UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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COMMUNICATIONS EQUITY AND DIVERSITY COUNCIL

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MEETING

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FRIDAY
JULY 22, 2022

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The Advisory Committee met via Videoconference, at 10:30 a.m. EDT, Heather Gate, Chairwoman, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

JESSICA ROSENWORCEL, Chairman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

HEATHER GATE, Committee Chairwoman
SUSAN AU ALLEN, Vice Chair
NICOL TURNER LEE, Vice Chair
CLAYTON BANKS, Silicon Harlem
MATTHEW BAUER, Wireless Research Center
CAROLINE BEASLEY, Beasley Media Group, LLC
ROBERT BRANSON, Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council
ROBERT BROOKS, Howard University
JOI CHANEY, National Urban League
MICHELE COBER, Verizon
MELODY SPANN COOPER, Midway Broadcasting Corporation
GRAHAM "SKIP" DILLARD, WQHT-FM/WBLS-FM New York City, MediaCo Inc.
SARAH KATE ELLIS, GLAAD
ANNA GOMEZ, Hispanic National Bar Association
CECELIA GORDON, Starz
DOMINIQUE HARRISON, Joint Center for Political

and Economic Studies
DAVID HONIG, JulGlo Productions, LLC
JILL HOUGHTON, Disability: IN
CHRIS JAMES, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development
RONALD JOHNSON, Wireless Infrastructure Association
SHERMAN KIZART, Kizart Media Partners
NICOLE LAZARRE, Charter Communications
ROSA MENDOZA, ALLvanza
AAMA NAHUJA, A Wonder Media Company
LOUIS PERAERTZ, Wireless Internet Service Provider Association
HENRY RIVERA, Emma Bowen Foundation
STEVEN ROBERTS, The Roberts Companies
VICKIE ROBINSON, Microsoft
BRIAN SCARPELLI, ACT/The App Association
CHARLYN STANBERRY, National Association of Broadcasters
JOYCELYN TATE, National Coalition on Black Civic Partnership
ANTONIO TIJERINO, Hispanic Heritage Foundation
JAMES WINSTON, National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters
CHRISTOPHER WOOD, LGBT Technology Partnership & Institute

COMMISSION STAFF:

JAMILA BESS JOHNSON, Designated Federal Official, CEDC, Media Bureau
KEYLA HERNANDEZ-ULLOA, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer, CEDC, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
AURELIE MATHIEU, Attorney Advisor, CEDC, Wireline Competition Bureau
HOLLY SAURER, Chief, Media Bureau

*Present by teleconference

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

10:34 a.m.

MS. SAURER: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the third meeting of the Communications and Equity Diversity Council. I am Holly Saurer, Chief of the Media Bureau. On behalf of the Bureau, I want to thank you all for your work to date.

As today's schedule will show, that work has been significant. I look forward to hearing about your most recent findings during the course of today's meeting, and to hear about your future plans.

Next week will mark the midway point of the CED's charter, and I for one am impressed by your contributions to date. Before we get started, I want to just specifically thank Chair Heather Gates and Vice Chairs Dr. Nicol Turner Lee and Sue Allen for their leadership.

I know you all have a packed agenda today, so without further delay, I would like to introduce Chairwoman Rosenworcel for her opening remarks. Chairwoman, the virtual floor is yours.

CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL: Thank you Holly, and Happy Friday to everybody. As always,

it's great to be with the FCC's Communication Equity and Diversity Council. So when we last met and of course virtually in February, I gave you quite the homework assignment. Congress had recently passed and the President had signed the historic bipartisan infrastructure law.

Now the law directed the FCC to stand up the Affordable Connectivity Program, which is the largest broadband affordability effort in United States history. Now I'm proud to say that we've got more than 13 million households that count on that program today to stay online, and just yesterday I was in North Carolina with Vice President Harris to tout our progress with ACP enrollment.

Of course, if that's all the law asked us to do at the Commission, you know, we would have been more than busy. But of course this group knows that's not the case at all, because it also directed the Commission to, and I quote here, take steps to ensure that all people of the United States benefit from equal access to broadband Internet access service.

Beyond that, the law specifically calls to the FCC to, and again I'm going to quote

the law, "adopt final rules to facilitate equal access to broadband Internet access service including preventing visual discrimination of access based on income level, race, ethnicity, color, religion or national origin."

In addition, we have been directed to develop model policies and best practices that can be adopted by states and localities to ensure that broadband Internet access service providers do not engage in digital discrimination. So when I saw this language included in this new law, I had a few immediate thoughts.

My first thought was this is a big deal. Digital discrimination is real and it's important to see Congress elevate this issue in a landmark piece of legislation. Now the second thought was this. This will not be easy. Even though redlining is illegal, we know discrimination still persists in all kinds of infrastructure deployment.

But now for the first time a federal agency is being asked to look specifically at tackling those kind of inequities in the deployment of wire and wireless broadband infrastructure. We know that ensuring equal

access to Internet service is just going to require some creative solutions.

So my third thought was this is a job for the CEDC. You see you have broad and deep experience grappling with these issues from all different positions, perspectives and interests. So I ask you to work with the Commission as an independent partner, in light of what Congress has asked us to do.

So the CEDC's divergent interests and points of view is what makes you collectively so well suited for this task. It also helps to ensure we're looking at these challenges from every angle, and that the interests of all stakeholders are included.

So let's be honest. It also adds a degree of difficulty to your job. When everyone brings a different perspective to a challenge, you end up with better answers. But the more divergent those perspectives are, the more work it's going to be to build consensus around solutions.

Like I said earlier, these are not easy issues. There's no path for developing model policies to prevent digital discrimination

without some bumps along the way. I really want you to know that I appreciate the challenges that you have had to shoulder during this process, and I really want to thank you for your willingness to bear those burdens and do that hard work. I know it hasn't always been easy. But I understand you have made real progress.

But I also appreciate that the Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group is working on what is a particularly challenging portion of this task, and in just a few months the DEI Working Group has done a tremendous amount of legwork, deep thinking and consensus-building.

I also understand that the group is going to need a little more time to come even closer to that kind of consensus that moves things forward. So after consulting with Chair Gate and our leadership, I've asked Chair Gate to continue meeting with the DEI Working Group and Dr. Harrison to further consider this issue together, to see what additional progress you can make toward that consensus.

I know that's not a small ask. This group has already contributed a lot of time and

energy to this effort, and I want you to know your contributions are significant and they're important. I believe that with a little more time this committed group of professionals and subject matter experts can get even closer on how best to achieve broadband access to digital equity for all.

So I want to thank every individual who has contributed to the work of the Council. But our time's limited, so I'm going to settle for highlighting just a few. Your Chair, Heather Gate; your co-chair Susan Au Allen and Nicol Turner Lee. Your working group chairs, Robert Brooks, Dominique Harrison and Christopher Wood, and as always, a big thank you to the FCC staff who support the Council, Jamila Bess Johnson, Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa and Rashann Duvall and Aurelie Mathieu.

Thank you all for your efforts and thank you to others who are listening to mention. The bottom line is I can't wait to hear more today about what you've come up with, and of course what we hear today does not include the total of the Council's contributions to the Commission's mission.

We are not at the end of our journey together. The Council's charter lasts another year, and we're going to continue to look forward to your additional contributions in the coming year. And with that, I just want to thank you one more time for the effort you put into today and the effort you've put in to date and the effort you're putting in going forward. Thanks Holly. Back to you.

MS. SAURER: Thanks very much, and then I think we are next going to -- is it me or is it Jamila, Sorry. Jamila. Thank you, Jamila.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Thank you Holly, and thank you Chairwoman Rosenworcel. It has been a while since we last met in February, and the Council has been quite busy in that time. Today's agenda reflects the many and varied issues that this advisory committee is tasked to examine.

We have two agenda items today for the Council's consideration for adoption, one on the importance of using diverse contractors and suppliers in grants and contracts flowing from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the other is on the critical need to recognize

intersectionality in broadband access and digital equity.

These are incredibly important issues, and we look forward to hearing these reports. In that regard, I'd like to extend my personal appreciation to ACCDE Chair Emeritus Anna Gomez. This is Anna's final meeting in her current role.

Anna has served this Council and its predecessor advisory committee with great distinction. She has been a steady, reliable, conscientious presence in this body, and we can't thank her enough. We wish you well on your retirement Anna. Thank you for everything.

Now we will have welcome remarks from co-deputy Designated Federal Officer Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa. Keyla.

MS. HERNANDEZ-ULLOA: Thank you Jamila and good morning everyone, and thank you to Chairwoman Rosenworcel and Holly for their remarks. Very insightful. I'm going to make my remarks very brief. I look forward to today's discussion. There has been a lot of work put into today's meeting, and I want to thank everyone that was associated with it, especially all the working group members for their fine

efforts to keep this -- these important issues moving forward.

I'd like to also thank Jamila and Rashann and of course Aurelie for all their help to support me, to make this meeting very fruitful and very insightful. So with that, I would like to just again thank everyone, that there are a lot of people here that I would like to thank personally.

But I will say thank you to everyone who has made this effort, and I look again forward to this discussion. Back to you Jamila.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Thank you, Keyla. And now we'll here from our newest associate, welcome remarks from Aurelie Mathieu. Aurelie.

MS. MATHIEU: Good morning everyone. Thank you Jamila, thank you Keyla, Chairwoman Rosenworcel, Holly. This is my first CEDC meeting. I'll start by introducing myself. My name is Aurelie Mathieu, and I am now an attorney advisor with the CEDC, and I'm also with the Wireline Competition Bureau's Competition Policy Division.

I want to echo our thanks to the many leaders in this group, and look forward to the

meeting today. Thank you, and I'll pass the torch back to Jamila.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Thank you very much Aurelie. We're happy to have you. And now it's my pleasure to turn the meeting over officially to our esteemed chair, Heather Gate. Good morning, Heather.

CHAIR GATE: Good morning Jamila. Thank you Holly for opening the meeting, and thank you very much Chairwoman Rosenworcel. Thank you for trusting us with this huge, huge and important challenge. This is very challenging work as I'm glad you recognize, and as you said, Chairwoman Rosenworcel, this is a big deal.

If we look at spending a bit more time, especially with the Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group working on this issue, I have to begin by honoring my CEDC members, who have dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort to this task for the past four months, by participating in meetings, some of them three to four meetings a week, interviewing experts, jumping into tackle any challenges, gathering information, jumping (audio interference)

experts, jumping in to tackle any challenges, gathering information, jumping (audio interference).

Having served in several of these committees, I've not seen a group work harder, commit more time to the process and effort as I've seen in the last four months. To put it into perspective, we were able to achieve more in four months than previous committees that I've served on did in two years, in the two-year term.

Now I have to be frank. This process has not always been easy. In the same period of time, members of the committee experienced COVID. We had a couple of members suspend activities due to medical crises. We've had members experience death in their family -- families, and yet we persisted. Discussions around these (audio interference) due to medical crisis. We've had members (audio interference) that are sometimes painful to confront.

Additionally, as a truly diverse body of experts, not only -- not only as individuals but as the organizations that we represent, we sometimes have divergent viewpoints based on our personal and professional experiences. But yet

we accepted the collaborative space that the FCC has provided us.

And you know what? In the words of Sundar Pichai, a diverse mix of voices lead to a better discussion, decisions and outcomes for everybody. So thank you to all the CEDC members for approaching this work with a spirited effort and the passion that it deserves, and for also keeping a keen eye on the ball.

We understand what's at stake with this task. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the bipartisan infrastructure law, represents a momentous step towards bridging the digital divide, and advancing equal access. Congress rightfully recognizes in this Act that in today's world, access to affordable, reliable and high speed broadband is essential for any person to fully participate in our modern society in the United States.

With that said, failure is -- failure to meet this moment is not an option. States, U.S. territories and tribal communities have been given a huge responsibility to administer several broadband projects, collectively known was

"Internet for All." Over $48 billion will go towards developing state broadband plans, digital equity plans, advancing infrastructure deployments, managing grant programs, managing and funding programs that advance broadband adoption, digital skills, meaningful use.

This is a lot of work to do. So while the onus of these programs are on the states to successfully plan, implement and manage in an equitable fashion, the FCC has tasked us with empowering them with model policies and best practices, to avoid digital discrimination and advance digital equity.

This is why I appreciate Chairwoman Rosenworcel for affording this Council the opportunity to explore the challenges associated with barriers to adoption and use of broadband. This diverse body of experts is exactly where it needs to be, doing exactly what needs to be done to provide these recommendations to the FCC. And like I keep saying, this is not easy work.

While we come from different viewpoints, experiences and priorities, one thing binds us together, and it is the desire to be part of the solution. What matters most is not

the nuts and bolts of broadband infrastructure, but it's the people that we represent.

It is the students who are unable to participate in their own life classes during COVID. It is the grandmother who was unable to schedule a telehealth visit. It is the aspiring entrepreneur who is unable to leverage the power of the Internet to thrive. It is the small business owner who is unable to compete for opportunities to participate in these federal programs.

For me personally, having worked with Connected Nation for over two decades, some of the biggest moments of my life have been with people, whether it was helping an elder from a Hopi tribe send her first email, or taking a trailer with refurbished computers to eastern Kentucky to deliver computers to families in some of the most economically disadvantaged counties in the country.

Thank goodness for modern, for innovation. We do not have to transport those CRT monitors anymore. Or for participation in a coding camp with at risk youth in Louisville, Kentucky. We are here as a collective because we

care, and that is the guiding principle for all work. Our mission is to make recommendations to the FCC on advancing equity and the provision of full access to digital communications for all people of the United States.

I want to close by extending my thank yous to everybody that has been a critical part of this process, so bear with me as I try to go as far as possible. So first of all, I'd like to thank my vice chairs, Dr. Turner Lee, Dr. Nicol Turner Lee and Susan Au Allen. You ladies are my rock, my trusted colleagues and the ultimate experts.

Your efforts and expertise in your respective fields are well-documented and respected across the country. I'm proud to lead this Council with you. To our Working Group chairs, Dr. Harrison, Robert Brooks and Chris Woods, I appreciate your hard work very much. Being a Working Group chair is a very demanding task, and it is sometimes under-appreciated.

I want you to know that you are very appreciated at those meetings, in managing those meetings, and that's a huge task. I want to thank all the Working Group members for your

diligence and your attention to detail and showing up and doing the work.

I want to thank our Designated Federal Officers for keeping us honest, showing us the way and being our trusted leaders, namely Jamila Bess Johnson, Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa, Aurelie Mathieu and Rashann Duvall. I want to express my appreciation for all the organizations that are represented in this Council, working groups, whether it is the Internet service providers, technology companies, non-profits, public interest group associations, academia, broadcast business owners.

Thank you all for allowing your representatives to dedicate a significant amount of time to this public service. I'd also like to recognize our Chairwoman Emeritus, Anna Gomez as she departs. Thank you, thank you very much Anna for your leadership, your service and your willingness to always jump in and do the grunt work. Thank you so much for your service.

I will end on this note. As we continue the second half of our term, may we continue to work with a shared desire for digital inclusion, digital equity, equal access because

we all win when we uplift those, the least among us. At this point, I'd like to welcome Vice Chair Dr. Nicol Turner Lee to offer her opening comments.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: All right. Thank you so much Chairwoman Gate, and I want to also echo a similar sentiment of thank you and gratitude to all of you on this call, our CEDC members, Working Group and subject matter experts, the Honorable Chairwoman Rosenworcel for her remarks this morning as well as her leadership team, our DFOs, Jamila, Keyla, Rashann, Aurelie, and my co-chair in addition to our leader, Chairwoman Gate. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

I tickle myself often, and this is for the members of the public for a short fact. I've been on this Committee in some way or form since Chairman Genachowski was the chairman of the FCC. So it's been interesting to watch the evolution, and more importantly, it's been interesting to see just how significant this body of leadership is in the discussion and deliberation of communications policies.

With that being said, let me first

start my remarks by just sharing something with all of you. It took 13 months after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on December 1st of 1955, and that action for many of us who were either there or read about it, sparked the Montgomery bus boycott that later ruled that segregation of public buses was unconstitutional.

Again, that effort lasted 381 days, to be exact, and it would highlight our beloved leader and person that we have all adored when it came to his leadership, among the others that were aligned or colleagues or friends of his, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.

I share that fact because what we were charged with by the Commission was half the time. In fact, 182, 190 days to be exact, to solve a pressing issue of discrimination that not only affects people who are not connected to the Internet, but affects many of us who represent ourselves and constituents who are denied on a daily, weekly, monthly annual basis equal opportunity in other settings.

I know that many of you know me, that in terms of what I'm referring to, we're talking about the type of equity that we have seen denied

to historically disadvantaged and other vulnerable groups and tribal, indigenous people when it comes to housing, employment, education, financial services, voting and other significant civil rights.

So this charge that we were given in half the time of one particular activity during the civil rights movement, is historic, yes because of the fact that it was worth of given to us the way that Lyndon B. Johnson sort of commissioned the Kerner Report. But it was given to us as a charge to try to solve what is becoming the next civil right in our modern day society.

I share that as a person like Heather, who I've actually known for the last two decades, who has watched people who are trying to connect outside of an analog society, where being connected to the Internet matters, where that lack of access before the pandemic affected their ability to learn, live, earn and communicate with family and friends.

It would take the pandemic, my friends, for us to see just how deep this problem really is, and it would take the pandemic for all

of us on this Committee to even realize that our constituents, even though that we're not necessarily just one attribute of a federally protected class, our friends in the LGBTQ community, our friends in the disability community also happen to be a person of color, or our older friends, they were most impacted by the inability to engage in a physical space.

So this charge that we have been given in half the time of what it normally takes to spark true social change is historic, and it's also necessary for us to think about ways in which we begin this process, and that it does not end. I share that because as Heather has pointed out as well as the Chairwoman, this actually comes with a price tag. It's called $65 billion, alongside an affordability program that is going to advance accelerate the type of equity and inclusion that many of us actually have been striving for for decades.

But it does not come without accountability, and that's why I think the conversations that we've had over the last few months, particularly for the general public as you listen to this meeting, that the liberation

has not been easy. But it's been necessary and critical, and you're going to hear throughout this meeting a variety of takes on various aspects of what could be considered the type of discrimination that is denying access and entry into a new digital economy.

This is an area that's not going to take probably the two-year charter that we have. But it's going to be a time where we can ensure as an advisory that the money that is being expended, the historic pot of money that is being expended alongside the programs, are equitably distributed to the people that need it the most, and the businesses that should be part of that ecosystem, and the walkers that should be benefitting from this new information highway that is going to redefine how we do business, globally and domestically.

You know, those of you who know me know that I can sound like a black Baptist preacher on this stuff, but I come from good roots of organizations that have fought long and hard for first class digital citizenship. So I, like Chairwoman Gate and my co-chair Susan Allen, want to keep reminding us as we do this work that

this work, due to the divergence and the convergence of the various ideas, is not being done in vain.

Perhaps it is our Montgomery boycott moment, you know, obviously less controversial. But it is our moment to actually put something out there that matters, that allows the people who fought to include this in the legislation, that it matters to us in ways that we define it. And so Chairwoman, and to the FCC and to my friends and colleagues that have sat alongside us from the beginning of this charter, let's keep pressing on.

We have a lot of work to do, and we're not going to obviously finish all of it. If that was the case, other systemic discrimination like voting rights, inequality and others would have been solved. But we're going to get the job done to the best of our ability because we understand the lived experiences of the constituents in which we serve.

If we have it, what I love what many of our groups and all of our groups actually have done, we've asked people who understand those needs. And so again, I thank all of you, has

Chairwoman Gate has actually put out in the public domain, thank you, thank you, thank you. This is a voluntary assignment that for some of us has felt more like full time, and in the end if we don't say it, who will?

So again, I thank you and I appreciate the opportunity to serve in this capacity for the Commission, and I appreciate the opportunity to work alongside all of you. So I will now pass it over to our other esteemed colleague, Susan Allen.

MEMBER AU ALLEN: Thank you, Nicol. Thank you so much. Good morning everybody. I'm pleased to be here with you, my colleagues at the FCC Council for Diversity and Equity in Communications.

I want to thank FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, the FCC and the Biden administration for the continued these issue and commitment in closing the digital divide and expanding economic opportunities, especially for those who are living in under-served and unserved communities.

Council Chair Heather Gate, thank you for your dedicated stewardship of this Council in advancing our very, very consequential work. You

will all see. On behalf of the U.S. Pan-Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation, for which I serve as the national president and CEO, I am honored to serve as the vice chair of this important body. I'm thrilled that I have my Council vice-chair, Dr. Nicol Turner Lee by my side.

As the most established non-profit organization that represents the fast-growing Pan-Asian American businesses in the country, our mission to increase economic opportunity aligns perfectly with the Council's mandate today. A major part of the effort is to ensure that the country's diverse community of African-American, Asian American, Hispanic American, Native American, women, Americans with disabilities and LGBT Plus Americans, have affordable, quality and reliable access to communications and connectivity that are indispensable for education, culture and commerce in today's economy.

These group of Americans are under-served and unserved, and we collectively call ourselves the diverse community. You see, affordable, reliable and high speed Internet

empowers communities to access education, career and business opportunities beyond city and state lines, and international borders. However, 14.5 million Americans do not have such access.

The gap between the technological haves and have nots, America's digital divide is stark and significant. A 2021 Pew research survey found that two in five American adults in homes making less than $30,000 a year have no home broadband service, no tablet, no laptop and no desktop computer, and nearly one in four don't have a SmartPhone. That's not a divide. That is a chasm.

Today's presentation of working group recommendations aims at three major goals: Addressing that divide by breaking down barriers that Nicol and Heather talked about. They deny, impede or otherwise impact access to broadband for underserved and connected communities. Two, we want to encourage the ownership of this generation technology properties to ensure a diversity of voices and views could be heard, and will continue to be heard.

And three, finding out how the FCC could continue to affirm provide civil rights,

racial justice and equal opportunity in the communications industry for employment and business opportunities. All flowing out of the 1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. We call it "IIJA." I'm also a voice of the underserved business community. I'm coming from a family of businesses. My mother owned a small boutique in Hong Kong. My younger brother followed her. My older brother was a business owner and I came here while I was practicing law or before I was practiced law, I started a small business with my younger sister.

So I know what it's like to be entrepreneur, how it happened that you have make the money and pay your rent, the telephone bill and your staff first before you take home the leftover for your family. For a long time, people have said here in America that small business is the backbone of the economy.

True, but recently many do not know that the number of small businesses have shrunk over the past seven or eight years. So giving them access to capital, giving them a quality broadband access and a ready, skilled workforce will make that difference, and the IIJA will help

us, help to take us in that direction.

If we execute the IIJA with careful thought and smart strategies that benefits all Americans, that Americans in general do not think when they work with the minority and other diverse communities, there's a cost, a price, a tax on them. Because when the diverse community does well, America does well. They all do well. This is a once in a generation opportunity because 65 billion, as was said a couple of times today, are dedicated for broadband infrastructure in the underserved and served diverse community of African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic American, Native American, women, people with disabilities and LBGT plus communities.

These aspirations are reachable and essential for leveling the playing field, closing the divide that has separated millions of Americans who have been dreaming of a more perfect union. They also are a bold declaration that when it comes to bridging the digital divide, the voice of diverse communities will be a forethought, not an afterthought.

We have much work to do. I look forward to today's report from our working

groups, and thank you Chairwoman Rosenworcel and our colleagues. Finally, my gratitude to Federal Communication Commission's Federal Designated Officer, Jamila Bess Johnson, deputy DFO Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa, and also our legal advisor, Miss -- what is it? I'm sorry, this a new name.

MS. MATHIEU: Aurelie Mathieu.

MEMBER AU ALLEN: You know who I'm talking about. Thank you so much for all your hard work, the countless hours that you put together to put us in place, put us on track and so that we can arrive at the station on time today. I look forward to hearing from all of you.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you very much to Dr. Nicol Turner Lee and Susan Au Allen. I can always count on your passion to bring our opening home. And now I would like to move this meeting and officially declare the meeting of the Communications Equity and Diversity Council open, and at this moment I would request that Jamila assist with roll call.

And just to remind you, when Jamila calls your name, please feel free to turn your camera and your audio let her know that you're

present. So Jamila.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Thank you Chair Gate. I will begin with the roll call of CEDC members, and then proceed to the roll call of CEDC Working Group members, and conclude with the roll call of CEDC subject matter experts. Heather Gate.

CHAIR GATE: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Nicol Turner Lee.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Susan Au Allen.

MEMBER AU ALLEN: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Dr. Dominique Harrison.

CHAIR GATE: She's here. She's dealing with some technical issues. She just texted us, but she is here.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Dominique Harrison. Okay, thank you. Clayton Banks.

MEMBER BANKS: I am here. Thank you very much.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Robert Branson.

MEMBER BRANSON: Present, thank you.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Joi Chaney. Michele Cober.

MEMBER COBER: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Sarah Kate Ellis. Rebecca Gibbons.

MEMBER GIBBONS: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Chris James.

MEMBER JAMES: Present, yes.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Dr. Dominique Harrison.

MEMBER HARRISON: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Thank you. Antonio Williams for Broderick Johnson.

MEMBER WILLIAMS: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Nicol Lazarre for Laura Berrocal.

MEMBER LAZARRE: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Robert Brooks.

MEMBER BROOKS: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Raoul Alarcon. Matthew Bauer.

MEMBER BAUER: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Thank you. Caroline Beasley. Anna Gomez.

MEMBER GOMEZ: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Cecelia Gordon. David Honig.

MEMBER HONIG: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Sherman Kizart. Henry Rivera.

MEMBER RIVERA: Good morning Jamila, I'm here.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Good morning Henry. Steven Roberts.

MEMBER ROBERTS: Good morning. Roberts is here.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Good morning. Joycelyn Tate.

MEMBER TATE: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Christopher Wood.

MEMBER WOOD: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Melody Spann Cooper.

MS. COOPER: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Graham Skip Dillard.

MEMBER DILLARD: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Jill Houghton. Dr. Ronald Johnson.

MEMBER RONALD JOHNSON: Good morning, present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Rosa Mendoza.

MEMBER MENDOZA: Present.
MS. BESS JOHNSON: Aama Nahuja.
MEMBER NAHUJA: Present.
MS. BESS JOHNSON: Brian Scarpelli.
MEMBER SCARPELLI: Present.
MS. BESS JOHNSON: Antonio Tijerino. Did I totally butcher that Antonio? I thought he was here. James Winston.
MEMBER WINSTON: Present.
MS. BESS JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. I have a message that Sherman Kizart is present, and I thought I saw Cecelia Gordon. Cecelia Gordon.
MEMBER GORDON: Present.
MS. BESS JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. All right. That's roll call for the members. Now for Working Group members. Leo Fitzpatrick.
MR. FITZPATRICK: Present, good morning.
MS. BESS JOHNSON: Good morning. Anisa Green.
MS. GREEN: Present.
MS. BESS JOHNSON: Hooman Hedayati.
MR. HEDAYATI: Present.
MS. BESS JOHNSON: Jennifer Nelson.

Tsion Tesfaye for Angela Siefer.

MS. TESFAYE: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: John Yang.

MR. YANG: Here.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Barbara Ciara. Susan Corbett. Dan Ball for Monica Desai.

MR. BALL: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Charles Harrell.

MR. HARRELL: Great morning, present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Good morning, Charles. Howie Hodges. Jennifer Jackson. Leticia Latino-Van Spluteren. Eve Lewis. Jenna Alsayegh.

MS. ALSAYEGH: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Joon Bang. Faith Bautista.

MS. BAUTISTA: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Brigitte Daniel-Corbin.

MS. DANIEL-CORBIN: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Lili Gangas.

MS. GANGAS: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Otto Padron.

MR. PADRON: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Randi Parker.

MS. PARKER: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Phyllis Peters. Ellen Schned.

MS. SCHNED: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Sorry Ellen. Dr. Cathy Schubert.

DR. SCHUBERT: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Mona Thompson. That concludes the role of the Working Group members, and now for the subject matter experts. Dr. Christopher Ali.

CHAIR GATE: Jamila, before you do that, could you do -- see if Antonio's back on, because I think he just texted me. He was having trouble.

MEMBER KIZART: And Jamila again, thank you, but I am -- this is Sherman. Of course I'm present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you, Sherman. Antonio, Antonio Williams. I think I registered him or -- Antonio from Heritage. Antonio are you on, Tijerino?

CHAIR GATE: I know he was on earlier.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: I thought so too. I thought I saw him in the chat, okay. We'll

hold that. Dr. Christopher Ali. Okay. We did not call Vickie Robinson, and I apologize for that. Vickie Robinson.

MS. ROBINSON: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Thank you. Dr. Rockell Brown Burton. Dr. Jon Gant. Gooyong Kim. Dr. Dianne Lynch.

DR. LYNCH: Present.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Is there anyone present who did not hear their name called?

MS. BEASLEY: Hi Jamila, this is Caroline Beasley. I'm not sure if I missed it or not, but I'm here.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Thank you Caroline, yes. Thank you. Is there anyone on the telephone joining whose name --

MR. PERAETZ: This is Louie Peraetz. I didn't hear my name called. I don't know if you were going to get to me later.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Louie. Anyone else?

MR. TIJERINO: Jamila, I just wanted to make sure you knew I was here. I just got a text from Rosa that said they couldn't hear you say you were here. This is Antonio Tijerino.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Okay Antonio. Thank you very much.

MEMBER TIJERINO: Thank you.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

MS. HERNANDEZ-ULLOA: Jamila, this is Keyla. Eve Lewis is having technical issues, but she is here.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Okay, thank you Keyla.

MS. HERNANDEZ-ULLOA: You're welcome.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Okay. I will mark Eve as present. All right. With that Madam Chair, that concludes your roll. You have a quorum for today's meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you Jamila, and now we're moving on to our Working Group presentations. The Innovation and Access Working Group, along with the Diversity and Equity Working Group will present their respective reports. That represents Part 2 and Part 3 components of the full package of the report that we intend to submit to the -- to Chairwoman Rosenworcel.

And what that means is that by no means these two presentations will not represent

the full packet of what we have been working on very diligently for the past four or five months. And so once these two Working Groups have completed their presentations, we will have the opportunity to vote on their respective submissions and we are looking to adopt them.

And once we have adopted those components, we will put them on hold for addition to the full packet of what we will be presenting to the FCC Chair as our, as our complete report on model policies and best practices for states and localities to present digital discrimination and increase equity.

So for now, I would like to hand over the floor to the chair of the Innovation and Access Working Group Robert Brooks, who will be presenting the work of that Working Group, along with Work Stream lead Anna Gomez. I welcome them to share -- to turn on their cameras and microphones during this presentation.

I also ask for the rest of the membership to keep our cameras off and when we open -- when we open the floor for question and discussion, please raise your hand using the hand raise feature. You will be recognized and you

can go ahead and ask your question. But for now, I welcome Robert Brooks and Anna Gomez to begin your presentation.

MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you. Okay. Good morning everybody and thank you for this opportunity for us to do this presentation. My name is Robert Brooks. I am serving as the chair for the Working Group on Innovation and Access, and with me is Chair Emeritus Anna Gomez, who also served as the lead for Work Stream 1.

I guess kind of walking into it, just to kind of give an idea of just how much was put into this, I think there's no better example than Ms. Anna Gomez, because aside from the work that she had going with this, as well as her day job.

We found out that she actually is retiring, was retiring in the midst of this, and despite the imminent retirement really that was taking place around the same time everything was due for this, she stuck with it, saw it all the way through, all the way up until today, to make sure it was seen, you know, successfully completed.

So more than anything, much thanks to her, as well as thanks to everybody within Work

Stream 1, who contributed to the presentation you are about to hear from Ms. Gomez. I'm not going to take much time from this, but I do want to just say thank you specifically to the members of the Work Stream outside of Anna.

There's Eve Lewis, Joycelyn Tate, Charles Harrell II, Susan Corbett, Monica Desai, Cecelia Gordon, Dr. Ronald Johnson, Dan Ball, and then also a special thanks to Susan Allen for her contributions as well and insights. And so overall, there was a sense of the amount of work that was put into this.

As mentioned, we were on a shortened time line, but that shortened time line was not seen as a problem. It was seen as a welcome challenge, and it did not hinder any of the accomplishments and work that was put (audio interference) about to hear more about that in a moment.

Okay. I want to pass this Anna. Anna, you're welcome to go ahead and step in. Thank you very much.

MS. GOMEZ: Thank you Chair Brooks. As Madam Chair Gate noted, the infrastructure law's $65 billion broadband investment presents a

historic opportunity to close the digital divide and to eliminate historic inequities. As you noted, NTIA is administering over 48 billion of that funding for broadband deployment and digital equity grants.

Diversity and inclusion are foundational to breaking down long-standing barriers to entry for diverse suppliers and the supply chain ecosystem, and removing those historical barriers to entry allows for the development and implementation of innovative and sustainable pathways to growing diverse businesses to scale and profitability.

Furthermore, increasing federal spending with under-served businesses not only helps more Americans realize their entrepreneurial dreams, but also narrows persistent wealth disparities. The Council therefore tasked the Innovation and Access Working Group with providing recommendations to ensure inclusive practices for identifying and selecting participating entrepreneurs in infrastructure, contracting and grants processes.

The Working Group goals for this work stream were therefore to increase the

participation of small minority and women-owned businesses in state and local infrastructure grant and contract opportunities, and to provide best practices guidance to state and local officials on performing successful outreach to small minority and women-owned businesses on funding and contract opportunities, and how such businesses can apply partners, subcontractors and assist in efforts to widely deploy and increase the take-up rate of broadband in diverse communities. If we have the slides, we want to go to the next slide.

CHAIR GATE: Okay, I'll load that for you Anna. Thank you.

MS. GOMEZ: Oh thank you. So in order to identify best practices for increasing participation of small, minority and women-owned businesses in state and local infrastructure grant and contract opportunities, the Working Group conducted extensive research (audio interference) interviewed subject matter experts (audio interference) reviewed federal, state and (audio interference) guidance and programs (audio interference) responses to work stream member surveys, prior FCC Advisory Committee on

Diversity and Digital Empowerment reports, as well as other guidance and programs.

The interview team interviewed the experts that we have listed here, each of whom could discuss procurement or grant administration policies or practices that promote access to opportunities for small, minority and women-owned businesses, and how providing opportunities to those businesses helps address digital discrimination.

The information the working group gleaned from its interviews as well as its research are the bases for its recommended best practices, which are as follows.

Next slide, please. Grantees should adopt definitions of small, minority and women-owned businesses that are inclusive of intersectional groups, such LGBT Plus and people with disabilities. Grantees should designate a government-wide office to oversee supplier diversity initiatives, including by creating an annual plan to increase supplier diversity.

We recommend NTIA strongly encourage an accountable goal of no less than 30 percent participation to the maximum extent practicable

of small, minority and women-owned businesses in state and local infrastructure grant and contractor opportunities, and to provide incentives to first tier contractors to partner with small, minority and women-owned businesses.

Grantees should include purposeful auditing and in progress reporting in the contracts and subgrants for real time accountability, and ensuring compliance, so that supplier diversity goals are met. The grantees, working in conjunction with the supplier diversity office, should proactively identify contracting and procurement forecasts and needs.

The grantees, subgrantees and contractors' leadership should adopt and certify compliance with supplier diversity goals. Grantees, subgrantees and contractors should also streamline their procurement processes for all businesses, and grantees should ensure diverse participation in task forces or committees that advise grantees on their broadband plans, including broadband supplier diversity.

Grantees should promote certifications prior to disbursement of funds, so that small, minority and women-owned businesses are prepared

to participate in funding opportunities. I forgot to mention -- oh thank you, the next slide, yeah.

Grantees, subgrantees and contractors should be required to reach out to small, minority and women-owned businesses, and they should promote local business opportunities early, continuously and aggressively.

Finally, we recommend NTIA collect and disseminate best practices across federal, state and local governments, to ensure that small, minority and women-owned businesses are included, welcome, encouraged and able to participate in the unprecedented funding and contracting opportunities flowing out of the infrastructure law.

The Innovation and Access Working Group therefore recommends that the FCC adopt and forward these best practices to the NTIA, to utilize in its review of state equity plans and to develop its technical assistance for grantees. With that, I throw it back to you, Chair Brooks.

MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you very much, and thank you for your presentation. With that, we'd like to open up for the floor for questions,

as well as any additional comments from anybody who was a part of the work stream, as well as our Working Group and the CEDC or FCC.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you. Thank you Anna and Robert. If you would like to be recognized for a question or comment, please use the raise hand feature.

And I think it was said with such clarity that nobody has any questions.

MEMBER GOMEZ: Always so positive, Madam Chairwoman. Thank you.

MEMBER BROOKS: Okay, and I guess with that said, also if we want to open up the floor to anyone outside of the members who were just mentioned, if there are any questions or comments.

MS. BAUTISTA: Hi, this is Faith Bautista. Supplier diversity is really dear to my heart and it's much needed. Susan Allen was saying that small businesses were badly hurt during this COVID and still hurting. Now that there's no more available funding for them, access to capital and access to contracts, it's harder and even access to contracts, right, because they cannot go to a lot of countries now

that COVID is up again.

So I really thank you guys for doing this. I'm encouraging that supplier diversity is a must from this Council. We need to just encouraging to get this started right away, and hopefully a lot of the companies that the FCC regulates do not have to wait for any bill or any mandate, but they can do it in their own will. For California, the GO-156 has been very, very successful.

A lot of the utilities are doing 20 percent of their supply span. So your goal is very reasonable. Thank you so much.

MEMBER BROOKS: All right, thank you Faith. We greatly appreciate it. Are there any more comments or questions? Nicol.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Yes, I do have a question.

MEMBER BROOKS: Please.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Okay. Hi, thank you Robert for your leadership, Anna for your presentation and for the whole group paying attention to the supply diversity and procurement needs during the IIJA. The other question I have as I was listening to Anna was the extent to

which the group considered supply diversity requirements across the ecosystem of what potentially be spent as part of the IIJA.

So one part of it is the hard infrastructure, the hardscaping, but there will also be other opportunities, consulting technical support, training. So just curious as you all have had your conversations and spoke with other people, the extent to which that charge actually applies to all verticals that are going to be contributing to the building of this new infrastructure, first and foremost.

So I just wanted to hear -- and if you also considered that to be a combination of federal and private procurements that will be happening during the build out?

MEMBER GOMEZ: well, to answer your question, the answer is yes. The opportunities are wide and broad. As you know, there are so many different types of procurements and grants and dollars to be spent. So absolutely that is what it is meant to encompass, every possible opportunity throughout the ecosystem.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Yeah, and Madam Chair, if I could just follow up with just a

follow up comment. Thank you for that clarification, because I think, particularly those watching the public meeting, it should be clear that we're not just talking about, you know, people who are doing fiber installs, right?

You could get contracts, if I'm correct, on training fiber installers or implementing, you know, for best practices or training protocols. Again, it seems to me that people realize that these procurements are deeper, a deeper bench and a quick bench for those companies that are diverse, that want to participate and benefit from this allocation and appropriation.

MEMBER GOMEZ: Thank you. That's such a good point. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

MEMBER BROOKS: All right, thank you Nicol. Are there any more questions or comments?

CHAIR GATE: Nicol, oh. I recognize Janice Tu for comments.

MEMBER GOMEZ: That might be Susan Au Allen.

CHAIR GATE: Oh, that's Susan.

MEMBER AU ALLEN: Hi. I just want to add to what Anna has said. The Working Group's

Stream 1, led by our able Anna Gomez, has spent a lot of time deliberating. We met once a week since January to talk about supply diversity. In this IIJA, the $65 billion of funds will be spent all over the country, and we have been focused on part of that money. People thought about civil rights and education and workforce.

They're all related to businesses. Businesses, they mortgaged their house. If they have a house, they used their children's college fund, they used the credit card to start a business. They need to be given the opportunity to have government contracts from the federal government, from the state and the localities, and the large corporations who are going to be applying for the IIJA grants, will be one of those on the very top of the food chain.

Our job is to make sure that we bring the major corporations in and ask them to take a look at the folks that we need to bring from all across the country to train our workforce. We do not have a ready workforce. There are 100, 11 million jobs waiting to be filled. We don't have that, okay. So therefore training is one of the business models for America's small businesses.

So that's where Anna.

We have small businesses who are in the business of training. So when you know of folks who are professionals who are staffing companies, staff augmentation company, they are also working with educational institutions. They work with churches, they work with labor unions, they work with Goodwill Industries by the way. I heard oh, Goodwill Industries itself also have job training and job placement. It's all over the place.

So anyone who has a business idea, this is model who come up with what I want to change, the next generation of digital coders. That's where you've got to go and pay attention to, and we have been talking about how small business have to get involved with the local government, show up at town hall meetings about and ask questions.

What about, what about the IIJA? Where is this money going to? How do we get access to information about the future opportunities that will flow out from Washington, D.C. through NTIA and through the states.

For that, I ask all of you to pay

attention to what the FCC's Council is doing, and give us the information as to what you hear from the Council, so that we can also help to fashion smart strategies so that the money will go into the right places.

I know in New York, for example, there is money reserved for New York in places where there is no ready to break ground projects, and there's no workforce ready to do the job. So the money will be sitting there in those areas that will not be spent. We need the money to go to places where it is needed, there's a job to be performed, and there's a workforce to perform the job.

It's a complicated issue, but the more complicated it is, the more opportunity there will be for the small business, because you are flexible, you're nimble, you can turn your vote 180 degrees faster than the Barracuda, that big battleship on the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean. Thank you.

MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you Susan, and I believe we have Ellen, who has her hand raised. Please.

MS. SCHNED: Yes. Hi there. I'm

Ellen Schned. I'm in Work Stream 4 on minority ownership and development and CEO of a women's organization called Strong Women Alliance. I just want to first say thank you Anna for that really great presentation. It was just really clear and succinct, and I really appreciated everything, all your bullets.

I want to also echo what Faith Bautista and Nicol had raised, which is something that I grapple with as I write, as I work both on my work stream and in my day job, and that's you know, how do we define supplier and supplier diversity, and how deep, you know, does the bench go as Nicol stated eloquently, you know.

We grapple with the issue that we'd like opportunity to flow up and down the work stream, you know, to various people, departments and companies. Like I work in a -- for a media company. I work for a cable programming network, and there we've got marketing and programming folks. Even within the network itself, you know, content diversity.

So (audio interference) diversity, extend to content diversity. Is it going to extend to advertising spend diversity? There's

so much opportunity and funding available right now, and as somebody who works for a content company, I'm hopeful that it's not just going to be spent for infrastructure, supplier, technical areas, you know. I look forward to seeing how that's defined and throwing the net wider. So thank you.

MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you, Ellen. Are there any more questions or comments?

With that said, I want to say thank you to everybody. Again, Work Stream 1, thank you for your work, specifically Anna, thank you for everything. Congratulations on retirement. I say that with some jealousy, you know, but I'm -- definitely thank you for everything. It's definitely well-deserved, and Heather, we can go back to you.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you. Thank you Robert and Anna for that great presentation, and thank you for the amount of work that has gone into collecting this information and the thoughtfulness and the collaboration between the various members of the Working Group.

So we will reserve the vote for after the second presentation and to be clear, we will

be voting on the Innovation and Access Working Group recommendation on ways to increase participation of small and minority -- small, minority and women-led businesses in state and local infrastructure grants and contracting opportunities, and to provide insightful guidance on successful outreach to small and medium women -- minority and women-led businesses regarding funding and contracting opportunities.

The Working Group seeks to make recommendations that to the FCC before it adopted to the NTIA, to utilize in its review of state equity plans and the development of its technical assistance for grantees. So I will reiterate the recommendation later on in the day.

CHAIR GATE: Now I would like to recognize the second working group, which is the Diversity and Equity Working Group that will present its draft report on digital equity.

Chris Wood is the chair of that working group and the Work Stream leads that will present along with him are Randi Parker, Jill Houghton and Joon Bang, who can now turn on their cameras and microphones and be ready to present.

Like the prior presentation, once

Chris -- once the Working Group is done, the rest of the Working Group members are welcome to offer their comments, and then the rest of the CEDC membership welcome to offer their comments and/or questions.

And so Chris, I welcome you to take the floor and do your presentation.

MEMBER WOOD: Thank you so much. Before I hand it over to my colleague, Randi Parker, I wanted to first thank Chairwoman Rosenworcel and the leadership of the FCC, as well as the leadership of our DFOs, Jamila, Keyla and Rashann, and to you Madam Chairwoman and our deputy Chairwomen, Heather Nicol (audio interference) to move this process along and (audio interference) has been made over the past 190 days.

I also want to really thank my Work Stream 1 group, who tirelessly dove into this, looking at it from all angles, interviewing week after week and pushing it right to the end, trying to gather as much information as possible to produce this report, and that the other two working groups were working on model codes as well as ensuring equity in contracts.

And so we really wanted to take a perspective and dive deeper into the holistic and the connected tissue that actually drives a lot of the potential here. Recognizing that equal access may not necessarily result in equal treatment or outcomes, and having equal access to connectivity may not necessarily guarantee all demographic groups can adopt or fully utilize broadband and technology services available to them.

I think this is crucial to recognizing something that my group definitely dove into when looking at this, and hopefully presenting the FCC and the public a path forward in highlighting areas that may be important to look further into, important to consider and important to think about when working with the IIJA around digital discrimination, as well as moving any other projects forward as technology continues to change each and every day.

With that in mind, I'm going to go ahead and bring on my colleague, Randi Parker, to go ahead and present the findings for our particular Work Stream 1.

MS. PARKER: Great, thank you Chris,

and apologies for not being on camera. My computer does not seem to like Teams, but I promise you I am as happy as I am in that picture, smiling ear to ear. I want to echo Chris' thanks to the FCC leadership and team and also to you Chris for helping to guide us through this process.

It was a new territory for all of us, so we're very grateful to have had your leadership and direction and response to many frantic emails and text messages throughout all this. So thank you.

So as you'll see on the slide, our work stream is the set to help define digital discrimination from the broad and complex perspective that impacts marginalized communities. We are happy to report that we've met our goal and have submitted to the report for approval in this meeting. So just to take you through our process, we started off by getting together and coming up with -- figuring out the best way to go about our research and analysis.

We came up with a list of groups that we felt we should be talking to experts and representatives from. I think we had 13 or 14

different categories of groups identified, and then from there we were able to set up interviews, and many thanks to Jamila and Keyla for getting all of those organized.

As Chris said, we went up to the last second, but we were able to get a really wonderful information from our speakers, who so generously gave their time to us, so that we can extract the best information possible.

We conducted more than 20 interviews. We analyzed multiple surveys for experts that we were unable to speak with directly, and then we reviewed the supporting research and documentation that these groups had provided to us. From there, we collaborated with the CEDC's subject matter experts to compile the data on digital discrimination and put together this report.

Our output was to have a draft or final version for this report for the Diversity and Equity Working Group definition of digital discrimination, and then provide some background materials on proposed definitions and resources to better understand digital discrimination.

Next slide, please. So there you will

see a list. I won't read through it, but I urge you to look on the report of all the individuals that we interviewed. Each interview was about 30 minutes and we would have one primary interviewer and then someone else taking notes, but then we allowed the conversation to evolve and flow, and our Working Group members would participate and ask the necessary follow-up questions.

So as you can see from just looking at the list of organizations that are there next to names, we really had a very great sampling of diversity and trying to hear from so many different people with different ways to help us think about all the ways that some people can be left behind, and really giving us some good ways to think about how we can narrow this digital divide.

Next slide, please. And then we also started off, I wanted to share with everyone the list of interview questions that we had provided, so that you could see, you know, everything that was asked to the same -- to all the individuals that we had the same information, where we could kind of gather and go from there. Just a highlight of some of those questions beyond who

they are and what they did.

We wanted to understand what the biggest obstacles to equal and equitable opportunities were for the communities that they represented, what has led to those obstacles, how have those obstacles manifested themselves, who is impacted and then what are the internal and external barriers around some of those who thought it was really important to get to that.

We wanted to hear from them what some of the solutions were. We're certainly not experts in that honor row and although now we might be, but you know, we wanted to hear from the people that are working with these communities, what they thought might be a fix. Sometimes you can get so in the weeds and not see a solution if it's just right in front of you.

And then from there, what sort of support and education would be needed, that if we fix a problem how could we bring people to the table? So from there, I'll just give a quick summary of our report.

The first is that for digital discrimination in marginalized communities, we needed a broader definition of digital

discrimination. There were some words that were being not included in that, and we thought it was important based on these interviews to have an expansive definition.

As Chris noted, that equal access and treatment is not enough. If just because something's available doesn't mean that people know how to get to it. There's a question about affordability, about digital skills to access, education, exposure and role models, making sure that other people in their community are both using the technology and also trusting of the advice and help that's being offered to them. You know, lack of trust was an issue that we've heard come up time and time again.

And not a one-size-fits-all approach. Different groups have different challenges, and we need to meet people where they are, slipping them into the fold, and that we can't expect to just have, you know, one, one paint brush that's going to cover everyone and we have to look at these groups individually.

And the next bit was about expanding the definition of digital discrimination to comply with the Communications Act of 1934, and

to expand the definition of equal access. Some recommendations for follow-up and how we can make these positive changes were that the FCC should play a larger role in promoting relevance of high speed Internet.

To do that, we need to increase outreach and we need to encourage community engagement and digital skills; promote digital upskilling in the K through 12 education space; support training programs for producing better ends and returning citizens who have been impacted by the justice system.

We need to remove technical and economic barriers to accelerate broadband deployment. We need to develop, fund and promote digital upskilling and access to tech for mature workers and aging population. I think one of the most -- one of the things that stuck out most to me when we were going through this is hearing that digital access is no longer a privilege; it's a fundamental right that we all need to have and we need to make sure that, you know, everyone in our country and everywhere else has that access.

So anything we can do to help get us

closer to that would be for the best, and with that I will pause and let Chris jump in with anything I missed, and my fellow Working Group members chime in as well.

MEMBER WOOD: Thank you, Randi. I'll just -- before we open it up to the group, I will just highlight. One of the things that you'll see as you're going through the report, and one of the things that we hope that the FCC will take from our findings is that really recognizing and Randi touched on this, really recognizing that not all marginalized communities are able to access tools and resources in the same way.

I think that's also true for depending on where you live in the country. Just because you may have access to it doesn't necessarily mean that the digital upskilling and the ability to gain training or have the resources to better understand the technology which you're trying to use is not always easily accessible as well.

So it is really looking at the local communities; it's understanding that each community is different, built different, has different resources, local transportation or what have you.

So it's really important to make sure that as we at the federal level are looking at this and working at it that we're taking into consideration the make-up of all communities across the country, to ensure that the FCC can continue to apply their rulemaking and apply reaching individuals across the country in accordance with the 1934 Telecom Act as well as the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

We think it's extremely important, and we know that this is of the highest priority for the FCC. With that, I will open it up to any other community member, any other working group members from my group, if you have further comment.

Okay. With that, I will open it up to the remaining CEDC for any other further comment, questions or concerns.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you Chris and Randi for this great presentation and wonderful work. I want to reiterate that for this Working Group specifically, this request really allowed us to explore outside the core request from the Chair, which was specifically related to digital discrimination and identified (audio

interference) policies and best practices, the way the IIJA were addressing issues of diversity.

So I appreciate the opportunity, your working and stepping outside the box, and looking for those areas that needed -- that need further exploration, further consideration and to be addressed with the seriousness and deliberate attention that it requires.

MEMBER WOOD: Thank you. I think Sherman. Sherman Kizart.

MEMBER KIZART: Good morning, and thank you Chris. Chris, the question that I have in terms of what your Working Group has developed around digital discrimination, will the -- will your findings be shared with entities that are like NTIA? And it seems like with the passage of the infrastructure deal, more and more of the states have created their own broadband czar for lack of a better analogy.

So will the findings be shared with those type of NTIA, which is kind of that big bucket and the individual states that are responsible for distributing it, so that because to your point, the landscape in the South can be very different than the one in the Midwest, and

very different than what's on the west coast and so on and so forth.

So that's my question, about how will your findings be shared and distributed, and will it be -- and is there, is there an opportunity that it goes to NTIA and the state agencies that are responsible for distributing those dollars?

MEMBER WOOD: Thank you. I think that's a very good question, and obviously something that we've most certainly have been paying attention to as well. We strongly encourage the FCC to share this with state broadband czars as you had alluded to.

We continue to, as part of our, our charge to go ahead and seek to ensure that we're looking at it from a very diverse and broad background, one that reached and really evaluated and looked at individuals and all residents of the United States, we definitely encourage the FCC to distribute and share this information as broadly and as widely as possible.

I know that for other groups that are outside of the FCC, NGOs I know from a public record standpoint, a lot of them will pick up on this as well once it's full public record, and

share that within their own states and localities, and we encourage local and regional organizations and non-profits that are engaging in this type of work, that are engaging in digital upskilling as well as improving individuals within their communities around technology and broadband access.

We highly encourage them to use this document and reference this document when working at the state, local and municipality level. So I believe that is the best direction for us to go ahead and do this, and I hope that answers your question as to how we see it being disseminated. Any other questions, comments?

Well again, I want to thank you all very much for the time to present today. Madam Chair, I thank you very much for your assistance in getting it to the finish line here today, as well as your deputy chairs and most importantly all of my team members on Work Stream 1.

I greatly appreciate your feedback as well as my entire Working Group. Your feedback, your thoughts, your comments and your thoughtfulness. I know each of you brought your experience and your expertise to this, along with

the individuals we interviewed.

So thank you so much for getting it to this point and Madam Chair, I will turn the floor back over to you.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you Chris and thank you Randi. Just to reiterate, the work -- Chris' Working Group would like to recommend to the Commission that the Commission needs to examine and expand the definition of equal access, to facilitate greater adoption and use of high speed Internet, especially under, among populations experiencing a range of inequalities, resulting from a protected characteristic or an intersection of various attributes, also for determinants that limit their full digital engagement.

The second recommendation is that the Commission should play a more active role in promoting the relevance of high speed broadband among populations where broadband can improve quality of life and increase consumer demand for more equitably deployed broadband services.

CHAIR GATE: So at this time, I would like the attention of the CEDC members as we attempt to get unanimous consent on this vote,

and so I move to adopt the presentations of the Innovation and Access Working Group, and the Digital Empowerment -- my apologies -- I wish the Diversity and Equity Working Group.

So let repeat that. I move to adopt the recommendations of the Innovation and Access Working Group and the Diversity and Empowerment Working Groups. And so at this point, I would --

MEMBER ROBERTS: I'll second. It's Keith Roberts.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you Keith Roberts.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: And Chairwoman Gate, can you remind people of the protocols for voting?

CHAIR GATE: Okay. So the protocols for this vote is that because of the virtual nature of this vote, I would request that any objections to unanimous consent be vocalized or any wishes to abstain. I will give the CEDC Working Group members 20 seconds to raise hands for any objections or any wishes to abstain.

Dr. Johnson, do you wish to be recognized?

MEMBER RONALD JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a question of process for

clarity here. I think you're doing a great job obviously, but I'm curious as to whether or not you are asking for a vote to receive the reports or are you asking for a vote on the substance of the reports?

CHAIR GATE: I'm voting, we're voting to receive the reports and hold them, and what we'll do is we will add them to the final report once the Digital Empowerment Working Group has had the time that Chairwoman Rosenworcel has graciously allowed us to take, to complete that part of the report. So we will adopt the sections today on hold for addition to the complete report when it's done.

MEMBER RONALD JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. Clarification well noted. Thank you.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you. Dr. Turner Lee, do I --

MEMBER TURNER LEE: No, I'm fine. You answered my question.

CHAIR GATE: Okay. Dr. Lee, is that enough time to move it?

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Yes.

CHAIR GATE: No objections.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Thank you Madam

Chair. I don't note any no votes and I note no abstentions for the record.

CHAIR GATE: For the record, no "no" votes and no abstentions. With that said, the recommendations of the two Working Groups have been adopted, and we'll keep them on hold until the complete report is completed and they will be added as Section 2 and Section 3 of that report. So again, I would like to thank the two Working Groups for their presentation.

I would also like to close this segment before we go to lunch by again recognizing the Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group that has dedicated a lot of hours, a lot of time and a lot of effort to get to a point where their report is in wonderful shape, but will need a little bit of additional deliberation to get to a point where we are -- we are ready to present it front of the full Committee.

I can reiterate that it is an impressive piece of work, and it is representative of a lot of hard work for many, many people. So I look forward to the opportunity to bring it before the full CEDC in

this full, complete package, for the vote from the full Committee.

And so we will now go to break and Jamila, we're a little ahead of time, so when would you like us to return? Would you like to stick to the time?

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Well, I defer to you Madam Chair, but if we would like to adjourn a little bit earlier, I would suggest that we amend our lunch time.

CHAIR GATE: Okay.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: We had about a 45 minute break planned out, so shall we come back at 12:55 or so or --

CHAIR GATE: 12:55. Yeah, and I can put that to vote and see if there's any objections to us going to lunch earlier, and returning at 12:55 and adjourning this meeting earlier. So if there are any objections, and are there any objections? I'll give you ten seconds to speak up.

Okay. When we return after the break, all three working groups, the remaining work streams will present status updates. There will be no vote in the afternoon. It is just

presentations from the working groups on what they have been working on for the past six months, and what we will be looking forward to in the future. So look forward to seeing you back at 12:55. You do not have to turn off your -- to log off if you would like, so please return and we'll do roll call again before we begin our afternoon session. Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 12:11 p.m.)

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A F T E R N O O N S E S S I O N

12:55 p.m.

CHAIR GATE: Welcome back to the second segment of the CEDC's July 22nd public meeting. At this time, I'm going to welcome all three working groups and the outstanding work streams from this morning's meeting to present, an update on what they have been working on, the plans, their plans for upcoming work activities, convenings, research activities. So I look forward to hearing from them.

To start us off, this after lunch period, I welcome Dr. Dominique Harrison, representing the Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group, to guide the outstanding presentations from their former working groups. So welcome Dominique and thank you very much for your work and expertise in guiding this Working Group expertly over the past few months.

MEMBER HARRISON: Thank you Chairwoman Heather. I really appreciate the introduction. Good afternoon everyone. I want to first say thank you to FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, for the opportunity to have extra time to work on the Digital Empowerment Working Group's portion

of the report. Our charge is not an easy task. This work is especially important for communities across the U.S., and we want to make sure our working group gets it right.

Congrats to the other Working Groups for closing out their sections of the report. The DEI Working Group looks forward to adding our section. I want to thank our Chair Heather Gate and Vice Chairs Dr. Nicol Turner Lee and Susan Allen for their leadership and support. I also want to thank SEC Designated Federal officers Jamila, Keyla, Rashann and Aurelie, for their encouragement and stewardship along the way.

I am also extremely grateful for each member of the DE&I Working Group. Over the last few months, Working Group members have spent hours and days to conduct our work, and I appreciate the commitment and dedication made by members, and we can bring up the slides, please.

I want to thank Dr. Christopher Ali, Clayton Banks, Laura Berrocal, Robert Branson, Dr. Rockell Brown, Joi Chaney, Michele Cober, Sarah Kate Ellis, Leo Fitzpatrick, Dr. Jon Gant, Anisa Green, Hooman Hedayati, Chris James, Broderick Johnson, Dr. Gooyong Kim, Jennifer

Nelson, Louis Peraetz, Vickie Robinson, Tsion Tesfaye, John Yang and Tony Williams.

Next slide. For those who are tuning in for the first time, I want to share the objective of our DE&I Working Group. The charge of the DE&I Working Group is to identify innovative solutions and provide recommendations for how to accelerate the equitable deployment of broadband access in all communities, including those communities that comprise people of colors and others who have been historically under-served, marginalized and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality in access to technology, communications services and next generation networks, which have resulted in negative impacts in education and employment.

Our group is charged with providing recommendations for reducing or removing regulatory barriers to the equitable deployment of and investment in broadband access and adoption in all communities, including tribal, rural and historically marginalized communities.

You can press the next slide. We are also charged with providing recommendations for strengthening existing networks and developing

new ones, and making recommendations for addressing digital redlining and other barriers that impact equitable access to emerging technology in under-served and under-connected communities including among people of color, persons with disabilities and the LGTQ Plus community.

Next slide. Next. Thank you. The DE&I Working Group developed three work streams to meet this objective. Today, I am pleased to share the status of the work of the DE&I Working Group. Next you will hear from co-leads on these streams of work. First, you will hear from Work Stream 2 co-lead Chris James, and finally you will hear from Work Stream 3 co-lead, Clayton Banks.

After that, we will open it up for questions for each work stream status of work. With that, I will turn it over for Chris James to come on camera to speak about Work Stream 2. Next slide.

MR. JAMES: Thank you so much Dr. Harrison, and thank you so much for your leadership during the Work Stream 2. Just to give you an overview of what we've been working

on and then how we're going to work in the future, this work stream includes soliciting information from key stakeholders, ISPs, federal agencies, emergency broadband funding state agencies, community organizations and much more. It's very similar to some of the work we've done on other work streams, where we're having listening sessions and interviews.

Next slide, please. So here's the listening sessions and lessons learned. The issue is several of our federal agencies, state agencies, counties, municipalities, private organizations, community and non-profit organizations developed emergency broadband programs as a direct result of COVID-19 pandemic.

Then we've identified the problem with systematic data about the types, experience and successes and challenges of these programs. You can see we sort of laid it out.

Next slide. So our objective, we're going to solicit the information from key stakeholders across ISPs, federal government, federal agencies, emergency broadband funding state agencies and community organizations, and how will we do this? So we'll ask the questions,

what programs were created during the pandemic to fund broadband deployment and affordability? How did these programs work? What emergency broadband funding responses work well, and what responses could be changed or adopted more broadly moving forward?

And lastly, to what extent are these efforts successful in connecting opportunities in communities to broadband?

Next slide. Here is our listening session work plan. You can see, I don't need to go through each one of the boxes. You can see on who we're -- who we're working -- who we're reaching out to and who have we developed or want to reach out to. Our committee has a pretty comprehensive list that we've put together. Dr. Christopher Ali, who's our co-lead, has really taken, taken the lead on putting a lot of the thoughts and efforts together in developing our process.

Next slide. So here's our expected income. Of course, with a lot of our work streams, as we've, you know, many of us are on multiple work streams, so there's definitely overlap and collaboration. So we want to

continue collaborating with our Work Streams 1 and 3. You can see, you know, we are going to index a list of broadband programs that provide broadband connectivity to opportunity communities. That's in collaboration with Work Stream 3.

Look for best practices to connect opportunities to communities during the pandemic, and then summary of lessons learned and recommendations to ensure that existing and future broadband programs created during the pandemic are accessible for opportunity and communities.

Next slide. And here's our time line. So you can see really a lot of this work starts in August. Because of the work with other working groups going on simultaneously, our work is now really starting in 2022, and we will have a pretty comprehensive time line all the way through June of 2023.

Next slide, please. I'll turn it back over to Dr. Harrison. Thank you so much.

MEMBER HARRISON: Thank you so much, Chris. I really appreciate the overview of the important work that you and your group are

conducting. I want to open it up to any questions as it relates to Work Stream 2's status of work.

CHAIR GATE: Hi Dominique. Thank you Chris, and thank you to Dr. Ali for putting together this wonderful plan for engaging the communities.

I think it's very important that we recapture the partnerships and the programs and the policies that were put in place during COVID, and that we don't lose some of that intelligence as we move forward, because I saw -- I saw that as an opportunity for growth and for new collaborations between public and private sector, that grew organically as people were seeking solutions during that time.

And so I hope that this, these activities that you're embarking on will really capture some of that magic, because oftentimes as we move on to IIJA funding and new programs, we don't lose sight of the great work that many, many organizations did during that time, and that we take those programs and make sure that they're sustainable and that they're part of the solution moving forward.

So I appreciate the attention and the thoughtfulness in what you're looking to pursue starting in August.

MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.

MEMBER HARRISON: It looks we may have a question from Joycelyn Tate.

MEMBER TATE: No, I don't have a question (audio interference). Can you hear me?

MEMBER HARRISON: We didn't catch the last part. You said you didn't have a question?

MEMBER TATE: No, I don't have a question. I just accidentally raised my hand. I'm sorry.

MEMBER HARRISON: Okay, no problem. All right, Chairwoman. Should we continue with Work Stream 3?

CHAIR GATE: Yes, please go ahead.

MEMBER HARRISON: Next I'd like to turn it over to Clayton Banks to come on camera to talk about the status of the work of Work Stream 3. Could we put the slides back up please?

MEMBER BANKS: While the slides are coming on, will say thank you for this. I wanted to certainly thank Chairwoman Rosenworcel for

putting me on this Commission.

I am so proud and so honored, and I am just also thrilled that I have good friends that are part of this like Heather and Nicol and it's great to work with Susan, and certainly I don't know how you do it, but Dominique, Dr. Harrison. I have to give you all the credit. I mean it's amazing what you've been able to do.

So we are Work Stream 3, and we're very excited about what we're doing because we get to really touch all of the components that we're all talking about when it comes to figuring out what digital discrimination is, as well as how do we build the type of infrastructure that's going to make sure everyone gets access to Internet and broadband.

So I think maybe I have control of the slides, so I will hopefully you guys can see. I will move them myself, and I think -- let's see. Let's get to my page actually. I'm assuming this is okay, that I can move the slides or am I moving the slides? Can everybody see that?

MR. RIORDAN: You're only moving the slides for yourself.

MEMBER BANKS: Okay. Oh, okay. Can

you put it up, Work Stream 3 then?

MS. ROBINSON: It's up and you'll need to say "next slide" when you want to go to the next slide.

MEMBER BANKS: Okay. Unfortunately, I have some sort of control on my side. Also I want to acknowledge my co-leads, Vickie Robinson and Sarah Kate Ellis. Vickie, was that your voice talking?

MS. ROBINSON: That was, Clayton. Thank you for the acknowledgment.

MEMBER BANKS: Okay, absolutely. Do you want to do this first slide? Okay, I'll just keep it going then. We're going to move this accordingly. So basically we are the public convening team, if you will, for Work Stream 3, and this is just a brilliant thing that the FCC has asked us to do because we think the public convening is going to be quite important for us.

A lot of our activity, physically activity will be in the spring of 2023. So there's still some time to hear voices. We are building upon what Work Stream 1 and Work Stream 2 are doing. Our convenings are going to literally be in the spring of '23. So one of the

goals here, of course, is looking at the conversations that we're having with all of the state agencies, with all of those who have models for emergency broadband and all the things that were impacted by the pandemic.

So we're having those conversations with the ISPs, the agencies, state agencies and most for me personally is the fact that we get to talk to the communities, communities across the country. The whole idea is to get us a plethora of voices to come up with some real understanding of the lessons that were learned through the pandemic, and the kind of response to that.

So as we continue to and you can -- let me just quickly ask if you can build to the next slide. One of the things that we are certainly focused on is making sure we're coming up with good questions. We will be moderated. These various panels will be moderated by ourselves as well as others.

We're going to look for others that may want to be part of this conversation, and anyone on this call certainly we'd love to talk to you if you want to be involved in some of these convenings. Obviously as you look at the

slide, we are cataloguing everything; we're defining everything we possibly can. We're certainly going to have a good amount of diversity of language, of people, all of those type of diversity questions.

We're going to be making this as transparent as we possibly can, and of course the actual convenings, which we work with the FCC, you know, basically agreeing who the speakers are and all of the various compliance that comes with that. So it's just an important opportunity for all of us essentially to hear other voices, not just stakeholders but people who are literally doing the hard work out there in our country, especially from an emergency like the pandemic.

Next slide, please. So some of the panelists that we're talking about, at least from a company perspective or organizational perspective. We're breaking it from ISPs, from the government, of course from community as I've already mentioned, and what you're seeing here is a plethora of a start.

We invite any recommendations from folks on this call, but these are the initial ones that we are literally looking at and getting

vetted and having them come together as panels. We'll be basically putting together several number of panels for this conversation. So that's the way we're convening the public.

The next slide is we hope from all the work that comes with this that there's a set of outcomes that we can share, right? Outcomes that will be part of the conversation that I think the FCC needs. And so a lot of the lessons learned will come from the themes that come out of these convenings, these panels that we ultimately have.

It's very much focused on the broadband access issues that we're all talking about, convenings in all of our committees. We also hope that we'll have some best practices that come out of these conversations.

Obviously, the pandemic showed a lot of things, but we're hoping that these conversations will go beyond the pandemic, because we know there will be more disasters for sure, but we want to make sure that we're getting the appropriate amount of information that will sort of help the FCC, if you will.

We're also going to be focused not only on affordability and deployment, but we're

also going to look at adoption. We hear a lot about that, and we'll learn from the convenings on how we can address those issues as well. So with that, I am going to turn it back over to Dr. Harrison.

MEMBER HARRISON: Thank you so much Clayton and Vickie and Sarah Kate for your leadership on this work stream, and for also providing more details about the status of your work. I want to open it now for comments or questions on Work Stream 3's status of work. Vickie.

MS. ROBINSON: Oh thank you, Dominique. I just want to first of all thank Clayton for representing the group. I just want to add a point of clarification, that this will be the -- the idea is this is to be a public convening in February or March. I just want to be clear about the time frame, and it will be an event that day, likely at the Commission, and there will be a series of roundtables as part of that.

And so I just want to make sure that we're all aligned around that, so that -- just so we're clear that the panels are (audio

interference) the roundtables both on deployment and one focused on adoption.

MEMBER HARRISON: Thank you so much, Vickie. Really looking forward to that, that public convening next year. Any questions from the audience or the working group or the council at large as it relates to Work Stream 3's work?

CHAIR GATE: Thank you Dominique, Vickie. So I'm always excited about convenings and opportunities to engage with people. So one thing that I want to make sure your work stream pays attention to is that -- is the grant programs, the BEAD (phonetic) grant programs and the DEA grant programs.

Thankfully all 50 states have submitted their LOIs, letters of intent to participate in these programs, and they've also submitted their applications to participate in the digital, at the digital equity grant program. So as you all are working through these -- in U.S. territories as Vickie told me, to make sure I reiterate, as you work through planning these convenings, pay special attention to the activities that are going to be activated once the planning process starts for these states and

territories and tribal communities, because you may capture some interesting activities because during that timeframe there will be needs assessments going, community engagements and just asset inventories and maps happening.

So if you pay special attention to that, make sure that some of those participants in those programs are participating in the convening so that we can capture as much as possible activities and information that will be real time at that point in time. So that is my advisement to you all, to keep that in mind as you continue your planning process.

MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Chairwoman Gate.

CHAIR GATE: Okay. Dominique, are we good? I don't see any more questions.

MEMBER HARRISON: Yeah. So it looks like our plan is great and we look forward to undertaking all of the work and I'll turn it right back over to you Heather. Thank you.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you very much Dr. Harrison, and thank you very much to the DEI Working Group for your great work. I am going to go ahead and take a second, because I erroneously

moved on from the after lunch roll call. So I'm going to ask Jamila to help me with the after lunch roll call. We want to make sure that we recognize members that joined us later in the day on record.

So Jamila, I don't know whether we're going to expedite it by going through the list of attendees on the teams, or if we're going to do one by one.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: I'm happy to look at the list on teams and note who was here, and of course if anyone is here and they think that we haven't recognized them, I'd be happy to take your email or a message in the chat. But we can keep it moving, thank you.

CHAIR GATE: Okay, thank you. I think I do want to recognize Joi Chaney. I don't believe we recognized her in the earlier roll. So Joi, say hello.

MEMBER CHANEY: Hi everyone.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

CHAIR GATE: Thank you. If there's anybody else that was not recognized in the morning roll call, please raise your hand and we'll recognize you too on record.

Okay. Not seeing any raised hands, we're going to go ahead and move on. We're going to go ahead and move on to the next presentation, the Innovation and Access Working Group led by Robert Brooks. The remaining work streams will now present. At this time, they're only presenting status update and updating us on what they've been working on for the past few months, and what we can look forward to for the next 12 months. So Robert, take it away.

MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you very much, Heather and let me make sure my camera's on. Okay. Good afternoon, everybody and welcome back, and thanks again for allowing us this opportunity to be here and to present, and to show you what we have been working on as an overall collective.

You heard from us earlier today regarding Work Stream 1, which is led by Chairman Emeritus from ACCDE Anna Gomez, and now you're about to hear from the leads from Work Stream 2 and Work Stream 3. Work Stream 2 is focused on access to capital. Work Stream 3 is focused on digital equity and closing the gap of the digital skills gap.

The individual that oversees Work Stream 2, C. Howie Hodges, was unable to be here with us today. So in his place, one of the members of the work stream Jennifer Jackson, will be leading this, this conversation about them. Before I go forward and introducing Jennifer to talk about Work Stream 2, you do see the slide here that shows a list of all the individuals.

Our overall Working Group consists of 25 people, between Work Streams 1 through 3 and a few people do overlap to other respective working groups, work streams. But I do want to, not only to say thank you to everybody, as well as C. Howie Hodges and Matthew Bauer for this. I do want to also give again gratitude and say thank you to Chairman, Chairwoman Rosenworcel of the FCC and the CEDC -- the CEDC chairs and vice chairs, and the DFOs for all their help throughout this process.

With that said, I am going to continue to keep it short on my side, and let the work streams let you know what they've been up to. So with that said, Jennifer, you're welcome to go ahead and take it away. If we can go to Slide I believe 11, that's where Work Stream 2's

information starts up, and we can -- and feel free to go ahead and give them a highlight of what's been going on, Jennifer. Thank you again.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Robert, apologies. I tried to reach you. I guess it didn't, the message didn't get to you. Jennifer has had a family emergency, so she's not going to be able to be with us, and I was asking whether or not you could --

MEMBER BROOKS: Absolutely.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Thank you.

MEMBER BROOKS: Absolutely, I can do that. If you can go to Slide 2, that will be -- I'm sorry, Slide 11. Okay. So Work Stream 2 is access to capital, and a description of what Work Stream 2 is goals -- is recommending initiatives to accelerate the entry and participation of small, minority and women-owned businesses, S&Ws in existing and emerging media and tech markets by identifying successful methods for increasing S&W businesses, access to procurement, opportunities in media and tech industries, identifying the business and development training needs and resources for S&W businesses in media and tech industries, and identifying new sources

of access to capital including public and private financing, angel investing, joint ventures, foundation financing and traditional bank financing resources for diverse businesses, particularly those engaged in communication, media and tech-related fields.

The goals for the -- for the work stream are to provide opportunities for conversation and deliberation, how to assist S&W businesses in accessing wider opportunities for access to capital, to identify best practices for public and private funders, and other resource entities to provide support to diverse entrepreneurs.

Next slide, please. As part of this effort to achieve these goals, the action items that they have highlighted are to conduct research including collaboration with other CEDC members who may be subject matter experts on access to capital as a part of diversity, interview capital markets/industry experts to compile information on challenges, barriers, as well as opportunities for acquiring equity, angel investment and other sources of capital for minority entrepreneurs, and to convene a public

webinar on tech business opportunities for a small, minority and women S&W entrepreneurs.

The overall deliverables, which the delivery date for everything is scheduled for June 2023, includes the research findings that identify opportunities and barriers to capital access, compile information from working group interviews with subject matter experts, a public webinar they have scheduled for fourth quarter 2022/first quarter 2023, and a white paper report and findings by the third quarter of fiscal year '23.

Next slide. The Work Stream 2 has been very, very busy. All the work streams have been busy overall, and this right here kind of gives you an idea of the status of what they've been focused on the last few months and where they are.

So from a research standpoint, they reviewed and analyzed prior capital and financing recommendations from past FCC federal advisory committees, and are discussing these along with new policy recommendations to put forth to the entire committee. They have examined a list compiled for the access to capital Working Group

of the Communications Equity and Diversity Council. They gather proposals that were approved by previous federal advisory committees that relate primarily to access to capital.

The list does not include federal advisory committee recommendations that the Commission has adopted, or that are otherwise are no longer relevant.

In addition, when it comes to interviews, they are currently deliberating and identifying potential interview guests to discuss current trends and access to capital and financing available for people of color and women to enter media businesses, including opportunities for diverse procurement with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and they also internally are putting together a list of potential experts to invite to interview by the work stream members, with the goal for getting the interviews by the fall of 2022.

The final thing that's also been -- that we have an update for is the public event that they're working on. The interviews they're actually putting together the list of. They will support the additional planning for a symposium

or a public event on capital access for diverse businesses, and when it comes to potential topics and subject matters being considered, there's discussion and a list of what resources the Work Stream needs to collect to present to the FCC commissioners, that would help improve and refine their efforts to direct capital access to small, diverse business owners, as well as insight on how the FCC can create and direct more private and federal business procurement opportunities with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

That right there concludes the status updates for Work Stream 2, and from there I'll actually -- if it's okay Jamila, if we wait until after Work Stream 3 does their presentation to open it up for questions for both of them, if that's okay.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Yeah. I think that's fine. Thank you, uh-huh.

MEMBER BROOKS: Okay, excellent. No problem. So moving to Work Stream 3, I'll introduce the speaker and lead for the Work Stream, Matthew Bauer. Matthew, please feel free to take it away and give them an update on Work Stream 3.

MR. BAUER: Thank you Chair Brooks. Can you hear me all right?

MEMBER BROOKS: Yes, hear you fine.

MR. BAUER: Okay, great. Hello all, and I'm Matthew Bauer and my role day-to-day, I'm VP of Connected Communities at WRC, which is based in Wake Forest, North Carolina. I'd like to echo everyone's thank yous and I really continue to be amazed by this group and our mission and results.

Before I get started, I'd like to express thanks to all my Work Stream 3 colleagues and team, with a special thanks to Leticia Latino, Sherman Kizart and Dianne Lynch, who have provided a real core to our meetings and calls, which have -- I think we all agree have been amazing, productive and innovative, and we're all excited for our next steps and the outputs that are going to follow.

Also thank you to Chairwoman Gate and Jamila Bess Johnson for your help and guidance along the way, which has been critical for us. So leading off the digital equity, closing the digital skills gap, and at a high level. So what I'll do is just sort of paint the picture a

little bit and then do a quick review of our vision and what we're doing and then dive into what we're currently focused on.

But at a high level, affordability in broadband, you know, really represent a lot of the focus and work around the digital divide, and as mentioned in one of the presentations this morning, you know, broadband access is a designated human right by the U.N. But in fact, there's another component that we see as equally critical and that's America's digital skills gap.

So Work Stream 3 is focused on this third leg of the digital divide, and you know it's really where abundance and application of the network, you know, must be accompanied by a robust and equitable digital skills training, which is really critical and what we've concluded critical to America's competitiveness. It is essential that there is universal access to and command of these modern digital skills.

And action must be swift and comprehensive, and that's why this time is so important with the funds that are coming out from DEA and, you know America's slipped to 29th in the world in digital skills, according to the

annual Coursera survey. Employers are struggling to fill millions of high paying middle skilled positions that don't require college degrees and small business and entrepreneurs struggle with workforces that are not up to speed on these skills.

So our goal is to provide recommendations for government investment in and financial support for digital skills training, to encourage equitable access for small businesses, entrepreneurs and all individuals and communities to receive these technological skills, and learning to participate fully in the U.S. society and economy, specifically related to the Digital Equity Act.

So let's move to the next slide, and just a quick review of our action items, and I won't go in. We talked about this last time, so I'll just do a quick review. So the items that we're looking at are conducting research, which is what we've been doing, collaborating with other CEDC members, subject matter experts, and then the focus now is really to host a public convening on shining a light on successful models, digital skills training for

entrepreneurs, students, senior citizens, you know, but really focus on that workforce gap as well.

So try not to limit any blends there, but you know, a focus on this -- these workforce digital skills that are acquired. So I'll focus then on the next slide, which is really our public convening, and that will answer some of the questions you'll see under deliverables as well.

So our current focus is a Digital Skills Gap symposium this fall in 2022, and the goal of the symposium is to contribute to the diversity equity framework that could inform the development, which is one of our other goals, of a national digital upskilling plan, which is really our end goal which is due next year.

Another goal is to break down the silos and, you know, have non-profits in the same virtual room, non-profits and government and content providers, employers and foundations, university, entrepreneurs, business owners talking about this and to kickstart it. Our interim goal is of -- out of this event is to create a resource toolkit and recommendations

that coincide with the Digital Equity Act funding process and starting to roll out in this year, next year and the following year.

So we're convening a cross sector group of leaders and experts to share current models, best practices and answer critical questions about effective and inclusive models and digital training and upskilling. So it's scheduled for September 22nd, and it will be held virtually from 1:00 to 5:00 in the Commission's meeting room.

It will engage state broadband leaders, local, state and national digital equity leaders, community level non-profits, higher education and the list that I gave before, again getting them all in the room at the same time. The structure of the event we've really been spending a lot of time on this, and I think we've come up with a great framework here which is that we'll have a keynote to start.

Then there will be a panel of a few state broadband digital equity leaders and other, you know, some thought leaders and folks from around the country that are really contributing to this work, and kind of do it from a top-down,

which is here's -- let's set the table for what's happening and what's about to happen, and what are some best practices.

What are a few states doing and what are -- what are some things that are going on both from the NTIA, FCC and so on? So we've completed -- in terms of our status, we've completed the symposium overview, which has been approved by FCC and we also have created a list of proposed keynotes, panelists and example organizations, which many of you saw and we shared out for suggestions. Thank you all for that.

But in terms of the structure, it's a keynote, then the panel, and then we're going to shine a light on some of the organizations that are doing this work, three to five of them in diverse communities around the country, and then open it up to a town hall that's curated and moderated, and all this will be moderated by one of our work stream members, Dianne Lynch, who will be doing an amazing job with us.

So you know, I'd like to open it up to my Work Stream 3 colleagues to fill in any blanks that I might have left or any comments, and then

we can hand it back to you, Chair Brooks, for any wider comments, questions, etcetera. But first, I'll open it up to any of my colleagues on Work Stream 3.

MS. LYNCH: Matt, I would just like to echo your summary. You did a great job on it. I think that it's so important to remember that so many of the people out in the universe of minority communities and DEI communities we are trying to serve and reach haven't been part of these conversations.

So I think one of our essence goals is to make sure that we are bringing together people who can provide guidance and practical advice and best practices to a much wider audience, perhaps, of people who are out in the world hearing about these processes, not part of these conversations and wondering well, what do I do? How do I be part of this?

And depending upon which state you live in, there are opportunities for guidance and information at the state level, in some areas and not in others. So I think this is a help, but a convening conversation for a much broader audience, to bring people and communities into

the process, because we can have all the great ideas in the world, but it's going to all be about the execution.

MEMBER BAUER: Well said as always. Leticia.

MS. LATINO-VAN SPLUTEREN: Well, I will just state to all that that Matt has done an incredible job leading our work stream. The one thing that I think we all very aware of is that a lack of awareness of what's already out there is one of the main issues.

That's our work stream thought it's really important to have a session like that, where key players and stakeholders are part and invited, so that we start that collaboration and that raising awareness at a really, really national level can happen. So that's all I would add, but thank you Matt for your leadership.

MEMBER BAUER: Thank you, Leticia. Any other comments from our work stream? All right, Chair Brooks, back to you.

MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you Matthew, and thank you Work Stream 3. To actually follow, piggyback off what Matthew just mentioned for

Work Stream 3, so members to also comment. I'm going to ask that Work Stream 2, if there's anybody in Work Stream 2 that would like to comment further on any of the developments from work you guys have been working on.

Okay. With that said, I would like to open it up for questions or comments to anybody within the Working Group or the CEDC.

CHAIR GATE: Robert, Lili Gangas. Recognize Lili Gangas for her comments or questions.

MEMBER BROOKS: Oh, yes. Hi, Lili.

MS. GANGAS: Hi, thank you so much. Let me know if you can hear me okay?

MEMBER BROOKS: Yes, you're fine.

MS. GANGAS: Okay, thank you, and thank you so much Matthew for sharing the update. Great to see that there is a -- it's an upcoming date of September 22nd, and we're going to be presenting later on, pretty soon I believe under Work Stream 2 for the Diversity and Equity Working Group under Chris Wood, because we -- that specific group is focused on the digital upskilling resources to increase employment in our diverse communities.

So I know that there is a good amount of potential overlap. So I wanted to coordinate especially, ask questions about how we can help raise awareness and outreach, because in our working group we have a good amount of representation of community-based organizations or folks who can reach out to the community. So we'd love to learn more about some of those outreach efforts, and then specifically doubling down on what is the -- like if there's a core key audience, is it going to be decision-makers that are funders, or is it folks who are implementing programs?

Or is it folks who want to be able to like more individuals, and if those individuals are across all ages and regions or just trying to get a little bit better sense of what is the core audience of the program that's going to be ideally targeted? I know you -- it was mentioned that it was broad, but just wondering from your perspective what's the more strategic outreach aspect, just so that we can also support.

MEMBER BROOKS: Great, and I definitely would love to hear some example organizations, because that's one part that we

haven't finalized yet at all. So it would be great to get some of those from you so we can put them on the list. So I'll work for sure specifically on that, at least that, and there's a lot of other things I'm sure.

But in terms of the audience, what we've painted is that beyond those who will be part of the panel and then the town hall is more curated, say 15 to 20 people, and then the audience that would -- the wider audience, what we're looking to do is use the, you know, the FCC channels to get the word to hopefully have as many state, county, city, either broadband and/or digital equity representatives that are there, because in a lot of states they're the same thing, because a lot of states haven't adopted a digital equity office yet or, you know, there's not --

So it kind of falls all there. So that's sort of one large group, as well as corporations that are doing this, you know, providing part of the, you know, one of the pieces of the pie like obviously, you know, Microsoft and Coursera and Cisco and so many others that have all this great content and all

the means and all the tools.

So we want them to be part of the conversation, foundations like say Lumina that's doing a lot of the work in the field in terms of -- and obviously Capehart (phonetic) as well. But you're already there, so we don't have to reach out to you all hopefully. And then academia, universities, Dianne, President Lynch represents that world for us and has already made some good recommendations there of folks that are doing this kind of work.

But we also want the wider audience there too, and for sure as many non-profits and organizations that are doing this work on the ground, that can see okay, here's what's coming and here's ways that we can participate in this and how can we, you know, be included in this discussion in a meaningful way too.

So it's a wide net and, you know, we can ease up to a 1,000 people easily, right? But we're hoping to get as many of them in the audience as possible, and that's what we discussed. So once we get it locked down who's invited and gets it on their schedules in terms of participating, we're going to really focus on

that wider net and getting as many folks in the audience as we can. So we'd appreciate any feedback or input there as well.

MS. GANGAS: Great. Thank you so much.

MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you. Thank you, Lili. All right. To open up to the wider audience, if there is anything else from other members, other working group or CEDC, any questions or comments from anyone else? This is for both Work Stream 2 and Work Stream 3.

CHAIR GATE: Recognize Faith.

MEMBER BROOKS: Hi Faith.

CHAIR GATE: Faith Bautista.

MS. BAUTISTA: Yeah, thank you. On the access to capital, I'm just curious. Are you working with SEC? This is the Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation.

MEMBER BROOKS: I'm going to ask for a member of work stream who can speak on some of the conversations that you've had. Has anyone brought up SEC as she just mentioned?

MS. BAUTISTA: Yeah. The reason why I ask, Robert, is they're so beneficial right now in helping small businesses access to capital.

There's a very good website that they created. They have a lot of workshops in helping small businesses. So rather than hiring a big firm to do, you know, crowd funding for you and all those things, they can guide you with this information that they have.

So when you go see your lawyer, you're already prepared, and you don't have to pay so much money for your lawyers. But it's such a great collaboration with FCC and SEC on the capital formation.

MEMBER BROOKS: Okay. Thank you. I've actually noted that down, and I will make sure to share that with C. Howie Hodges, the lead for the -- for the work stream as another resource, because they are -- one of the things they're working on is putting together a list of resources. So that's great to know. Thank you so much Faith. Appreciate that.

CHAIR GATE: Hey Robert.

MEMBER BROOKS: Yes.

CHAIR GATE: I just want to thank Matthew for leading our -- a great work stream. I know I've had the pleasure of participating in quite a few of the meetings, and it is always a

pleasure and we like to talk about how we are enjoying the work. So I appreciate Dr. Lynch and everybody for the work that they're doing.

Also I just want to highlight that they're also looking at innovative partnerships and solutions that are new in tackling issues of upskilling. So I just wanted to put that on the record that, you know, looking at academia, partnering with other entities on upskilling type initiatives is something that the work stream has really talked about. Part of what we want to do with the town hall is to bring those unique experiences to this national platform.

So I think it's really important work, and another thing that I find very critical about the work is the idea of us advocating for a National Digital Literacy Plan, or a digital literacy standard, because one thing that we do is we talk about digital literacy and lack of digital skills in the workforce, yet there's really no standard to determine what that means.

What is it to be -- what is it, what is the threshold. So I'm very excited about these continued conversations and the ideas that the town hall and the convenings will bring in

September. So thank you. Thank you very much.

MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you Chairwoman.

CHAIR GATE: I want to recognize our Vice Chair, Dr. Turner Lee.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Thank you. I'm coming on. I don't know why I'm in delay. Okay, thank you and thank you to this group for the hard work. I've also been looking at the emails and recommended a couple of people from the Department of Labor. The other thing I was thinking as I was listening to the presentation too is I know that there's been a lot of work for women business owners as well.

So Natalie Cofield, who's assistant secretary over the Minority Business Development Agency at NTIA has been working across the country to bring in more women entrepreneurs. I know that Susan and I were talking about this not too long ago, how to activate women of color who have a space in this ecosystem as well.

So as you're developing your town halls, you know, be mindful. One of the greatest losses that we had during the pandemic were women business owners. They lost at a rate much higher than even black, Latina and indigenous business

owners combined, right? Women just lost their businesses. Generally at the end of those pandemic we saw those scary numbers.

So there are resources that we can leverage as well, and it would be a good opportunity to bring in MBDA and other agencies that have traditionally not partnered with the FCC on these types of initiatives, to either raise awareness about their business development programs or others. I would also suggest, and just correct me if I missed this, that the other way that we can bring in more people to the town hall as well is to bring in start-up companies.

There are a lot of companies that have started during the pandemic or before the pandemic and then were able to get the access to capital that Matt was talking about, that are looking to hire the next generation of talent. So again, I think in the intent of this group and what you're trying to do with this particular work stream is the more we can actually identify not only diverse actors but people who can actually help fill voids in other ways, right?

We're finding that entrepreneurs are making a big stake in this new technology ecology

but it's on the application side, the softscaping or the hardscaping. So I just wanted to put that out there as some ideas, and I know that companies like Comcast and others have sort of put together these venture funds to accelerate their foundation.

But I think those are also additional resources. Because what we don't want to do, and I've beg my pardon Chairwoman, when we had the explosion of wireless, for example, and we tried to get more people in those spaces, the same thing for broadcast, we weren't ready. So because we didn't have either the people, the funding or the information.

So we can solve that because we now have this resource available that people can tap into. I think it will be much, a better use of our time and our bully pulpit to get more people involved in this space.

MEMBER BAUER: That was a great comment. Thank you so much Nicol, that's great.

MEMBER BROOKS: Yes. Thank you Nicol. Are there any other comments or questions or feedback? Okay. Matthew, thanks again for your presentation for Work Stream 3 and all the work

you've been doing, and thank you to Work Stream 3 and also Work Stream 2.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: One second.

MEMBER BROOKS: Oh yes. Hello? Oh, I thought I heard somebody say something. With that said, Heather I'll pass it back to you and thanks again.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you, Robert, Matt and the rest of your work group. Great work. I look forward to a lot more exciting work coming out of the Working Group. And now we are moving on to our third and last Working Group, and that is the Diversity and Equity Working Group led by Chris Woods. The remaining three working groups, the work streams that did not present this morning will now offer their updates on what they've been working on, and what we can expect from them in the future.

MEMBER WOOD: Madam Chair, thank you very much. As you've heard in my group as well, Work Streams 2, 3 and 4 have been working behind the scenes as we've steadily worked quickly for Work Stream 1 and delivering to the Chairwoman's office the definition around digital discrimination.

In a lot of the cases, our work streams have been gathering their thoughts, thinking about it a little bit differently. And as I've really pushed to leave the working group, I've really pushed them to think outside the box and think about unique ways that we can reach communities across the country, in ways that they may otherwise not have been reached out to before.

So you hear that theme consistently throughout, throughout the work streams as they continue to look at ways. Maybe we can communicate with our communities better. Maybe the FCC can communicate potential programs and outreach in a better way, and as it's been brought up by my colleagues several times, with the IIJA and so much money being pushed into states and municipalities, ensuring that individuals can be connected and have greater access to new opportunities.

So with that, I'm going to begin by bringing on our Work Stream 2 leaders, Lili Gangas and Antonio Tijerino. Lili, if you would like to join me on camera.

MS. SAURER: Great, can you see me

now? Hi, how are you?

MEMBER WOOD: Yes. Thank you so much.

MS. SAURER: Great, thank you. I believe we have an update. Can we do a quick update on Work Stream 2? I think we passed it, we can go back. There you go, great. Thank you to everyone that is here and as well as the folks who are viewing. My name's Lili Gangas. I'm the chief technology officer at the Kapor Center, and along with our esteemed colleagues that you just saw on the previous slide.

We just wanted to give a quick update, specifically on what's happening on the model and upskilling, specifically aimed to increase employment in diverse communities. It is a recap. Our goal here is to really provide actionable recommendations, and one of the things that we want to double down is gathering resources and things that could be practical and applicable.

And so we've been diving into this work and all transparency has been a little bit slower to develop. I think there's been a lot of folks here that are also working in different parts of the Working Groups. So I just wanted to

make sure we're also acknowledging that, and especially myself, right, because I'm also in some of the other working groups.

But as we are approaching this work stream, we want to take a look at it from the entire journey of what a talent would experience, right. So looking at things of tech jobs, not necessarily as just when you enter into a technical role and where those technologies are going to be taking folks and the types of skills that are needed, but we also want to also address some of the gaps that we've seen already.

A lot of work that we -- has been shared so far specifically double down on the still the gap of broadband access, fast enough Internet, the right types of technology tools, whether it's a laptop computer, iPad, etcetera, and getting into more into the broadband adoption and the digital literacy training that needs to be standardized.

So then that we're able to create additional pathways to increase more advanced tech trainings, which then can increase the more opportunities at scale for larger communities, especially the ones that can benefit from this

innovation economy to really enter more into more of the emerging tech pathways.

So we wanted to take a look at it at a holistic view of the infrastructure that's needed, all the way to the different entry points for talent, and how do we continuously upskill and also continue to provide new models. And so looking at emerging trends such as apprenticeship, there will be some things that we'll discuss, to make sure that folks are able to not only get the skills but also be able to continuously upskill and be able to learn and earn as they're growing.

So we want to also provide some awareness of the type of last mile skilling that's going to be required, the job-based learning and therefore so then that we're able to advance the work. To date, we've been meeting about every two weeks. We have an internal gathering of a directory of different organizations that are doing this type of work, and we want to continue to grow that more consistently and be able to share that out as well.

Another highlight of this work stream

is that we will be also having a public summit or virtual summit. So Matthew, we're definitely going to connect so then that way we can find ways to support what you're working on right now, the September 22nd event, and then what we can do in 2023.

So with that said, I will pause there for any questions, and we'll let other members of my working group jump in as well.

MEMBER WOOD: Thank you so much. Any other members of Work Stream 2 that would like to join in?

Okay. Any comments from the full CEDC?

All right, all right. Thank you so much Lili. Next, I'd like to move on to Work Stream 3 please, run primarily but not solely by Nahuja and Charlyn. Nahuja, if you can turn on your camera and join me. Charlyn will not be joining us today, but I know Nahuja's here.

MEMBER NAHUJA: I'm on.

MEMBER WOOD: Hi, how are you?

MEMBER NAHUJA: Good, how are you today?

MEMBER WOOD: Good. Do we have your

camera?

MEMBER NAHUJA: I can see myself. I don't know. Can everyone else see me?

MEMBER WOOD: I know they've been working and not working so -- all right, perfect. Nahuja, I will let you provide an update for Work Stream 3. Thank you.

MEMBER NAHUJA: Okay, all right. Thank you Chris. We call him our fearless leader, but good afternoon everyone. I'm Aama Nahuja. My day job is as a legal counsel for A Wonder Media Company, a minority and women-owned syndication, programming and advertising media company headquarters in New York City. I serve as co-lead with Charlyn Stanberry for Work Stream 3.

Our presentation will be brief mainly because, you know, many of our members like was mentioned in the last work stream, are serving on other work streams, and but our membership includes Joon Bang, Charlyn Stanberry, Cathy Schubert, Melody Spann Cooper and Phyllis Peters. I'm not going to go over everything that's on the PowerPoint presentation, but I will cover some other things that we really focused on in our

meetings.

We had many discussions to zero in on addressing the challenges to barriers in the media, the communications and technology sectors against a more diversified employee base and leadership base. Our work stream decided to target research to non-traditional anchor institutions and workforce training entities. We started with anchor institutions, and our discussion centered around anchor institutions in general, both traditional and non-traditional.

But we then had discussions that crystallized for us why non-traditional anchor institutions are so important and on whom we subsequently focused, and also why they're not front of mind, which makes compiling a list of them not easy. We found that government and private administrative and policy employees simply do not know of them, because they're typically small, underfunded, understaffed, you know.

They really have no bandwidth to advertise, grant write or do much of the required administrative work be widely known. But such organizations do provide a broad range of

critical work in our communities across the United States. Many are local and may not even be official groups, even though they should be. Yet they still contribute to the vitality and development of their communities.

In fact, their sustainability is often at risk due to finances and resources. We welcome any input and recommendations from CEDC members about other non-traditional anchor institutions. Our group is small, I mentioned about five people, and many of those people are working with other working groups that had deadlines that were before us.

So that's part of why we're doing a status update, and also why we sort of set more realistic goals for what we were going to be able to achieve, you know, until after this meeting. So we did compile a list, a very small list of non-traditional anchor institutions.

In May, which was sort of our planning phase as we reduced our expectations for ourselves, we clarified the parameters of non-traditional anchors, which included profit and non-profit. It included local but it could be people that were in a region and covered more

territories.

In June was our phase to identify and research some of these organizations, and we did initial research in two or four of these non-traditional organizations, where members, you know, did the normal outreach of looking at their websites if they had them.

They pursued word of mouth suggestions, and in July we actually did accomplish a few of the interviews. In contacting the organizations, we did preliminary interviews with several of them.

We also decided that we really need to increase our membership numbers, so we'll be looking for many of you to join us if you choose to. We also in the back of our mind discussed when we would like to do a symposium, and that seems like it's going to, you know, be pushed out into 2023. Our planned activities at this halfway point through our current charter is obviously to increase the membership of our work stream, so we can get more work done.

But we also are at the point now where we want to also focus on creating a list of these workforce and training entities. So we see --

and we'll seek information that will be useful to our identified and additional non-traditional anchor institutions that, you know, we will interview.

Because we want to follow up our preliminary interviews with ones that use a survey template that was really developed by other work streams in other FCC charter groups, that will help us identify what the non-traditional anchor institutions really need and clarify the initial and continuing obstacles they face as they work to empower their target communities.

We also plan, you know, pretty soon to develop a draft connectivity kit of the steps these non-traditional anchor organizations can take if they are interested in partnering with workforce and other training entities.

And finally, like most of the other groups, we plan to convene a symposium featuring these non-traditional anchor institutions and the work they do in their communities with a twofold goal of providing exposure for these institutions for both other entities, other organizations that, you know, can get inspiration from them or

help from them, but also sharing the information and resources about workforce, training entities available for them to contact.

Then of course this symposium would showcase the value of connecting with the resources and workforce training entities available. That's about it, Chris. I don't know if there's any -- I was just sort of focusing. It's really a small group, but we really feel that these organizations are critical and they just -- nobody really knows about them. Everybody knows of them, but they don't know their names, they don't know where they are, they don't know who they are, and that's what we really want to sort of bring that up to the top so that people can touch base with them and connect with them.

MEMBER WOOD: Thank you very much for that overview. I'll open the floor up to the remaining members of Work Stream 3 and my Working Group.

Great. Now I'll open up to full comment from the CEDC. I'd like to recognize Nicol Turner Lee.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: I'm coming. My

delay with this camera. First and foremost, thank you for that presentation. I actually am really excited about this. If you all recall, Dr. Fallon Wilson, who had been on the committee last year and up until recently before her departure, really has pushed this tech ecosystem, and I had the privilege of working with her last charter, to really talk about the importance of local community organizations in providing anchors to broadband.

We traditionally think of them as schools and libraries. So I think for the purposes of your project, you know, I would just make a comment. Keep doing this, because what we're finding among the digital divide space is that those anchor institutions were really the key people that saved the day during the pandemic. They opened up their stoops, they opened up their doorways. They broadcasted out Internet in ways, you know, they provided school lunches and laptops at the same time.

And so the more than we can find out how they can be beneficial will be helpful, because the current statute basically lists them, but they're really if there's money left over.

So I think the more that you can build up that model to raise awareness about the program, and I would also suggest find ways that they could actually also be activated.

What does that look like when a faith-based organization like MMTC's Black Churches for Broadband Equity have mobilized thousands of people across the country on broadband. What does that look like so that we can put our hands around how we actually get these key components of community in the forefront? So love this recommendation, wholeheartedly going to be watching it and learning more about what we need to do. If you need more people to interview or ideas, there's a great network of folks that are doing this, from Heather's Connected Nation to NDIA to what MMTC has been doing with churches, etcetera, among others.

MEMBER NAHUJA: We look forward to a flood of information.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MEMBER NAHUJA: -- down and get on it. Thank you. I appreciate your comments.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Yeah, and just to add on that, I mean what's so interesting about

this conversation I mean today, in particular this particular area, as I think Chairwoman Gate has mentioned, these states are planning out their digital equity plans, and they basically have put together and set their tables per se, and they're looking either for more people to come to that table or they're removing seats.

So I think it's important for us to bring people to these tables or to identify who their leaders are, because at the end of the day the implementation of these excessive successes are going to be dependent on local communities, just as they are being dependent upon local -- states and localities. Localities consist of these other actors that keep the vibrancy and sustainability of livelihood for local citizens.

So as much as we can continue as an advisory really to position this work as pivotal to what we're doing I think would be fantastic.

MEMBER WOOD: Thank you. I'd like to recognize Robert Branson.

MEMBER BRANSON: That's the beauty of going after Nicol, because she basically said everything I wanted to say.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: I thought I was

giving a shout.

MEMBER BRANSON: I agree. I appreciate that. I mean that's why I waited a little bit. I was like good, call on her because she'll say it more eloquently than I ever could think about saying it.

But MMTC is willing to work with you Chris, and while she took a step because she's trying to work very hard on the Black Churches program, she still is -- Dr. Fallon Wilson is still around and I think if you're looking for people to interview, she would probably be someone you would want to talk to because we very much are looking at setting up black institutions with the black churches. So thank you very much for the great work you're doing.

MEMBER WOOD: Thank you, thank you Nahuja. Yeah. No, we definitely know Nahuja, as well as I really took the time to listen to Dr. Fallon Wilson and pull as much as we could from her. We know that she's extremely busy working already in these spaces, so thank you very much. I'd like to recognize Lili Gangas.

MS. GANGAS: Thank you so much, and I love -- as has been mentioned as well, I think

this is such a critical, and to me it's really the heart of a lot of the work, is how do we ensure that we are, as Nicol put it, really resourcing these organizations that are on the ground at this scale that is needed, right, to deliver what the promises of all these $65 billion infrastructure, right?

You know, how are they getting to the families? So we'd just encourage as well as you're doing some of the work, to help us get a better sense of how to have funding and resources, specifically funding to be -- that's needed, right, and the resourcing that is really properly needed as opposed to being what's left. I do want to -- I've seen it on the ground personally, over and over, and folks who know me know that I share those stories directly, because as somebody from a software engineering background I know how that challenge it may be for some organizations, who didn't have some of the digital infrastructure in place in the middle of the pandemic as an example, to where they are now, requires a lot of resourcing talent and also just even reach to people in these new mediums.

Ads, for example, are expensive.

There's a lot of mis- and disinformation also taking place, and we've seen some of the challenges and especially communities may not have trusted actors.

There are also, you know, other such organizations that take advantage of some of the most -- the communities that are most at risk. And so just wanted to put that as a comment, and also encourage to, as we all do this work and especially under Chris' leadership, we're always reinforcing like well, how does look like also non-English, right? How does this look like for different communities that may not necessarily have audio, may not necessarily have visual? Maybe there's visual impairments, etcetera.

So we want to make sure that we are looking at the work as intersectional and intention as possible as well. So just wanted to also share that, so thank you.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Can I come back in? I'm sorry, I want to follow up with what Lili said. Listen, I love what Lili said as well, so I actually really support what Bob and Lili said, because I think the importance of these local stakeholders, you know, I can't

stress enough as many on this call know, that we've got to get local people involved.

It's not build it and they will come anymore. It's like build it and let them produce and generate ideas as a result of it. So the more that we can actually -- the only recommendation I would really bring, try to find really local people if you can, right? Let's try to avoid bringing in the groups that represent the groups.

You know, I actually really appreciate groups like the AARP. Tom Canber's (phonetic) over there doing some work with them, doing a really great job with older Americans. But he's also identified some local aging groups that are really thinking about these things, and I know there are several people who may not be on this Committee, that can bring people from the disability community and others into this conversation.

So as much as we can, I think it would be impactful, particularly as part of the outwardly-facing work, to show the Commission as well as other stakeholders these localized groups that are organizing on the ground, getting things

done. Chris, you know, thanks to you in the writing of my book, I met many of those people in Stanton, Virginia, including yourself.

So I just wanted to put that out there as you think about the guests that you're going to invite, to really think about getting as granular as you can in some instances.

MEMBER NAHUJA: Well thank you Nicol. That's definitely the goal. I agree. Chris and I are really one on this point, to not just deal with the traditional people they hear about, or you know. I mean it's not that we don't want them. So we're not, you know, not going to cover any traditional anchor. But we really want to highlight the people who are doing work, that don't get the resources and don't get the recognition, and also don't get an opportunity to grow and expand and touch more people.

I mean some people as you know, I mean one of the groups I looked at is funding it right out of her -- like they are. I mean, you know, that's what people do. Or one of the other groups that I looked at is an architecture group. They're talking about training architects so that they can deal with climate change in the future.

This is a long-term thing. So you know yes, we hear you.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Yeah. At this point, like I know Joi's on the call. Like at the Urban League, they have a great umbrella and then they have these really interesting local people, and I'm sure Joi can jump in that are doing interesting things around workforce development for their community. And the same can be said about a variety of organizations.

But I think that's the flavor that has been a little bit quiet on the broader goals and urgency around getting this thing out, that we're going to, like you said, like walk over the people who did this even when they weren't paid to open up their facilities during the pandemic. They actually did it, or they found ways to get things done. So thank you. I'm excited about this group. Chairwoman Gate, I want to just join this group. I'll go work on this group.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MEMBER TURNER LEE: I'm supposed to work on this group. I'm actually working with friends, so thank you.

CHAIR GATE: Yes. Nahuja made the

call; Nicol, you answer it. That's on record. Yeah, I too am very excited about this group. I am -- I had the -- I was recently a couple of weeks go invited to meet with a little group that were doing upskilling in Michigan and Ashland, Kentucky in that coal country at the border with West Virginia.

I showed up, drove there in my ride and I looked up. I said well, this is a church. What is this training program? Turns out it was in the basement of the church formed by the pastor's wife, providing digital skills training, helping the community with accessing resources, funded by pure grit, pure grit and determination to provide solutions in their community. These are communities that have been left behind in the programs that we often talk about in the national platform.

So I think this is important for us to really sort of represent those people that are taking the initiative to address some of the challenges that we have the privilege of talking about on this platform. So I appreciate this work and I appreciate, as you can see, raises a lot of enthusiasm because we know, we've

traveled, we've seen these people just make it work because they see the importance of supporting people in their communities.

So thank you. Thank you Chris and thank you Nahuja and everybody else, and Nicol will be there on time, on schedule for the next meeting.

MEMBER WOOD: Thank you, and it sounds like we need to -- we need to get that pastor's wife's name so that we can interview her.

CHAIR GATE: Absolutely.

MEMBER WOOD: Any other questions, comments for Work Stream 3?

All right. Thank you Nahuja. Finally, but certainly not least, I would also -- I would like to recognize Work Stream 4, and Ellen on my group to come on and give an update about their work over the past couple of months. Hello? Hi Ellen, are you on mute?

MS. SCHNED: I am. I believe Skip's going first and then Melody and then I'm going to pick up the rear.

MEMBER WOOD: Oh great, all right, perfect. Skip, if you'd like to go ahead and kick us off please.

Just checking. Skip are you there?

MEMBER DILLARD: Here we are, yes. We can move to our Work Stream 4 slide. Those microphone mutes are something else.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Is that the right slide Skip?

MEMBER DILLARD: No, no. It's just the header for the whole thing. That's what I'm seeing here.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Did you want me to go back to the beginning?

MEMBER DILLARD: I just wanted the actual Work Stream 4 slide.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Okay. That's what I have up.

MEMBER DILLARD: That's strange. Let me see what that slide's showing for me here.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Ellen, do you see it?

MS. SCHNED: I do, and why don't I do this? I'll queue it up for Skip, and then I'll introduce Skip and then Melody, because we're going to address the 3M workflow bullet points at the bottom of our slide. But as far as the top of the slide goes, in terms of our general

mandate for Work Stream 4, we are diversity and equity, minority ownership and development for media communications and telecommunications.

And what is nice is hearing some common threads throughout all these work stream presentations, and I feel like our work stream is going to kind of tie a lot of this together, because we -- we're getting up to the top of the funnel with ownership opportunities, and how can we accelerate and create next generation owners through all the various mechanisms everyone's been talking about, access to capital, training, information dissemination.

So our three bullets really do mirror and kind of bring home a lot of what everybody's been saying. So with that, I think Skip you're first up on the first, you know. We're just going to go one-two-three, you, Melody and myself, and then we'll kind of conclude the stream.

MEMBER DILLARD: Okay, sounds good. Our goal was to look at ways that we could create what I've been researching on my end of our team here, is a pipeline to assist with more women and minorities, more diverse ownership in media, and

of course we want to analyze first and foremost what's in the FCC's purview on minority ownership and media communications and technology companies.

Our goal is to access also more funding opportunities, of course. Melody's been working as a former owner and current owner herself directly with the VSCC (phonetic) scope, and of course indirectly through the administration. Example CARES Act, SBA, and Congress. And our goal is also serve as a resource for minority, women and independent businesses, and review barriers to advancement for media and technology innovators and ways to modify barriers.

Overall, there is a need to create not just the more diverse set of owners, but very well equipped and funded owners that can take on the challenges facing all of us in media over the next years to come. And I'll pass it over to Melody.

MEMBER SPANN COOPER: Thanks Skip, and you are right, and Ellen and I echo your sentiments. A lot of this work kind of cross-pollinates, especially I thought Work Stream 2,

that we will have to collaborate with them because as Work Station 4 looked at it and took a 360 degree kind of pragmatic approach to exploring how the SEC can better support minority ownership and media communications and technology, we always get back to this funding piece, right?

And without a doubt, the FCC's establishment of the 1978 minority tax certificate program was probably the best example of an increase, a major increase in the amount of ownership amongst diverse groups. It resulted in a 550 percent increase in ownership diversity, 288 radio stations, 43 television stations, 31 cable systems were acquired by minority owners.

And at its -- when it was repealed, you see a very steep decline in ownership. But since 1995, of course, the interest in our industry has rapidly increased, especially when you think about the onslaught of technology.

So as Congress works to reinstate the tax certificate and we hear it over and over again about the tax certificate, at Work Station 4 we've been looking more broadly about other options to meet the needs of today's marketplace.

That includes new, innovative ways to access capital, which we heard about in Work Station 2, for new entries into media ownership and beyond traditional funding sources like banks and venture capitalists.

Here are some of the thing we're exploring: the establishment of a general fund, where corporations could be incentivized to contribute. That would provide seed money for diverse start-ups and/or more established minority owners who are ready to scale. Another thing is, we talked about this a little earlier too, exploring funding options within the government-backed programs.

We talked about the CARES Act, the SEC. But the SBA is a valuable option and maybe looking at them in an enhanced long program typically for upstart media and technology companies. They've shown that they have the ability to look at things more succinctly. We watched that through the PPP program, and that is an option to look at the SBC as a way to fund media opportunities.

Finally, as we keep going back to this tax certificate, which we know is an incentive

for owners, but I think it's also -- we think it's also a time for us to talk to some of the big tech owners and some of the big media owners about what's important to them in a strategic acquisition or a divestment today, right?

And so these are just a few of the options that we've been exploring as we attempted to come up with recommendations to enhance ownership opportunities for diverse groups. With that, I'll turn it back over to Ellen.

MS. SCHNED: Thank you so much Melody and Skip, and I just do want to underscore that these are my two fantastic co-chairs. We're three co-chairs, tri-chairs of this Work Stream, and we have a really wonderful group that's been working with us. I just want to kind of take it home by basically underscoring that one of my focal points, my last point here is how do we throw the net wider, as wide as we can, to include more types of companies and more individuals up and down the work stream?

Not just owners. Yes, we want to see more minority owners, but about the rest of the 49 percent of the company? How can we incentivize owners to trickle down opportunities

and provide equity and provide opportunity to groom these individuals for the next generation of CEOs and C suites, through some of the training and some of the coaching and some of the mentoring with CEOs as Skip mentioned.

So throughout the concept of throwing the net wider or as an earlier presenter on supply diversity, we talked about how do we define the bench? How do we make the bench as broad as possible for as many people, to basically join in? I mean there's a lot of money out there, and I think one of the also common themes that's come through is it's about letting individuals, companies, minorities, women know what's available and how do they and we get our hands on them?

How do we apply? Maybe we need a group like the groups that have popped up for PPP like Skip and others, that really educate those of us who wanted to apply for a PPP loan or various CARES Act grants, but don't really know the way. There's a lot of those types of organizations that popped up to help coach and inform folks.

I mean Faith raised an excellent

question. There's some grant money available through the SEC for small businesses. So how do we basically collate all these opportunities for funding, which really comes down to the core of business, and to both educate what's available, educate how to apply for it, help folks to apply for it in the same vein as the EBB right now or the renamed the CP, the connectivity/broadband opportunity to give this $75 discount to low income folks?

There's a lot of opportunity out there and a lot of the cable operators are educating and trying to get the word out en masse. How do we similarly get the word out on the various grants and opportunities and seminars that we're all planning to do? So that's -- that's kind of where we're at in terms of trying to broaden the net on ownership, development within media, and let me just add that our group I love because we are diverse, not only in our make-up but also in our backgrounds.

We have a lot of broadcasters that have traditionally been in this committee on minority ownership because the tax certificates apply to TV and radio. I'm on the cable side of

the business, the cable network side of the business, and I love that as we come up with proposals, tactics, solutions, we're looking at both cable, network, broadcast, broadcast stations and broadcast content providers.

We're somewhat of a UN organization in Work Stream 4, in trying to make sure we're inclusive of the cable landscape as well as the broadcast landscape. Chris, back to you.

MEMBER WOOD: Thank you all so much. Very impressive your thought process and your presentation, thank you. I'll open up the floor to the rest of my Working Group.

Then I'll go ahead and open up the floor to the full CEDC.

I'd like to recognize Nicol.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: I'm a roll, I'm sorry. I've to come over to this group. First and foremost, I want to commend again this particular group for taking this on. I have to say when Ellen put this idea out, no one knew what to do with this, right? She's like I want to put something in on media in this work stream and it wasn't clear what that was going to look like.

So I really commend the shaping and refining of that focus to the team with these rock stars that have keen expertise and knowledge of this area. I also, you know again, want to echo I think the coordination with that previous work group and even further, right, which is to help and I like, Ellen, the way you talked to us about it, what kind of campaign needs to happen.

Part of the reason that the FCC was so successful with the broadband affordability program was because it enlisted outreach with partners, but it could probably even gain more insight into how to get to more people. I know that that is a common question among a lot of stakeholders at the state and local level who are trying to figure well, how do we let people know that this is actually going on?

So I'm just excited to see as your work progresses how you actually leverage local broadcast in this debate? How do you make this messaging culturally applicable to a variety of constituents? How do you make it even more mainstream, so that we actually do what the charge of the Chairwoman has been for us in this short period of time, which is to address the

possible denial of service, right, the digital discrimination side.

So I just want to commend you. It's more of a comment. But the more that you can help us to push this envelope so that we see this almost like a public campaign, right, in the work that you're doing, so people don't think twice about do I need it. You have a lot of digital natives, and they're just a part of this ecology just because they can't do other things.

So the more actively your group can actually put that out there, I think it's going to be more impactful. So again, thank you for the diligence to thinking and shaping, Ellen, this question, and getting it to a point where you can actually communicate it to the larger advisory. Thank you.

MEMBER WOOD: Thank you. Any other questions, comments?

CHAIR GATE: Chris, I just want to thank you, Skip, Melody and Ellen for this great work, this cross-sector collaboration is very excited.

(Audio interference.)

CHAIR GATE: So I think you, this work

stream has a tremendous amount of experience in this committee format. So I look forward to the engagement of the older -- I mean not older by age; I mean more experienced and the newer members of the Council.

I look forward and hopefully you all can harness their experience and expertise in the area and I appreciate it. I think Skip, you're one of those experienced members. Thank you so much. I'm trying to pull back, I'm trying to pull back.

MEMBER WOOD: Skip, Ellen and Melody, thank you so much. To wrap up, I just want to say I hope and it seems like based on the responses from our leadership and the other individuals, you're seeing the common thread of what we are trying to accomplish.

One thing that I know for me in particular in leading these groups is really pushing us to look outside the boxes in which we're familiar with, pushing us to look outside the D.C. area and specifically into the communities in which we're trying to serve, and look at it from the perspectives of how we reach those individuals, as well as include the

individuals who may not necessarily know about programs or opportunities like you mentioned, Madam Chairwoman.

So I thank you all very much for your comments. I do want to also recognize we have an incredible amount, a team that is working in each of these all very brilliant in their own respect, coming with a wealth of experience. So we really look forward to the second half of this charter and beginning to deliver on Work Streams 2, 3 and 4. Thank you so much for your time. I yield my time to Heather.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you Chris, and thank you to the whole working group, the whole working group for a great presentation. At this time before I offer my closing comments, I would like to ask Jamila if we have any questions from the public that are relevant to this Council.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: No Madam Chair. We don't, we don't have any questions from the public regarding today's agenda. Thank you.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you very much. And now I would like to move us to the closing part of our meeting. I want to start my closing by really thanking you all for the presentations

today, and for the vote on the two Working Groups' recommendations. I want to emphasize that that vote, the presentations in the morning are not representative of the complete body of work that we have undertaken over the past few months.

So but we have accepted the Chairwoman's extension of our work to continue, and our collaborative efforts in pursuit of more perfect document that represents all the members of the community, of not only the Council. So I want to make sure that I reiterate that the work that has been put in by many members over the last four months really is impressive. Not only is it impressive, but it is really representative of the dedication of the Council members.

I encourage you to continue with a certain -- with that level of passion for us to get this to its completion. I reiterate that the one thing that binds us together is that we care. We are about the communities that we're here to represent.

So again thank you very much for the work that you've put in in the past few months, and thank you in advance for the next 12 months,

and as you can see from the presentations that we had today, there's a lot more coming and a lot more collaboration with communities and with their convenings and interviews and research.

So I remain encouraged about what this group can do together, and I'm very excited about that. So on that note, I would -- before I hand the floor over to Jamila, I would like to ask if Dr. Turner Lee or Susan Allen have any closing comments.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Thank you again Chairwoman for your leadership over this Committee, and thank you to everyone who actually participated today and participated over the last few months to get to where we are today.

I really think in listening to the presentations that things are coming together, right, and they're sort of being weaved into a quilt which will have different appendages, but at the same time, they'll accomplish the same goal.

And so I think, you know, all of us who have been doing this work, all of you on this Committee who've been doing this work realize how important this issue is, and that we just need to

keep interrogating the questions and the context in which we do our work. So thank you for a great meeting, and it's always helpful too to thank you when you give people back some time.

So thank you your efficient manner of delivery of this meeting and obviously this a long charter, so we'll just keep on working, thank you.

CHAIR GATE: Keep moving. Thank you, Nicol. And now I hand over the floor to Jamila Bess Johnson --

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Susan, are you here? Where's Susan.

CHAIR GATE: I'm sorry. I didn't find Susan on the Teams --

MEMBER AU ALLEN: I am here. I'm very much here.

CHAIR GATE: Awesome. Susan, your closing comments please.

MEMBER AU ALLEN: Well my -- my beautiful vice chair jumped in with all the energy she collected after 36 hours she slept last night, and I couldn't catch up with this rabbit. My big screen has frozen. Now I'm talking to you through my iPad, okay. So I mean

all I can say is ditto to everything that you both have said.

I don't put in anymore, and Nicol thank you for speaking for me on supply diversity and all that. I couldn't add anymore. I mean you read my table.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Look, that is the important thing to actually confirm, that I did read everything.

MEMBER AU ALLEN: You did read everything. You did, I couldn't have done it --

MEMBER TURNER LEE: That's why I'm in a think tank. That's why I'm a think tank. That's all we do.

MEMBER AU ALLEN: I can't compete with a Ph.D. doctor from Brookings Institute, okay, just around the corner. Ladies and gentlemen, this has been a wonderful day. I thank my chair, Council chairwoman for running this very efficiently and getting everybody's word in, voice in, and we are able to produce the report and recommendations and policies and action items from two working groups, and we await the final product of the one remaining working group, which has a lot more work to do because you have a

heavy lifting to do.

I want to thank again our Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, our incomparable FCC staff, the whole team including the IT team which brought us together. We've had no hiccup at all, and of course my colleague in the Council as well as the working groups. Without you, your expertise, your experience, your patience, your dedication yes, I thought we'd been working for six months, and then you only said four months?

I thought I was on the FCC's payroll. We've really worked very hard and you've heard over and over, these women are coming together and we've got the men around us. We've got the different voices, different colors, different -- it's true diversity at work and it's best. So I will not say anymore. I will thank you again for being so good to the FCC and the work that has been entrusted to us by the Chairwoman.

You haven't seen the best yet. The best is yet to come once we get the other final report put together as Part 1 of Part 2 and Part 3 that we have presented to you. Thank you again.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you Susan. Thank

you. Thank you Susan and Nicol. As always, I appreciate your passion for this work. So and now again, thank you to everybody. Thank you Susan for thanking the IT team that makes us look good and makes this look easy. They've had to really make it up since COVID. This was not a natural way these meetings were designed to be done.

They're designed to be done in the Council meeting. So we appreciate their patience and expertise to get us where we are. Now I would love to hand the floor over to Jamila for her closing comments.

MS. BESS JOHNSON: Well thank you all so much. My Internet has been a little wonky today, so I'm going to try to do this quickly. Thank you everyone who participated in the meeting today. I want to thank my Chairwoman, Jessica Rosenworcel, my Media Bureau chief Holly Saurer, Hillary DeNigro and the Media Bureau front office and Brendan Holland in the Industry Analysis Division.

Thank you also to my colleagues on the CEDC staff team, that's Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa, Rashann Duvall and Aurelie Mathieu. Thanks very

much to our FCC Commission meeting room team, Jeff Riordan, Steve Balderson and Greg Huff. I want to thank all the CEDC members and working group members who have devoted their time away from other things that they could be doing, to perform this public service.

Thank you tremendously to our three Working Group chairs, Robert Brooks, Dr. Dominique Harrison and Chris Wood. And finally we're most, most grateful for the leadership of our chair panel, that's Chair Heather Gate, Vice Chair Dr. Nicol Turner Lee and Vice Chair Susan Au Allen. We hope that everyone who watched today's meeting will stay engaged with the CEDC by sharing their thoughts with us.

You may contact us at cedc@fcc.gov, and please also visit our web page at www.fcc.gov/communicationsequityanddiversitycouncil. We welcome your feedback and we welcome your participation. Thank you Heather, back to you.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you, and it is my pleasure to give time back, and so now I request a motion to adjourn this meeting.

MEMBER TURNER LEE: Motion to adjourn.

CHAIR GATE: Can I have a second?

MEMBER WOOD: Second.

CHAIR GATE: Thank you. This motion is adopted. We can adjourn this meeting and enjoy the rest of our Friday. Thank you again and have a great day.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 2:46 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

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Before: US FCC

Date: 07-22-22

Place: telconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.

Neal R Gross

Court Reporter