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## **Meeting Summary: St. Joseph County AI Task Force – October 24, 2024**

**Date:** October 24, 2024

**Location:** St. Joseph County

**Chairperson:** Jerry Happel

**Participants:** Members of the AI Task Force

### **Key Highlights:**

#### **1. AI Advancements Update**

- Recent AI developments were discussed, with a focus on new AI models. Notably, Claude released a new version that is now competitive with ChatGPT, which has traditionally been the primary AI used by the task force.
- A tool called "Notebook LM," used for podcast creation and other applications, was highlighted for its ability to now customize content more effectively. A new feature allows users to direct the podcast to focus on specific topics and audiences by providing natural language prompts.

#### **2. AI Image Generation with Flux AI**

- Flux AI, an image generator, was demonstrated. The tool allows users to create professional headshots and customized images by uploading selfies. Examples included personalized images depicting members as historical figures or in professional settings.
- This technology, while fun and useful for headshots, was recognized as potentially problematic due to its capability to generate images that could be manipulated for more malicious purposes.

#### **3. AI Steering Committee Policy Needs**

- Discussions about the necessity for policy development centered around the appropriate and ethical use of AI within the county.
- One key question posed: Should employees be required to use AI tools developed for their roles, especially given apprehensions some may have about the technology?

#### **4. Application of AI in Judicial Processes**

- A demonstration of AI's capability in the judicial context was presented. By processing mock interviews with juvenile court referees, AI was able to match or exceed the quality of human judgments in a fraction of the time. The implications of this capability were discussed, particularly regarding whether AI could assist or potentially replace certain judicial functions.

#### **5. AI Agents and Advanced Automation**

- New developments in AI agents were shared. Tools like Claude's new agentic functions now allow AI to perform tasks on a user's computer, such as manipulating spreadsheets and sending emails autonomously.
- This sparked a conversation about how these agents could streamline tasks such as report generation, saving time for county employees. However, concerns about oversight and accuracy were noted.

#### **6. Task Force Focus and Steering Committee Integration**

- The task force is tasked with exploring ways AI can be implemented in St. Joseph County. Members are encouraged to brainstorm potential applications within their departments.
- The upcoming steering committee meeting will likely be more of an orientation, aimed at educating members unfamiliar with AI technologies. The task force is working on presenting their findings to the committee, including time-saving opportunities and workflow improvements identified so far.

#### **7. Future Meetings and Next Steps**

- A meeting with the AI Steering Committee is tentatively scheduled for November 13. The focus will be on orienting the committee to the technology and laying the groundwork for future policy discussions.
- Task force members are asked to provide data on how AI might streamline their department's work to create a formal presentation for the steering committee.