

State Interoperability Executive Council Meeting
March 29, 2005

- Call to Order at 1:15 by David Steingraber, Chair of the Council and Executive Director at Office of Justice Assistance.
Everyone present introduced themselves. Sue Riseling was announced as Co-Chair of the Council. David Steingraber laid out what he sees as the general Council objective.
- David Steingraber reviewed some of the highlights of the reference binder. He noted where the Executive Order and Council contact information can be found in the binder. He also asked that Council members look at Phase 3 section in the binder; it is most pertinent to the Council's goal. David also announced that OJA made copies of the State Interoperability Study and members were welcome to take one with them. The study can also be downloaded from the OJA website. www.oja.state.wi.us.
- David lead a brief discussion of the responsibilities the Council will take on.
- Gale Sorum, the OJA Interoperability Consultant, briefed the Council on the status of interoperability in Wisconsin. He offered a definition of interoperability and made the assertion that the majority of the problems in dealing with interoperability are caused by people and not technology.
- After Gale briefed the Council, 2 more Council members who arrived late, introduced themselves.
- Michael Kunesh, director of Homeland Security at OJA briefed the Council on funding that is available for interoperability.
In FY03, \$791,000 was allocated for interoperability. FY04 and FY05 each have \$6.4 million earmarked for interoperability.
The FY04 and FY05 funding will be allocated to grantees through a competitive grant.
- David Steingraber presented the highlights of a report from the NGA Interoperability Policy Academy that a delegation from Wisconsin attended. He gave a few handouts to Council members that listed general conclusions the Academy came up with regarding interoperability. The handouts were labeled "Success," "Commitment," and "1 year Work Plan."
- Throughout the meeting there were discussions on a few key issues. During the discussion, most members stressed that they agree that the biggest challenge the Council will face is how get agencies to work together to achieve interoperability. Another issue discussed was about how to set up guidelines for grant recipients before grants are awarded so that interoperability is achieved. Council members stressed that equipment alone is not going to create interoperability, there needs to

be cooperation and training required to achieve the goal of statewide interoperability.

- Gale offered to send out short summaries of what other states are doing with interoperability, via email. If Council members would like more information, OJA will be happy to provide it.
- After discussion concluded, David Steingraber announced the next meeting will be on April 28th. Council members will be able to participate via conference phone if necessary. The meeting is expected to last about 2 hours.
- David also explained how the expense vouchers work for OJA. OJA will email the expense voucher to Council members. David asked Council members to print them, fill them out and sign them, and return them to OJA.
- The meeting was adjourned at 3pm.