

Recap Meeting with Homeland Security:

Consensus report prepared by: Charles Gabriel, Steve Wisely and David Stevenson

Meeting Date: 07/26/05 Time 13:30-14:30 Hours

Met with Dr. David Boyd Deputy Director Homeland Security, Interoperability and Compatibility. In attendance from the County were Charles Gabriel, Steve Wisely and David Stevenson. In addition to Dr. Boyd, Thomas Chirhart and Steve Young were there representing Homeland Security.

His comments and those of his staff were as follows:

- Felt that the concept paper was very much on target and consistent with the efforts SAFECOM is planning on undertaking.
- That if and when funds become available, his office would make contact with us to move forward with applying. Dr. Boyd indicated this would not be known until after September and that we should keep in touch with his office. He has directed his staff to keep the information channels open to us regarding funding progress.
- Pleased that Onondaga County has overcome the biggest issue that faces interoperability projects throughout the country. We have a consensus to build on with all of the inter-governmental agreements.
- At least six sources of funding are possible, these are:
 - COPS Grants (Interoperability Program)
 - SAFECOM - Rapid Com funds may be appropriated this year.
 - Pilot Projects that his office has applied for. Dr. Boyd, has indicated a willingness to work with us on a pilot project and would consider the County a good fit.
 - ODP State Block Grants.
 - Firefighters Grant Program.
 - FEMA Programs.
- Comments regarding funding: ODP is a block grant program that is awarded to states. The only way to leverage our project is to push the state to release funding for our project. Without getting into details, we can not succeed in this endeavor unless we approach the state in the same manner as we did Homeland Security. Dr. Boyd encouraged us to seek funding from any number of sources as his office talks with all other offices regarding funding. **It is strongly recommended that we visit the State Office of Homeland Security and approach them regarding funding.**
- We will look into COPS and Rapid Com projects. Grant guidelines will require detailed information which we do not have regarding our project. The grant information we received from West Virginia follow federal guidelines and as such we are not ready. However, we will prepare the back ground information for both projects.

- We feel the reception we got was very positive and routinely work with SAFECOM, that we stand a very good chance of becoming a pilot project with Homeland Security.
- We think it would be very helpful to obtain congressional support regarding our projects, and supporting letters from our congressional delegation can not hurt us.
- Overall, our timing, and position paper were very much on target, and given Dr. Boyd's role in shaping the legislation for interoperability funding, puts us in a great position.