

Outreach & Education Sub-Committee
Meeting Packet Table of Contents

1. Meeting Agenda.....Pg. 2

2. October 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes.....Pg. 3

**Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority
Outreach & Education Sub-Committee Meeting
Thursday November 16, 2023
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Virtual Meeting
Dial-In: +1 267-332-8737
Phone Conference ID: 223 545 610#

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of October 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- III. PBDA Quarterly Newsletter
- IV. Future Meeting Schedule
- V. Co-Chair Discussion
- VI. Initial Proposal Vol. II Update
- VII. Statewide Digital Equity Plan & Facilitated Public Comment
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Public Comment
- X. Adjournment

Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority
Outreach & Education Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023
Virtual - Microsoft Teams Meeting

Sub-Committee members in attendance

- Carrie Nace
- Chair, Sarah Hammond
- Joseph Gerdes
- Mark Critz
- Lisa Davis
- Bailey Thumm
- Dan Alwine

Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) staff in attendance

- Kalie Snyder
- Jesse Suders
- Brandon Peters
- Stephanie Perry

Guests in attendance

- M. Malloy,
- Chuck Napier
- Jim Mercante, Chester County Digital Equity Coalition
- Jeanne Shearer, Windstream
- Bryon H
- Marshall Lane, Pepsico
- Jennifer Algoe Keaton, BCAP
- R. Dollery

I. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 3:01pm. Kalie Snyder conducted roll call and housekeeping items

II. New Sub-Committee Member: Dan Alwine Introduction

Chair Hammond mentioned the departure of Co- Chair Kevin Sunday. Dan Alwine was invited to introduce himself.

Dan is from the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce. He advocates for the southwestern region of the state.

III. Co-Chair Vacancy

Sarah invited any member of the committee interested in the role of co-chair to let her or Kalie know. While not a necessity, Sarah shared that having co-chairs has been advantageous for the committee.

IV. Approval of the August 9, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chair Hammond asked for comments and questions on the August 9, 2023, minutes. Hearing none, Lisa Davis made a motion to approve. Bailey Thumm seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

V. 5-Year Action Plan Update

Chair Hammond invited Brandon Peters to offer an update on the 5-Year Action Plan.

Brandon began with the timeline illustrating community conversations starting in June and bringing us to October 6, at which time the DE survey closed. He noted that during this time, roundtables were held and included ISPs and stakeholders as well as focus groups and community conversations attended by veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with language barriers, etc. In total there were 23 conversations in 20 communities with a total of 600 attendees. Brandon shared consensus of feedback as well as specific comments. Both related to access, cost, and speed

He broke down survey numbers stating that 7406 were received with over 6800 submitted electronically with an additional 372 hard copies sent in by mail or completed at a public engagement event. The surveys reflected the issues and concerns that were shared by the in-person attendees.

Brandon went over the 13 challenges identified in the plan including physical barriers, permitting issues and digital literacy. Priorities listed included affordability, and access to sustainable and reliable networks. He also elaborated on specifics within the concern of affordability. Brandon noted that the 5-Year-Action plan is available to view.

Lisa Davis expressed appreciation for the extensive outreach.

VI. Initial Proposal Volume I & Volume II

Brandon presented on the Initial Proposal, beginning with the maps of the 279000 unserved and underserved locations. He explained that past and ongoing challenges are how this map is kept current.

He reported that Volume I of the IP comment period closed last night, and those comments are being reviewed. Volume I will be presented to the board at next week's meeting.

He went onto Volume II explaining that it is very detail oriented and includes in depth explanations of stakeholder coordination, cost barrier reduction, climate assessments, etc. It has been

reviewed by the PBDA team. It too will be open for public comment, followed by PBDA Board approval and submission to the NTIA by December 27, 2023.

Sarah asked for comments.

Lisa Davis asked about the unserved map, referencing Susquehanna and Wayne Counties appearing to be well-served.

Jesse Suders, Infrastructure Program Manager, clarified that the FFC broadband data collection system is informed by challenges from providers. He assured that the PBDA is looking at this seemingly well served area very closely. He noted that the information is fluid and that all areas that appear to have nothing unserved will be closely evaluated.

Brandon added that as the PBDA comes out with a challenge process in early 2024, it will be engaging its subcommittees to get out the word to challenge locations and to be part of the process.

VII. Statewide Digital (DE) Equity Plan & Stakeholder Engagement

Stephanie Perry, Digital Equity and Workforce Specialist provided an overview, beginning with the DE vision statement. She shared the plan's five goals, including access, skills, and security and went onto DE assets including literacy, affordability, and device access. Referring to the timeline, she noted the 6-week public comment period from November 27, 2023, through January 7, 2023.

Stephanie also referenced the community conversations, reiterating the themes mentioned by Brandon.

She shared that PBDA's consultant, Michael Baker International presented at Digital Equity week and facilitated an interactive exercise where participants offered feedback on the DE goals.

VIII. New Business

Chair Hammond asked committee members for new business. Hearing none she invited Kalie to bring public comment

IX. Public Comment

Kalie invited the public to comment.

Jim Mercante commented that even with the ACP, some families would still have a cost of \$45/month and for many of the families any cost above \$5/month is untenable. He proposes no-cost internet for members of covered populations

Marshall Lane expressed that as a member of the Philadelphia community, he has not heard of anything related to BEAD from anyone in the Philadelphia area. Lansdown City council

knew nothing of the broadband plan. He expressed the need for outreach to be more expansive. Kalie offered to continue the conversation with Marshall.

X. **Adjournment**

Chair Hammond asked for a motion to adjourn. Bailey Thumm motioned, and Lisa Davis seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:54pm.

DRAFT