

Follow-up Questions and Answers from the September 15th, 2022
NCGA Justice and Public Safety Oversight Committee Meeting

Prison Staffing

1. How many current vacancies are there for prison positions?

NCGA Staff: The Custody and Security fund code includes all prison wardens, correction officer leadership, and correction officers. Currently, of the 12,390 FTE in this fund code, there are 3,975 vacant positions, a rate of 32%. (This rate is higher than stated in the meeting due to a miscommunication between staff.)

2. When did the lawsuit that led to early release of prisoners end?

NCGA Staff: The terms of the settlement required the State to release the 3,500 prisoners by August 25, 2021 for the plaintiff to drop the lawsuit.

NC Emergency Management (NCEM) Mobile School Panic Alarm System

3. Who has final say on the vendor selection for the panic alarm system?

NC Emergency Management: “Based on guidance from NC DIT and NC DPS, the final contract will be signed by NCDPS due to the legislative allocation going to NC DPS. NC DIT, NC DPI, and NC DPS are all represented on the evaluation committee to ensure the three Departments have buy-in to the process as it is detailed by NC DOA.”

4. How many schools are on the State Emergency Response Application (SERA)?

NC Emergency Management: “The State Emergency Response Application (SERA) and the School Risk Management Plans (SRMP) are basically two separate views of the same system. SERA is how public safety agencies can view the floorplans of the school and also view the emergency plan if it has been completed by the school. SRMP is the portal where the schools access the system to create their emergency plans and tie it to the floorplan. The 2018 report [on the Mobile Panic Alarm system which stated that all schools were on SERA] was showing the number of schools added into the system and how many had uploaded floorplans. The answers provided below show the number of schools that have started, finished, or are in progress of updating their Emergency Plan in the system. It is important to note that most schools have emergency plans but they may not have added them into the SRMP system. Regardless of the status of the Emergency Plan for the school in SRMP, law enforcement agencies can view the floorplans in the SERA portal.

Emergency Plans as of 9/14:

2343 Schools.

Not Started: 341 (14.5%);

Draft: 1379 (58.9%);

Submitted: 436 (18.6%);

Locked: 187 (8%).”

5. How many law enforcement agencies can access SERA today?
NC Emergency Management: "There are 2,616 active users in SERA representing an estimated 103 public safety agencies."

Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) Domestic Violence (DV) Monitoring Program

6. If the CJIN DV monitoring program was statewide, how many individuals could theoretically be a part of the program?

CJIN: "For the program to go Statewide, the approximate number of individuals covered by the program would be 3,500 units – 1,750 (defendant units) and 1,750 (victim units). According to the N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), there were roughly 32,000, domestic violence "no-contact" protective "50B" orders requested last Fiscal Year. But only approximately 1/3 were actually executed, and thus, recognizing that the program is for the high-risk cases is where the smaller number is factored in."

7. What is the cost per victim and defendant monitored?

CJIN: "The cost per unit (Victim and Defendant) is \$13 per unit per day. This program is like no other GPS electronic monitoring program in the State of North Carolina. It's an active 24/7 monitoring program, not passive monitoring like others in the State. The use of electronic monitoring on domestic violence offenders requires a higher level of monitoring than other offenders. In addition to that, the CJIN Electronic GPS Monitoring program is providing 24/7/365 days of the year support and services to victims as well.

As such, it includes two GPS monitoring units, consisting of an ankle bracelet worn by the defendant and a paired portable GPS device carried by the victim. If the defendant enters within a set distance of the victim, the victim receives multiple text messages. The GPS devices also notify the victim with a text and a live call from the 24/7 monitoring center if the defendant is within three hundred feet of an "exclusion zone," such as the victim's home, place of work, school, etc. Executing use of this program in roughly 1/3 of the State's Judicial Districts has required a substantial amount of time and coordination tailoring the program to best represent the desires and needs of the stakeholders in each of the participating judicial districts that are participating in the program.

To that point, the following services are also provided as part of the daily costs, but not limited to: contacts to the victim to ensure they are aware of the defendant's placement on GPS, instruct victims as to what is required of them, train and support the victim on how they will receive notifications from the monitoring system, ensure that each victim has a cell phone, conduct testing on victims' cellular devices to ensure that the device is able to receive notification from the monitoring system, enter in the victims information in the necessary software programs, live victim notification via a live call if the defendant enters a "exclusion zone," live call monitoring center 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, local providers in participating judicial districts, installation and deinstallation of the defendant GPS monitoring unit, defendant monitoring, provide victims and defendants with the necessary equipment to charge/operate the devices, and train all participants including victims, defendants, judicial officials, law enforcement officers, and any other stakeholders."

8. How are outcomes for DV monitoring measured?

CJIN: "The monitoring method by which the CJIN Electronic GPS Monitoring Program is measured by defendant compliance with the orders of the Court and victims remaining unharmed while the order remains in effect. Examples of the measurements of defendant's compliance would be keeping the monitor charged, not tampering with the unit, or violating a "fixed exclusion" zone. Results thus far from the program show that GPS monitoring and proximity victim notifications have successfully saved lives. This accretion is being made due to the fact that not a single program participant has been a victim of a homicide while under the order of the Court. The data for the program shows that 80% of the defendants enrolled have obeyed the directive of the Court. Furthermore, as the CJIN program is expanding in Mecklenburg County, we have become more familiar with their passive monitoring program. The CMPD electronic monitoring program doesn't provide any 24/7 support service, active alerts, or device for the victims, Thus, their Chief District Court Judge has requested for Mecklenburg County to be a participant in the CJIN program, in order to keep victims safe. At CMPD in 2018, there were 2,200 defendants placed on their existing GPS monitoring program. Of those defendants, 85% complied with all conditions of their bail."

9. Does CJIN have an estimate of the cost to provide DV monitoring in all 100 counties?

CJIN: "The approximate cost for all 100 NC Counties would be an additional \$12,000,000.00 – and this would be for 3,500 units – 1,750 (defendant units) and 1,750 (victim units)."