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Hello, and welcome to the State of 911 Webinar Series,

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hosted by the NHTSA National 911 Program.

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My name is Kate Elkins, and I'll be the moderator for today's session.

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This Webinar series is designed to provide useful information for the 911 stakeholder community about Federal and State participation in planning, design, and implementation of Next Generation 911 systems.

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It includes real experiences from leaders utilizing these processes throughout the country.

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In today's session, you will hear Brian Tegtmeyer discuss recent updates on the NHTSA National 911 Program and the Joint International Academy of Emergency Dispatch a National Association of State 911 Administrators Staffing Study. For Closed Captioning as you

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can see in the chat, please hover at the bottom of the zoom screen for meeting controls, then click the CC button to start viewing the captioning. For more information on the NHTSA National 911 Program State of 911 Webinars, access the archive, to access the archived

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recordings, or to learn more about the National 911 Program,

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please visit 911.gov. Feedback or questions about the webinars can be sent to NHTSA.National911@dot.gov.

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Please note that all participants, phone lines have been put in a listen-only mode, and that this webinar is being recorded. To ask questions of our presenters,

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please feel, free to take one of two actions using Zoom's question and answer

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feature located at the bottom of your screen in the meeting controls.

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Enter your question at any time during the presentation, and it will be entered into the queue.

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Individuals registered for this webinar will receive access to today's PowerPoint presentation, and the webinar recording. With that I would like to introduce my first speaker, Brian Tegtmeyer, Brian has over 26 years of experience in the 911 setting,

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from a two seater PSAP, all the way up to a large multi-agency

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911 center. He has been with the National 911 Program and has really taken off in terms of where our projects are going to be going and is moving us into the next iteration of the National 911 Program. Brian go ahead.

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Thank you, Kate. Thank you so much for that introduction, and I'm so excited to be here this afternoon to update everyone on what the National 911

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Program is doing. I've been with the Program, as Kate mentioned,

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I've been here just over 10 months, and I've learned a lot along the way in this transition from coming from a 911 center to being the position from coming from a 911 center to be in the position of working at the National 911 Program,

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has been amazing. We are doing a lot of great things. The Program has over 18 years history of doing great things, supporting 911 initiatives acrossed our country.

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We are focused primarily in four major areas.

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We work to collaborate with our stakeholders, meaning all of you, all of the members of our State

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911 offices and all of our associations and public safety communications, and, most importantly, all the people in the 911 centers, the PSAP

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and ECCs across the country. We also work with our industry partners, and we work to collaborate and bring all those people together on common issues, to work, to identify solutions, strategies and ways to advance 911. We do a lot of that by creating and sharing resources and a lot of

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those resources and things that we're going to talk about today are available on 911.gov. 911.gov is a great clearing house, for

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all of our stakeholders to go and visit, to get the most recent and current information, and we will highlight that as we go through our discussion this afternoon. Additionally, we work to identify resources that are needed and we place those resources create them and work with our partners to get that information out there as

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well. We also connect systems nationwide, and we will have highlight a couple of

examples of that as well.

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Where we work to advance the technologies, we work to advance Next Generation 911 deployment, track

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it, and see where we are and what we need to do next.

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And there's a variety of programs and initiatives that then 911 Program participates in

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that we will be highlighting today. And finally, if you're not aware, the 911

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Program is housed at the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

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NHTSA in the Department of Transportation. So we have a keen focus and building upon our, building upon our history of working to improve safety.

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We are focused on improving Post-Crash Care, and that is built out of the National Roadmap Safety Strategy that we'll be talking about as well.

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So that's where we're gonna begin today, because that is an area that is a newer highlight for us,

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as far as making sure that we're focused on improving Post-Crash Care.

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So, how are we gonna do that? And why is that important? First of all, one of the more interesting to statistics that I've seen since being here

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at NHTSA is that two out of five of crash victims we're alive when first responders came on scene, but later died from their injuries, or succumbed to their injuries.

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And that's an important statistic to highlight,

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when we look at why we want to improve Post-Crash Care. If we can get resources to crash victims quicker, more accurately, and then have those resources,

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the EMS personnel be the right people to treat and transport them to the most of effective place that can make a difference.

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How does 911 play into that? Well, we're looking to connect our 911

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systems with at a state level and a local level with your highway safety programs.

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We believe that 911 should be tied to highway safety so that it can potentially interconnect to these, these disciplines and find ways to improve our response.

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We also believe that promoting the use of emergency medical dispatch provide care to crash victims through structured protocol and call

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taking is extremely important. Our recent survey that we'll be talking about are one of our data collection points that we work at, at the National 911

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Program identified that approximately 47% of 911 centers provide

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EMD. If we can increase the participation in structured Emergency Medical Dispatch, we have a way to provide care quicker by being a little provided to bystanders and people on the phone when the reporting crashes. The third way that we can improve Post-Crash Care is we can identify other

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methods for improving response, including improving our GIS technologies so that we can more accurately locate crashes as well as our automatic crash notification systems that can enter into our Next Generation

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911 phone systems and call handling to alert us if crashes sooner.

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All of this is important, because when we look at the impact of our highways along our interstate systems, we see that there is this graphic way to look at it.

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And if we look at specifically just interstate 95, it goes from main to the north all the way to Florida.

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It's our longest north-south interstate over 1,924 miles.

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It includes 15 States and Washington, DC. And we've mapped it out to identify that there are approximately 199 different 911 jurisdictions that would take calls for a crash on I-95 and in 2020 it had the highest

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fatality rate of other interstates at 19.7 fatalities per 100 miles. 911 is impacted in all of those incidents along our roadways, and to me you could take any of the interstates, and you were to see how much impact there is in your

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jurisdictions that you take calls for in the highway.

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So I mentioned before that at the Department of Transportation we're committed to to focusing on this.

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And that's what's called the National Roadway Safety Strategy.

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And that's Strategy was launched just over a year ago in January of 2022, and the Department of Transportation is committed to improving Post-Crash Care which includes our EMS and 911 efforts.

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They're also committed to supporting intergovernmental efforts to transition Next Generation 911 systems across our nation.

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One of the ways that they, we focus on this, is that we look at what is called the Safe System

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Approach. The Safe System Approach has identified five areas to improve are our safety on our nation's roads.

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One is safer people. The next is safer roads, safer vehicles, safer speeds and Post-Crash Care!

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What's interesting with this is that 911 has a role in all five elements.

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So when we look at the success of the Safe System Approach to improving our highway safety in our road to zero fatalities on our roads. We know that 911 is an integral component of it. And that to achieve this, we look at in their safer people, we look at

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how are we reporting incidents on the roadway,

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people's behind behaviors. When you're driving down the road, and you see reckless behavior, or when you're sitting in the 911 center, you receive those calls for those behaviors.

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People that are out there doing something unsafe when roadways are, have a condition or a problem like debris  $\,$ 

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or lights or hazards, they call 911. As we improve our vehicles, systems, the automatic crash notifications systems will be connected to our 911 center. And overall,

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when our law enforcement partners are out there enforcing traffic safety and doing the activities to improve sit and reducing speeds through enforcement or other activities, they're doing that with our 911 staff. Our telecommunicators in most centers have a role in

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Dispatching. And that role is again another element in reducing and improving the safety on our roads.

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And then finally, the most obvious is our role in Post-Crash Care which we begins with the call to 911 where telecommunicators identify the location, the nature and severity of the crash and activate the dispatch response for the most appropriate police, fire, an EMS resources

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to improve that. So, for safety to improve which is the mission of NHTSA and a focus of obviously everything we do, we also know that we have to look at 911 holistically.

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So, the other ways that we look at this is that when we can improve 911 anywhere, we improve its likelihood to work successfully when it's on the nation's roadways.

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So, the first thing we'll talk about there will be the connecting of our systems

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nationwide. We're we've got a goal to create a secure, resilient, interoperable "systems of systems".

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One of the ways that we're doing that is, we're looking at the Next Generation

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911 Interoperability Task Force. The Department Transportation and the National 911 Program have been involved in this project from the beginning.

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This is a collaboration between DHS and NASDA and a variety of other groups in our communities that are working to create a way for conformance testing of standards and interoperability of our Next Generation

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911 systems and their associated components. and that by increasing the testing of Next Generation 911 systems and systems of components will help ensure that these standards are there and are met.

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This will give more success to the deployment of Next Generation

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911. So provide a way for open-source testing tools to be created and used by our developers that are developing the technology and show that the purchasers of this technology have a faith in confidence that the systems they put together and procure for their agencies are going to work together and interoperate.

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The next thing we work on right now is we're working on our current Next Generation

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Interstate Playbooks. We have many playbooks that have been created over five of them that have demonstrated and highlighted solutions and challenges and lessons, learned to the deployment of Next Generation

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You can use, and we'll have a variety of QR

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Codes on the slides today, that will drive you to specific project pages on 911.gov

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We know that our next playbook will be probably out within the next three to six months highlighting interconnected states, and being able to transfer calls in a Next Generation

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Additionally, the program is working to support and assessment of both CAD interoperability and GIS systems and technologies through three or through two different projects.

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GIS is really important to the success of Next Generation 911. It is the foundation of data needed for routing calls in the most proper way, and especially locating calls and calls for service, and we need to have good GIS data out there.

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But the challenges are many and the Program brought together

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a group of GIS stakeholders that were subject matter experts to convene and discuss these challenges and identify ways to continue to improve them throughout our nation.

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That reports, and those reports are being completed, and we'll hopefully again be put on the 911.gov

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soon with a guide of a path forward of what the industry can do to improve GIS and improve its focus in Next Generation 911.

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The other part of this is our CAD interoperability assessment project.

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We again are working to document the challenges and opportunities to improve interoperability between our CAD systems. Data and many of the challenges we have in technology are really things that we need to focus and improve upon our industry. This report again will identify some of the challenges and techniques that we can be

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used for our interoperability between CAD systems to work.

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And we're gonna identify, you know, opportunities to make improvements

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of what the stakeholders can do to improve and identify solutions moving forward. And that should give a great resource to all of you that might be working on regional, local or regional or even statewide initiatives of improving interoperability between your CAD systems in your area.

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Another focus that we have when we connect all these systems is to make sure that we're doing it in a secure manner and cybersecurity is going to be a challenge that stays with 911 for many for a long time.

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This is something that we need to focus on the other hand, and cybersecurity is going to be a challenge that stays with 911 and cybersecurity is going to be a challenge that stays with 911 for many for a long time.

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This is something that we need to focus on. The National 911 Program has partnered with our colleagues at DHS CISA in the Emergency Communications Division. They are working on a Cyber Resilient 911 Program and will be engaging with stakeholders to find again the best path forward. Both in providing resources and highlighting those resources to the community and developing new strategies and new ways to engage. And if your in an 911 center, ECC, or PSAP you need to be focused on cybersecurity and be aware on how your protecting your 911 network.

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Another tool that we have available on 911.gov is the Next Generation 911

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Roadmap progress report. This report and or this progress was updated in the Fall of 2022, and identifies a variety of different goals that are out there for the successful deployment of Next Generation

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911. And be it business, governance, tools, technology, data or operations goals,

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all of this information is out there, and the Program is engaged

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stakeholders to try to determine who's out there leading on this.

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Who's taking a role in solving the problems. And where are we

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lacking. Where is there more effort needed. And that's the goal of the Roadmap.

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And if you go to 911.gov and drill down into this, you can see and learn

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where we, where we had successes and completed some of the previously identified goals. Where are we in progress?

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And where do we need to focus to the future? This is a great tool for anyone that's looking at what they need to do next in progressing Next Generation in both their area, their state and across the nation.

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So the tracking of Next Generation 911 standards is another resource that we provide all of you there are so many technical standards out there about Next Generation 911.

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We try to put them in a specific place that combines each of the different standards

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development organizations work and we publish them so that you can use it.

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This could be a resource for you, your agencies, your states, whoever is developing RFPs or procurement documents and you need to cite a standard in that development of that document.

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This is a great tool and resource for you to be able to utilize there.

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Finally, in this section, we are working on being interconnected with 988.

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I think most of you have been dealing with 988 since it's official launched last July.

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The 911 Program has partnered with our Federal colleagues at Department of Health and Human Services and others that have rolled this out.

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And we really have more work to do in meeting everyone's expectations.

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And I think overall 988 has become some of the expectations issue of what were people expecting to have happen?

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What needed to have happen? And how do we connect? What's really important is for the 911 centers across the nation to be working on a local level with your nearby outline center

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as well as on a regional state level. We will continue to work on a national level to make sure that everyone understands the intricacies of connecting 911 and 988 and how that might work in the future, what are the current limitations and how does this what is our path forward.

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So when we talk about collaborating with the stakeholders, one of the things we wanna do is we wanna help support the development of the 911 professional, our workforce, our people are our most important resource.

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And we have to support our our 911 professionals as we move to advanced 911. We'll give a lot of different examples, and we're gonna end today with a talk about staffing, which is obviously one of our largest challenges.

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But the other topic that comes up a lot is reclassification of telecommunicators. And we know this is an important issue, and we know that many of you and your states have already worked on some effort with regards to reclassification. And we know that many of you in your States have already worked on some effort with regards to

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reclassification, but the work can't end there. So the real goal

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and this started, you know, probably eight to ten years ago, when this first was brought up of what can we do to reclassify telecommunicators

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as a you know, as public safety or first responders.

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We were, we realized the process that this has to go through. The process is based on data driven decisions at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. And what we have to know is that there are a measure that they do to identify what a job should be classified. I'm gonna go over that in a

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second, but first, you should be aware that all of this information here in this toolkit, four different documents, have been created and available to share on 911.gov for you.

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You can look at these, and you can work to improve your job

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descriptions, your training programs, talk about and document the technology and tools you, you do as well as how you can develop your own advocacy, strategy for proper classification these are all available to you on 911.gov. And they become the basis for this data, driven decision which is we have to focus on

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the job description, the job, title, hiring and recruiting, education and training tools and technology.

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We have to document all of this this documentation is important, because the BLS will go out, and as part of their reclassification process which was slated for 2028, which actually means the work should begin in about 2024 that work will start by just soliciting and

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contacting many of you, and asking for what is your job description?

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What are your job title? And they're going to do a data collection.

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And that data collection will be the basis of the survey.

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So again, I strongly recommend that if you believe if you're passionate about the need to reclassify the position of 911 public safety telecommunicator, your agencies needs to update your job description update your title, talk about what are the requirements for

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hiring and training and what are the technology and tools,

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and do you use protocols? All those different things need to be documented so that when the survey is done it has a higher degree of being successful, of showing that this job is no longer a clerical job and needs to be reclassified.

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One of the other ways we're gonna focus on our workforce is, I announced recently that the program is going to look at our recommended minimum training guidelines. This year

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we hope to start the process of revisiting these guidelines. These guidelines were a collaborative effort of many organizations, and not from the Program itself, but by the Program convening industry professionals and bringing it together. Over ten years ago

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a document was published that was the recommended minimum training guidelines for 911 telecommunicators.

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With that document being almost ten years old, I think it's a important that we look at it again.

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We look at its impact of the technologies, and we make sure that it's current because we want to make sure that anyone that is responsible for the training of 911 telecommunicators has the resources needed to make sure that they're training them to the highest level possible.

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Another way that we focus on providing information and collaborating with our stakeholders is through this Webinar. The State of 911 Webinar series is happens every other month, and we're very happy to bring to you our stakeholders topics that we feel are valuable

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and interesting. And I can tell you that at the end of this you will see a web email address to reach the National Program and we would surely like to hear any ideas or recommendations for future Webinar topics we are happy to focus on the needs of the community and try to make sure that we're

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responsive to that in our webinar planning. So, we have our next webinar scheduled for May.

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We'll wrap up today and give you some more information about that.

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But I would encourage you all to register for these webinars.

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Now for the remainder of the year, and you will be alerted and reminded when they come.

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We also want to promote our 911 priorities and work together with our stakeholders on these priorities.

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One of the projects that we work with our stakeholders on is the 911 Telecommunicator Tree of Life.

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Again, another cooperative initiative, with many stakeholders in the community that allow you a way to recognize your individual telecommunicators from your centers, your region, your state, and add the a leaf to the tree.

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This is a great thing to be thinking about, with April approaching and National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week as a way to recognize your staff.

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So many of you if you're struggling with recognition, ideas, or ways to make an impact because limited funding or things like that, I would highly encourage you to submit your stories. I wanna add leafs to the to the tree so that you can we can watch this tree grow with great stories of

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how our telecommunicators are impacting their communities and improving this.

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We also collaborate with all of our stakeholders, and again we at the program work hard to make sure that we have the ability to convene stakeholders when there's a topic that comes up as well as working with any association so again, another opportunity for any of you to send

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us, an email. I believe it will be placed in the chat.

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I know it's on a slide coming up that if you've got an idea or something that you think needs to be focused on, and no one else is working on it,

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we might be able to work to identify the need or prioritize that issue.

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We want to identify things that we could be focusing on.

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We have a lot going on, but there's but we need to know if there's other ways. The other way that we collaborate with our stakeholders is we collaborate with our Federal partners.

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So we work with the Department of Homeland Security, CISA, S&T Directorate, which works on to technical solutions.

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We work with the Coast Guard, we work with Health and Human Services.

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and others. We have, and the Department of Defense, we have a great relationship,

and we try to collaborate with all of our partners.

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We participate in a Federal Next Generation 911 working group, to make sure that the Federal PSAPs that are out there have the information and are getting what they need to further advance their Next Generation 911 as well. And I mentioned we are coordinating with the Department of Defense in our annual report.

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The Department of Defense has submitting data. They did this for the first time in 2021, and they've continued to do it since.

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And we're able to say that we know there are 177, 911 centers within the state-side Department of Defense

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that answer 911 calls. And that's really amazing to add that to our numbers of PSAPs across our nation and recognize that and help them interconnect with their local partners.

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So, we're also creating and sharing resources. One of the ways that we're doing that is, through a pilot project called 911 Data Path, where we're working to see whether we can collect data from a variety of 911 systems into a common database. You can get more information through the

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QR Code there. But the vision of this pilot program is really to be able to move into the future of, wouldn't it be nice to we had a national 911 database. You may be familiar with NIBRS, NIFRS or NEMSIS,

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which are the law enforcement, fire, and EMS databases. And the Program, we have a goal to see if we could evolve our pilot project into a National 911 Database collection we could collect census data of year 911 centers as well as your audio data without

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having collecting the personal information that that data may contain, and we'd want anonymize data.

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But if we could collect this, imagine the information we would have and how we could better educate our community stakeholders and leaders in the needs of 911. The other data collection tool we have is the National 911 Profile Database, or what we refer to as our National 911 Annual Report, all of you contribute to this one way, or another because at a PSAP level you're

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pushing your information up to your States. And of the 56 eligible states, district, and territories,

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50 of them took the time to self-report data in 2021. That report was just released just a couple of weeks ago, in last

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month in February and is available online at 911.gov. now. So that's the newest

version of this report that is out there. Again, we look to this report to identify trends and find information. And in 2021, one of the things we saw was, we saw an increase of participants in the in their deployment of adopting a statewide Next Generation 911 Plan. We saw that text-to-911 increased, and again

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we had the information from the Department of Defense documented in that report, as well.

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So again, I would encourage you to go online, look at this report and look at the variety of data that is available to you, and can help compare and identify trends in our industries.

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We have a lot of other resources that we share and have developed over the years that I wanna highlight. The first one of those resources is our Next Generation

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911 Public Safety Leader documents. We have documents for our law enforcement partners, uor fire, EMS and telecommunicators on the impact and what 911 or what Next Generation 911

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means. We also have a Next Generation 911 and FirstNet information document as well. All those are available to read on 911 gov.

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and could be a great tool for you to use when you're educating your community stakeholders.

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One of the other resources we have is, we track 911

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legislation at the sState level. So we just updated 2022 key enacted 911 legislation document prepared by our partners at ENSL.

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That information is available online. Again, recently posted, as well as on the same page

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you can search the database for current legislation initiatives that are out there. A program that

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you may not be aware of is available to your state office or your State 911

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program is the ability to conduct an assessment. The National 911 Program can bring together industry experts to help assess using a the predetermined criteria of where your 911 Program in your state is at and how does it meet or exceed the standards that have been identified?

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And then finally, as far as information available, we have our resources on what's called documents and tools.

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dection 911.gove. And this is a great place to find documents. We try to cross post information that may be available in other places and make sure it's available to you.

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One of the things that I wanna highlight is the ability for you to submit data when that highlighted section on the lower left side of your screen that shows click here to share. You could send us information

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if you're aware of something that could be important to add and make available to every stakeholder across the country. And we encourage that submission of data and information.

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So with that, be happy to take a couple of questions now before we move on to our next session.

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Awesome. Thank you so much, Brian. You do have a question in the question and answer section, and then we can get to the hands that are raised. For those who have questions,

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please enter them into the question and answer feature which you can find by hovering over the bottom of the screen, or raise your hand.

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So the first question I see is recognize the importance of GIS data for Next Generation 911 is DOT doing anything to support GIS for the 911 community. Again, I think the immediate answer is that we're working to publish our GIS Standardization reports which are gonna provide

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a path forward, a call to action, and some topics, and a great resource for the 911 community to understand why there is an importance in GIS and those reports are going to contain information about everything related to GIS.

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The need to recruit and identify GIS people to be into the GIS field business as a stem initiative.

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The fact that if you can't afford to all of your GIS solutions, how you can partner on a regional or cooperative level with other agencies we're really gonna work to make sure that information is available and out there and we also collaborate within the GIS community making sure they

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understand the specific needs of 911. Next question. Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead, Kate.

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Sorry, Brian. Just a to add to that during the Next Generation 911 Grant Program, there are a lot of GIS projects that were very successful, and those are being highlighted at least within DOT.

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And we're trying to make sure that our highway safety offices and our state DOTs

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Not only to the 911 community, but to multiple state agencies and highway safety community.

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Yeah, and the NATIONAL 911 also supports the Department of Transportation National Address Database, and that is a database where I would encourage everyone to submit.

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You can submit your address data to the National 911 Database.

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We have many states, a majority of the states that are doing this.

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And it's a single collection. That information is available and will be coming out in the reports further information on how that's happening in the reports.

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We'll also work with our Tribal GIS communities as well. Making sure we prioritize those resources.

00:37:52.000 --> 00:37:55.000 Okay.

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So the next question is, a copy the slide deck. The slide in this, and audio, and of this presentation will be made available within the next couple weeks

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Brian, do we want to see if the person who's had their hand up wants to unmute and ask their question when we get to the rest in the question?

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Answer, so?

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Michael Hartless, did you have a question?

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Okay, hearing nothing. Keith, is it, Chappie? Is that correct?

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You just need to unmute and ask your question.

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Okay, hearing none. I do wanna make sure that we have time for our next presenter.

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We will work on answering the questions that are in the question and answer section, we will circle back to questions, but I don't wanna run out of time for our next presenter.

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You can obviously reach Brian and myself at the contact.

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Information on the screen. But I'm gonna turn it over to Brian to work on our next introduction.

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Yeah, thank you, Kate. And again, Kate is one of my colleagues here in in the 911 Office, and has really done a lot and does a lot for the Program.

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So again. I just want to thank her for all the work and helping us out today.

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But next I'd like to introduce Ty Wooten

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That is with the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch, and he is here today to discuss the joint NASNA International Academy and it's Emergency Dispatch Workforce Study.

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Ty, are you there?

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I am. Thanks, Brian, thanks for having me today.

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So we'll put your information up on the screen here, and I guess my first question for you is, you know, where did this initiative and project start?

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Well last year, during the summer we saw a number of news reports from different parts of the country talking about the staffing issues that were facing 911 centers.

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But they were looking at one or two centers in a particular specific area, or in that particular news market, and I began to wonder and think about,

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we don't have a way of really looking at this in a holistic approach, and we are reached out to NASNA,

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the National Association of State 911 Administrators and ask them if they'd be interested in partnering with us in regards to getting this study out so that we could kind of get a little bit larger and a more global look at where the staffing issue is across the nation.

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Well, and I think I'll moving into your next slide.

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So what was the results you got? What was your participation?

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Yeah, we. It was a great participation. Honestly, I was blown away by the number of agencies that took the time to pull it all together.

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We had 774 agencies from 48 states that submitted data to the study, and it was, it was incredible, you know, they really kind of looked in different ways.

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We had a number of primary 691 primary PSAPs, as well as some 83 secondary

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that helped us to develop the answers to the questions that we were offering.

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And I see here that you were able to even break down those response times, not just by primary and secondary, by also position, size, which I think is really interesting, because you know, in our recent annual report

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we know that, you know, 67% of our 911 centers are five or less positions. And it's good to see that you had that kind of response from that.

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Right? Absolutely. You know, the data that we've been talking about for years, you know, understanding that some close to 80% or 85% of those PSAPs, are you know, 20 positions or less.

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You know, in this response to our survey, you know, 94% of our PSAPs were 20 positions or less.

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And so I, we got a good breakdown across the board, and again a great response across the country.

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So you've been in this industry as long or longer than I have, and we've talked about turnover before.

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I mean, I think before COVID, we used to use to the number like 20%.

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How does that compare with what you found in this

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in this survey?

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Well, the survey it was, you know, kind of what we expected.

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It is a larger amount than what we had previously experienced before

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COVID, and generally it's at about 25%.

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And when we looked at the like breakdown across the board, you know you can see here in this graph,

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there's a number of agencies that were fully staffed.

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82 out of the 774 were fully staffed, and a number of them also, just with, you know, 1 to 10% down on vacancies as well.

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So that's actually, really good. The disconcerting kind of area is when we get to those, the numbers where they're 70

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and you know, close to 80% where they're having a vacancy rate.

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And it's that's where it really gets us.

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And here we share, you know, one respondent in Arkansas who responded, that they had an 83% vacancy rate in 2022, which is, you know, kind of mind-boggling to me to figure out your struggling to operate in that kind of respect.

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But we had a number of agencies, you know, 105 agencies that had a vacancy rate of more than 50%.

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Well, I think what strikes me with that information is that you know overall

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we know that with the turnover one of our challenges is hiring is that then, when we go to hiring somebody, not everyone we hire makes it through our training programs. Were you able to account for that at all

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in the survey you did.

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Yeah, absolutely, we were, we were able to look at new hires.

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And we saw that in in those new hires you know the overall mean, or the average number of new hires who failed to complete their probationary period increased of 50%.

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And this is a mean. So it's not, you know, each position, but, you know, moved from two and 2019 to three in 2022.

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Again, that is a 50% increase. So it is pretty recognizable that we're not, you know,

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again, I think Brian, you and I have had these conversations in the past.

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When you have these discussions about new hires, it's sometimes difficult, are we

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hiring the right person, or we failing them in training?

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Or is it a combination? Or a little bit of both? Of both. And that's something that we want to look at

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Definitely. And then, I suppose you know, the other thing is, how did this fare with people who were beyond training and were experienced telecommunications?

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Yeah, that, I think, is probably the biggest thing is, I think we have an experience of evaporation happening. Where we've got, you know, a 100% increase in the number of employees that are leaving that have, you know, outside of their probationary period.

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You know, it's increasing, you know, one to two employees, and then, you know, a really a mean of about 33% increase, which is disconcerting because we have a number of employees that you know at if you losing that experience all that knowledge and expertise is walking out

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the door with them, and that can be just as detrimental to an in an agency than not having anybody there at all.

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Because now you're constantly trying to have to look at getting everybody

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the experience that they need from the very beginning.

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Well, and I know that there's gotta be a lot of different reasons for why people are leaving.

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And what do you think you were able to identify, or what were the trends that you picked up on in your service?

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Yeah. Well, as you see here, you know, really, the work hours and the work schedule itself was 46%

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the predominant reason for people leaving. You know, and

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I think the other aspect of that is, you know, better opportunities, and or better pay.

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I think all three of these probably kind of roll in together, because whether it's being able to work in an environment where that's not a  $24 \times 7 \times 365$  environment that might be a better opportunity for someone as well as potentially offering better pay and makes it a little bit

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more palatable. One thing I do still wanna bring up is really the stress of the job,

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is the fourth reason why people left, and with 30% of them, you know, indicating that it was stress that in itself is something that we need to consider.

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And really all of this really plays probably and do some of the reclassification discussions that you were talking about a little bit earlier. And how important this is to as we improve our job descriptions will help which will ultimately help to hire better people because we're talking about the specifics of

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exactly what we are doing, but it also will help to help to have those discussions as we look to

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if we are successful in reclassification, improving pay, and other aspects of the job.

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Well, I know some states when they're looking at reclassification,

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part of their goals are to also increase the ability for resources and mental health or other areas for their workforce,

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and I think that this really lends itself to that. That we need to be able to support our workforce and provide more resources for them so that we can retain them.

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Absolutely. And you know, I it's interesting. I was talking to some colleagues last night, and the reality is we've spent a lot of time and effort over the last ten years really focusing on the technology of 911.

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And you know the reality also is this, we can have the best technology in the world,

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we can have the most dynamic and best capabilities in the world,

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but if we don't have good, well trained people who love their job and do it

correct,

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while they're answering those and using those technologies, it doesn't really matter.

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Well, and with this much turnover I think one of our concerns in the people in the PSAPs

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out there right now know this is, there's challenges in how we're operating.

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Yeah, we're filling those gaps in some interesting ways which to me I found interesting

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as we looked at this data, it was, you know, mostly voluntary over time, which is good, but there's a lot of mandatory overtime that's being pushed on to the people which probably exacerbates the stress and looking for better opportunities in other ways and the reason that probably people

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are leaving. The interesting aspect of all of this was, you know, it's it was 16%,

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it was much smaller of the surveyed percentage wise, but it's still interesting to me that even 16% are being supplemented by field responders

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instead of not having specifically 911 trained professionals who may be filling in from time to time.

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Well, so any good news is what we see here. Right? There's a couple of things that are positive.

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Yeah, I mean the reality of some good things is the number of actual vacancies versus our actuals versus vacancies was decreasing.

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So that means that the amount of people the overall, the number of vacancies, was kind of going in the right direction.

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The other positive thing that I found, and looking at all of this is that a majority of the respondents, 70% of the agencies who responded said that they, if they were fully stacked, they would have the number of people that they would need to adequately staff and meet the needs of the center

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and what was interesting is that which I think is a good thing, because I think that means that we are staffing to the right levels when we can get fully staffed.

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Yeah. And that's a those, I was gonna say, that's a question.

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Those agent. Yeah, that's a question,

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even in the questions right now is that you know one of the challenges is, if you're under staffed

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when your staffing wasn't enough to begin with, and you're fighting an uphill battle.

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Exactly.

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But if we've authorized staffing better, then we just gotta get those authorized positions filled.

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Right. But for those agencies that where they didn't believe that they were adequately staffed, 75% of them cited a rising call volumes as the reason that they wanted or needed more staff, so I think that also is an indication for us to understand that there's

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more 911 calls coming than we've had in the past. And as we look at these things, that's something we all should be looking at as a trend moving forward.

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So, what's next? And where do you go from here?

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Yeah, some of the things that we're gonna be doing is we're gonna be working with NASNA to form a working group to kind of further evaluate some of the data and identify some and share some insights that we can utilize to ways to improve staffing and look to those agencies that

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are at the very, you know, the very bottom of the of the vacancy rates.

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The zeros and the ten less than 10% to see how we can get them to share insights about how they're doing things and how they're doing it well.

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Yeah, put the contact information for yourself and Harriet Rennie-Brown on the screen from NASNA.

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Yeah, I do. Just would like to say, first and foremost, I'd like to say, if you are anyone who is on this Webinar, if you participated in the survey, a massive amount of gratitude and thanks to each of you for taking the probably closer to half an hour it took to pull all

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of the data and put it in there. I'd also like to make a huge thanks to "Budge" Currier,

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the president of NASNA and Harry Rennie-Brown, the CEO, or Executive Director of NASNA, and our specific NASNA folks like Leah Missildine and Paul Troxel, who helped tremendously in in the development survey. I'd also like to take it just

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but to say a big thanks to all the folks in the academies who helped us help me pull all of the stuff together.

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Andrew Palmer, Beckab Boroughs, Chris Oolola, and Greg Scott,

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from the Research Department and Communications and Academics team really helped to bring all of this together, and without them we wouldn't have been so successful.

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I think it's very valuable to our community of stakeholders at large and to the attendees of our webinar.

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We've got, I mean, there's over 320 people on live right now at the end of our hour. So, I think it was an interesting topic, and a lot of people were here to check it out. I know we've got some pending questions from earlier. I'll turn it over to Kate to see what we can get through or maybe new questions for

00:56:16.000 --> 00:56:19.000 Ty and the NASNA IAED research.

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Thank you so much, so will the study be published. Is there a link to the current results or current information?

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I think that the answer it's sounded like Ty was that it is definitely gonna be published.

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But if there is anything that people can access right now, we will work on adding that into the chat, and then all of your questions if we do not get to them today, we will get to them, and they will be answered as we move forward with the posting of the

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PowerPoint and the recording for this. So, there was a question about the validity of staffing levels or most agencies staffing appropriately, and I think you already answered that.

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But did you have anything you wanted to add to that?

00:57:08.000 --> 00:57:10.000 No, I think that was answered.

00:57:10.000 --> 00:57:11.000 Yeah.

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Okay? Is. There was a question about the minimum training guidelines,

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are they in line with NENA's recommendation, or recommended minimum training guidelines?

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So when we use the phrase, recommend a minimum training guidelines,

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those were all developed with a huge, wide group of stakeholders.

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APCO, NENA, Denise Amber Lee Foundation, the International Academies, and many other groups. So, that document was not an 911.gov.

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document that was just us helping bring those people together. So there, you know, what is there is usually in line with all of those entities in any of the training their documents they have.

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We're just looking to see we're going to start the process of bringing those same groups together.

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And we look at them and see if they need to be updated.

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And again, those will be a collaborative document for the industry.

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Awesome. Do you have any stats on job degradation, or with higher forced over time?

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So that's an interesting question. That was not, I mean, there's some, probably some things that we can pull from that there's not a specific question with that in the survey, but it is probably something that we could discern from it.

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But nothing specific in in the survey.

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And I don't believe the survey really looked at different generations

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mindsets, and sort of how different generations interact. So, there's one question about is the  $\mbox{Gen Z mindset},$ 

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or requirement that they're looking for compared to past generations.

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Is there?

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No, we didn't not look into the specifics of the demographic of the individual people who were, you know, being hired or letting go, or left on their own.

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That would have just been to owner us on the respondents to try and pulled together in such a broad perspective.

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Awesome? And how is NHTSA addressing gaps in the 911

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workforce, especially in rural communities. So, I just wanna chime in real quickly that one of the things that we have been doing the telecommunicator reclassification toolkit is not simply for reclassification.

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The concept of professionalization in this field and moving forward training and resources for this workforce is really critical to recruitment, retention, and maintenance of the workforce.

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So NHTSA also has a project that is in collaboration with the Office of EMS,

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looking at how we can apply some of the modalities we've done for clinical evidence-based guidelines towards an evidence-based guideline for the mental health of our workforce.

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So those projects, as well as some others, are in line to try and help us to better get a handle on what we can do to better help our workforce, to improve retention, to improve their health and wellness and conditions for our workforce not just in rural communities but across the board and

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really, I think that will help us in those rural communities.

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But, Brian, do you want to take a stab at that one?

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No, I think your answer was really right on as far as where we're going.

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I mean, you know, again we've got to look at this stuff holistically, and you know what it's gonna work for

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most people should be able to translate into rural areas as well.

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You know, we've just got to make sure we don't leave anyone behind when we're working on the resources.

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And then the last one. What is it to doing to remote or fund cyber security assessments?

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I think Brian mentioned earlier in his PowerPoints.

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We have a really robust collaboration with CISA Cyber Resilient 911 Program as well as other Federal partners, to really make sure that all the Federal partners who are in this space who are working to improve the cybersecurity and resilience for all of the 911

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community are on the same page and building resources collaboratively to get the resources where they need to be at our 911 centers.

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Sure, and I can take this last question we've got, which is, what's being done to support the emergency management coordinators with radio communications.

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The National 911 Program works with SAFECOM and NICSWIC, and their 911 working groups and that's where we do most of our collaboration with regards to emergency communications.

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Otherwise, you know, we're significantly focused on the 911 side, on some of those

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issues. But we do work with those, those entities, SAFECOM and NICSWIC, and with our partners at CISA, ECD

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Emergency Communications Division, that has a lot of crossover into those areas.

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Thank you all so much for your presentations, for all the engagement, for all of the questions this concludes today's webinar.

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We appreciate everybody's participation and archived version of this webinar will be available on 911.gov

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soon the next webinar will be on Tuesday, May 9th, with an update from the FCC

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and a presentation of ESInets and Service Redundancy from the South Carolina Coastal ESInet Cooperative.

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We hope that you will be able to join us, and thank you have a wonderful day.