

**KY 911 Services Board Meeting Minutes
2:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 7, 2021
Conducted by videoconference**

Call to order

The December 7, 2021, meeting of the Kentucky 911 Services Board was called to order by Josiah Keats, KOHS Executive Director and 911 Services Board Chairman, at 2:02 P.M. (EST) via videoconference.

Members Present:

Name	Title	Organization	Representing
Josiah Keats	Executive Director	KOHS	Ex Officio
Daniel Bell	Mayor	City of Taylor Mill	KLC
Harry Clark	Judge/Executive	Rowan County	KACo
Michael Johnson	Director	Tier III CMRS Provider	East KY Network
Tim Vaughan	Magistrate	Jessamine County	KACo

Member Absent:

Ray Perry	Secretary	PPC	Ex Officio
Kristi Jenkins	Director	Muhlenberg Co. 911	KENA/KY-APCO

K911 Services Board/KOHS Staff:

Mike Sunseri Christie Ross Mark Gaus Jason Childers

Guests:

John Carey Aaron Ross Gary McClure Kimberly Radkin
 DJ Wasson John Murner Josh Robinson David Lucas
 Jessica Frye Jimmy Kitchens Renea Wells Beck Whipple
 Abby Magtoto Tyler Campbell Shaun Chapman Don Kiely
 Paul Nave

Approval of minutes

Daniel Bell made a motion to approve the minutes from September 8, 2021, board meeting. Michael Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Director Keats introduced new member, Ray Perry, to the 911 Services Board. Secretary Perry is the newly appointed Secretary of the Public Protection Cabinet and replaces Kerry Harvey. Secretary Perry was unable to attend today's meeting and was represented in proxy by D.J. Wasson.

Old Business

- NG911 partners project update** - Mr. Sunseri is excited with the progress since July. GeoComm, the Board's GIS integration solution provider, has held a series of in-person trainings in Marshall County, Kenton County, Lexington, Elizabethtown, Bowling Green, and London. There was also one virtual training held. Seventy-nine PSAPs have gone through training and uploaded data to the data hub. Fifteen have attended training but have not completed their upload. Seven have expressed a desire to attend a training but have not had an opportunity to do so. Eleven PSAPs have not signed up for training and Board staff will

reach out to set that up.

****Break in the agenda -** Mr. Sunseri requested that the floor be yielded to Shawn Chapman, legal counsel with the Public Protection Cabinet, the primary author of the Board's brief in the case with CTIA regarding collection of 911 fees from providers of Lifeline service. Mr. Chapman reported that late Friday afternoon, the Board's legal team received exciting news. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled on the Board's appeal of the U.S. District Court findings on Kentucky's Lifeline statute. Mr. Chapman stated that the opinion, an unsigned order, affirmed the dismissal of the two claims in favor of the Board and vacated the decision by Judge Van Tatenhove in his rulings of claims against the Board. Basically, the court of appeals vacated the declaratory judgement, the permanent injunction of the statute, and the awarding of attorney's fees. This case will now be remanded back to the district court.

Director Keats thanked Mr. Chapman and legal for their exceptional work on behalf of the Board and asked if there is any reason the Board should not begin collecting fees again from Lifeline providers. Mr. Chapman advised the Board should wait until the mandate is affirmed by the lower court. Director Keats stated the Board would hold off on a vote on reinstating said fees until the next Board meeting and direction from legal counsel.

Mr. Sunseri expressed gratitude for the exceptional brief and to acknowledge a friendly brief was also filled by the Attorney General on behalf of the Board. ******

The floor was given back to Mr. Sunseri to continue his update on NG911partners' project updates with a discussion of the AT&T/RapidDeploy supplemental data portal project. This project requires a piece of hardware be installed to gather caller information from an EDG device at the call-taking equipment. Mr. Sunseri explained that majority of the state is on a host remote call-taking system. This will make the hardware installation much simpler as the EDG devices can be installed at the host remote sites, rather than at each individual PSAP. Those host remotes are AT&T Viper System (16 PSAPs), AT&T Vesta System (25 PSAPs), Central Kentucky Network (27 PSAPs), INdigital (11 PSAPs), MetroSafe (5 PSAPs), KSP (16 PSAPs), plus Fulton County. Thus far, AT&T Viper System is completed, AT&T Vesta System and Central KY Network have EDG devices installed and working out final issues. INdigital and MetroSafe are still coordinating their respective installs but are making solid progress. There are 15 standalone PSAPs, of which 2 are already installed. Therefore, we anticipate up to 85 PSAPs will be ready to go live by the end of December 2021. The next step is for RapidDeploy to begin group trainings for those PSAPs that are ready to begin utilizing the RadiusPlus mapping solution.

New Business

- 1. U.S. Court of Appeals ruling on CTIA/Lifeline case (see above).**
- 2. 988 Coalition – new 3-digit mental health crisis hotline** – Beck Whipple, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, gave an overview of the 988 Coalition. In 2017, a national discussion began regarding a simple, easy-to-remember number for those in a behavioral health crisis. Congress passed the National Suicide Prevention Hotline Improvement Act in 2018, which examined the feasibility of a 3-digit calling code similar to 911. The National Suicide Prevention Designation Act of 2020 officially made 988 the nation's universal number for the suicide prevention and mental health hotline. Mr. Whipple presented a slideshow explaining What is The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and who manages the NSPL? There are

currently 10 CMHCs that are Lifeline-affiliated call centers and three additional CMHCs that are in the application process in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. These CMHCs respond to callers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The staff have been trained to engage callers with best practice clinical and operational standards. When a Kentuckian calls the Lifeline a Kentucky center nearby is notified of the call. If that center cannot answer, the call is rerouted to a national call center. The rerouted call is usually answered at a backup center in New York or Florida. The goal is that 90% of calls are answered in Kentucky, where local resources are close at hand. Since January 2019, the in-state answer rate has nearly doubled, climbing from 46% to 81%. Mr. Whipple went on to explain the differences and relationship between 911 and 988 and how 988 will be funded. The hotline is to be in place by July 2022.

- 3. A look into the future of dispatching** – Sawyer Beeler is a young telecommunicator that became interested in dispatching well before he was able to get a driver's license. By age 14, he was volunteering for Casey County 911. Now just 19 years old, Sawyer Beeler works part-time for Pulaski County 911 and Bluegrass Central Communications. Mr. Beeler shared what got him interested in dispatching and how he would like to increase public awareness about being a telecommunicator as a career choice.

Mr. Beeler explained an idea he had, much like the Uber app, that would allow a dispatcher to contact a medical doctor in the vicinity of the accident, allowing the medical professional to advise the telecommunicator until EMS arrive on the scene. The logistics have not been worked out. However, this idea could help save lives in the future.

Magistrate Vaughan suggested Nurse Practitioners or a trauma nurse could be a good source, as well. This may be more beneficial since doctors on call are sometimes difficult to get ahold of or step away from their schedules. Mr. Sunseri added that Mr. Beeler also has videos on social media concerning 911 telecommunicators that have received over 500,000 views. This has been successful in promoting the occupation.

- 4. K911 Services Board Administrator's Report** – Mr. Sunseri updated the Board on upcoming 2022 Legislative Session. We will be pushing the same bill as proposed in 2021 that made it through the Senate and failed to be assigned to committee in the House. The bill sponsor is Rep. Mark Hart of Pendleton County. Director Keats, Mr. Sunseri, and Mr. Hart met with Speaker Osbourne last month. The Speaker was very receptive to what the bill would accomplish. This bill will double the dedicated funds for the NG911 Technology Fund. If passed, the NG911 Fund would generate roughly \$1.6 million a year to continue these projects for GeoComm and RapidDeploy beyond the performance period of the federal grant, which runs out in March 2022. Secondly, this bill would lower funding to the competitive grant pool from 10% to 7.5% bringing the maximum funding in the grant pool down to \$2.5 million from \$3 million each year.

At the June 2021 Board meeting, it was determined by the Board that six KSP posts were no longer eligible to receive CMRS funds. Since then, a number of discussions between KSP leadership, KOHS leadership, and KENA/APCO have taken place. It was recognized that these KSP posts provide a unique and valuable backup resource for the Commonwealth and numerous PSAPs. Also, KSP has invested millions of dollars in NG911-ready equipment for all 16 posts. Therefore, it was proposed an addition be made to the legislation that would allow partial funding for any KSP post that does not have primary call taking responsibility for a city or county. State police dispatch centers that previously qualified for PSAP pro rata formula funding would receive a one-half pro rata share under the provision. The remaining balance of the pro rata pool would be split up among remaining certified PSAPs as full shares—with the exception of those PSAPs that receive multiple shares due to

consolidation.

Finally, the legislation includes an incentive for consolidation and limits the continued multiple shares within a single county for no more than three years after an intra-county consolidation. This is not a proposal to punish intra-county consolidations, but to limit the amount of share to 120 or the amount of counties in the Commonwealth.

5. **2021 PSAP survey and Annual Report** – Christie Ross, 911 Services Board COO, reported 112 PSAPs responded to the annual survey, including 10 KSP posts. This survey is a requirement for recertification. The six KSP posts decertified by the Board in June opted to not participate in the survey. There were a few stragglers but was able to submit all responses on time for KOHS Annual Report.
6. **Federal NG911 legislation** – Mr. Sunseri reported there has been an effort for several years at the federal level to help states with NG911 efforts. The last endeavor was the \$113 million federal grant in 2019. Kentucky received \$2.3 million from that grant, which launched our current foundational NG911 projects. The next block of money proposed by the federal government was initially \$10 billion in grant funds but was knocked down to \$470 million as it went through Congress. While the cut was significant, this Build Back Better bill could help Kentucky gain an additional \$9-\$10 million (just doing the math) in grant funds. The bill has passed the US House and stands before the Senate. Kentucky could use these grant funds as seed money to move to our final step in full implementation of NG911, which would be ESInet connectivity for all PSAPs as well as geospatial call routing.

Mr. Sunseri expressed his appreciation for KENA/APCO, Buford Hurley of Greenup County and Paul Nave of Owensboro Daviess County, for their continued efforts with congressional delegation through the National 911 Goes to Washington program.

7. **2022 grant cycle** – Mr. Sunseri stated we will be sending this information out to all Board members and posting on the Board website. The grant portal will open January 4, 2022, to begin the application process. Grant workshops will be held January 18 & 20, 2022, with a reminder sent out on March 10, 2022. March 17, 2022, will be a soft deadline. This will allow our staff to review and allow for additions or corrections to the applications. Any applications received after this date until the final deadline of March 31, 2022, will be processed, but will not have the opportunity for staff screening of the applications for errors.

Mr. Sunseri listed additional dates. Peer review will take place April 19-20, 2022, with a staff review to follow. Recommended grants will be voted on at the June 2022 Board meeting. The grant cycle performance period will be July 15, 2022, through January 31, 2024.

8. **Update on new PSAP certifications** – Since the last Board meeting, Magoffin and Elliott counties have now fulfilled all requirements for PSAP certification, so both are considered fully certified. Because the Board previously voted to conditionally certify both PSAPs pending a site visit and passage of a geospatial audit, no further action is necessary from the Board.

As mentioned in at the June Board meeting, Elliott County is the last remaining county serviced by KSP Post 8 Morehead. This places Post 8 in the same situation as the six posts deemed ineligible to receive future CMRS funding back in June of this year. As explained earlier, the Board is pursuing legislation for the 2022 session to restore partial funding to posts that are part of the statewide KSP backup system. However, at the current time the Board must consider whether to cease funding to KSP Post 8 as they no longer meet the

definition of an eligible PSAP under existing statute. Chairman Keats asked for a motion to cease funding of KSP Post 8 as they no longer have primary call-taking responsibility for any city or county. However, no motion was made so no further action was taken by the Board.

9. **Financial report** – Christie Ross (See attached)

10. **Grant extension requests** – Mark Gaus explained that at the September Board meeting, held in conjunction with the Kentucky Emergency Services Conference in Louisville, Board staff had several open grants dating back as far as 2018. Staff expressed the desire to have grants from 2018-2020 completed and ready for close out. Staff understands that extenuating circumstances, such as COVID, have contributed to projects taking longer than anticipated to complete. An email was sent out shortly after the September meeting with a deadline of November 29, 2021, for all extension letters. These letters must be on city, local, county, or board letterhead with an explanation of why the grant would need to be extended. Mr. Gaus made 27 phone calls of the 29 open grants. Staff have received extension letters from City of Paintsville (2019), RPSCC/Boyd County (2020), Bullitt County (2020), City of Morehead (2020), City of Versailles (2020), and two from Marshall County (2020). Board members received extension request via email prior to today's meeting. A motion was made by Dan Bell to approve extensions for the seven above-mentioned grants. The motion was seconded by Harry Clark and carried unanimously.

11. **Consolidation of Mercer County 911 into Bluegrass 911** - The Board granted conditional approval of the consolidation of Bluegrass 911 with Casey County at its June 2022 meeting. Over the summer, Mercer County 911 reached out to Bluegrass with a request to consolidate. At the September meeting, the Board approve conditional certification for the newly consolidated Bluegrass 911 call center, which will include Garrard, Lincoln, Casey & Mercer counties. However, the motion from the June meeting to offer conditional certification for Casey County and Bluegrass 911 remains active. Therefore, the Board needs to take action to withdraw the three-county consolidation to clear the way for the four-county consolidation. A motion was made by Dan Bell to withdraw the conditional approval of consolidation of Casey County with Bluegrass 911, which was seconded by Harry Clark. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Turning back to the four-county entity, Board staff and our technical consultant completed a site visit in October. The final hurdle for the four-county consolidation is passage of a geospatial audit, which is now pending. We look forward to announcing completion of the certification by the next Board meeting.

12. **Consideration of 2021 supplemental grants for equipment to facilitate implementation of statewide foundational NG911 projects**– Since the state entered into contracts with GeoComm for GIS services and AT&T and its partner RapidDeploy for the supplemental data portal, several PSAPs have requested assistance with acquiring connectivity equipment to fulfill their request. The Board has approved supplemental projects in each of the last two meetings and is now looking at three additional small grant requests. To expedite the process, staff has asked the Board to consider proactively authorizing supplemental grants in these specific project parameters up to \$5,000 per PSAP. Because the Board approved less than the maximum allowable funds in June for the 2021 grant cycle, there is adequate funding available in the grant pool to meet all anticipated projects with 2021 grant funds. A motion was made by Dan Bell to approve supplemental grant requests up to \$5,000 per PSAP for equipment and services necessary to implement statewide NG911 projects using 2021 grant funds. The motion was seconded by Harry Clark and the

motion carried unanimously.

- 13. Dates for 2022 meetings** - The next meeting will take place at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. The board will next meet on June 21, 2022. The September meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2022 Kentucky Emergency Services Conference, whose dates will be announced in the coming months. At this juncture, we remain under advisement to hold meetings virtually. Should that change, Board members will be informed as soon as anything changes.

Adjournment

Dan Bell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 PM (EST). Harry Clark seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The next scheduled meeting of the Kentucky 911 Services Board will be held Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 2:00 PM (EST).

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