**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**June 14, 2021**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via ZoomGov**

**Task Force Members Present:** Teddy Bekele, Yvonne Cariveau, Nolan Cauthen, Dale Cook,

Steve Fenske, Steve Giorgi, Bernadine Joselyn, Micah Myers, Theresa Sunde, Jim Weikum, Paul Weirtz, and Dave Wolf.

**Task Force Members Absent:** Jason Hollinday, Marc Johnson, and Brian Krambeer.

**Others in Attendance:** Sonya Borgeson-Bethke, Anna Boroff, Deven Bowdry, Zachary Cairns, Maren Christenson, Cristina Diaz, Angie Dickison, Amanda Duerr, Brian Frederick, Jenn Frost, Connie Martin, Alicia Munson, Dave Savolaine, Nathan Zacharias, and three unidentified participants.

1. **Welcome, Task Force Introductions, Attendee Introductions and Approval of Minutes from May 24, 2021 Meeting**

Chair Bekele called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. The minutes of the May 24, 2021 meeting were approved, and Chair Bekele reviewed the agenda for the current meeting. Members of the public attending the virtual meeting were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

1. **Update on 2021 State Legislation**

Deven Bowdry, DEED’s Government Relations Coordinator, provided an update on broadband legislation still pending in special session. During regular session, funding for the Border-to-Border grant program was moved out of the Agriculture bill with intent to fund via the Capital Projects Fund (section 604) of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); funding for OBD office operations remains in the Agriculture bill. A member of the Task Force suggested a communication on behalf of the Task Force to legislative leaders, and Chair Bekele indicated a communication tailored to the evolving situation will be considered.

1. **Presentation: Broadband Access & Policy Implications for Minnesota’s Disability Community**

Alicia Munson, Chief Program Officer of The Arc Minnesota, and Maren Christenson of the Multicultural Autism Action Network and member of The Arc Minnesota Board of Directors, delivered a presentation that covered the following:

* Overview of their respective organizations, The Arc Minnesota and the Multicultural Autism Action Network
* Overview of importance and impact of broadband access for the disability community
* Overview of disparities in broadband access for the disability community
* Overview of barriers and challenges to broadband access for the disability community
* Recommendations for policies and collaborations to address broadband accessibility issues for people with disabilities

The presentation was followed by a brief discussion of potential opportunities for collaboration and the presenters taking and responding to questions from Task Force members. The slides from the presentation are available at <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/broadband-access-implications-disability-community_tcm1045-488348.pdf>.

1. **Presentation: FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit**

Dave Savolaine of the FCC Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division delivered a presentation that covered the following:

* Description of the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB)
* Overview of eligibility criteria for EBB
* Overview of application and enrollment process
* Overview of outreach materials available from FCC

The presentation was followed by questions and comments from the Task Force members.

The slides from the presentation are available at <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/fcc-ebb_tcm1045-488347.pdf>.

1. **Subgroup Updates**

* *Accessibility, Affordability and Education* – Yvonne Cariveau
  + Marc Johnson is spearheading plans for in-person Task Force meeting that will focus on education
  + Institute for Local Self-Reliance presented to the subgroup at its last meeting
  + Subgroup is planning future meeting with Community Broadband Action Network
  + Subgroup is also planning to meet with Tribe representatives and Libraries Without Borders

Chair Bekele suggested that Community Broadband Action Network be invited to present to entire Task Force at future meeting (<https://broadbandaction.com/>).

* *Mapping and Speed Goal* – Nolan Cauthen
  + Nolan is seeking representative from Lumen CenturyLink to present to the group
  + Dave Wolf reported that Paul Solsrud from CNS has agreed to provide demo of CNS mapping tool at future Task Force meeting
* *Unserved/Underserved and Funding* – Theresa Sunde (for Paul Weirtz)
  + Subgroup arranged for the EBB presentation by FCC
  + No updates to share

1. **Public Comment, Other Business, July Meeting Plans, Wrap-up**

Chair Bekele provided update on securing report writer and will have more details at July meeting. Anna Boroff announced that Minnesota Cable has its annual cable and broadband meeting October 6-8 in Brainerd area. Steve Giorgi expressed concern about the term “reliably” in ARP guidance for broadband funding, and he urged that the Task Force reach out to state legislators; Chair Bekele indicated he will follow up on options for effective communication to legislators.

The next meeting will be July 28, and will include a presentation by MnDOT’s Connected & Automated Vehicles Office, a demonstration of the CNS Broadband Operations Map, and subgroup updates. Chair Bekele urged subgroups to meet before then and begin to formulate recommendations for the annual report.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.