INSIGHTS

Connecting to the future of public safety

Volume 14 / 14 Issue

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CORONAVIRUS CHANGES 911 SSAC MEETINGS

The coronavirus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic led to new ways of doing business for just about every facet of our daily lives.

For the 911 Service System Advisory Committee (911 SSAC) that meant holding meetings virtually. Committee members and those in the public wishing to attend did so through WebEx.

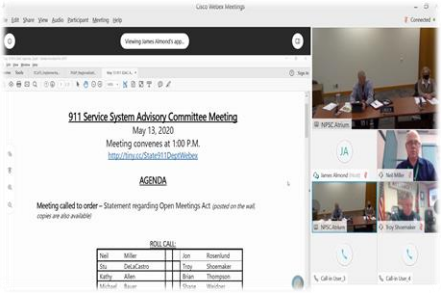
"Despite the change to a virtual environment, we had good participation and managed to move forward with some key recommendations," said David Sankey, State 911 Director. "

During the board's April 1 meeting, members recommended a new funding mechanism for NG911. The recommendations were then sent to PSC Commissioners for their approval. On May 5, Commissioners issued an Order opening a docket and seeking public comment on the recommendations.

"Moving forward with approval of a funding mechanism is a key factor toward the implementation of NG911 in Nebraska," *State 911 Director, David Sankey*.

The public comment period on the proposed funding recommendations ended June 5. Commissioners and PSC staff will now review the comments to help refine the proposal. A public hearing on the funding recommendations will take place at a later date before a final vote by the Commission is held.

The committee also held a virtual meeting May 13, with members providing working group updates. The next 911 SSAC meeting will be held July 15, at 1:00 pm, with the location for the meeting to be set at a later date.



DIRECTORS' DESK:

State 911 Director Dave Sankey

During these ever changing times associated with the COVID-19 pandemic I am often reminded of the 70's rock song "Takin' Care of Business' by Bachman-Turner Overdrive (BTO). For those of you not familiar (or old enough to remember), the songs lyrics as I see it, are about getting things important to you done, everyday and in everyway. That is just what our boards, committees and working groups have all managed to do.

While we haven't been able to meet in person, we have all been able to take care of the business at hand by being flexiable and willing to "join a meeting". We've spent our time in front of our computers, learning to share our video and audio and trying not to speak over someone as we communicate our thoughts.

During this time of change, we have accomplished a lot. The 911 SSAC recommended a new funding mechanism for NG911, enabling the Commission to begin the process of seeking public comment and conducting a public hearing before a final Order is approved. Our working groups have continued to meet and develop guidance needed to continue moving toward the implementation of NG911 in our state.

The 911 Wireless Advisory Board has approved funding Orders, allowing our PSAPs to continue to join regions and upgrade equipment needed in an NG911 environment.

So as you can see, we are "takin' care of our business". I want to thank each and everyone of you for your dedication. I appreiate your willingness to continue to be committed and remain engaged during this time and look forward to the day when we will once again be able to conduct business as usual.

Proclamation Recognizes Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

In a year when nothing is as it was, we still managed to get Governor Ricketts to sign a Proclamation recognizing April 12-18 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Nebraska.

With no public proclamation signings held due to the COVID-19 pandemic the proclamation honoring our dedicated, hard-working public safety telecommunicators/dispatchers, was signed and put in the mail.

The proclamation once received was posted on PSC social media. The Commission will once again provide a signed copy of the proclamation to PSAPs for display.

STATE OF NEBRASKA

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Every day, dedicated public safety telecommunicators serve the people of Nebraska by answering their requests for emergency assistance and dispatching the appropriate police, 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 medical personnel who may save their life or property in an emergency; and

WHEREAS, The safety of Nebraska's first responders depends on the quality and accuracy of information obtained by professional public safety telecommunicators and delivered by dispatchers via radio, telephone, and computer 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, I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the week of April 12-18, 2020 as

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Tenth day of April, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty.

Attest:

Secretary of State

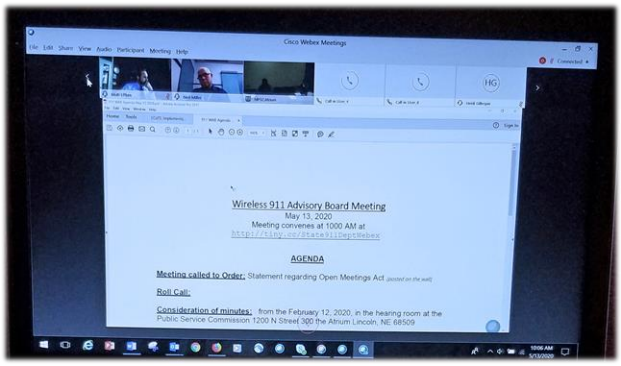
Governor

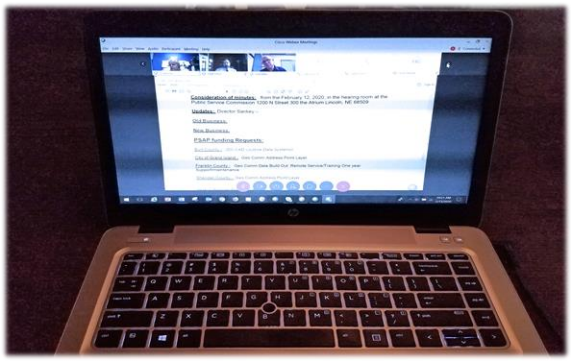
WIRELESS 911 ADVISORY BOARD HOLDS VIRTUAL MEETING

The Wireless 911 Advisory Board meeting held its' May 13 meeting in a virtual environment due to gathering restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Reeves of North Platte. State 911 Director David Sankey provided an update on ECaTS and talked about two recent Orders related to 911, approved by the PSC.

The board then approved funding order for several cities and counties. Before adjourning, the next board meeting was set for Wednesday, August 19. A location for the meeting will be set at a later date.

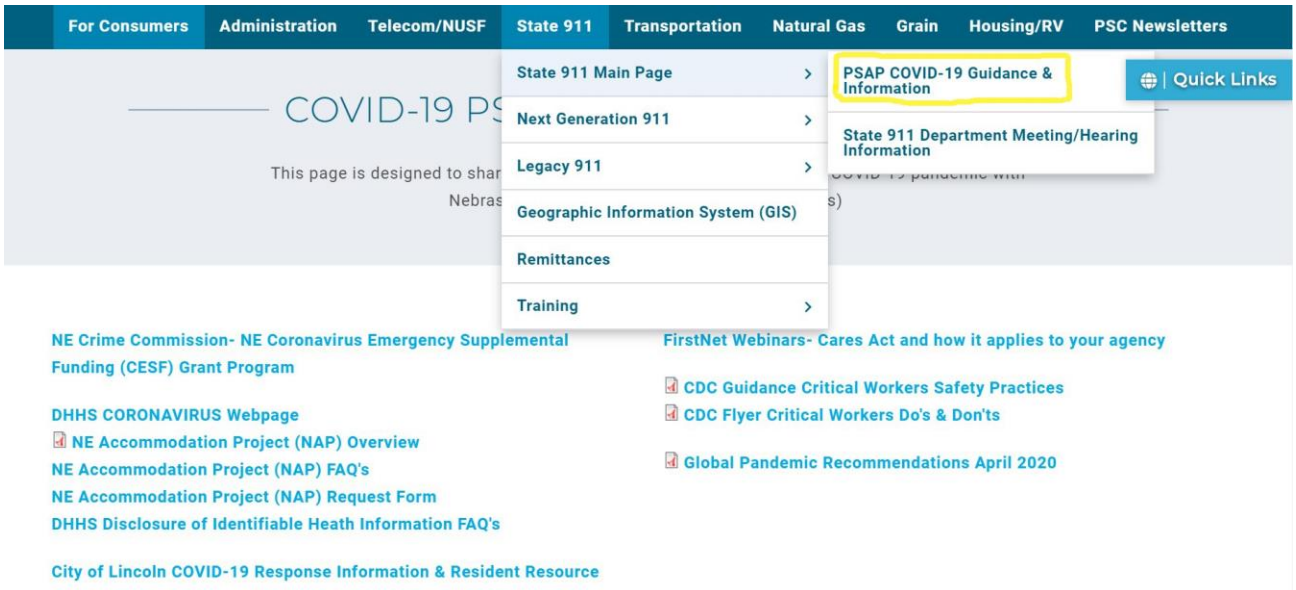




PSC SHARES COVID-19 GUIDANCE & INFORMATION

The State 911 Department has created a COVID-19 PSAP Guidance & Information page on the PSC website.

The page accessed through the State 911 Department tab contains information on safety practices, webinars, recommendations and resources related to Public Safety and COVID-19.



MEET YOUR STATE 911 TEAM

We hope you've enjoyed meeting your State 911 Department team. All of us are excited about what the future of NG911 in Nebraska. We encourage you to reach-out to anyone within the state 911 department should you ever need anything.

9-1-1 NOTES

State 911 Department Operation Changes Due to COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic PSC Commission staff including the State 911 Department, may be working remotely. With this in mind, we ask that all filings be submitted electronically.

The Commission will have limited access to mail during this time. If you file by mail, there may be a delay before we are able to process your filing.

If you have PSAP questions, please email us @ psc.psap@nebraska.gov or if you have a general state 911 department questions send your email to psc.state911@nebraska.gov

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we all work together to stay safe.

Funding Applications Processed

Funding applications for 2020-2021 have been processed by the State 911 Department. A big thank you to 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 and wireless ratio for July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021. 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 < https://psc.nebraska.gov/state-911/public-safety-answering-points-psaps > under the Allocation drop down.

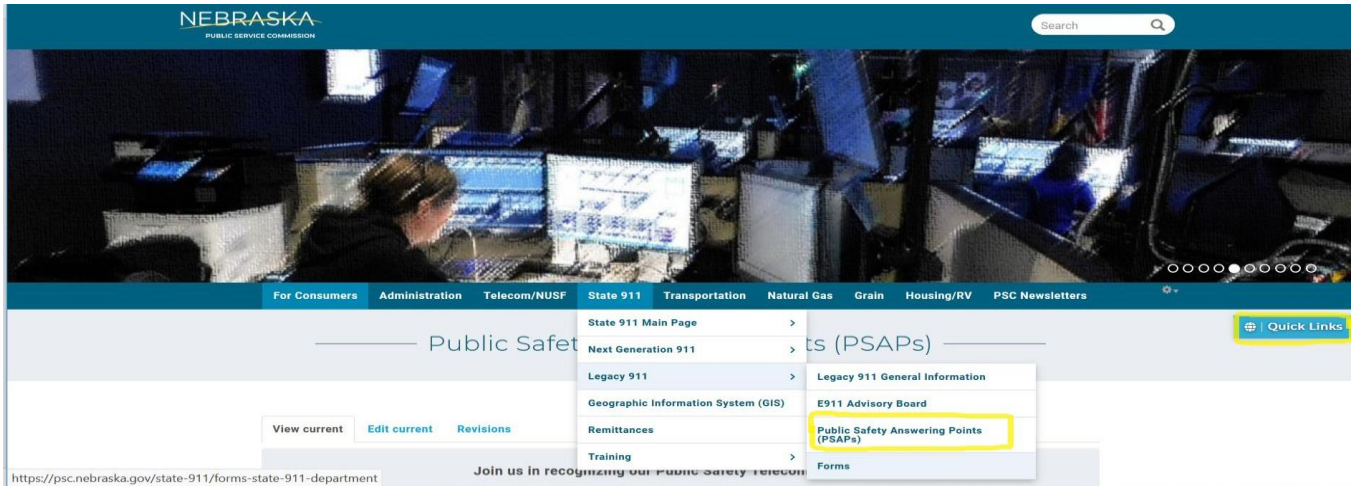
Audit Information Provided

In addition to the allocation letter, you should have also received an email containing a packet of audit information for July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020.

The audit packet must be returned to the PSC State 911 department by Oct. 15, 2020. If you have questions about your funding allocation or the audit packet, email us @ psc.psap@nebraska

Need PSC PSAP Information?

We've got what you're looking for. In need of PSAP contacts, funding applications, call ratios, set aside usage, or perhaps text-to-911 Wireless Service Provider (WSP) information you can find it all on our website PSAP Information page.



Can't find what you're looking for on the PSAP page? Try the Quick Links drop down on any State 911 page for a fast way of getting to specific 911 Department webpages such as forms, advisory board agendas, minutes etc.

While we're always happy to help you locate what you need, the information may just be a "click' away.

9-1-1 General Questions or Comments

Have a general question or comment regarding 9-1-1? 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.

Have a story to tell.... Why not share it with us

The State 911 Department is always on the lookout for stories to share with the readers of our quarterly newsletter. Has your PSAP received recognition? Have you honored a dispatcher/telecommunicator? Perhaps your employees have participated in a fundraiser. Let us know, so that we can share your news with others across the state. Email us with your news along with any pictures to james.almond@nebraska.gov then watch for your story in our next newsletter. We also invite you to connect with us on social media. Like us on Facebook and Twitter @NEPSCNG911/ Twitter @NEB_PSC or visit the PSC website @< www.psc.nebraska.gov >.

Contact Us

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