

Chisago Lakes Area Blandin Broadband Community

Vision Meeting Breakout Session Notes

June 19, 2020

Knowledge Workforce

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Higher learning Institution- Pine Technical Community College- Pine City; Anoka Community College in Cambridge; Century College- White Bear Lake	Lack of knowledge with new technology- Gap with knowledge and comfort to use platforms
City of Lindstrom has an internship program- not technical based currently	Lack of facilities/agencies-training programs for use of Technology in the region for various populations. Example need for ongoing certifications with first responders
Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce- Regional in Chisago County. Other Cities have their own Chamber of Commerce	Internet access/connection a barrier for online education- Example colleges and school systems. Another Example, students not having access to internet
Community Education Programs	Lack of funds/access for equipment to do work. - Example, School aged children and families do not have computers,lpads, etc...
East Central Regional Library	
Central MN Jobs and Training Services- Workforce Center and The Career Force Center- Contact: Rebecca Perrotti	

Desired Outcomes
Everyone has access to affordable-reliable internet to complete work, Example, School aged children, college students, local businesses and staff
Local employers/schools/colleges/community members have training available to sufficiently do their work. Example, a training center/ Partnership with Community Education and /or East Central Regional Library to ensure ongoing Tech. Education is available. (More agencies are offering online education. Such as Local PD other First Responders, County, Education provider/leaders...)
All First responders have access to computers and technology and the training to use it.
All students have a device to access and complete school work online.

Engage the East Central Regional Library to ensure they have adequate technology/Devices and training to serve the region.

Older adults will be engaged and involved in the needs in the community and workforce. Develop training that is targeted to older adults that will assist them to engage in the newer technology.

Broadband

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Communities work together to solve issues.	Density requirements reduced to allow better access in rural area.
Ability to access local ecommerce	Bandwidth caps and cost may become an issue.
Cellular/Wireless availability	Last mile issues for end users 20 users per trench mile.
Good fiber backbone	Throttling of internet based on usage in home
Midco provides quality access with multiple choices for internet access.	Limited companies will bid to put in new fiber in our area due to cost limitations.
	Shared internet creates limited access for multiple users.

Desired Outcomes
Affordable/Consistent internet access.
Plan from existing providers for future internet expansion.
Bring fiber to the premise in Franconia and Chisago Lakes Township
Advocacy and education in our area to understand the importance of high speed internet in our area.
Have a single solution for all telecommunications. (bundled services)
Matching funding to allow lower density numbers to provide internet to our rural areas.
Cost sharing between township/city/county/state

Innovation

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Slow.... But we have something.	Consistent service
Cell Phones plans. (Not great - data caps)	No choices (frontier only in this area).
5G options? Today fix? Fast fix.	Lost connection - even during zoom meeting
	International classes - different times of day requirements
	Not able to meet/seminars/in person.
	Kids missing classes.
	Kids not able to take summer or school year classes
	Teachers - learning to teach online classes.
	Unknown - school year plan.
	Vendors for virtual meetings

Desired Outcomes
Meet state goals - as soon as possible.
Technology solutions - community
Technology center.
Business networking - on what is working best.
Applying tech within schools/beyond schools
Training in proper software usages. Training is key.
Resource page to help businesses & schools
Sharing resources

Digital Equity

Noel S is taking hand-written notes!

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
East Central Regional Library -	Telehealth / telemedicine is a new need. Broadband almost becomes a health and safety discussion.
<p>People - willingness for people to come to the table and talk. Small business owners, community people coming together to talk. Our people are invested in the community (kids, businesses, etc). Initiative to help out.</p> <p>Huge volunteer spirit in the Chisago lake area and people are willing to work to make this a great place to live. I agree that people are working to make things great in Chisago Lakes I think adding the 5 communities in some way that they are distinct and own their own history but also come together when needed as the Chisago Lakes Area.</p>	<p>Digital equity and equity in general - Chisago Lakes has work to do in this. Yes, every student is above average in Chisago Lakes, but we are not Lake Wobegon. We are responsible as a community to produce global citizens that understand the perspectives of others not often heard in our community.</p> <p>Access to equipment.</p>
Chisago Lakes School District - communities rally behind the schools and are involved.	Education to use technology
Community Ed and community leaders (Age Well Coalition) - an asset for educating people to help them use different tools.	We also have students & adults that are homeless or have insecure housing that equipment and internet access is difficult or impossible.

Desired Outcomes
A training and support program in place for everyone who wants to use technology and broadband.
Make equipment and Internet accessible / affordable for all.
Coaches available to help those who need assistance.
Identify areas of need . We want better for all.
A plan to support all students and families into Fall 2020.

Advocacy

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Beauty of the area, lakes and parks	Expanded and user friendly transportation/busses
Strong sense of community	Affordable housing
Excellent schools, churches and health care services	Better food access
Friendly and caring people	Additional access points for our lakes (City administrators are working to improve access to the lakes for residents that don't live on the lake)
Metro proximity	More businesses in our community
Work together to get things done	Broadband for incoming residents/businesses is more important than ever
Tourism - a lot of recreational opportunities	Marketing retail and restaurants more broadly
Uniqueness - live on lakes and be in town (100's of houses) which is an amazing quality	Lack of technology availability: 400 families in our district don't even have a computer
Cities are connecting and we are becoming Chisago Lakes - life is great on highway 8! Strengthens community and attracts businesses	Public safety - getting information out to the public. People flood cell towers and broadband system with emergencies. Firstnet will be available for first responders their system wouldn't crash, but the general public isn't part of that
Creative business owners - COVID has reinvigorated businesses and energized marketing	Visitors are impacted by our lack of cell tower coverage and internet - this impacts people's desire to live in the community
Established marketing for tourism - this is unique to Chisago Lakes	

Desired Outcomes
Appeal to wide variety of people - demographics; regardless of socio-economic background, sexual orientation, race, religion, you feel welcome
Internet any time any place they need it

Ensure we have a broad enough infrastructure so we can inform the public of emergencies and keep safe

Brainstorming Notes:

What can we do creatively to keep people here?

Touchdown space - where they access the internet or work isolated - We have one of those right now. But we also have an abandoned building that could potentially work.

We need internet anytime when you need it

Broadband is like a modern day version of the town electricity and telephone

Attendees:

Katie Malchow - Chamber of Commerce Director

Cory Spencer - Law Enforcement Officer

Kathy Reid - Pine County Tech College

Stephanie Haggerty - Realtor

Jim Gallach - Associate Principal Chisago Lakes Middle School