

Meeting Minutes

California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) Administrative Committee (AC) Meeting
California Public Utilities Commission Webex Meeting

June 23, 2020

Meeting called to order at 9:05a.m.

1. Introductions

Committee Members Present: Sean McLaughlin-Access Humboldt (Chairperson, CBOs), Jarrid Keller-Sacramento County Library (Vice-Chairperson, Libraries), Jeff Mondon – AT&T (LEC), Saira Pasha-AT&T (LEC), Geoff Belleau -CDE (Education), Alison Dias -CDE (Education), Kenneth Rothschild (Deaf/Hearing Impaired; request name change to **Deaf/Hard of Hearing in Charter**), Calvin Chang-UC Davis (Government Hospitals and Health Clinics), Vinhcent Le – Green Lining (CBOs)

CPUC Staff Present: Eric Van Wambeke (CTF), Karo Serle (CTF), Jonathan Lakritz (CD), Andrew Aliabadi (CTF), Adam Clark (CTF), Amy Lau (CTF), Chasel Lee (CTF), Joanne Leung (CTF), Ligia Serpas (CTF), Charlotte Taylor (CTF), Helen Mickiewicz (Legal), Raisa Ledesma Rodriguez (Public Advocates Office), Kate Beck (Public Advocates Office)

Public Participants Present: Kim Lewis (CENIC), Kim Klupenger

American Sign Language Interpreters: Kayelle Morgan and Mona Jean Cedar

Absent Members: Casey McFall (CBOs), Laura Sasaki (Libraries)

2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No public comment

3. Review Agenda

Table FCC Covid-19 to next meeting and moved up agenda item, Distance Learning.

Approved

4. Review and Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

AC member Rothschild request “Hearing Impaired” to be replaced with “Deaf/Hard of Hearing” (To be changed in Charter)

Approved December 9, 2019 meeting minutes

5. Update Action Items from Last Committee Meeting

Action Item: CTF Staff will continue to work on how to display addresses for CBOs, Committee Member Mondon will continue to monitor AT&T instances of CBO address queries.

Status: Staff will post CBO addresses on website. Addresses for confidential locations will be not be displayed. Carriers to contact CTF Staff for verification.

Action Item: Chair McLaughlin will draft a template letter for member recruitment.

Status: Ongoing

6. Distance Learning

CTF Staff

- Explanation of the distance learning program
 - Dedicated \$25 million to the initiative
 - Enough service connections for 400,000 students
 - CDE identified districts that would be eligible to apply for the program
 - Districts would apply directly with CTF
 - We have provisions for mobile broadband long before Covid
 - We are looking for advice and guidance from the AC regarding future prospects and direction of mobile broadband

AC member Belleau

- Appreciate partnership with CTF and broadband support from April through September
- Results of survey sent to schools
 - Request for 760,000 devices
 - ½ million hotspots
- T-Mobile offered 100k hotspots, Verizon offered 250k hotspots at low costs
- CASF put up \$5 million for purchases of devices
- Schools want to and need to give connections to students

(Q): Why not fund devices from larger districts, since the problem falls more along income lines?

(A):

- Small and medium rural districts chosen because it fell in line with Governor's initiative and objective of digital divide
- Not enough funds for everyone
- Large districts have more access to funds
- Large districts often have existing programs

(Q): What about residential schools for the Deaf?

(A): Students of the state special schools are at home and are all connected

(Q): What is the carrier allocation of the hotspots?

(A):

- All four of the big carriers are being used
- There is interest in other opportunities
- Some districts are interested in microwave links, satellite connectivity, StarLink

(Q) How is it billed?

(A):

- School district is responsible for paying
- Carrier would offer a discount and come to CTF for reimbursement of the discount
- CTF paying a projected \$14 million so far

(Q): What is the sustainability of this initiative?

(A): Have not discussed longer term.

7. Nominate representatives for vacancies

Nomination for Kim Klupenger for Rural Clinics/Telemedicine seat failed due to residing in Oregon.

Nomination for Anwar Abbas for Rural Clinics/Telemedicine deferred to next AC meeting

Committee confirmed nomination of Kate Beck for Public Advocates Office primary seat.

AC member Calvin Chang is retiring from UC Davis Health. If representing in the interest of healthcare and not related to his employer, he can stay as a member until the end of his term.

8. Status of CTF

a. Applications

CTF Staff discussed applications data.

b. Claims and Program Finances

CTF Staff displayed Claim status to attendees.

- Cash balance \$94.7 million
- Local assistance decreased by \$20 million over last three years
- Is the fund a target for raiding by the legislature to fill budget deficit?
 - All the CTF funds have been earmarked
 - There was an initial inquiry, but the legislature has looked elsewhere, like Lifeline

c. Recertification –

CTF Staff displayed Recertification data to attendees.

9. Pending Legislation

SB1130 – Changes CASF program rules

No legislation directly related to CTF

Federal legislation to expend federal funds up to \$100 billion

10. FCC Covid-19 Telehealth Program

Move to next AC meeting

11. Discussion of healthcare organizations with revenues > \$50 million

No further discussion.

12. Discuss March 4th en banc

Agenda (<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/CDenbanc/>)

13. Identify Items for next Agenda

- FCC Covid-19 Telehealth Program
- Nominate/vote members for vacancies
- Budget

Next AC Meeting Date:

September: Exact date to be determined

AC meeting adjourned 12:08pm