka Jackson, John Kelly, Tarma Liranzo, Janet Major, Mala Muralidharan, Peter Newbegin, Mauricio Orozco, Sophia Mayberry, Cody Pedersen, Lea Marquez Peterson, Michelle Simon, Tracy Rexroat, Eddie Saavedra, Jeff Sobotka, Graham Taylor, Mark Vitale, Karen Ziegler

Updates: State Broadband Director, Telehealth/USDLA, AZ State Library, ADE, ACC

State Broadband Director Update

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

Jeff reported that the communities of St. Johns and Springerville are planning to apply for state Rural Broadband Development Grants (RBDGs) to support the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants for E-rate bandwidth expansion.

Jeff spoke, as did Holly Henley of the Arizona State Library, at the Federal Coalition's Second Summit(2020) on Improving Broadband Access in Indian Country, held on September 21-25.

Jeff also met with Amazon concerning Project Kuiper, a proposed mega-constellation of thousands of satellites in low-Earth orbit to provide uninterrupted broadband access anywhere on Earth. The FCC approved the launch of 3,236 satellites. Not all of those thousands of satellites have to be launched immediately, however. Amazon is now obligated to launch *at least* half of the total by 2026 to retain the operating license the FCC has granted the company. Amazon has said it will invest US \$10 billion to build out the constellation. The satellites themselves will circle the Earth in what's referred to as "low Earth orbit," or LEO, which is any orbital height below 2000 kilometers. The satellites will operate in the Ka band (26.5 to 40 gigahertz).

Telehealth and USDLA Update

Janet Major, Associate Director of Education & Facilities for the Arizona Telemedicine Program and Technical Director for the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center as well as Chair of the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA), provided an update on her telehealth and USDLA activities.

Janet reported that this is a busy week starting with the Annual STEM kick-off for September Summit for AZ SciTech on Wednesday, September 30. For details see <https://azscitech.events.idloom.com/scitechsummit2020>.

Janet reported that this is followed on Thursday by the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) Second Annual Telemedicine Policy Symposium hosted by State Senator Heather Carter. This will deal with Arizona telehealth stakeholders and the current policy landscape of telemedicine in the state - NOTE: This symposium is focused on Arizona Medicaid and private payer reimbursement for telehealth. For details, see <https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/training/second-annual-arizona-telemedicine-policy-symposium/webinar/2020-10-01>.

Janet also noted the USDLA Annual Legislative Forum: Broadband Inequity will be held on October 9th. According to their website it will give USDLA members and others the opportunity to hear what is most current in government policy and listen to new ideas and thoughts being shared about the distance learning industry. Broadband Inequity will be the focus of this forum, however there will be other policy areas that will be integrated into the dialog. For more details see <https://usdla.org/events/usdla-annual-legislative-forum/>.

Arizona State Library Update

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

Mala noted that other than the opening up of a 2nd window for schools to apply for additional E-rate funding (the application deadline is October 16, 2020), which was reported on last week, there is nothing new to report on the E-rate front.

As discussed at previous task force meetings, the Connect-Arizona Portal, an initiative of the Arizona State Library, School Connect, and Common Sense Media, provides a public Wi-Fi hotspots map, information on connectivity options for low-income households, and digital literacy training and technical support. Tracey Beal of School Connect noted that low-cost sites have been added to the map.

ADE Update

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

Sofia said the ADE is reconvening the task force on guidelines for reopening schools for the hybrid and online environments. She provided the URL for the county school district tracking program, which is <https://www.azed.gov/covid-19-guidance>.

ACC Update

Lea Marquez Peterson, Commissioner of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), reported on her recent activities.

Lea expressed excitement about the Cox Connect2Compete program. They have scheduled a national press conference with the CEO tomorrow (Tuesday) at 11 am our time.

As discussed at previous task force meetings, Lea is working on expanding the use of the Arizona Universal Service Fund (AUSF) from telephone land lines in high-cost areas to include support for broadband services in these areas. The AUSF currently generates about \$500,000 per year in funding. Lea intends to bring up the issue of expanding the AUSF to support broadband to other ACC commissioners in October and possibly augment the funds with fees from fines collected as mentioned in a previous meeting.

T-Mobile and Project 10Million

Derek Casebolt, Director Government Sales, and Amanda Bell, Senior Manager-Public Sector, for T-Mobile gave a presentation on T-Mobile Project 10Million, a \$10.7B initiative aimed at delivering internet connectivity to millions of underserved student households at no cost to them. Partnering with school districts across the country, the program offers free wireless hotspots, free high-speed data and access to laptops and tablets, at-cost.

Derek noted that the no-cost option provides for 100 GB per year. For \$12 per month you get 100 GB per month. For \$15 per month you get unlimited data.

The process is for a school district to fill out an application and the district then allocates the hotspots to the individual schools. The turnaround from application to delivery is about 3-4 weeks.

In response to a question Derek said they should know within 48 hours how to accommodate non-profits in their plan.

A limited amount of tech support is provided at no cost.

For more information please contact Derek or Amanda whose contact information is in the attached Chat Transcription.

Task Force Recommendations Report

Steve Peters stated that he, Karen, and Mark have been working on revising and finalizing the task force recommendations report.

Steve stated the report should be ready today or tomorrow for the overall task force to review.

Next Steps

The next AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force overall meeting will be held on Monday, October 5th at 7:30 am.

This week, the Technology subcommittee will meet on Tuesday September 22nd at 9:30 am.
Henry Goldberg and Oris Friesen will write up a summary report of today's task force meeting.

Appendix: Chat from Zoom

2020 09 28 - chat transcript

From Sophia Mayberry She Her to Everyone: (7:52 AM)
If everyone could mute that would be great!

From Janet Major to Everyone: (7:56 AM)
Annual STEM kick-off/September Summit for AZ Scit Tech
Sept 30 9am – 12pm
<https://azscitech.events.idloom.com/scitechsummit2020>
Wed Sept 30th 9am-12pm ATP Annual Telemedicine Policy Symposium hosted by Heather Carter
<https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/training/second-annual-arizona-telemedicine-policy-symposium/webinar/2020-10-01>

From Tracey Beal to Everyone: (7:57 AM)
Yes, Robert! tracey@schoolconnectaz.org

From Janet Major to Everyone: (7:57 AM)
USDLA Annual Legislative Forum: Broadband Inequity
<https://usdla.org/events/usdla-annual-legislative-forum/>

From Jeff Sobotka to Everyone: (7:58 AM)
Leaving for my meeting. Have a great weekend!

From robert.alvarado to Everyone: (8:00 AM)
Thank you Tracey here is my contact info as well robert.alvarado@cplc.org

From Lea Marquez Peterson to Everyone: (8:00 AM)
Cox Connect 2 Compete program has a national press conference with the CEO tomorrow (Tuesday) at 11am our time. Look for announcements!

From Sophia Mayberry She Her to Everyone: (8:04 AM)
Here is the county school district tracking I mentioned <https://www.azed.gov/covid-19-guidance>

From Mauricio Orozco to Everyone: (8:23 AM)
Any IT/Technical support available with these devices? Thanks

From Malavika Muralidharan to Everyone: (8:24 AM)
Derek I would love to talk offline about any program you may have for libraries
mala@azlibrary.gov

From robert.alvarado to Everyone: (8:25 AM)

Hello Team I have to step off to attend a meeting. Thank you look forward to the next meeting

From ABell1 to Everyone: (8:25 AM)

Amanda Bell- T-Mobile Amanda.bell@t-mobile.com

From Derek Casebolt to Everyone: (8:25 AM)

Derek Casebolt; derek.casebolt@t-mobile.com; 469-269-7131

From ABell1 to Everyone: (8:26 AM)

720-935-1299

From Dan Hunt to Everyone: (8:27 AM)

I have to step away for another meeting. Thanks for allowing me to attend.

From Derek Casebolt to Everyone: (8:27 AM)

Thanks all! Amanda and I need to run

From ABell1 to Everyone: (8:27 AM)

Thank you!

From John Kelly to Everyone: (8:29 AM)

Thanks Derek. Exciting stuff

From Tracey Beal to Everyone: (8:29 AM)

Great presentation!

From Mauricio Orozco to Everyone: (8:29 AM)

Thanks T-Mobile

From Janet Major to Everyone: (8:31 AM)

Thanks Steve!