Digital Dodge City

August 2013 Report

"Digital Dodge City" is a community wide initiative to determine the digital future of Dodge City. Community leaders have participated in public events and completed a "stakeholder alignment" survey to help define Dodge City's current and future needs, as well as the resources necessary to ensure community members have access to and understand how to use information technology. The objective is to stimulate community-wide discussion and engage diverse stakeholders in planning efforts to create and support a healthy, prosperous and cohesive 21st century community.

The ancestors of long time residents and the new residents of Dodge City have very important traits in common – self-determination and independence. They all arrived in Dodge City with the intent of creating better lives for themselves and their families. The residents of Dodge City are not passive. Technology is having an increasing impact on individuals, businesses and the community as a whole. Through Digital Dodge City, the residents of Dodge City are actively determining the digital future of their community.

Purpose Statement:
Collaboratively define and build a cohesive 21st century Dodge City.

Long Term Goal:
Dodge City residents of all ages are technologically adaptable self-learners.

Short Term Goal:
Support the broader Dodge City community impacted by the 21st century learning initiatives of USD #443, Sacred Heart and the Dodge City Community College, resulting in more Dodge City residents of all ages being technologically adaptable self learners.

Working Groups
Increased Technical Support
Chair– Terry Adams, Western Plains Medical Complex
Terry.Adams@lpnt.net

- Goal: Increased affordable technical support for all, particularly community members struggling to use digital tools.
- Data Needed: Resource mapping of local technical support.

Increased Awareness of Digital Resources
Chairs - Jerad Busch, Sunflower Bank jeradb@sunflowerbank.com
Chelsey Dawson, Main Street Dodge City
cfisher@dodgedev.org
- Goal: Increased awareness of existing digital resources (local and national).
- Data Needed: Resource mapping of local computer and internet access, wifi access, training and technical support.

Affordable Internet Service
Chairs – Leslie Lomas, Dodge City / Ford County Development Corporation
llomas@dodgedev.org
Paul Yaroslaski, Dodge City Community College
dolphins@dc3.edu
- Goal: Increased availability of affordable internet service.
- Data Needed: Broadband service offerings by price, speed and area available.

Increased Cultural Understanding
Chair – Kathy Denhardt
kathydenhardt@gmail.com
- Goal: Increased cultural understanding through integration of the multiple cultures in Dodge City and the associated technology uses and needs.

Increased Community Involvement
Chair – Emily Sitz, Southwest Kansas Library System
esitz@swkls.org
- Goal: Increased community involvement and parental engagement via online information and communication resulting in more volunteerism in schools and general community activities.

Strengthened Adult Education
Chair - Greta Clark, Dodge City Community College
GClark@dc3.edu
- Goal: Strengthen adult education through increased digital literacy skills and access to broadband (publicly and at home) with the end of goal of a technologically adaptable adult population.

Strengthened K-12 Education
Chair – Mischel Miller, USD #443
miller.mischel@usd443.org

- Goal: Community resources supporting K-12 technology initiatives, particularly community involvement in K-12 technology and at home and public Internet access.

Improved Digital Access to Local Resources & Information
Chair – Sheila Grayson, Dodge City Volunteer Center
sgrayson53@cox.net
- Goal: Increased access to local information including transportation, housing, religious services, and businesses.

Working Group Tasks
1. Confirm or revise the above goal which should support the initiative's long-term goal.
2. Create a demonstration project that meets the initiative's short-term goal.
3. Recruit additional working group members.

Kansas Department of Commerce Support Requests
1. A complete list of Internet service providers (wireline and wireless including cellular), real speeds, data caps and costs (including limited time offers and bundled packages).
2. A complete list of free public Internet access locations and the hours of availability.
3. Compilation of existing broadband usage including the Dodge City Public Library's data on their public usage and the Dodge City Community College's data on devices used by students to access the DCCC network.

Steering Committee
Cathy Reeves, Dodge City Public Library
Jane Longmeyer, City of Dodge City
Greta Clark, Dodge City Community College
Terry Adams, Western Plains Medical Complex
Mischel Miller, USD #443
Thad Russell, Dodge City Community College
Emily Sitz, Soutwest Kansas Library System
Jerad Busch, Sunflower Bank
Chelsey Dawson, Main Street Dodge City
Leslie Lomas, Dodge City / Ford County Development Corporation
Sheila Grayson, Dodge City Volunteer Center

Steering Committee Meetings
- Initial Steering Committee Meeting held August 20, 2013.
- Future meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at noon at the Dodge City Public Library. Upcoming meetings: September 17 and October 15, 2013.