# **INSIGHTS**

Connecting to the future of public safety communications Volume 34 / 34 Issue

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- 911 Service System Advisory Committee
- Webster County
   PSAP Joins
   Southeast Region
- Director's Desk
- Annual Funding
   Order Approved
- NASNA/NENA 2025
- NPSTW2025
- 911 Notes



An online Publication of the Nebraska Public Service Commission State 911 Department

## 911 SERVICE SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HOLDS SECOND QUARTER MEETING

A May meeting of the 911 Service System Advisory Committee (911SSAC) brought updates and discussion on a number of topics. Members were provided updates on legislation, NG911 Deployment and Originating Service Provider (OSP) migration. State 911 director Dave Sankey told the committee that more than 66% of OSPs are connected to the NG911 system. He talked about the legislatures passage of LB 362 which codifies previous 911 Acts into the 911 Service System Act and eliminated the Wireless 911 (E911) Advisory Board.

An overview of the Commission's revised Rules & Regulations dealing with 911 was also provide. Committee members thanked everyone for their hard work and voted to recommend to the Commissioners that the revised Rules & Regs be approved.

Committee members were also given a look at a new GIS hub. The hub is a secure system that allows for the creation of accounts by PSAPs.

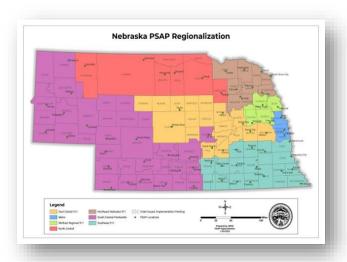
The meeting wrapped up with a discussion on set-aside funding. A vote was taken to recommend to the Commission that it extend the deadline for those funds to be spent. The next meeting of committee was then set for August 20, at 1:00 p.m. at the Commission.



#### WEBSTER COUNTY PSAP JOINS SOUTHEAST REGION

Following the recommendation of the 911 Service System Advisory Committee (911SSAC), the Nebraska Public Service Commission has issued an Order (911-080) establishing Webster County as the state's 68<sup>th</sup> Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Webster County fills the role formerly served by Mid-Rivers.

The Order allows for the state to provide funding to the PSAP. Look for Webster County to begin operation in July.



#### **DIRECTOR'S DESK:**



State 911 Director Dave Sankey

In April the state and nation celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW) a time set aside to honor and thank the dedicated men and women who day in an day out put on the headset and answer the call.

Throughout my career I have had the opportunity to experience firsthand the important role telecommunicators/dispatchers play for our first responders. I can't tell you how reassuring it was to have someone on the other end of the radio providing not only essential information but the assurance that someone was aware of the situation I was facing.

As we celebrate our telecommunicators'/dispatchers' it is only fitting that we also welcome the Webster County PSAP to the Southeast Region. The state's 68th PSAP, fills the role formerly served by Mid-Rivers. This has been a well thought-out endeavor, and we look forward to having Webster County as apart of the PSAP community.

In closing, we are thankful for the commitment of those who serve our citizens and first repsonders as the Commission remains dedicated to its role in advancing Next Generation 911 in Nebraska.

#### COMMISSION APPROVES ANNUAL FUNDING ORDER

In May, the Commission approved the annual funding Order (911-019/PI-118) for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The Order paves the way for allocation of funds to PSAPs for the 2025-2026 funding year.

For the second year in a row, the Commission was able to increase the amount of funds provided to PSAPs per the Order. In the 2024-2025 funding year, PSAPs received an additional million dollars in funding. In its most recent funding Order, the Commission approved an increase of \$1.5 million.

"We are pleased to be able to provide this additional support," said David Sankey, State 911 Dept. Director. "The increase in support has been made possible by the decrease in legacy costs as the transition to the Next Generation 911 system continues."

A letter containing funding allocation amounts, will be sent by the PSC State 911 Department to all PSAPs. Questions regarding PSAP funding letters can be email to < <a href="mailto:psc.psap@nebraska.gov">psc.psap@nebraska.gov</a> >.

#### STATE 911 DEPT. PARTICAPTES IN NASNA & NENA MEETINGS

Every summer members of the National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA) gather for two-days of intense meetings, collaboration and state reports prior to the National Emergency Number Association (NENA 2025). This year's events took place in California.

While attending the NASNA meetings, State 911 Director Dave Sankey updated the group on Nebraska's transition to NG911.

Following NASNA, Sankey joined members of the state 911 Department for the NENA conference. The week-long conference provides 911 professionals practical, hands-on training, and meaningful discussions on the biggest challenges and opportunities in emergency communications.

Participants are provided information on issues shaping 911 as well as strategies to aid them in improving their agency's operations.









#### #NPSTW2025- CELEBRATING PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR

The second full week in April is set aside to honor and say thank you to our Public Safety Telecommunicators. A Proclamation from Governor Jim Pillen pronouncing April 13-19 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week #NPSTW2025, honored the 100's of men and women in Nebraska who provide critical/lifesaving support day-in and day-out. The week was filled with appreciation for the dedication of all who put on the headset and answer the call. Here is just a small sampling of the examples of gratitude we found on social media.



It's official! Mebraska Governor Jim Pillen has recognized the critical role telecommunicators play in public safety by proclaiming April 13-19 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Lincoln Police Department

April 14 at 8:05 AM - 3



These dedicated professionals are the calm voices in chaos, the steady hands guiding help to where it's needed most. They work tirelessly, 24/7, answering calls that save lives and protect our communities.

To every dispatcher and call-taker: thank you for your compassion, quick thinking, and unwavering commitment. You are truly the first of the first responders.

#ThankYouDispatchers #NPSTW #911Dispatch #FirstResponderStrong





This is the week to thank a dispatcher! Often the calm within the storm, the heroes behind the scenes, this is their week. We appreciate our dispatchers!

Kimball County Sheriff's Office



This week, we proudly recognize the unseen heroes who serve as the lifeline between crisis and response — our incredible dispatchers. 💙

At the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, we are extremely grateful for our dedicated

Show more

RESOLUTION 2025-19

Name the Week April 13, 2025 through April 19, 2025 as "National Public Safety

Telecommunicators Week" in Buffalo County

WHEREAS, every day, dedicated public safety telecomm<mark>un</mark>icators serve the people of Buffalo County by answering their enforcement, fire, or emergency medical personnel as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, the professional public safety telecommunicator is that vital link between the citizens who call 9-1-1 and the law enforcement, fire and emergency personnel who may save their life or

property in an emergency; and
WHEREAS, the safety of Buffalo County's first responders depends on
the quality and accuracy of information obtained by professional public safety telecommunicators and delivered via radio, telephone and computers services; and

WHEREAS, the critical functions performed by professional public safety telecommunicators also include those related to highway safety, road maintenance, public utilities and other services that affect the health and safety of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, emergencies can strike at any time, so we rely on the vigilance and preparedness of these individuals 24 hours a day,

365 days a year. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUFFALO.

COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that Buffalo County enjoys the highest standards of public health and safety, and we owe a great debt to the men and women who, by applying their expertise telecommunications, help to make that achievement possible. During this special observance, we acknowledge that debt and extend a heartfelt thanks to each of them



City of Grand Island - Hall County Emergency Management

They may not wear capes, but they save lives every day. Join us this week as we say THANK YOU to our 911 professionals. Your dedication doesn't go unnoticed. #HiddenHeroes #911Dispatch #NPSTW2025



National Association of State 911 Administrators
April 13 at 9:01 AM ⋅ 🚱

Every call for help begins with a calm voice on the other end of the line.

This NPSTW, we invite you to pause and say two words that mean everything — thank you.... See





Behind every call for help, there's a voice answering the call to serve. Sharon Codr, Mike Binder and Andrew Hayden received the #LPD Exceptional Duty Award for their outstanding contributions to

Last October, they deployed with Nebraska's Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce (TERT) to assist in hurricane relief efforts in North Carolina. Sharon led coordination efforts, Mike managed logistics and documentation, and Andrew played a key role in planning and operations. Their teamwork reflected dedication beyond our community.

With 33 years of service, Sharon has been a pioneer in emergency dispatch, bringing life-saving Telephone-CPR to Nebraska and guiding responses to critical events like the July 31st windstorm. She has also chronicled LECC's history through her photography, capturing moments of service

Join us in celebrating their achievements during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week!









Nebraska Public Service Commission April 14 at 7:50 AM - @

It's National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW)! Join us in thanking our dedicated, professional Nebraska 911 Telecommunicator/Dispatchers. Always there to answer the call we proudly recognize them for the incredible services they provide our citizens and first responders. #Thankyou #NPSTW2025



## 9-1-1 **NOTES**

### **Funding Applications Processed**

Funding applications for 2025-2026 have been processed by the State 911 Department. We would like to thank everyone for their hard work in getting the information to us in a timely manner.

Keep your eye out for a letter in the mail containing your PSAPs funding allocation for July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026. Please make sure to share the information with your county clerk or treasurer. You can also view funding allocations on the PSC website under the State 911 tab, on the PSAP page < <a href="https://psc.nebraska.gov/state-911/public-safety-answering-points-psaps">https://psc.nebraska.gov/state-911/public-safety-answering-points-psaps</a> > under the Allocation drop down.

If you have questions about your funding allocation, email us @ psc.psap@nebraska.gov

## Friendly Reminder on Spending Down Legacy Set-Aside Funds

PSAPs that have transitioned from a legacy PSAP to an NG911 PSAP have three years to use up their remaining legacy set-aside fund balance. The three-year period to use up legacy set-aside funds begins two months after the date a PSAP makes the transition to NG911.

Legacy set-aside funds may be used for any eligible expense without seeking PSC approval. Legacy set-aside funds **may not** be used for personnel costs. PSAPs are encouraged to use legacy set-aside funds to cover PSAP costs of adjusting to the new funding allocation model.

If you have questions about your transition date or spending your legacy set-aside funds, email us @< psc.psap@nebraska.gov > our knowledgeable and experienced staff will work to answer your question or provide you information in a timely manner.

## Helping to Keep You Informed by Sharing Information

In April, your PSAP may have received an email from State 911 director Dave Sankey sharing with you information on a couple of cyber related incidents that occurred outside of the state of Nebraska. While there were no such incidents in our state, the information was shared to raise awareness as you work to keep your PSAP secure from any potential threats. We will continue to share information on a variety of topics as they arise.

We also appreciate PSAPs sharing your news with us so that we might let others across the state know of your accomplishments, celebrations, milestones. Email us with your news along with any pictures to <a href="mailto:james.almond@nebraska.gov">james.almond@nebraska.gov</a> then watch for your story in our next newsletter. We also invite you to connect with us on social media. Like us on <a href="mailto:Facebook">Facebook</a> and <a href="mailto:X@NEB\_PSC">X@NEB\_PSC</a> or visit the PSC website @<a href="mailto:www.psc.nebraska.gov">www.psc.nebraska.gov</a>>.



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