

## **MCLS Virtual Dialogue**

**Creatively and Innovatively Connecting Communities to the Internet in a Post-Pandemic World**

**June 12, 2020 – 11:00 am EDT**

*Participants were paired in breakout rooms for 10 minutes for an Icebreaker session.*

*Share a story about something new or unique that you've learned about this week.*

*Discussion following the Icebreaker session:*

11:19:24 From Michelle Bradley : A change of scenery helped my mood this week.

11:19:34 From Amy @ Coleman Area Library : I shared that I learned some new storytime songs to use when I try "online storytime" for my first time next week.

11:20:06 From Adam DeWitt, Fruitport : Managing staff schedules, work, spacing, present tracking requirements and terms

11:20:21 From Bill Bowman : I just now, learned the term "Respiratory Etiquette" From my group!

11:20:55 From Bill Bowman : Also, how interesting curbside is.

*Participants were placed in small group breakout rooms for 15 minutes for the first round of conversations.*

*1st Breakout Room Conversation Scenario:*

*Since the inception of the internet, libraries have been at the forefront of providing reliable internet connectivity to people of all ages. In the last several months, libraries have had to shift and find new and creative ways to provide that connectivity when buildings were closed. Share a story about an innovation around connectivity that you heard about or implemented, one that excited you, made you proud, or sparked new ideas for you.*

*Discussion following the 1st breakout room session:*

11:43:21 From Diana Gill : Busses/trucks out in community with wifi

11:43:52 From Diana Gill : Cellular gateways to provide wifi network in areas. Much larger coverage area than a regular hotspot

11:45:28 From Adam DeWitt, Fruitport : Challenges: sudden shift to digital and learning curve; learning new tech and Techniques ideas: local radio spots; share program schedules with other libraries to keep interacting; grab & go kits; parking lot obstacle course; community-wide scavenger hunt

11:45:30 From Diana Gill : Maybe set up in parking lot with wifi and even provide laptops for people without their own devices.

11:45:30 From Todd Reed : Is it Filtered?

11:45:46 From Lissa Krull : Bill, Can you share contact info for Morachi(sp)?

11:47:19 From Diana Gill : Meraki

11:47:46 From Michelle Bradley : Meraki.com

11:49:23 From Cindy Stanczak : There was a question about filtering the outside gateways?

11:50:39 From Cindy Stanczak : so it could meet the LSTA funding requirement.

11:54:18 From Bill Bowman : meraki.cisco.com

***Participants were placed in small groups in breakout rooms for 20 minutes for the second round of conversations.***

***2<sup>nd</sup> Breakout Room Scenario and question:***

***Imagine that it's six months to a year from now, and while the Internet has not yet become a standard utility, the library has played a major role in increasing access to internet connectivity and technology in your service area. What does that look like? What role did you play? Who did you partner with?***

***Discussion following the 2<sup>nd</sup> breakout room session:***

12:04:45 From Pam Seabolt : <https://www.mcls.org/training-events/presentation-slides/>

12:17:12 From Diana Gill : We got a little off topic, but... get funding from local municipalities or businesses.

12:17:31 From Diana Gill : For instance, in Elkhart we have many large RV companies

12:17:45 From Diana Gill : They could sponsor/donate wifi networks.

12:17:52 From Diana Gill : Make them more community wide

12:18:28 From Charli Osborne : Free or subsidized internet from internet providers. Pop up library services in senior centers or

coffee shops

12:24:27 From Michelle Bradley : Project for Public Spaces <https://www.pps.org/>

***Final Question:***

***Imagine that it's six months to a year from now, and while the Internet has not yet become a standard utility, the library has played a major role in increasing access to internet connectivity and technology in your service area. What does that look like? What role did you play? Who did you partner with?***

***Discussion following the final question:***

12:28:25 From Barb Dinan : Got to go. Thanks!

12:28:34 From Bill Bowman : Inter-library partnerships. Expand them!

12:28:41 From Charli Osborne : I love the idea of outdoor access points throughout the community

12:29:07 From C Q : expanding internet access in the community and more virtual programs

12:29:27 From Adam DeWitt, Fruitport : Partner with municipality and businesses to expand wifi

12:29:34 From Cindy Stanczak : Definitely considering the the possibilities of the access points through TechSoup/LSTA/e-rate funding which are not available to other org/entities in our area.

12:30:04 From Francine Menken : I like the idea of live streaming when the building is closed going into the future when the pandemic has passed.

12:30:43 From dkristoff : outdoor access points and picnic tables

12:31:34 From dkristoff : Thank you for the map

12:31:58 From Charli Osborne : Thanks everyone!

12:32:04 From C Q : thanks!

12:32:07 From Francine Menken : thank you!

12:32:14 From Adam DeWitt, Fruitport : Thanks. you as well.

12:32:14 From dkristoff : bye