

## Jonathan Bledsoe / Secondary PSAP Funding

I personally feel that if funding is made available for secondary PSAP's, you will encounter numerous issues. First, if you go by the definition of a secondary PSAP, they do not directly answer 911 calls. If funding is made available, I would assume that they would answer 911 calls directly. If this happens, now you will be adding more 911 systems within 911 systems. For example, in Surry County, Mount Airy Police and Elkin Police are secondary PSAP's and if we add 911 phone systems to both, now we have 3 911 networks within 1 county. As stated in our last meeting, majority of the time the EMS is paged out of the Primary PSAP. If we add these other networks, and someone within the secondary PSAP's 911 network calls for an ambulance, the call would have to go through the secondary, determine the call type and then transfer it out. This could take 30 seconds to a minute and a minute can be fatal in some cases. On the other side, as a primary PSAP, when we take calls for the secondary PSAPS, we still have to determine location and nature, but for the majority of the time, it's not a life or death situation. It could be, but most of the time it isn't.

Secondly, if funding is made available for secondary PSAPS, would that cut the Primary PSAP's funding? If secondary PSAPS are funded, this means they would be eligible to purchase their own CAD and other technologies which would be a costly project. I know that some counties allow secondary PSAPS to use their CAD system, which eliminates the purchase of another CAD system. It also allows most agencies to share information without having to develop an agreement or C2C interface. I know that the 911 board reviews request from Primary PSAPS that have needs and some of those request may be denied and referred back to the county's general fund balance.

I personally think that the consolidation move is better than funding all the secondary PSAPS. We would all be in one building, all would be aware of any call, any call type, at the same time without having to transfer to another agency in hopes that someone would be readily available to answer the call. I know that it would be stressful in some areas trying to consolidate with local politics but we all should remember what we are here for. " The citizens of our county/city/towns and their safety and best interest"

I am sure that everyone on the study plan would not agree with me and that is fine because we all have our own opinions.

There are many other areas that could be discussed about this issue, but I think I have listed most of the major areas.

Jonathan Bledsoe