

**Educational Workshop
“The Future of Broadband and Community Media”
for Marin Telecommunications Agency**

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Executive Summary

The Marin Telecommunications Agency (MTA) is tasked with policy-making and coordinating telecommunications matters in Marin, in line with core values of “promoting availability, accessibility, affordability and public inclusion in the advancement and enhancement of telecommunications infrastructure and services in Marin.” (Strategic Plan 2008, 1).

The goal of this 1-1.5 hour workshop is to provide the Marin Telecommunications Agency (MTA) members with a short primer on the key issues affecting the future of municipal broadband telecommunications and community media, in line with the MTA Mission. The Workshop would open with a discussion of the major trends affecting this sector, and then discuss some of the lessons from best-case municipal practices in the field. These would include the telecommunications experience of comparable North American municipalities (eg. Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada), and of community media centers (eg. Grand Rapids, Michigan and Access Humboldt in northern California), among others. The discussion of best practices would underscore the key success factors of each case study, and some of the important lessons for replicating these success factors in Marin.

Short Biography of Consultant

Dr. Dorothy Kidd is an Associate Professor in the Department of Media Studies at the University of San Francisco. Since the early 1970s, Dr. Kidd has worked extensively in the development of community media, including training journalists and producers, local and national policy development, and local infrastructure installation; and more recently in the documentation of these efforts in the U.S., Canada and internationally. Her work spans the field, from the earliest development of video production via cable; community FM radio; community broadcasting via satellite and I-Net (with the Northern Native Aboriginal Network in Canada); to current projects involving community wireless. Her current research includes a Social Science Research Council (SSRC)-funded project about digital inclusion with Media Alliance in Oakland, and a two volume co-edited collection of best practices of citizens’ media from around the world.