Funding Subcommittee			
Region/Entity	**Name**	**Type**	**Attended**
NECORE	Todd Weaver, Northampton	Primary	Y
NECORE	Fred Rosencrans, Luzerne	Alternate	Y
North Central	Andrew Kremser, Clinton	Primary	Y
North Central	Jeremy Brown	Alternate	Y
Northern Tier	Chris Clark, Jefferson	Primary	Y
Northern Tier	Nate Burgett, McKean	Alternate	Y
South Central	Matt Hobson, York	Primary	Y
South Central	Tim Baldwin, Lancaster	Alternate	Y
South Central Mountain	Mark Taylor, Blair	Primary	Y
South Central Mountain	Chris Stevens, Huntingdon	Alternate	Y
Southeast	Kelly Collins, Philadelphia	Primary	Y
Southeast	Brian Gottschall, Berks	Alternate	Y
Southwest	Frank Jannetti, Mercer	Primary	Y
Southwest	Gary Thomas, Allegheny	Alternate	Y
CCAP	Melissa Gates	Advisory	Y
PEMA	Jeff Boyle	Advisory	Y

Please note: Technical Subcommittee members were invited to attend the Funding Subcommittee meeting as a separate Technical Subcommittee meeting was not held on 3/9/2023.

I. **Introduction (Provided by Jeff Boyle, PEMA)**
- The focus of the meeting was 2023 Objective #1: Planning 15% funding for 2023 – 2025
- PEMA's focus is to plan out allocations of 15% funds for the next 3 funding cycles 2023, 2024, and 2025 as much as possible by August 31st.
  - o We have moved away from the competitive grant application process
  - o Focus is to proactively plan allocations of 15% funds
  - o Funds not earmarked for a purpose will be distributed by formula
- Shared system maintenance:
  - o PEMA has reviewed every *County 911 System Plan* and has captured shared system maintenance costs where defined in contract
  - o Where costs are not defined, PEMA has calculated estimates for the next 3 years
  - o Calls will be scheduled with PSAPs to confirm costs
- New projects:
  - o PEMA also reviewed all County 911 System Plans and captured new projects that may impact 15% funds for the next 3 years.
  - o Looking ahead, the focus of new projects will be to:
    - ▪ Leverage the ESInet for shared systems and ancillary services
    - ▪ Move PSAPs further towards standardization and using technology to share workload
  - o PEMA sent a document to subcommittee members requesting comment on topics related to each type of new project included in county 911 systems to help PEMA define responsibilities of 15% funding as we transition to NG911.
  - o The document drove discussion during the subcommittee meeting

II. **PSAP FACILITY NEEDS TO SUPPORT NG911 EQUIPMENT:**
- The focus of the 2023 funding cycle will be address gaps in the NE region
- All other regions were addressed in prior funding cycles
- No further discussion

III. **GIS DATA DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT NG911 CALL DELIVERY**
- Current and accurate GIS data is a foundational need for NG911 service
- PA is one of a few states to go directly to geospatial routing as part of our transition to NG911
- Formula-based funds and local revenue sources are the primary funding source for GIS
- However, a concern of PEMA was the small number of GIS projects included in 911 System Plans
- PEMA is aware that GIS capabilities vary by county across the Commonwealth
- To make sure counties have access to support to keep their GIS data current:
  o PEMA would allocate $2 million of 15% funds as supplemental funding to support GIS data development and maintenance for NG911 call delivery
  o A fixed allocation will be defined based on the Class of County
  o A county may decline the supplemental funding if not needed
  o For counties that accept the funding:
    ▪ The county would be provided a grant award and must follow all grant requirements
    ▪ A set of milestones would be defined for the counties to achieve during the grant year
    ▪ If a county achieves the milestones, the county would be eligible for the supplemental GIS funding for the next year.
- Five subcommittee members commented, and the majority expressed support for the approach
- As a separate discussion item, a couple of subcommittee members expressed concerns with the current structure and number of addressing authorities in Pennsylvania. Ensuring addresses are issued in compliance with NG911 standards and information is provided to counties in a timely manner is important for NG911 service.

IV. **CALL HANDLING EQUIPMENT**
- 46 counties will need a phone system refresh or replacement thru 2026
- The discussion focused on options to address these needs
- A subcommittee member suggested focusing on a service-based model as a way to achieve consistent pricing and manage costs.
- PEMA is currently working through the Request for Information process to gather information on hosted or cloud-based CHE systems. In the same manner as NG911 service, PEMA will evaluate options for procuring CHE services that meet county needs and preferences.
  o Four subcommittee members commented and expressed support for that approach
  o More discussion will follow once the RFI process is complete

V. **COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH**
- A strategy outlined in the LBFC report is for PSAPs to leverage technology to share workload as one method to address staffing needs
- The CAD system is one key component of successfully implementing this strategy
- PEMA asked for recommendations on what specific technical and operational requirements should be considered for CAD systems to achieve the objective outlined in the LBFC report
- Subcommittee comments:
  o Disaster recovery plans were mentioned as a critical consideration

- o Personnel considerations may be complex
- o Governance, response code symmetry, and process alignment are important considerations
- o One member suggested an interim step with establishing CAD-to-CAD interfaces
- o Another member indicated a true shared environment is possible and being done successfully today

VI. CONNECTIVITY

- A primary objective of PEMA is to work with the 911 Advisory Board and county partners to operate and enhance the State ESInet and NG911 system in a planned, coordinated, and financially sustainable manner.
- The "NG911 Service Enhancement Roadmap Development" process in the 2023 911 Program Guidance defines the process to evaluate move, add, change requests for the State ESInet.
- Now that we are transitioning to a statewide NG911 environment, 15% funding policies for connectivity need established to clarify expectations for funding outside of the State ESInet and ensure investments in connectivity are completed in a planned, coordinated manner across the Commonwealth
- PEMA asked for recommendations on the following:
  - o Should additional connectivity beyond the dual, redundant, and diverse connectivity provided by the State ESInet be supported with 15% funds?
  - o Please provide suggestions on how to manage demand to not overburden the 15% funding stream and ensure all counties have equal opportunity to participate?
  - o What are suggested requirements, eligibility criteria, goals, and objectives for investments with 15% funds in additional connectivity?
  - o Please provide suggestions for methodologies to establish a cost share for connectivity that may be used to support other functions beyond 911 service.
- Subcommittee comments:
  - o A subcommittee member asked about back-up centers and if they have the ability to connect to the ESInet. *Back-up centers can connect but the PSAP would be responsible for the cost with formula funds or other local funding sources.*
  - o A subcommittee member asked if other state agencies can connect to the ESInet. *Similar to back-up centers, other agencies can connect but would be responsible for the cost.*
  - o *Please note: Requests such as these would need to be handled through the NG911 Service Enhancement Roadmap Development process.*

VII. RECORDER

- In county 911 System Plans, there are $2.5 million is shared recorder projects that list 15% as the funding source in 2024.
- PEMA asked for recommendations on the following:
  - o What are the benefits or advantages of counties pursuing a "shared" recording system?
  - o What are the anticipated cost savings, if any, of these types of solutions?
  - o How do these types of solutions help achieve the strategy outlined in the LBFC report is for PSAPs to leverage technology to share workload?
- Subcommittee comments:
  - o A member commented there are additional components shared beyond storage and their recorder serves multiple systems.
  - o Another member reiterated that other components are shared beyond storage and these

types of projects support the ability to relocate to another center and process calls.

VIII. **RADIO**
- Within a small number of County 911 System Plans, new projects were included that indicated an interest in pursuing a radio project to enable regional dispatch.
- PEMA may consider supporting certain aspects of these types of projects since it aligns with the strategy of using technology as method to address staffing needs. However, PEMA is concerned about the significant cost of radio projects and adding these costs to the 15% funding stream.
- There would need to be very detailed and specific requirements, eligibility criteria, and required outcomes defined for PEMA to consider any support for these types of projects and to clearly define the level of support expected of the 15% funding stream.
- *Please note PEMA has received questions regarding radio since the Subcommittee meeting. To set expectations, any support for new radio projects is yet to be defined. Support, if any, would be likely narrowly focused and only cover certain components of these projects. Local revenue sources and formula funds will continue to be the primary funding source for radio systems.*
- PEMA brought up the following questions for comment in future meetings:
  - What are options to share or connect radio systems to enable regional dispatch in a cost-effective manner?
  - What are the minimum needs, from a radio system perspective, to achieve shared/regional dispatch?

Meeting adjourned at 10:26