



Ohio 9-1-1 Newsletter

January 2016

Ohio Attorney General Opinion and Ohio Revised Code 128.571

The Ohio Attorney General's Office issued an opinion (2015-035) regarding Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 128.571 on Dec. 15, 2015. As many are aware, the original interpretation of ORC 128.571 was that the figures listed were intended to limit the number of wireless PSAPs a county was permitted to operate as of January 2016 and January 2018. However, the Attorney General's opinion states that, as opposed to limiting the number of wireless PSAPs that a county is allowed to operate, ORC 128.571 limits the number of wireless PSAPs that a county is allowed to use disbursements from the 9-1-1 Local Government Assistance Fund (LGAF) to operate. This essentially means that a county may operate more wireless PSAPs than the numbers listed in ORC 128.571, provided those PSAPs are funded in a manner other than receiving disbursements from the LGAF.

Fortunately, the 9-1-1 Program Office has planned for such a contingency, allowing for a smooth transition and a continued path forward. State 9-1-1 Administrator Rob Jackson has distributed to all county coordinators a letter conveying the details of the Attorney General's opinion and the ramifications for stakeholders at the local level. Attached to that letter is a form similar to the previously distributed form which required county coordinators to list all PSAPs that would be operational in a given county as of Jan. 1, 2016. The difference is that this form only needs to be filled out by those counties that will operate more PSAPs than the numbers listed in ORC 128.571, as it will identify which PSAPs will be using funds from the 9-1-1 Local Government Assistance Fund. These forms are due back to the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office by Jan. 31, 2016. Counties already operating four or less PSAPs (or five if applicable due to population greater than 175,000 in a municipal corporation) do not have to re-submit the form.

PSAP Operations Rules Update

The 9-1-1 Program Office recently withdrew the submitted PSAP Operations Rules package from the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) process. After initial review, it was determined five of the 20 rules would need additional clarification to meet the Ohio Revised Code language. Those five rules involved Prioritization, Telecommunicator Training, Continuing Training, Emergency Medical Dispatch and Pre-Arrival Instructions. The specific criteria actually need to be contained in the rule filing. Accordingly, the PSAP Operations Sub-committee was assigned to develop a draft to address these rules with the specific criteria.

At the January ESINet Steering Committee Meeting, the committee reviewed the language changes to the rules recommended by the PSAP Operations Sub-committee. After considerable discussion, the steering committee voted to accept language changes creating additional specificity for the rules on Prioritization, Telecommunicator Training, Continuing Training, and Emergency Medical Dispatch, while deleting the rule concerning Pre-Arrival Instructions. Now that the steering committee has approved this version of the PSAP Operations Rules Proposal, the rules will be submitted back into the JCARR process. The proposal is posted to the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office website – 911.ohio.gov, along with the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office Annual Report for 2015.

RFP Update

The Ohio Statewide ESINet Steering Committee has approved a plan to begin development of a request for proposal (RFP) for construction of a statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) system. This plan involves hiring a consultant to coordinate the RFP process. Specifically, the consultant will be aiding in developing, distributing, collecting, and analyzing information within the RFP and the associated responses from vendors. In addition, the consultant will be responsible for conducting a financial impact and funding study. After the RFP process, information collected will be presented to the ESINet Steering Committee. Committee members will then discuss the options presented and develop a recommendation for the legislature. This will be a detailed and lengthy process and updates will continue to be provided during ESINet Steering Committee meetings and teleconferences.

New ESINet Steering Committee Member Named



Rep. Tony Burkley

State Representative Tony Burkley has been appointed by Speaker of the Ohio House Cliff Rosenberger to serve on the Ohio Statewide ESINet Steering Committee, filling the previously vacant position designated for a member of the House Majority Caucus. Rep. Burkley comes to the committee from Ohio's 82nd House District, which encompasses Defiance, Paulding, and Van Wert counties, as well as part of Auglaize County. Currently serving his second term in the Ohio House of Representatives, Rep. Burkley brings with him a wealth of experience, including 16 years of service at the county level of government, and 40 years of experience in the private sector. "Having effective emergency services is critical for all citizens and as a former local government official, I know firsthand the role it plays in our communities," Burkley said when asked about his appointment to the ESINet Steering Committee. "I appreciate Speaker Rosenberger's faith in my abilities and look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we are taking the necessary steps as a state to keep the public safe."

Sources:

<http://www.ohiohouse.gov/tony-burkley/press/rep-burkley-appointed-to-serve-on-committee-that-provides-oversight-of-statewide-emergency-services-in-ohio>

<http://www.ohiohouse.gov/tony-burkley/biography>

OARnet NG 9-1-1 Pilot Project

In the near future, the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office plans to expand the current pilot project using the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet) as a backbone for the eventual implementation of a statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) system. The State of Ohio is currently working with with Morgan County to test OARnet. In the coming months, the pilot will expand to include additional counties, which would reflect a degree of diversity in terms of geographic location, population, and 9-1-1 service vendors, in order to further test the capabilities of OARnet.

The 9-1-1 Program Office has distributed a packet of information to all county 9-1-1 coordinators which describes this next phase of the pilot project, as well as the procedure for submitting a proposal to be one of the counties that will participate in this next phase. Also included in the packet is a template memorandum of understanding (MOU) as an example of documents needed to establish an agreement for co-location of equipment in the State of Ohio Computer Center, should a participating county choose to locate equipment there. Proposals to participate in the pilot program are due to the 9-1-1 Program Office by Jan. 20, 2016.

Distinguished Service Award

In recognition of an outstanding record of dedication and hard work toward providing the best quality 9-1-1 services possible to the residents of Ohio, the Ohio Statewide ESINet Steering Committee presented a Distinguished Service Award to Jay Somerville at their January meeting. Somerville works for the City of Dublin and has been instrumental in helping to move the issue of 9-1-1 forward in Ohio. Specifically, Somerville co-chairs the PSAP Operations Sub-committee, and has done a tremendous amount of work drafting language relating to the PSAP Operations Rules, among many other contributions. The steering committee was pleased to present him with this award and is extremely appreciative of the work he does in helping to keep the residents of Ohio safe. It is only through the efforts of local partners such as Mr. Somerville that the vision of a statewide ESINet, NG 9-1-1 system, and more effective 9-1-1 service can become a reality. "Jay is a great resource and dedicated public servant, and we're very appreciative to have him on our team," said Rob Jackson, the Ohio 9-1-1 Administrator.



Jay Somerville (center) receives a Distinguished Service Award from ESINet Steering Committee members (left to right) Jason Loree, Matthew Hiscock, 9-1-1 Administrator Rob Jackson, Tom Robbins, John Leutz, and Rep. Tony Burkley.

The Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office 2015 Annual Report is now posted to 911.ohio.gov.

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