



ARJIS

Automated Regional Justice
Information Systems



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tom Zoll, Chair
Carlsbad Police Department

Richard Emerson
Chula Vista Police Department

Robert Hutton
Coronado Police Department

Vacant
El Cajon Police Department

Duane White
Escondido Police Department

Alan Lanning
La Mesa Police Department

Adolfo Gonzales
National City Police Department

Vacant
Oceanside Police Department

Pat Drummy
San Diego Police Department

Bill Gore
San Diego Sheriff's Department

Pamela Scanlon
Director, ARJIS

Cynthia Burke
Director, Criminal Justice Research

Jeff Tayman
Director, Technical Services

CHIEFS'/SHERIFF'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 4, 2005
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

San Diego Police Western Division
5215 Gaines Street
San Diego, CA

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- ALLOCATION OF ARJIS RESERVE FUNDS
- COPLINK DEMONSTRATION
- DRAFT REPORT ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
- ARJIS ENTERPRISE USER REQUIREMENTS SURVEY

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CHIEFS'/SHERIFF'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

ITEM #	RECOMMENDATION
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- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. ROLL CALL | |
| +2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 6, 2005 MEETING MINUTES | APPROVE |
| 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS | |

Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Public Safety Committee on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and shall reserve time by completing a "Request to Speak" form and giving it to the Clerk prior to speaking. Committee members also may provide information and announcements under this agenda item.

REPORTS

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| 4. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE (Chief Zoll) | INFORMATION |
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Chair's report on the Public Safety Committee Meeting on April 8, 2005 and other pertinent public safety matters.

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| +5. ALLOCATION OF ARJIS RESERVE FUNDS (Pam Scanlon) | APPROVE |
|---|----------------|

One project (Attachment 5-1) involves creating an automated program (E-Cars) for all agencies to review, modify, and automatically upload Department of Justice mandated reports (\$40,000). The second project (Attachment 5-2) (CASS UCR Classification Quality Control Review) would provide funding to the Criminal Justice Research Division (\$50,000) to conduct a quality control study to measure the accuracy of crime data produced by ARJIS. The Chiefs'/Sheriff's Management Committee is asked to recommend to the Public Safety Committee approval of the allocation of \$90,000 of ARJIS reserve funds to these two projects. If approved, \$120,000 of the \$638,000 in the ARJIS reserve would remain available.

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| +6. COPLINK DEMONSTRATION (Pam Scanlon) | INFORMATION/
POSSIBLE ACTION |
|---|---|

ARJIS has received \$761,275 from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to participate in the BorderSafe Project. A deliverable of this Project is the implementation of COPLINK, a software application utilized as an investigative tool for solving crimes and identifying offenders. The ARJIS COPLINK node will also be able to access other COPLINK nodes in Phoenix, Tucson, and Orange County as part of the information sharing component of Border Safe. This draft report going to the Public Safety Committee provides a status of the COPLINK Project, highlights the features of the COPLINK software to include suspect identification, link analysis, and mapping, and identifies next steps.

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|-----|---|--|
| +7. | DRAFT REPORT ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
(Ted Middleton) | DISCUSSION/
POSSIBLE ACTION |
| | A regional public safety needs assessment was recently completed to help establish short- and long-term goals for SANDAG's Public Safety Committee. Information for this needs assessment was collected through interviews with members of the Committee and key stakeholders. This draft report going to the Public Safety Committee summarizes these findings and describes opportunities and possible roles for the Committee is being distributed for review and discussion. The draft needs assessment report will be provided at the meeting. | |
| 8. | ARJIS ENTERPRISE USER REQUIREMENTS SURVEY | INFORMATION |
| | Staff will present a revised version of the user survey which is currently posted on the ARJISNET web site for all interested ARJIS users to complete. The survey is condensed and has optional questions for Patrol/Traffic Officers and Crime & Intelligence Analysts. Initial metrics on the responses to date will be provided. | |
| 9. | BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATES (Lieutenant Michael Lawton and Captain Reginald Grigsby) | INFORMATION |
| | Committee chairs will be available to update on recent activities and answer questions. | |
| 10. | REQUEST FOR SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT CRMS DEMONSTRATION AT SDPD HEADQUARTERS (Pat Drummy) | APPROVE |
| | Pat Drummy is requesting that the SDPD CRMS demonstration be held at SDPD headquarters in lieu of the Chiefs'/Sheriff's Management Committee meeting on June 1, 2005. | |
| 11. | UPCOMING MEETINGS | INFORMATION |
| | The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. | |
| 12. | ADJOURNMENT | |

San Diego Association of Governments
CHIEFS'/SHERIFF'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

May 4, 2005

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2**

Action Requested: APPROVE

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Meeting of April 6, 2005

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Zoll (Carlsbad Police Department) at 9:35 a.m. See attendance sheet on last page.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

APPROVE

Upon a motion by Chief Robert Hutton (Coronado Police Department) and a second by Chief Alan Lanning (La Mesa Police Department), the Management Committee unanimously approved the minutes of March 2, 2005.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Jeff Tayman (SANDAG) stated that at the next Public Safety Committee, there will be a request that the Public Safety Committee change their meeting date to the 3rd Friday of the month (instead of the 2nd Friday). This will give more time between the Management Committee and Public Safety Committee meeting and will eliminate competition with other meetings at SANDAG.

Lieutenant Mike Lawton (Coronado Police Department, representing the ARJIS Technical and ARJIS Business Committees) commented on the ARJIS Technical and ARJIS Business Committee meetings.

The Technical Committee met on April 5, 2005. Bruce Churchill from ITS was scheduled to do a presentation, but could not attend. This presentation will be rescheduled for the May 18, 2005 meeting.

It was noted that on April 12th, ARJIS will implement a "timeout" after 30 minutes. This is an industry standard and will help with security issues. Interim Chief Bill McClurg asked if dispatchers could be excluded from this timeout. Lieutenant Lawton says this will not affect performance, but is a security issue. Chief Lanning asked if this could be keyed in to the work station. **Pam Scanlon will investigate this issue and get back to the committee.**

Lieutenant Lawton stated the Enterprise ARJIS Survey was approved by the ARJIS Technical and ARJIS Business Committee. It was decided that the survey was too long for a wide spread distribution, so 20 percent of the questions were removed. Patrol Officers can now

complete it in 15-20 minutes. ARJIS will put the survey on the ARJISNet site. Cynthia Burke's group will tabulate the survey.

The Committees discussed the retention of ARJIS information. FI's and pawn slips will be retained from 6 months to 1 year. "Detail" of crime cases from 1 year to 3 years.

The Committees also discussed the ARJIS sex offender website. They asked if this would save money and be a reliable source of information. *Staff stated it would save \$400 a month in maintenance costs.*

REPORTS

4. PROPOSED PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABILITY AND COMMUNICATION INFORMATION INITIATIVE

The RCS Staff met several weeks ago (San Diego members, RCS members from Imperial County, and some federal members). There are pressing needs in this region. The City of San Diego has an old communication system and needs to work out a "storm plan". The first issue is to find out what opportunities are out there. Chief Zoll will report back on RCS findings and recommendations. Chief Hutton asked if there are requests for funding. Chief Zoll stated not at this time. It was acknowledged that SPAWAR has Homeland Security funding.

5. ALLOCATION OF ARJIS RESERVE FUNDS APPROVE

Attachment 5-1: Substance Abuse Monitoring Program (SAM)

The Criminal Justice Research Division (CJRD) is requesting \$35,000 in reserve funds to help with the cost of funding data collection for this project. Interviews with arrestees are done 2 times a year.

Lieutenant Mike Lawton responded that the committees didn't feel comfortable with approving this request without further discussion. The committee wanted to know if there were other sources of funding for this project and whether \$35,000 could be put to better use on another project. Even though they felt the program was good, there was a question if the funding source should be ARJIS. The Committee asked why the County wasn't helping to support this program. The vote at both meetings was tabled until their May 18, 2005 meeting.

Cynthia Burke stated that SANDAG has funding for SAM until September. This request is a one-time request. In the long-term, the CJRD will be going to the Meth Strike Team for more funding. There may be more funding later from different sources including the County.

Chief Hutton inquired if the SAM report could to be done annually, if it changed that much? *Cynthia Burke stated that juvenile drug use is up over 10% over the past 4 years.* Pat Drummy wanted to know if the price could be lowered. *Cynthia Burke stated that the Criminal Justice Research Division has*

already scaled down the project by 50 percent. It has been cut down as much as it can. Chief Zoll stated this issue has important information and needs a permanent source of funding, but the primary funding should not be coming from ARJIS. He requested a recommendation from the Technical and Business Committee before the Chiefs vote on this issue.

Upon a motion by Pat Drummy (San Diego Police Department) and a second by Chief Robert Hutton (Coronado Police Department), the Management Committee unanimously approved to table voting on SAM until getting a recommendation from the Technical and Business Committees at their next meetings.

Attachment 5-2: Consultant to develop Enterprise ARJIS RFP

ARJIS is requesting funds for a consultant to develop Enterprise ARJIS RFP. The estimated cost would be \$250,000.

Lt. Lawton stated the ARJIS Technical and ARJIS Business Committees unanimously approved this project.

Upon a motion by Pat Drummy and a second by Chief Adolfo Gonzales (National City Police Department), the Management Committee unanimously approved Attachment 5-2 for the Consultant to develop Enterprise ARJIS RFP.

Attachment 5-3: ARJIS Transactional Database (ATD) & associated data warehouse; Implement recommendations from validation study and move to production.

ARJIS is requesting \$75,000 to implement recommendations from a recent independent validation study.

Lt. Lawton stated the ARJIS Technical and ARJIS Business Committees unanimously approved support of this project.

Pam Scanlon stated this project is important for the ARJIS Warehouse to be used for the ARJIS Mapping and Sex Offender Registration Systems.

Lt. Lawton stated that the transfer of information is a necessary "interim" step to Enterprise ARJIS. Chief Zoll asked what happens if this is not approved. Pam Scanlon stated there would potentially be higher costs from the Enterprise ARJIS vendor for not doing this now. It also provides detailed information of ARJIS to use in the RFP to ensure a better response from vendors. Chief Lanning asked if it would simplify development. Pam Scanlon stated it would significantly simplify development.

Upon a motion by Interim Chief Bill McClurg (El Cajon Police Department) and a second by Chief Lanning, the Management Committee unanimously approved the implementation of recommendations and moving to

production of the ARJIS Transactional Database (ATD) and associated data warehouse.

6. APPROVAL OF DRAFT FY 2006 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET RECOMMEND

Cynthia Burke (Director Criminal Justice Research) stated that there is one new Criminal Justice Research Division project since reporting to the Public Safety Committee in January 2005. The new project is #2004400 (Hoover High School Coordinated Health Project). Pam Scanlon (Director of ARJIS) stated the major change for ARJIS is the inclusion of the San Diego Data Processing Corporation (SDDPC) savings this year (\$442,000) to be applied to priority projects.

Upon a motion by Chief Hutton and a second by Chief Gonzales, the Management Committee unanimously approved sending to the Public Safety Committee the recommendation of the Overall Work Program and Budget for FY 2006.

7. CRIME IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION 2004 INFORMATION/
POSSIBLE ACTION

Cynthia Burke gave a PowerPoint presentation on the highlights from the 2004 Crime Bulletin. Regional crime data, as well as data by jurisdiction, are compiled by SANDAG through a cooperative agreement with local law enforcement agencies and the Clearinghouse is the only source of this information so soon after the end of the calendar year. SANDAG will give a complimentary copy of the Bulletin to the Chiefs.

Compared to other large U.S. cities over 500,000 population, the City of San Diego had the fourth lowest violent crime and property crime rates in 2003. The 2004 violent crime rate was the lowest in 20 years and the property crime rate decreased slightly after three years of increases. Around half of larcenies in 2004 were thefts from vehicles and half of all 2004 burglaries involved no forced entry. Motor vehicle theft has increased more than other property crimes over the past five years.

Chief Gonzales recommended putting "2004" on the slides for clarification. Interim Chief Jerry Lance (Oceanside Police Department) recommended adding "per thousand residents" when addressing crime rates. Chief Hutton recommended adding different recovery rates for property crime rates.

Cynthia Burke stated she received a request from Charles River Associates for crime statistics to be used to conduct an analysis of crime rates over time in San Diego County for use in a study being conducted for Rincon San Luiseño Band of Mission Indians. **Chief Zoll advised SANDAG to send the letter to each jurisdiction so they can send to their attorney for advisement.**

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS INFORMATION

The next meeting of the County Chiefs'/Sheriff's Management Committee is scheduled for May 4, 2005 at 9:30 a.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Key Staff Contacts: Pam Scanlon, (619) 699-6971; psc@sandag.org
Cynthia Burke, (619) 699-1910; cbu@sandag.org

San Diego Association of Governments

COUNTY CHIEFS' & SHERIFF'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

April 6, 2005

JURISDICTION	MEMBER NAME	ATTENDANCE	COMMENTS
CARLSBAD POLICE DEPARTMENT	CHIEF TOM ZOLL (Chair) (Member)	YES	
CARLSBAD POLICE DEPARTMENT	CAPTAIN DALE STOCKTON (Alternate)	--	
CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT	CHIEF RICHARD EMERSON (Member)	NO	
CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT	Leonard Miranda (Alternate)	YES	
CORONADO POLICE DEPARTMENT	CHIEF ROBERT HUTTON (Member)	YES	
CORONADO POLICE DEPARTMENT	(Alternate)	--	
EL CAJON POLICE DEPARTMENT	ACTING CHIEF BILL MC CLURG (Member)	YES	
EL CAJON POLICE DEPARTMENT	(Alternate)	--	
ESCONDIDO POLICE DEPARTMENT	CHIEF DUANE WHITE (Member)	NO	
ESCONDIDO POLICE DEPARTMENT	CAPTAIN JIM MAHER (Alternate)	YES	
LA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT	ALAN LANNING (Member)	YES	
LA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT	(Alternate)	--	
NATIONAL CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT	CHIEF ADOLFO GONZALES (Member)	YES	
NATIONAL CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT	ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF PENU PAUU (Alternate)	NO	
OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT	INTERIM CHIEF JERRY LANCE (Member)	YES	
OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT	CAPTAIN FRANK BRUCKNER (Alternate)	--	
SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT	DIRECTOR PAT DRUMMY (Member)	YES	
SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT	(Alternate)	--	
SAN DIEGO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	SHERIFF BILL KOLENDER (Member)	--	
SAN DIEGO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	ASSISTANT SHERIFF BILL GORE (Alternate)	NO	BOB APOSTOLOS ATTENDED
ARJIS	ARJIS DIRECTOR PAM SCANLON	YES	
SANDAG	CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH DIRECTOR CYNTHIA BURKE	YES	

Guests: Julie Wartell (San Diego County District Attorney's Office), Lt. Mike Lawton (Coronado Police Department, representing ARJIS Technical Committee).

Staff: Barbara Jean Harris, Barbara Montgomery (ARJIS), Jeff Tayman (SANDAG)

ARJIS PROJECT APPROVAL

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ARJIS RELATED PROJECTS

Project Name: E-CARS – Electronic submission of monthly Crime and Arrest Reporting System statistics.

Project Description: This project improves the manner that ARJIS agencies review, edit, submit and adjust their monthly CARS data to DOJ. Today, SDDPC mails hardcopies of reports to each agency, revisions are made on these hardcopies then the reports are mailed or faxed to DOJ. The new process will have the reports arriving via a webpage which agencies will review and edit online. These revised reports will then be emailed to DOJ. The reports will be saved online for future reference and available for possible resubmission with adjustments.

Project Participants:

- All law enforcement agencies that are required to submit monthly CARS reports to DOJ
- DPC and ARJIS staff.

Estimated Cost (identify if budgeted or unbudgeted): \$40,000

On-Going Costs: After initial troubleshooting and problem resolution, estimates for ongoing costs are minimal.

Estimated Start Time and Duration: 2/05 – 5/05

Benefits:

- More efficient and accurate entry and submission of CARS data that will save agencies time and resources.
- Automated adjustment of total values via spreadsheet-style formulas. (Changes on one form will calculate/populate on associated forms.)
- Web-based presentation of CARS data forms and on-line revisions (this is done manually today on hardcopies).
- Online storage of reports with print option for permanent record and public reference material.
- Resubmission of adjusted reports will be simplified via access to softcopies of previous month's reports.

Request Routed to: Business, Technical, Management, and Public Safety Committees.

Date Approved:

Comments: Electronic submission of this data has been mandated by the California DOJ and agencies must comply. This project has been strongly endorsed by the CASS Committee. This group is the most impacted by the current manual process and stands to benefit by this more efficient approach.

ARJIS PROJECT APPROVAL

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ARJIS RELATED PROJECTS

Project Name: CASS UCR Classification Quality Control Review

Project Description: As part of this project, which was requested by the CASS Committee, SANDAG would conduct the third in a series of quality control studies to measure the accuracy of crime data produced by ARJIS. Focus would be placed on documenting errors in crime reporting, classification, and clearance information and also on determining the source of inaccuracies. Based on the information collected, a final report would be prepared that would include recommendations for improvement.

Project Participants: Each of the local law enforcement agencies, with their agreement, would be included.

Estimated Cost (identify if budgeted or unbudgeted): \$50,000 - unbudgeted

Estimated Start Time and Duration: Tentatively scheduled for April 2005 through March 2006.

Benefits: This report will provide information useful to ensuring the validity of crime reporting in the region. It will also provide a foundation for both the California DOJ e-CARS and Enterprise ARJIS Projects.

Request Routed to: Business Committee, Technical Committee, Management Committee and Public Safety Committee

Date Approved:

Comments: CASS Committee members strongly endorsed the usefulness of the past studies and claim that they have been an ongoing reference source at most agencies.

San Diego Association of Governments

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 13, 2005

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **8****Action Requested: DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

COPLINK: A NEW INVESTIGATIVE CRIME TOOL FOR THE SAN DIEGO REGION

Introduction

One of the deliverables of the Department of Homeland Security-funded BorderSafe Project is the implementation of COPLINK, a software application utilized as an investigative tool for solving crimes and identifying offenders. The ARJIS COPLINK node will also be able to access other COPLINK nodes in Phoenix, Tucson, and Orange County as part of the information sharing component of the BorderSafe Project. This report provides a status of the COPLINK Project, highlights the features of the COPLINK software that includes suspect identification, link analysis, and mapping, and identifies next steps. Staff will also provide a demonstration of ARJIS COPLINK.

Recommendation

The Public Safety Committee is asked to receive this information and give direction where appropriate.

Discussion

The BorderSafe grant included \$343,000 toward the purchase, installation, and rollout of the COPLINK software and associated hardware and network components. COPLINK is an investigative tool that provides an automated Web-based approach to collecting, processing, and organizing law enforcement-specific knowledge to support the functions, actions, and decisions made by ARJIS users.

One technique used by investigators to solve criminal incidents is to associate the known elements of a crime with each other, as well as be able to take small bits of information such as a partial license plate, vehicle description, nickname, or phone number, and be able to reconstruct a crime or identify a suspect. COPLINK is a tool being offered by ARJIS that automates this process by consolidating information from disparate data sources and packaging it into a single response for investigators. The application also has mapping and link analysis capabilities, so investigators can automatically and visually link suspects, vehicles, and crimes.

In addition, COPLINK has the ability to connect to other COPLINK nodes throughout the nation. As part of the BorderSafe project, Phoenix, Tucson and smaller surrounding cities in Arizona have also acquired and installed COPLINK. An initial test of information sharing between San Diego and Tucson resulted in hits on a gang member and sex offender within 24 hours of Tucson having access to San Diego data. Although the data had yet to be in COPLINK, this small demonstration underlines the significance of locating critical justice data in neighboring jurisdictions and/or states. Orange County also recently executed a contract with COPLINK to provide a regional node for the

agencies within Orange County. Initial meetings have already been held with Orange County to ensure a connection is made with San Diego once their system is installed.

Critical to the COPLINK information-sharing project are metrics and success stories. Staff will be providing the Public Safety Committee (PSC) with regular updates about the use and successful “hits” of the COPLINK system. Also critical to successful information sharing are policies and procedures for access and use of both inter-county and inter-state information. As Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are executed between participating nodes and data sharing policies are developed, the PSC will play a significant role in providing policy approval and guidance.

JEFF TAYMAN
Director of Technical Services

Key Staff Contact: Pam Scanlon (619) 699-6971; pscanlon@arjis.org

San Diego Association of Governments

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 13, 2005

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **7****Action Requested: DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

DRAFT REPORT ON THE REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Introduction

A regional public safety needs assessment is currently being completed to help establish short- and long-term goals for SANDAG's Public Safety Committee (PSC). Information for the needs assessment was collected through interviews with members of the Committee and key stakeholders. A copy of the draft report, which is included for the Committee's review, contains significant narrative describing the consensus of opinion obtained through the interviews.

Priority initiatives the respondents felt were most appropriate for the PSC include identifying and establishing additional funding sources, providing effective lobbying efforts, promoting continued inter-agency collaboration, and supporting educational efforts pertaining to interoperability and communications. In addition, a number of other areas (e.g., composition and role of the PSC, desire to explore further regional consolidation) that were commonly identified are presented.

Recommendation

The Public Safety Committee is asked to receive this draft report and offer comment and feedback where appropriate.

Discussion

The public safety needs assessment is the first regional study to identify a common agenda of priorities and potential initiatives. A key objective of this study is to help the PSC clarify its role and develop a set of specific objectives and projects. It is anticipated that the many suggestions, observations, and initiatives obtained from across the region provide both a broad and deep cross-section of opportunities for the PSC to achieve a significant positive impact to public safety services in the region.

The study focused on four priority areas identified by the Chiefs'/Sheriff's management Committee and the PSC at their October retreats: 1) the creation of a Regional Information Center; 2) communications and interoperability; 3) regional technology procurement and maintenance; and 4) training.

As part of this study, interviews with key local, state, and federal agency stakeholders were conducted in December 2004 and January 2005. Key topic areas discussed included issues and concerns facing the various agencies; level of satisfaction with existing regional efforts and suggestions for improvement; the requirements to support the four key study areas; budget and funding issues; and specific expectations and potential contributions from the PSC.

Overview of Assessment Findings

The consensus from these interviews revealed that regional cooperation is important and opportunities for consolidation of services where appropriate should be identified for economies of scale. In addition, there was agreement that the PSC could successfully facilitate partnerships, resulting in improved service delivery for the region. The PSC reviewed these initial findings at their January meeting and identified a number of initial priorities.

Responses to many of the questions were consistent, demonstrating a high level of awareness of both local and regional issues, as well as confirming the high levels of interagency cooperation enjoyed in the region. Although communications and interoperability was the number one priority, there was also significant support for the Information Center concept and the need for more assistance in regional technology acquisition and support.

Potential Initiatives

The following significant program areas were commonly identified as the greatest opportunities for PSC involvement.

- Provide a regional forum to coordinate, advocate, and support key public safety initiatives such as:
 - Interoperability and communications that includes radio spectrum, public safety priority, programmable radios, commercial services, and legislative initiatives; documentation of local efforts to assist in the development and promotion of standards, operating agreements and procedures; and the identification of funding sources or alternatives for the modernization and improved interoperability of the region's voice and data wireless communications infrastructure.
 - Homeland Security that includes leveraging local resources in support of activities to enhance the security of the region; and sponsoring forums to raise the awareness and understanding of federal, state, and local Homeland Security activities and opportunities for funding.
- Develop regional applications that provide public safety information to the community such as a regional eWatch, a web based crime mapping notification system; and on-line crime statistics.
- Create a regional clearinghouse for technology evaluation, procurement, and implementation.
- Direct new research efforts such as:
 - A comprehensive study of the cost of public safety services and potential funding mechanisms.
 - Analyzing the effectiveness of prevention, diversion, enforcement and interdiction programs used within the region and the impacts of these programs on public safety.

Next Steps

The final report scheduled for June 2005 will incorporate: 1) additional interviews conducted with representatives from Fire and Emergency Services; 2) feedback from the Committee; and 3) estimates of the time and cost requirements for key initiatives. Staff will also develop a work plan, timeline, and budget for those initiatives the Committee wants to pursue.

JEFF TAYMAN
Director of Technical Services

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