

**July 22, 2022 Virtual Meeting of the
Communications Equity and Diversity Council
Meeting Minutes**

Link to Meeting Transcript: <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/cedc-07222022-transcript.pdf>

Welcome and Opening of Meeting (10:00 am)

- Holly Saurer, Chief, Media Bureau

Welcome Remarks (10:05 am)

- Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel

Welcome Remarks (10:10 am)

- Jamila Bess Johnson, Designated Federal Officer, 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

CEDC Chair/Vice Chairs' Remarks (10:20 am)

- Heather Gate, Chair, CEDC, Connected Nation
- Nicol Turner Lee, Ph.D., Vice Chair, CEDC, Brookings Institution
- Susan Au Allen, Vice Chair, CEDC, US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation

Call to Order of the July 22, 2022, CEDC Meeting/Roll Call of CEDC Members (10:35 am)

- Heather Gate, Chair, CEDC, Connected Nation
- Jamila Bess Johnson, Designated Federal Officer, CEDC

Roll call conducted by Jamila Bess-Johnson, FCC DFO, confirmed that there was a quorum present.

CEDC Report on Model Policies and Best Practices to Prevent Digital Discrimination and Promote Digital Equity (10:45 am)

Innovation and Access Working Group Report (11:15 am)

- Robert Brooks, Digital Solutions Specialist, WHUR-FM, Howard University, Chair, Innovation and Access Working Group
- Anna Gomez, ACDDE *Chair Emeritus*, Representing the Hispanic National Bar Association Workstream 1 Lead (*Recommendations to Ensure Inclusive Practices for Identifying and Selecting Participating Entrepreneurs in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Contracting and Grants Processes*)

Discussed ways to close the digital divide and remove barriers to entry for small, underserved businesses under the IIJA. Made recommendations based on research and interviews conducted with subject matter experts including specific metrics and measurement goals to encourage and track minority participation. Emphasized the importance of job training, the need to define terms including supplier diversity.

Diversity and Equity Working Group (11:45 am)

- Christopher Wood, Executive Director, LGBT Technology Partnership & Institute, Chair, Diversity and Equity Working Group
- Randi Parker, Senior Director of Partnership Engagement, Creating IT Futures; Jill Houghton, President and CEO, Disability:IN; and Joon Bang, CEO, Iona Senior Services, Workstream 1 Co-

Leads (Defining Digital Discrimination Consistent with Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA))

Conducted research, interviews and analyzed data to document obstacles, barriers, and potential solutions to develop a definition of the term “digital discrimination” in collaboration with other CEDC members. Each community is different, not all marginalized communities are able to access training and resources in the same way. Collected best practices and models for digital and technology upskilling.

Discussion and Vote on the CEDC Report (12:15 pm)

It was moved and seconded that the two reports and associated recommendations be adopted and held until such time as the report/recommendations on preventing digital discrimination from the DEI Working Group were finalized. The motion was passed by unanimous consent. These reports and recommendations will become part of the CEDC’s final report on preventing digital discrimination.

Lunch Break (12:45 pm)

Roll Call: Afternoon roll call was conducted for the record and quorum was present.

Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group Report (1:30 pm)

- Dominique Harrison, Ph.D., Representing the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Chair, Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group
- Dr. Christopher Ali, Associate Professor, Department of Media Studies, University of Virginia; and Chris James, President and CEO, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, Workstream 2 Co-Leads (*Listening Sessions on Lessons Learned: Connecting Opportunity Communities to Broadband During the COVID-19 Pandemic*)
- Clayton Banks, CEO Silicon Harlem; Vickie Robinson, General Manager – Airband Initiative, Microsoft; and Sarah Kate Ellis, President and CEO, GLAAD, Workstream 3 Co-Leads (*Public Convening: Connecting Opportunity Communities to Broadband During the COVID-19 Pandemic*)

Charged with identifying innovative solutions and providing recommendations on how to accelerate the equitable deployment of broadband access in all communities, as well as how to reduce or remove regulatory barriers preventing deployment, investment, and adoption. Workstream 2 is conducting interviews and gathering data about programs created during the pandemic. Workstream 3 will hold a public convening in Spring 2023 with stakeholders from community groups, ISPs, and various levels of government to learn about broadband access, affordability, and adoption for opportunity communities.

Innovation and Access Working Group Report (2:00 pm)

- Robert Brooks, Digital Solutions Specialist, WHUR-FM, Howard University, Chair, Innovation and Access Working Group
- Jennifer J. Jackson, Executive Vice President, Stellar TV and Central City Productions, Workstream 2 Member (*Access to Capital*)

Workstream 2 will recommend initiatives to accelerate the entry and participation of small, minority- and women-owned businesses (SMW) into existing and emerging media/tech markets. Conducting research and interviews to identify opportunities for and barriers to capital access. Planning for a public webinar for late FY’22 or early FY’23 as well as development of a white paper to document findings.

- Matthew Bauer, Vice President and Executive Director of Connected Communities Wireless Research Center, Workstream 3 Lead (*Digital Equity/Closing the Digital Skills Gap*)

Workstream 3 described their mission to provide recommendations for government investment in and financial support for digital skills training to help employers, communities and individuals fully participate in US society and the economy. Reported on their efforts to identify model resources and digital skills training to increase educational, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities for diverse stakeholders including underserved populations, communities, and academia. Plan to host a public convening in Fall of 2022 then draft a summary report and resource guide based on their work.

Diversity and Equity Working Group Report (2:30 pm)

- Christopher Wood, Executive Director, LGBT Technology Partnership & Institute, Chair, Diversity and Equity Working Group

Provided a brief overview and introduced each workstream lead prior to their respective report outs.

- Lili Gangas, Chief, Technology Community Officer, Kapur Center; and Antonio Tijerino, President and CEO, Hispanic Heritage Foundation, Workstream 2 Co-Leads (*Identify Model Digital and Tech Upskilling Resources to Increase Employment in Diverse Communities*)

Focused on gathering resources, make practicable recommendations. Will identify gaps in digital skills literacy and broadband adoption, find new solutions, models, and pathways for continuous upskilling. Planning a virtual symposium, open to the public, to talk about successes and challenges from diverse and underserved stakeholder groups.

- Aama Nahuja, Legal Counsel, A Wonder Media Company, LLC; and Charlyn Stanberry, Vice President, Government Relations, National Association of Broadcasters, Workstream 3 Co-Leads (*Amplify the Role of Anchor Institutions in Creating Digital Equity in the Labor Force*)

Targeted research to nontraditional anchor institutions such as LGBTQ and faith-based organizations to draw attention to the importance of their role as they tend to be small, local, and under resourced making them unable to apply for grants. Conducted preliminary interviews with some of these groups; more being planned to include development of a survey for data collection. Want to add more members to this workstream so they can accomplish more in this arena. Also planning to hold a symposium focused on nontraditional anchor institutions and how to help them gain recognition and opportunities to grow.

- Ellen Schned, CEO, Strong Women Alliance; Graham “Skip” Dillard, Brand Manager, Audacy New York 94.7 WXXB-FM; and Melody Spann Cooper, Chair and CEO, Midway Broadcasting Corporation, Workstream 4 Co-Leads (*Minority Media, Communications and Tech Ownership and Development*)

Presented trends in minority ownership and ways to cultivate the next generation of diverse media owners. Reviewing other options to promote diversification including re-introduction of the 1978 Minority Tax Certificate program by Congress which significantly increased ownership. Will research ways to provide more access to capital, review barriers to advancement. More diverse, well equipped, and funded owners. Plan to work alongside Workstream 2 regarding access to funding. Exploring creation of a general fund by the private sector to provide seed money, as well as outreach about government-backed programs that can help small owners such as the Small Business Administration. Trying to broaden the net to include mentoring by larger companies, and representation of cable, network, and broadcast stations as well as ownership of diverse media content.

Questions/Comments from the Public (3:15 pm)

No questions came in from the public.

Adjournment (3:30 pm)

- Heather Gate, Chair, CEDC, Connected Nation
- Jamila Bess Johnson, Designated Federal Officer, CEDC