

# FLATHEAD COUNTY BROADBAND WORKSHOP

## STAKEHOLDER PANEL

6-13-18

### **Imagine If Library (Kim Crowley)**

- Library mission is to promote creativity and innovation
- Current internet service is 50 mbps download
- Last year they had 115,000 wireless users. Access is available 24/7. They have users sit in their cars after in the parking lot after hours to use the wireless.
- 85,000 logins to the Internet. Free to everyone
- The library is a key stakeholder to addressing the digital divide. They provide access to those who do not have it and cannot otherwise get Internet.
- The Library also provides digital literacy training. Studies indicate that people who have this training are more likely to find jobs.
- The library does not apply for e-rate dollars anymore.

### **Flathead County Information Technology Dept. (Mike Hausler, Director)**

- The county has 15 mbps service for 600 users and are working to catch up with their bandwidth needs
- As they transition to Microsoft 365 cloud service, they will need more bandwidth to support
- The county is expanding use of social media. There are some security concerns that will need to be addressed.
- The cost of fiber to connect county facilities is \$42,500 per mile
- They do not want to rent dark fiber because it is more expensive than owning the network

### **Health Information Exchange of Montana (HIEM) – Ahyoung Huff**

- HIEM is a consortium of 20 health care facilities in western Montana from Kalispell to Libby, to Conrad that are connected fiber.
- HIEM was initially funded through an FCC Health Care Program
- They provide telehealth and telestroke to rural areas as well as access to health care professionals
- FCC funding prohibits opening the network to other users who are not consortium members

### **School District 5 (Rick Lawrence – IT Director)**

- Broadband needs have tripled over the last 3-years
- The school network supports 7,200 devices
- The district has 1 gigabit service
- Funding sources include an elementary school levy for technology and e-rate
- Technology is a cornerstone tool for teachers
- There are 12-partner districts in the County. The farther away from Kalispell, the more difficult it is to provide service to the school.

### **9-1-1 Center (Brian )**

- Lack of redundancy is an issue
- When there is a service outage, it is a public safety issue. They cannot dispatch police, fire, or look up records during a traffic stop
- There was a service outage over the weekend because a tree fell on the line.
- A "Single Point of Failure" is a concern and needs to be considered when designing a network