

Summary of the January 8, 2025, St. Joseph County AI Task Force Meeting

1. Video Generation Tool (Sora)

- Introduced as part of OpenAI's tools available to the task force.
- Demonstrated its basic functionalities, such as generating short videos from prompts and editing them with features like extending length and blending videos.
- Discussed limitations (e.g., video length and daily usage caps) and comparison with a Google tool offering better physics.

2. ChatGPT Features Update

- New "Projects" tab in ChatGPT was highlighted for better organization.
- Explained folder functionality, allowing linked chats and shared memory within folders.
- Demonstrated the ability to add instructions and files to folders, streamlining workflows.

3. Advanced AI Models Discussion

- Comparison between different AI models, including "O1" and "O3":
 - O1 excels at reasoning and logical analysis, scoring 25% on AGI benchmarks.
 - O3, released recently, scored 87.5% on the hardest AI benchmark, excelling in math, science, and coding.
 - O4 is expected in the first quarter of 2025, with anticipated significant advancements.
- Highlighted limitations of current AI models in creativity and subjective tasks.

4. Notebook LM Tool

- Discussed its upgrades, particularly for podcasts, allowing interactive and dynamic discussions.
- Demonstrated how users could interject questions and modify the podcast in real-time.
- Mentioned potential for broader use in creating FAQs, summaries, and collaborative editing.

5. Draft AI Usage Policy

- Policy builds on existing county policies like IT acceptable use and employee handbooks.
- Suggestions to incorporate language from judges and steering committees into the policy.
- Plan to finalize changes and meet with the steering committee for approval in February.

6. Training and Adoption Challenges

- Discussed the varying levels of AI adoption among staff in Van Buren and St. Joseph counties.
- Frustration noted with some staff resisting AI tools despite their proven productivity benefits.
- Proposed solutions include better communication and showcasing AI's potential to enhance efficiency.

7. AI Tool Use Examples

- Shared practical applications, such as:
 - Financial planning with AI for retirement, including verification of results with O1.
 - Streamlining document summaries and policy drafting using AI tools.
 - Leveraging tools like Notebook LM and ChatGPT for day-to-day tasks.

8. Training Plans for 2025

- Proposed offering training sessions tailored to staff roles, including:
 - "AI 101" for basic knowledge of tools like ChatGPT.
 - Intermediate sessions on prompt engineering and efficient tool usage.
 - Advanced workshops on Notebook LM and specific AI integrations.
- Suggestion to start with small groups for more effective learning.

9. Next Steps

- Focus areas for the next meeting:
 - Endorsement and promotion of AI tools to staff.
 - Detailed planning for department-specific AI training.
 - Discussion on expanding AI tool adoption across the county.