



State 911 Administration Office Newsletter

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Dear Telecommunicator,

I know this is a late edition of the most current newsletter, our office has had a busy spring. I wanted to wait for us to attend most of the spring conferences so this edition would be filled with the most current information we could share from what we have been learning over the last couple of months.

My hope is that many of you were able to attend some of these conferences too and bring something back to your center. Please remember if you are being sent to a conference it is not just a time for you to reset out of the chairs, but also a time to network and find out about the new and upcoming technology. Due to budgets and short staffing, not everyone is able to get to these conferences. For those who are able to attend, it is extremely important to share what you learned with others.

Warm regards,

Your friends at the State 911 Office

Upcoming Events*

*See the website for meeting times and locations.

July 11, 2022

Emerging Technology
Subcommittee

August 17, 2022

911 Training Subcommittee
Certification Subcommittee

September 12-14, 2022

Emerging Technology Forum

September 21, 2022

State 911 Committee

November 7, 2022

Emerging Technology
Subcommittee

November 16, 2022

911 Training Subcommittee
Certification Subcommittee

December 14, 2022

State 911 Committee

Legislative Action

Although we just finished the process of completing the 911 act rewrite, the Legislative Action Subcommittee (LAS) is starting a running list of items we feel should be focused on for the future. We will officially start working on the next rewrite in 2025 to be completed by the sunset of the current 911 act in 2027. If you have any suggestions or input, please reach out to the State 911 Office so we are able to put it on our list for future meetings.

There has been nothing new that has been brought to the attention of the LAS; therefore, we have not held any meetings since the last edition of the newsletter was published.

Please visit the State 911 Committee (SNC) [website](#) for upcoming meeting dates, which will be added as additional legislative items are introduced for consideration and/or discussion. If a meeting is canceled, it will be posted on the website.

911 Training

There was an error in the Full-time Equivalent count for receipt of 2022 Training Funds that was noticed after the March SNC Meeting. We have adjusted the count accordingly and are taking it to the June SNC meeting for approval. Ms. Theresa Hart will forward the information to the Michigan Department of Treasury upon approval, so they are able to begin the process of preparing the payments to the local agencies that qualified for 2022 training funds.

As a reminder for any agency that has a grandfathered employee, their continuing education requirement will be due December 13, 2022. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the training standards, please email SNCdispatchertraining@michigan.gov for assistance.

Please check the SNC [website](#) for future meeting dates and locations as we are on the move and will be trying to visit different locations across the state. If a meeting is canceled, it will be posted on the website.

Certification

May was a busy month for the Certification Subcommittee with virtual financial meetings, and finally, our first in-person site meetings after the pandemic. I know I speak for many on the subcommittee when I say this is the best part of the compliance review process. Yes, we need to establish that the agency is spending and tracking their funds appropriately and complying with the statute. However, the best practices, networking, implementation of new technology, and learning about what you each do in your centers to lift each other up – that is where the growth comes from.

Please do not hesitate to be real and honest when we come into your centers and ask you questions, many of us sat in your shoes at one point. This is our connection and our way of

knowing we are doing what is best for our dear state of Michigan and our wonderful telecommunicators.

Please check the SNC [website](#) for future meeting dates and locations as we are also on the move and will be trying to visit different locations across the state. If a meeting is canceled, it will be posted on the website.

Emerging Technology

The call for papers has ended for the upcoming Emerging Technology Forum in September. The workgroup has put together a fantastic lineup! There have been some last-minute changes which are being processed. As soon as the processing and information is collected, the workgroup will begin the next step. Our goal is to have registration up and running in the next couple of weeks. As soon as the registration link is live, the State 911 Office will be sending out an email with information and instructions on how to register for this event. We are changing a few things up a bit this year with a new venue and schedule, so we hope you can come and learn some great information!

Please check the SNC [website](#) for future meeting dates and locations. Currently, the meetings are being held at the Michigan State Police Headquarters in Dimondale. If a meeting is canceled, it will be posted on the website.

911 Administrator

This issue I would like to recognize Ms. Lyndsay Stephens, her strength, her commitment to those she loves and cares about, her courage to share her experience to help others, and the very important, very heartfelt story she is going to share with all of you, "You Can."

God bless.

Lyndsay's Story – You Can

The following are snippets from my notes I took during the conference in order to write the newsletter when I returned to work the next day. I had some deadlines to meet and did not get to the newsletter when I planned.

Why am I doing this? What is my mission? What is your one step? What is your baby step?

Self-care is essential it is not a luxury. What can I do?

Not everyone can do your job, be thankful you are there and have the ability to help.

Create a legacy, give them a chance, and teach them how to do the job, teach skills prior to giving the role.

Give a reason to show up, what are you bringing to the table? How are you communicating your vision and your wants?

One match is easy to break, put a bundle together and it is difficult to break. Stick together and have each other's back. When you come together you can do anything.



This next part is very personal but important for me to share, be real, and be honest with all of you. I purchased this painting after the closing keynote speaker for my youngest son, who is 15, to put in his room. He was nearing the end of the track season at the time with his mind set on going to states in his division for pole vault or high hurdles, which he had excelled in all season. When we returned home from his track meet that day, he was helping me carry my things inside. He pulled out the painting I had purchased for his sister's nursery and said how amazing it was. Then he looked at this one and said how boring it was compared to the other. Once I told him it was for him, he felt like a jerk, so that night we had a discussion during dinner.

The meaning and explanation behind the painting:

No one is able to say I am going to climb the mountain and just get there. You have to set little milestones, simple goals that are manageable, things that will help you get to the big picture. For me, this painting represented the things he had overcome this year so far in his track season. It represented how proud I was of him and the accomplishments he was making, his goals to compete in the state track meet. The dedication daily he was putting into practice, the extra hours and time, following his coach and listening to other coaches during the meets. With his eyes set on setting a school record by the time he graduated, we proudly placed the picture in his bedroom window.

Since then, unfortunately my son has taken his own life. I have a rather huge mountain in front of me. Currently my milestones are making sure I breathe, making sure I take time for me since it is not a luxury. I shared this message with my community and am being an open book because mental health is so extremely important, especially in our line of work. I have been the coordinator of the Lenawee County Critical Stress Incident Management (CISM) team for several years, and participated in organizing and leading many debriefings, defusing, and just listening to others as a member of a peer support team. Even with all of my training, being an open book in my home with my teenage boys, my fire department, I did not see this coming. I did not have the right words, the right timing, and I definitely do not have the answers.

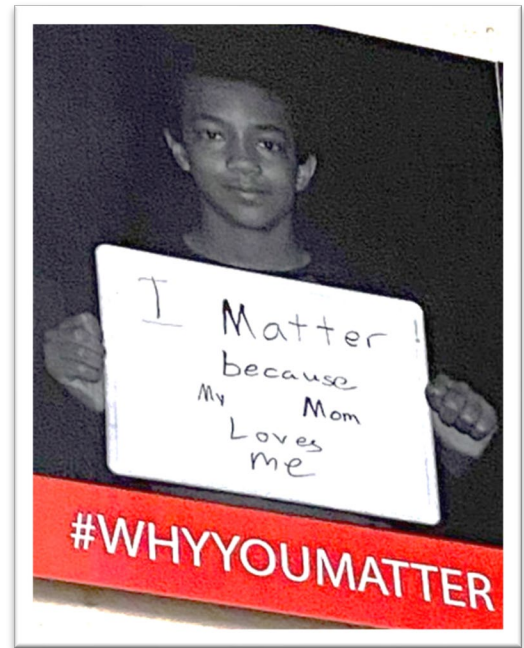
I am not sharing for sympathy, empathy, or compassion. I am sharing to let you know this is real, we all struggle, some of us struggle alone, and others reach out. My hope by sharing is that if this touches one person to make that milestone, to reach out to anyone for help, if it

helps one person get to the top of their mountain, then my son's love and compassion is living on through the heartache and tears.

If you have children, please hug them a little tighter and tell them you love them. My prayer for you is that you will always be able to do this.

This is a picture of a sign that hangs in the school. Each student wrote their own and this is my son's reason, and he is my reason for sharing this story with you all, he matters, and his life needs to be used to help another I know in my heart he would want it that way and his story shared.

Lyndsay



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