

Public Safety Collaborative
Minutes
April 21, 2005

1. Meeting was called to order at about 9:00 a.m. by Joye McElwee
2. Attendance listing is available at Attachment 1.
3. Summary of the meeting:
 - a. **Minutes** of the January 20, 2005 meeting minutes were accepted as written. No additions or deletions to the agenda requested.
 - b. **Community Safety Initiative:** Commissioner Coonrod presented the following:
 - 1) CSI is starting to gain traction. We've seen several good newspaper articles written about CSI. It is a quarter cent sales tax that uses early childhood development as its centerpiece. One-eighth of the tax will sunset, with one-eighth that will be on-going. The childhood development portion will work with all eight school districts and impact children between the ages of birth and 5. It will make sure kids are ready for school. It's an off-shoot of Every Kid Counts and is a good investment in kids.
 - 2) It will also include funding for the crime lab and 26 staff the Sheriff is short within the jail. This portion would not sunset. The early childhood development portion would.
 - 3) It would help to increase the Prosecutor's staff.
 - 4) Funds would be divided with the city of Springfield and area municipalities. A breakdown has yet to be determined. The funds would be in addition to funds already being received by these jurisdictions. Those funds would not sunset.
 - 5) We are working with the Greene County Financial Board and the Springfield Plans and Policies Committee. We hope to formalize a position soon. After City Council and the Commission sign off, it will go to the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce's Local Issues Task Force. We would also like to have the Public Safety Collaborative also take a formal position on CSI. After the Chamber Task Force makes its recommendation we would hope to receive the full Chamber Board's endorsement and a decision on whether the Chamber would run the campaign for CSI.
 - 6) We hope to have all these things in hand before certification of the ballot on August 30th. That's the deadline for having the initiative on the November 2005 ballot. We do not want to delay taking CSI to a vote later than November for a number of reasons.
 - 7) Councilwoman Wright explained how council members have gone out and talked to organizations. We have received a lot of

positive feedback, especially regarding early childhood development. Everyone who has worked on the dropout taskforce indicates that by time children are in middle school it is too late for intervention. If they do not leave kindergarten willing to learn and are poor readers by 3rd grade, they are good candidates to become dropouts as they get older. Schools seem to be really behind the early childhood development aspect of CSI.

- 8) Additionally, many of our college age children who want to go into forensics criminology are appalled that we do not have a crime lab. They want to come back to the area, but there are no jobs. The crime lab will change that.
- 9) Commissioner Bentley relayed information from mayors and others who told the Commission how important the early childhood development portion of CSI is to them. Commissioner Coonrod reinforced her by adding that these people told of children who have been passed from one childcare facility to the next because they are unmanageable.
- 10) Commissioner Bengsch explained how 47 percent of those coming to Juvenile for incarceration are registering positive to THC, heroin, or meth. These are 13-16 year olds. They have also started testing parents who have been charged with childhood abuse and neglect when they come to court. Almost 60 percent are testing positive for the same three drugs as they come to court--not when they are arrested. Knowing they will be tested when they arrive for court, 47 percent are still testing positive. Add to that another 10 percent who are trying to doctor their samples, and we are essentially back up to the same level. We have lost these people. There is only one way to turn this around and that is by starting intervention before or at the birth of a child. Right now we have over 500 in our jail. Some how we have to turn this around.
- 11) Commissioner Coonrod outlined that they should have the final plan for this initiative developed within the next 30 days. The question was raised as to why CSI, rather than a law enforcement initiative? Commissioner Coonrod explained that the reason they went with CSI instead of a law enforcement tax initiative was because they learned about the importance of early childhood intervention and funding to support it could not be included in the LETI. Since they did not want to have two initiatives on the ballot (LETI and CSI), they rolled both

initiatives into CSI.

c. Regional Planning:

1) Communications:

- a) 800 Mhz Desksets for 911 Centers in Surrounding Counties: Roger Brogue explained that it could be May or June before these are in place. RadioPhone, the company doing the installation, has been really busy. The radios are in and programmed, the remaining work is getting them out their and installed.

JR Webb, 911 Assistant Director, explained how important this enhancement is to interoperability. Some counties will be able to patch radios at the console, tying local radios to our 800 TRS.

- b) Springfield Public Works: Roger Brogue explained that some 800 TRS radios have been received, but they need to work through how to set them up. These are the new Motorola 2500 radios. These 700/800 Mhz are impressive. They are \$600 cheaper than our current radios. They can be purchased as analog and upgraded to digital later, or purchased with digital software already in them. They can also be programmed later to work with the State's 700 MHz system whenever it comes on line. Commissioner Bengsch asked what the holdup is on implementing the new radios that have been received. Joye explained it is simply determining how they want the radios configured.

- c) Commissioner Bengsch asked what we could do now to tie Public Works into our 800 TRS should something happen. Joye and JR explained how the Cross-Band Repeater unit located at 911 could be used to perform that task. Once Public Works cuts over to 800 TRS they will be fully interoperable with everyone.

- 2) Regional Communications Plan: JR Webb explained how challenging it has been in developing a regional plan. Some are sensitive to giving frequency information to the committee that is working on the plan. To overcome the problem, Al Campbell, 911 Center in Dallas County, has been going around personally to counties to collect the information. Al chairs the committee.

- 3) Cross-Band Repeaters: Joye explained how we have used the four Repeaters deployed within Greene County, using the Classic Car Show in Branson as an example. He explained that we have nearly 60 VHF and 12 UHF frequencies programmed into each repeater. The Highway Patrol can also be tied into our 800 TRS through a Patrol compatible radio we purchased that can be attached to any of the Cross-band Repeaters.
 - 4) Commissioner Bentley asked about the Sheriff's mobile computer terminals and how that system improves communication capabilities. Joye explained it offers an alternative path of communication among mobile computer terminals users. It does not affect the 800 TRS communications, and it offers a more secure path for some communications. Now that Sheriff Merritt is making the terminals available to law enforcement in area municipalities, interoperability with these organizations will be enhancement within the County. According to JR Webb, one of the challenges with the mobile computer system is through-put. With the new server being added at Greene County to support the Sheriff's system and those within area municipality, through-put should be better than what the city is currently experiencing.
 - 5) JR Webb explained that Christian County asked for and were provided some of our old VHF frequencies.
- d. Grants: Joye provided an update on the Homeland Security Grants. We have a bomb dog in training and have purchased a new vehicle for the dog. The 2005 WMD Grants (amounting to \$48M) have not been released as yet. We have so many new people at the State that they are having problems determining how to allocate the funds. We have acquired several small grants over the past few months.
 - e. Project Community Alert (PCA): We have been looking at ways to get All Hazard Weather Alert Radios into more homes. We learned how Kansas City used PCA to get over 30,000 of these radios sold by Price Chopper stores at a sizeable discount price. Working with a representative who helped establish PCA, we are hoping to accomplish something similar within our region. There will be a large media event on May 4th to kick this effort off. Commissioner Coonrod has agreed to participate. May 4th is the anniversary of the large tornado outbreak that occurred in 2003. All 32 Price Cutter stores have agreed to support our PCA effort. Also, Murfins, Carpenters, and Wal-greens are planning to support PCA. Each store will have a display system and sell the radios at \$29.95. Over 600 have already been sold. We have a website: www.pca-radio.com that will list all the information concerning this project. There will be press

conference here and in Joplin on May 4th.

- f. Amateur Radio: We have purchased three new radios and two new antennas. We are hoping to see a 6-meter system placed on the 800 TRS tower in Republic. That site would provide good connectivity for all communities within the region to the State EOC in Jefferson City.
- g. LEPC State Conference: We will be hosting a State LEPC Conference here in Springfield in September 2006. That conference normally draws over 300 people
- h. Plans Distribution: The new Emergency Operations Plan and Mitigation Plan are being distributed.
- i. Risk Communication Course: Joye explained that he is putting together four Risk Communications courses to be taught by Jaci McReynolds at the Health Department. These courses will help elected officials better deal with the media in crisis situation. Harold Bengsch says everyone needs to go through this type of training. He says City Council and the Commission need to attend.

4. Next meeting is July 21, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joye G. McElwee