WNY Digital Equity Coalition Full Member Meeting 2024-03-20

Attendance

- Ann Battaglia; Chief Executive Officer; Healthy Community Alliance
- Rachel Bonsignore; Director; Liftoff WNY
- Christine Carr-Barmasse; Executive Director; Mission:Ignite
- Isaac Carrasco-Ortiz; Digital Inclusion Coordinator at ABCD Elder Services (Boston, MA)
- Courtney Deuro; Program Assistant; Center for Self Advocacy
- Katie Earl; Community Recreation Coordinator for the Aging; Erie County Senior Services
- Dave Falgiano; Senior Vice President/Security & Network Infrastructure Manager; M&T Bank
- Matt Giordano; President; Villa Maria College
- Vicki Haas; Business Assistance Specialist; Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
- Trent Hamilton; Community Coalition Member; Entrepreneur School of Thought
- Steve Heist; VP; Information Technology & CIO; OneBridge Benefits
- Amanda Horner; Outreach Specialist; Americorps and Mission: Ignite
- Jacqueline Hovey; Librarian I, Branch Manager; Buffalo & Erie County Library
- Matthew Hubacher; Vice President for Research; Invest Buffalo Niagara
- Mandi Joyce-Phelps; Planner; Allegany County Planning and Tourism
- Sheila Kalkbrenner; Digital Literacy and Wellness Coordinator; Ardent Solutions
- Hex Kleinmarten; Digital Literacy Coordinator; Literacy Buffalo Niagara
- Heather La Forme-Maldonado; Bureau of Native American Services; Office of Children and Family Services
- Brett Lawton; Chief Executive Officer; Universal Primary Care/Southern Tier Community Health Center Network
- Dennis Lee; Community Coalition Member; Hopewell Baptist Church
- Don Matteson; Chief Program Officer; Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation
- Amy Miranti; Administrative & Communications Associate; Liftoff & WNY Nonprofit Support Group
- Simone Ragland; Families Aimed Toward Excellence FATE; Digi-Code Learning Project
- Jeff Sanderson; Vice President of Strategic Initiatives; People Inc.
- Adrianna Seewaldt; Executive Community Relations Coordinator; Literacy West
- Sherry Sherrill; Coalition Community Member; Covington Associates
- Bob Spino; Director of Technology; Erie 2-Chautaqua-Cattaraugus BOCES
- Heidi Ziemer; Outreach & Digital Equity Coordinator; Western New York Library Resources Council
- Richard Zink; Executive Director; Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board

Announcements

No announcements

Project Updates

Don shared that he built a Coalition Projects dashboard page using Notion. It can be accessed at https://wnydigitalequity.link/project-status. It is readable to anyone with the link, but only invited people can edit (with a free Notion account). As it's better developed, Don will extend invitations to project teams to edit the pages associated with their projects.

Communications Workgroup

- Amanda Horner, project lead for the Communications Workgroup provided a brief update on the latest newsletter.
- The most recent newsletter went out last Friday (March 15)
- If people aren't already, they can use this link to subscribe: https://mailchi.mp/wnydigitalequity/wny-digital-equity-coalition-e-newsletter-signup.
- Content to be included in the monthly newsletter can be submitted at: https://wnydigitalequity.link/submit-news. This can include information about a project you're working on, something that your organization is doing.
- Please email Amanda if you're interested in joining the Communications Workgroup.

Convening

- Don announced that the results of the event scheduling poll pointed to May 17, 2024 as the date for the next convening.
- The Convening Planning Committee is still working on identifying a location, as the date needed to be established before it could explore venue options.
- The intended overall structure for the convening is to include ample time for networking, some coalition capacity-building (e.g., working on mission/vision/values), and planning to position the Coalition and its members for upcoming funding opportunities.

Governance

Steering Committee

- Don shared that the Steering Committee met its goals of not only being formed by the end of March, but also meeting before the end of March.
- The Steering Committee consists, for the moment, of Christine Carr-Barmasse (Mission:Ignite), Steve Heist (OneBridge Benefits), Shiela Kalkbrenner (Ardent Solutions), Sam Mattle (Center for Self Advocacy), Jeff Sanderson (People Inc.), and Bob Spino (Erie 2 BOCES).
- For now, the Steering Committee will meet the week before the full-member meeting.
- The first meeting was mostly orientation for the Steering Committee. Don reviewed with them the Committee's charter, the goals and measurement document created in 2021, and reviewed current financial information.

- Don noted that there is still $70,000 available for regranting within the Coalition. Projects do need to be systems change-oriented. One framework to consider that Don likes (and that Liftoff Director Rachel Bonsignore uses in her work) is the [Water of Systems Change](). It identifies six conditions for systems change, including: policy, practice, funding, power dynamics, relationships, and mental models. The document is oriented towards philanthropy, but the model is more broadly applicable.

Other Discussion

ConnectALL Broadband Challenge Process
- Heidi Ziemer shared a link for the NYS ConnectALL Office's webinar on the NYS Broadband Challenge, scheduled for 3:00pm on March 21, 2024. ([Slide deck](); recording of webinar to be available under the "Resources" section of the [NYS Broadband Challenge Page]())
- This process is important, as broadband coverage maps are often very inaccurate. If a single household within a census tract has broadband service, that entire census tract is considered to be served. This tends to overestimate coverage. The current Public Service Commission broadband map is available [here](). For comparison, the state of Massachusetts map is available [here]().

User Interface Challenges for Seniors
- Isaac Carrasco-Ortiz observed that the seniors he works with get frustrated using apps because user interface elements are not consistent across platforms. He was wondering whether anyone was looking at the intersections of digital equity, digital inclusion, and user interfaces.
- Several Coalition members offered to follow-up with Isaac after the meeting to discuss this issue and connect him to people who might be helpful.