

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEA COUNTY COMMUNICATION AUTHORITY BECOMES MEMBER OF PREMIER PROGRAM DESIGNED TO PROTECT LEA COUNTY'S CHILDREN

From the moment the report of a missing child comes in to the resolution of the case, every action taken has the potential to make the difference between a successful recovery and a tragic outcome.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) developed the Missing Kids Readiness Project to promote best practices for responding to calls of missing, abducted and sexually exploited children. 911 call centers and law enforcement agencies are recognized for meeting essential training and policy elements demonstrating preparedness for responding to a missing child incident.

To meet the requirements of the Project, **Lea County Communication Authority** worked with NCMEC on their missing child policy to ensure it met the critical elements of NCMEC's model policy for law enforcement agencies. In addition, **Director Angela Martinez and the dispatchers** completed the online training course for Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) managers and ensured all first responders and front line supervisors completed the necessary classroom and/or online training offered through NCMEC. By demonstrating remarkable leadership and making this commitment of training and preparedness, the **Lea County Communication Authority** is communicating to its citizens and families that protecting the lives and safety of their children is a top priority.

Armed with the information, knowledge and operational resources gained through meeting the project criteria, the **Lea County Communication Authority** is now positioned to respond more quickly, comprehensively, and effectively when a child's life may be at stake.

Not only is **Lea County Communication Authority** now one of 246 PSAP agencies in the United States who have achieved this status, but they are also the first within the state of New Mexico.

We at the National Center would like to express our sincere gratitude and congratulations to the **Lea County Communication Authority** for achieving this milestone, and for their diligence and commitment to children.

Lea County Communication Authority will be receiving an award for their achievements at one of the upcoming National Conferences of their choice. LCCA will receive a certification via USPS.

Mike Gallagher, County Manager and Chair of the LCCA Board of Directors said, "Public Safety has and continues to be a priority for County Commission, the County staff and me. I congratulate Ms. Martinez and her professional team of dispatchers on this significant achievement."

Director Angela Martinez Said, "We are committed to protecting all children of Lea County and want to do our part in making sure they are safe. LCCA's 911 Dispatchers are the First-First Responders, every second and every detail gathered during that initial call can make a huge difference in the outcome.

I am very proud of the dispatchers for working together as a team and achieving this goal. I would also like to commend LCCA's Training Coordinator, Dannette Martinez for working closely with myself, the dispatchers and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and getting this implanted".

To learn more about NCMEC and the Missing Kids Readiness Project, go to: <http://www.missingkids.com/MKRP>.

For a full listing of all MKRP recognized agencies, go to: <http://www.missingkids.com/MKRP/Members>.