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General Meeting

Monthly SCDI Meeting – 9/18/20

Notes

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The Sacramento Coalition for Digital Inclusion is focused on creating more opportunities for digital equity in the Greater Sacramento Region.

Welcome and Introductions
By Trish Kelly, Managing Director, Valley Vision
- SCDI got started last year due to leadership from the library and the City of Sacramento
- COVID-19 has revealed digital disparities, so it's timely to restart the coalition
- Three focus areas:
  - **Expanding broadband internet access**: infrastructure and getting connecting
  - **Digital technology/Hard Devices**
  - **Digital literacy/skills**
- Coalition can serve as a hub for partners to collaborate and elevate the critical issues in the community
- Purpose for breakout groups is to build on foundation of previous action plan, Preliminary Report of the Sacramento Coalition for Digital Inclusion, and continue building on our action plan going forward

City of Sacramento
Aubree Taylor, Administrative Technician, Office of Innovation and Economic Development
- Happy to offer any help, with involvement from others from the City
- Important time for the Coalition to restart, with so many things being done digitally now

Digital Inclusion Resource List
Jesse Flores, Valley Vision
- Coalition has built up an inventory of digital resources throughout the City, titled the Digital Inclusion Resource List
- Resources are listed under an Excel sheet with three focus areas and will continuously change as a living document
- Any ideas to improve the list or distribute it are welcomed
- A separate Digital Inclusion Resource List Updates form can help Coalition members easily update the inventory
- In Spring 2019, kids from Rutter Middle School, placed third place in the California Geographic Alliance's Story Map competition using geospatial data from the Resource List and Census data; willing to bring (Marc)
  - One or two students may be willing to update the Storymap
- Resource List will be placed on the SCDI website, which is currently being managed by the City
- We should have resource list available through 211 (Tom Bennett)

School Districts
Trish Kelly, Valley Vision
- Schools are preparing for the fall with distanced learning plans
- Negotiated with providers for hotspots and devices and low cost programs for families
  - However, some of these programs end at the end of the year, but how will they be continued?

Sacramento Public Library
Jarrid Keller, Deputy Director

- Curbside pick up and delivery at all 28 locations
- Opened up six locations for limited computer access
- Expanded reach of our wifi beyond the buildings out across parking lots
- We've partnered with the City on wifi hotspots

Los Rios Community College
Tamara Armstrong, Associate Vice Chancellor, Information Technology
- We try to prioritize our work and resources to assist disproportionately impacted students
- Hardware Devices
  - We're working on distribution principles across our four colleges, to minimize leaving those further left behind
  - We're looking into gathering data to see how needs met are translating to student outcomes
  - Spring and Fall 2020: we've distributed over 2,000 devices (between Chromebooks and laptops). Some were refurbished, others were new. Kevin Flash was of great help
  - While drive up services to pick up devices are no longer available, we're still shipping resources to students
- Broadband Internet
  - Partnership with Comcast on broadband; Comcast bills Los Rios for Internet essentials program for high need students
  - We've issues 4,000 codes for program; it was a more affordable option
  - We would like other internet service provider to participate in similar programs as well
- Digital Literacy/Skills
  - Many software applications and tools are being made accessible from home
  - We're in process of standing up a virtual technology support resource for students to call and get help
  - We seek partnerships with others to get students are well equipped

City of Sacramento CARES-Funded Workforce Program
Kriztina Palone, Workforce Development Manager, City of Sacramento
- City of Sacramento received $89 million in CARES funding
- Back in late July, Mayor and Council dedicated $10 million for a Workforce Development Program
- 44 proposals in five different categories (Digital skills, trades, supportive services and job placement, healthcare, and youth)
  - Totaling over $22 million in asks
- We developed a methodology of selecting recommended organizations
  - Focused on high COVID-impact areas and high-demand industries for Sacramento
- 30 applicants selected for the Sacramento CARES Workforce Recovery Funding
  - Three are specifically working on [digital inclusion and cyber workforce](#)

United Way Digital Inclusion Program
Tom Bennett, Senior Vice President, Community Impact
- Grant was given 2.5 weeks ago
- Three avenues with what we're looking at
  - Internet access
    - We're working with Comcast to cover Internet costs for families affected by COVID-19; CARES funding ends in December, so we're trying to figure out other ways to help them, so we're looking for funding and other opportunities elsewhere

- Partnering with AT&T and purchasing 350 hotspots for families that are in the City's district, but don't have access to a Comcast or other provider or seems to be a reasonable solution
  - A whole year's worth of service will be covered
- United Ways of California and the State of CA will host an Internet portal
  - Individuals can go on the Internet, put their address and zoom codes to it, and they'll get a list of Internet provider that are available to them, and opportunities for access
  - Limited to the City
    - o Digital technology
      - Some money will be provided for families who are in dire need of computers
      - We will be very careful with how we distribute computers; we want to ensure they go to families that are in high need
    - o Digital literacy
      - We'll be tying into programs with existing digital literacy programs
      - We're working with planning partners to develop resources
      - We will work nonprofit providers in high need communities, for direct services and to identify champions

Maria MacGunigal, Chief Information Officer, City of Sacramento
- City working on providing broadband computer equipment and training to families in need within City limits
- Notice of available funding was released, and United Way was selected to be the administrator for this program; they will be working in concert with CBOs to distribute computers and broadband access
- Other City initiatives (not part of United Way partnership)
  - o Expanded free wifi services in 22 parks; five more coming online in the next couple of months
  - o Trying to get as many hotspots to libraries so that they can loan hotspots

Getting to Action: Breakout Sessions
- We ask that members attend and participate in one of the following breakouts:
  - ○ **Broadband Internet Access** - Led by Dr. Yvonne Harris
  - ○ **Hardware Devices** – Led by Kevin Flash
  - ○ **Digital Literacy/Skills** – Led by Dr. David Espinoza

Breakout Report Back/Next Steps
- Detailed Breakout notes are attached
- Next meeting: Friday, October 23, 2020 (11:00-12:30pm)

Broadband Internet Access Subcommittee

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Initial topics brought to the breakout session included:

Assessing current broadband landscape (access & adoption) in the Greater Sacramento Region

- SCDI and CPUC maps and data
- Identifying priority areas for improved connectivity and adoption based on input from SCDI partners
- Surveying/Validating available broadband coverage
- Assessing potential solutions to expand connectivity and adoption
- Generating an inventory of available broadband access and adoption programs and grants
- Reaching out to potential applicants and support applications

A CalSpeed test was explained and demonstrated to validate Broadband speeds at households or other locations.

More topics brought by participants during the breakout session discussion included:

- Assessing why some households are still not signing up for low cost internet service plans
- More outreach to the community is needed … how can we address it?
- What are the priority areas and populations to conduct outreach?
- Need to work with existing CBOs

Next Steps for this breakout will be:

- Developing actionable activities and tasks
- Assigning leads and responsible parties

Kevin Flash facilitated the breakout on hardware devices, which included explaining the Subcommittee's history with SCDI's September 2019 report and the group's rising importance with the ongoing pandemic. Kevin brought forward a detailed work plan that the group generally approved of, and wished Subcommittee members to decide whether to be advocates, activists, or cheerleaders.

Capacity and Goals for 2020-2021
- Have Subcommittee members select role(s) amongst the following:
  - **Advocates:** To educate organizations based on the data and the story it tells
  - **Activists:** To get commitments from organizations to support change by contributing resources
  - **Cheerleaders:** To help the community celebrate change as it happens, and to keep informed and encourage the work
- Focus on education, specifically individuals in higher education
- We'll be engaging with the following stakeholders:
  - **Donators:** Find organizations or individuals who can donate hardware devices
  - **Refurbishers:** Engage with community and students who have experience in refurbishment
  - **Cost:** Find organizations or individuals who can cover costs of refurbishment

Responses towards Work Plan
- City of Sacramento will likely be in all three roles (Natasha)
  - The City's IT Department has been asking if they could refurbish for years
- COVID-19 has pushed the need for this work and a digitally literate workforce (Gabriel)
- Happy to see Kevin run with a work plan (Aubree)
- Sac State can play a role in the Coalition (Evren)
  - Some students don't have good internet connection and computer access
  - A relationship can be built with Sac State and faculty leading digital literacy efforts
- It's important to account for the nuances of acceptable devices for students
  - We have plenty of hardware surplus at our office; but it will be e-wasted since it's not suitable for student programs; if a computer doesn't have an Ethernet port, it's not worth it (DeNelle)
  - Broadband is most preferred, since wifi is disrupted
  - Kevin will contact DeNelle
  - Surprised by the performance level of a computer/laptop that our college technology requires (e.g, remote testing, programs, apps) (Chris)
  -

Action Items
- Kevin will contact DeNelle regarding acceptable devices
- Begin relationship-building with Sac State
- SCDI's 2019 report/recommendations will be shared

Digital Literacy/Skills Subcommittee

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Dr. Yvonne Harris facilitated the breakout on the following topics to establish a clear consensus to move forward as a working group. The group is interested in establishing actionable items as soon as possible. Dr. Harris reminded us to focus on a long distance race where we are aligning stepping stones (milestones) to lift and get started in a meaningful way. Discussion topics are indicated in bold, contributions by the working group members are summarized in the bullets. The group members will be further considering these questions and discussion before the next meeting, October 23, 2020, 11 am to 12:30 pm.

Definitions - What do we mean by digital literacy and digital skills?

- Cybersecurity is a literacy piece; people need to have a basic understanding about how to keep themselves secure; cybersecurity ties into workforce and training and jobs
- What individuals need to know to use digital tools to be competitive in our workforce
- Digital literacy is the skills you need to get an education, to develop more workforce skills and to keep yourself safe that you build upon in either education or workforce to advance
- Digital literacy is the ability to discern more subtle issues; is this person a troll, is this news real, is this something I need to pay attention to
- Includes critical thinking skills, having the ability to translate skills into different work environments, the ability to question if your skills are the best way to work and be able to transition to teleworking
- Platform used is really important; people may be comfortable with phones but not as comfortable with other platforms
- The ability to learn and be adaptable, ability to learn and look information up, ability to learn and know where to look to learn

Determining our Mission and Direction

- We need to support web literacy as students read, write and participate on the web
- Establish an awareness of what's new and coming in the classrooms
- #1 device (not phone) #2 support specific skills for whatever platform #3 up to classroom to teach critical thinking skills – skills to find the information to access

Milestones – How will measure

- Reach out to Sacramento County Office of Education to bring in data
- Establish baseline data for action plans

Action Plan

- Look at case studies to make recommendations to school districts
- Example: a school district in Ventura County moving from standard textbooks to digital with the two most disadvantaged schools, giving each student a Chromebook utilizing textbook funds.
- Bring our collective expertise, case studies and experience forward to make recommendations
- Identify key challenges and specific goals in K-12, higher education and workforce separately; identify gaps and/or case studies

The following resources were provided by Jared Amalong, SCOE:

Mozilla's Core Web Literacy Curriculum - https://foundation.mozilla.org/en/initiatives/web-literacy/core-curriculum/

Mozilla's 21C Framework and Whitepaper; Web Literacy 2.0 - https://mozilla.github.io/content/web-lit-whitepaper/#21st-century-skills