



## Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity Information Technology Sub-Committee



### AGENDA

July 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.  
Peoria Public Library – North Branch  
1312 W. Lincoln Ave., Peoria, IL 61605  
Hybrid Meeting/Zoom Access

Zoom Meeting (Access for members with Work/Emergency Issues)

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86027214923?pwd=QTZlajQ4RXNBelYxQ3BwSWFWL1NGdz09>

Meeting ID: 860 2721 4923

Passcode: fVXWf9

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
  - April 13, May 11, and June 15
3. **Informational Items and Reports**
  - Introduction to the New Liaison to our committee – Heather McMeekan
  - Report out from Peoria County Broadband Feasibility Study Information Session
4. **Discussion**
5. **Recommendations to the Steering Committee**
  - Investigate feasibility of using Wire Mesh Networks as alternative or addition to buried fiber cable
6. **New Business**
  - Next meeting August 10, 2023
7. **Adjournment**



## Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity



### Information and Technology Sub- Committee

#### MINUTES

Thursday, April 13, 2023

5:30pm – Via Zoom

#### Members Present:

X Dan McCloud	X Lisa Marie Schultz, Co-Chair
X Theresa Koehler	X Sunny Pearson
X Jamiel Shelton (joined 5:50)	X Jessica McKean (joined 5:50)

Also present: Zayn Hashmi – Data Analyst, ICC Cradle to Career

#### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 5:41 pm by Lisamarie Schultz

#### **2. Approval of Minutes**

April 2023 minutes were approved at end of meeting, once we had a quorum

#### **3. Informational Items and Reports**

#### **4. Discussion**

LM – Discuss Springfield, IL Digital Equity Plan to see if there are things we can take from their work. Kathie Brown suggested they might speak to our subcommittee regarding outreach. LM will reach out to them.

DM – Has ICC reached out on grants for IT Accelerate/Good Jobs Grant

TK – Can provide status update for next meeting. David Bess is in charge of that.

DM – felt methods of outreach from Springfield would be helpful, TK agreed.

LM – Would any survey questions from the GPEDC's BB survey of August 2022 be useful in shaping some of our questions for the Steering Committee?

DM – Those folks have more knowledge of issues. Keep us from repeating work that's been done prior.  
LM – Reiterated that these are questions to be asked of public in upcoming Listening Sessions to get qualitative info from the community about their lives/issues/needs, across all of Peoria County/City of Peoria.

LM – can we be more involved in the Illinois Office of Broadband listening sessions?

DM – need to stay in tune with what's going on – designate people to be at each meeting.  
Suggested calendar set up for Important events.

Zayn H – Asked about building out a survey or what phase we're at in terms of timeline.

DM & LM – we've collected quantitative data we now need qualitative.

SP – Qualitative data will always make most effective persuasive impact.

GPEDC's survey wasn't representative – only 1300 homes surveyed.

ZH – only 400-600 individuals

SP – virtual/digital survey and paper exit survey to use at various meetings with public are necessary.

DM – need to find out what limitations/barriers were to survey. Use survey as resource for ideas/ask open ended questions.

JM – In Meeting with City, learned they are applying for a multi-million dollar grant to put fiber in 61605

TK – I3 applying for grant money

JM—they'll have to match part of it – Will invite Joe Dulin, City of Peoria Community Development Director, to our next meeting. City helping I3 write grant. Unused ARPA funds from Covid may be used.

LM – need to discuss in-person/hybrid/zoom meetings in future. Benefits to meeting in person

SP – add location question to survey for days/times, etc.

LM – grant questions sent to Melodi Green and Andre Allen. If we can get grants what should we look to do?

PC's for People/Directory of those in Peoria & Illinois working on BB & DE issues/

SP – build out trusted partners spreadsheet / see what trusted partners are working on.

JS – Comcast Cares Day – rehab areas/add broadband/donate computers. Comcast might be partner to provide to community centers, etc.

DM – Reach out to partners at areas it would be helpful.

LM – PC's for People need Financial Partner (maybe Corporate entity)

JS – Goodwill training classes. Create pamphlets/brochures to distribute lists of resources. Set up tables.

SP – meet with smaller agencies and develop outreach in this niche area

TK – to get computers from PC4P, they need to be signed up for ACP prior.

## **7. Adjournment**

Adjourned meeting at 6:41 pm



## Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity



### Information and Technology Sub- Committee

#### MINUTES

Thursday, May 11, 2023 @ 5:30pm  
Via Zoom

#### Members Present:

Shawn Johnson	X Jenny Replogle
X Theresa Koehler	X Lisa Marie Schultz, Co-Chair
Dan McCloud – Co Chair	X Jamiel Shelton (5:41 joined)
Jessica McKean	X Datikka Wright (5:44 joined)
X Sunny Pearson	

Also present: Andre Allen – Peoria County  
Zayn Hashmi – ICC

#### 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Lisamarie Schultz

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

#### 3. Informational Items and Reports

Discussed grant writing possibilities/funding request legalities. Question went to the City and answer should come through within next couple of weeks.

#### 4. Discussion

- Talked about meeting locations/possibility of hybrid meetings in wake of lifting Covid Emergency Declaration. Andre said City/County investigating meeting requirements.

- Lincoln Library is only library open during our meeting times, St. Paul's Episcopal on North Street off War Memorial. Is meeting time convenient for people? Jamiel is working 2-10:30 M-F
- Andre needs to be at County Board meeting which conflicts with this, but colleague may cover
- Talked about Illinois Office of Broadband Listening Sessions – Theresa and Jenny were on meeting.
- Galesburg seems to have similar issues to us. Facilitators didn't realize there were entire zip codes that lack highspeed broadband. Interactive maps were helpful – link in chat. Talked about barriers – enough devices, knowledge, how to use it, challenge of accessing telehealth
- LM – lack of any broadband in rural areas of county, terrible internet/terrible test scores for Pleasant Valley School. Challenge for both rural and city getting broadband from the street to the dwelling. Will talk to Farm Bureau Chair of Committee looking at Broadband.
- Illinois Office of Broadband Listening Sessions were prep for funding disbursements/needs
- Workforce Accelerator at ICC – creating larger pool of IT workers
- SP – Goodwill has program to do at own pace, designed by Meta for certification in Social Media Marketing 100% free, can't get anyone to enroll – similar to the Caterpillar Foundation training in IT. Money is available for training –why are people not being reached?
- SP – people are working 2 part time jobs or full-time plus part-time job – don't have time to work on education.
- LM – ICC & OSF are doing more apprenticeships – is that a way to replace one of the part-time jobs?
- Andre Allen left meeting 6:11pm
- Sunny spoke about trying to reach out to high schools about programs and not getting buy-in
- Zayn – Cradle to Career -- ICC survey finalized, Beta surveys done within team, community outreach at afterschool events but hard to get responses. Put together plan to reach out to reps at schools/community partners to combine resources to have people respond to surveys. Education side is main focus, but workforce & internet are included in survey.
- Map on IL Broadband inaccurate -- show service (LT & 5G) where we know there is none
- How do we share info about lack of accuracy with orgs that are going to provide dollars for BB installation?
- Steering Committee listening sessions/forums are looking for first-person stories about how Broadband affects their lives.
- Any interest in forming small groups?
- SP talked about last PC's for People event. Trouble with ACP registration, which ran counter to instructions on flyers which had been distributed; people gave up. Wifi hotspots didn't come to event as promised, event started 3 hours late. Wrap Around Center did their best to help. Love concept/hate execution
- Will Tikka reach out to Dell regarding donation of items, need for documentation, etc.
- We need to know who's doing what and who's doing it well regarding IT

- Datikka asked about PC's for People management & concerns. SP – staff is Chicago based, disconnected from our community. Consultant suggested we reach out to East Bluff Center.
- Jenny – are we gathering info or actually trying to do things related to IT Justice & Equity
- LM – our charter is to gather info and make recommendations to Mayor & County Board, but if there are areas we can help and we can access grants (per lawyers at City & County) we need to look into that. We won't be financing, but we need to make connections based on deeper knowledge of how things are in the community
- Datikka Wright left meeting at 6:50
- JS – spoke to Comcast Cares Community Days
- Are there ways to connect Comcast with trusted partners in need
- Jamiel – brochures about where to get services. We need to know who's working on these issues in City and County and what their reputations are in community
- SP – Our subcommittee is constantly growing, moving field -- it grows so fast. Between Christmas and now, AI interface use at drive-throughs, navigating non-profit through Chat GPT
- JS – would Workforce be a resource?
- SP – can we do townhall with agencies/orgs that are working in this area, and make them aware of us? JS – can we do public outreach lunch that helps give out info.
- Can we provide additional info to people who attend our listening sessions. We don't have time to put together resource book by this summer. HOPE Network group email – send email to group with needs of client, etc.
- Jenny left meeting at 6:52
- Give ideas about possible ideas for small groups over next weeks
- ZH – What is methodology for marketing to groups? LM – we'll need to discuss that further
- SP – Goodwill did primary Social Media ads -- targeted boosted ads within Zipcodes they were trying to reach, had zero response with FB boosted. Did Linked IN, Instagram but no trad media. Marketing Director doesn't believe in investing in media marketing local services.

## **5. Recommendations to the Steering Committee**

## **6. New Business**

Next Meeting July 13, 2023

## **7. Adjournment**

Adjourned meeting at 6:54 pm



## Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity



### Information and Technology Sub- Committee

#### MINUTES

Thursday, June 15, 2023 @ 5:30pm

Lincoln Public Library

(Hybrid Meeting w/Zoom Access )

#### Members Present:

Shawn Johnson	Jenny Replogle
X Theresa Koehler	X Lisa Marie Schultz, Co-Chair
X Dan McCloud – Co Chair	X Jamiel Shelton (via Zoom)
Jessica McKean	Datikka Wright
Sunny Pearson	

#### 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Lisamarie Schultz

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

There being no quorum, minutes were not approved.

#### 3. Informational Items and Reports

#### 4. Discussion

The committee members present agreed that virtual attendance is allowed and shall count toward the quorum.

Lisa and Dan presented information from the last Co-Chairs meeting with the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee thought that each sub-committee would benefit from having a liaison from the Steering Committee. Our Steering Committee liaison is Heather McMeekan . County liaison is Andre Allen. (One of

Andre's colleagues will cover for when he has County Board meeting conflicts.) City is hiring someone to do liaison work.

The Steering Committee noted that sub-committees are having difficulties getting a quorum, so they are considering rewriting the Charter to turn the "sub-committees" into "working groups", in which case the Open Meetings Act would not apply to the working groups. This would allow work to get done faster since we wouldn't be stymied by lack of a quorum. Working groups would still make recommendations to the Steering Committee who would move those recommendations on to City Council, Mayor, & County Board. There was some discussion about possible lack of transparency due to change in charter.

Peoria JCRJE has a webpage on Peoria County Government website. Each sub-committee has a section within the webpage. Hopefully one person will be managing that, and there will be one consistent voice on our webpage sections.

The Steering Committee is meeting with the NAACP, along with other partners on June 15. There is also potential for a partnership with the United Way.

Our subcommittee needs to be acknowledged as a partner in broadband but is having problems connecting with people, especially in City/County Government. Lisa will email Andre Allen to ask about access to county meetings and individuals involved.

Lisa reminded subcommittee that Kathie Brown (Greater Peoria Economic Development Council) suggested that a grant financing the creation of a comprehensive list of organizations/individuals working on broadband issues would be a benefit to our work and to our community partners.

Discussed what we learned through Illinois Office of Broadband listening sessions, which many of us attended. Manual High School has created a digital equity lab to prepare students to get internships in the field. Denise Moore has some digital equity classes at the Minority Business Development Center. We will reach out to her.

LM met with Kiersten Sheets, a board member from Peoria Farm Bureau. She indicated that they are looking into internet accessibility in rural areas and have interviewed 5 ISPs. Farm Bureau did a broadband feasibility study last year. Installing buried fiber cable is considered the best way to future-proof digital access, but it's expensive -- \$480,000 per mile. With satellites there are line-of-site issues caused by weather or other interference, plus cost issues, so they're looking for alternatives. There is hesitancy on the part of land owners to allow cable to be buried as they've been burned in the past -- led to believe cable would help them and their neighbors but they can't access the cable that's laid on their property as it's for a specific (corporate) use. ( e.g. OSF has fiber going through properties, but residents cannot attach to it because it is only used by OSF.) Pleasant Valley School has terrible internet service which may disrupt the students' education.

It was interesting to note that the Farm Bureau has 10,000 city members and only 1,500 county members.



The Benton Institute selected Peoria/Woodford County for the second cohort of the Accelerate Illinois Broadband Infrastructure Planning Program.

#### **5. Recommendations to the Steering Committee**

#### **6. New Business**

There was some discussion about wire mesh network, especially Project Waves in Baltimore. They are using wire mesh, point-to-multi-point networks, and other ways to connect. Service is free to residents in low-income neighborhoods. LM will contact Project Waves to see if we can speak to them about their program.

Next Meeting July 13, 2023

#### **7. Adjournment**

Adjourned meeting at 6:11 pm