



Michigan's Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board

Minutes

June 14th, 2023, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 MSP HQ
 1917 Room

	Notes:
I. Call to Order & Welcome	Chair Bryce Tracy called the meeting to order at 2:02pm
II. Board Member Roll Call	<p>The follow Board members were present: Mr. Jerry Ellsworth, Mr. Sean McCarthy, Fire Marshall Kevin Sehlmeier, Mr. Brad Stoddard, Mr. Art Thompson, Mr. Bryce Tracy, and Chief Jon Unruh and Chief Edward Viverette.</p> <p>Board members virtual: Chief Edwin Miller</p> <p>Board members absent: Ms. Eileen Phifer, Mr. Ken Morris, Mr. Matthew Sahr, Captain Kevin Sweeney, Chief John Allen, Gary Hagler, Brigadier General Larry Schloegl.</p> <p>Also in attendance: Kate Jannereth, Kathryn Hall, Randy Williams, Scott Martzke (For Brigadier General Lawrence Schloegl) Inspector Michele Sosinski (For Captain Kevin Sweeney), Jennifer Wolf (For Mr. Gary Hagler), Jim Jarvis, Tim Jones, Max Schneider, Matt Groesser, Chief Greg Janik and Jacklyn Barcroft.</p> <p>Also in attendance virtually: Ray Hasil, Chris Kuhl, Nick Carpenter, Shaun Leininger, Matt Bolger, Paul Millis, and Allison Pemberton.</p>
III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	Motion was made by Sean McCarthy, seconded by Jerry Ellsworth and Carried to approve the March 15, 2023, minutes.
IV. Additions & Approval of Meeting Agenda	There were no additions or changes to the agenda.
V. Communications **See attached RADIO INTEROPERABILTY COMMUNICATIONS NOTICE 06012023	Bryce Tracy said the notice was to help DNR folks to work with local units during a wildland fire. The DNR changed the process, to have a couple different modes of communications

	<p>available to first responders. It will change for the 2024 wildland fire season. They will be changing their templates and radio design. But the topic came up early this year, due to the Grayling fire.</p> <p>Bryce wanted the MPSCIB to know the notice went to many fire safety people already. Bryce added that ahead of the 2024 fire season, they will review best practices at the time and then push out a notice. Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier will also be involved to review.</p>
<p>V. 1st Public Comment (limited to 3 Minutes)</p>	<p>NONE</p>
<p>VI. Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Michigan SCIP Posting/Publishing B. Annual MPSCS Monitoring Billing -Kate 	<p>A. Bryce said his only concern is that we need to post the SCIP Plan on our MPSCS website and have it linked to all the workgroup pages for ease of reference. It is approved and signed now.</p> <p>He would like it if we can send out the notice thru State 911 Office, MCDA, MSP, and EMHSD for district coordinators as well. We want awareness of this document and what it means. Kate Jannereth replied that we can get that done.</p> <p>B. Kate reported that since last meeting, DTMB financial services will no longer do billing for us and MPSCS will bring it in house. Brad Stoddard added that 17 years ago billing was in-house but changes were made at the State and centralized billing began. Some of that was the root of change for our partners at DTMB and they decided to send billing back to us. We haven't had an issue in a few years. I think for all concerned it is a very positive move.</p>
<p>VII. New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Communications Ecosystem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MPSCS Radio Coverage 2. MPSCS Future Infrastructure Needs 3. Use of LTE and LTE PPT vs Radio (LMR) 4. Funding/Grants B. Workgroup Action Items 	<p>A. Communications Ecosystem Discussion</p> <p>1. Bryce said this was a topic of discussion and situational awareness. At today's State 911 Committee meeting, a topic was raised about certain devices being paid for with 911 surcharge funds. He discussed issues with 911 use of funding in the State.</p>

	<p>2. MPSCS has provided some help in regard to that. There is talk of adding towers to the network in those areas. Also, there have been discussions about in-building radio coverage and other options like BDA were brought up.</p> <p>3. Bryce said it's no longer just about LMR, its LTE and LTE push to talk. Even the FCC is struggling with this and funding. Its more about other issues like radio coverage in that area. He said this was very similar to some cases that Chief Janik and the fire network have brought up with fire paging.</p> <p>4. Bryce asked the board if funding can be used. He asked from an interoperability standpoint, can we provide better structure for those areas. We identify gaps now; we might have been aware of them before but not able to proceed. We are not pointing a finger at locals or MPSCS. We just want a desire to provide better coverage for those areas.</p> <p>Bryce wanted to bring this up since this group will face and has faced heated discussions before about this.</p> <p>How do we do this with current budget or grant programs to take care of these issues -to provide solutions or be a part of the solution. S911 Committee are working on this and even working with the FCC too.</p> <p>Brad added that the concern of 911 is what is covered with those funds. Cell phones are being paid for by surcharge funds. The question is, are they all 911 service related or being used for other means? Certain legislative issues say it cannot be used for things like status communication or status or delivery options.</p> <p>Brad said he can't address that but agrees it's a bigger issue out there.</p> <p>The parallel piece on that is we get regular requests for building infrastructure and EMHSD leadership gets the same questions by locals and many on the legislative side. This is where we continue to run into challenges with greater needs for communication capabilities. Twenty years ago, it was better. In this space now, if</p>
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	<p>you go 3 feet and the radio doesn't work people want another tower. In contrast, 25 years ago there was a community that fought to not have a tower in their area. Now the thinking is, I can make some money off a tower in my backyard.</p> <p>Brad said some of this problem has been communications. He had talks with legislature and local people asking where the money is to buy towers. In the technology world, laptop and routers don't go more than 3 years before they are replaced with new devices. But for public safety communications they ask the technology to last for 10 to 15 years.</p> <p>There is a reality out there that a cell phone can replace the ability of radios. It comes back to what is the appropriate tool for this job.</p> <p>Several years ago, they got a lot of money from the Feds to purchase equipment. There are radios still operating out there today from this old buy. But there are new radios with data aspect and a carrier embedded and it's the sales pitch out there.</p> <p>For government funds or 911 funds, we are going to be facing this challenge. In pre-Covid times, the MPSCS was doing and now the shipping of equipment is delayed when before it was on shelves waiting to be picked up. The 911 centers and MPSCS still rely on some of that equipment. The question is, how will these be updated? His team is looking into that.</p> <p>Brad concluded with, across the nation funding and sustainment is always looked at; there is a national committee for that now. We are just at a time globally where everyone has a desire for more, but desire and funding are not equal.</p> <p>Bryce said he wanted everyone to be aware of this, since we could get asked about it. But he is not trying to push anything.</p> <p>B. There were no Workgroup action items at this time.</p>
VIII. Federal Updates –	A. Jim Jarvis reported that he just has a

A. CISA Emergency Communications Division

B. FEMA Region 5 RECCWG

simple request for the Board today: take the SAFECOMM Nationwide Survey. He gets an email once a week. He sorted the spreadsheet ahead of this meeting for the MPSCIB website and agencies on the board, and none of the agencies had completed the survey.

He did have some conversation with some agencies. He said his information is almost a week old, so some agencies may have completed it by now. Michigan has 27 submitted responses. If this motivates you, Ohio is beating Michigan, they have almost double the responses.

Each agency was sent an email with a link for their agency to complete the survey. It's also posted on the website.

You can go there and access the public portal. But if you use the link they sent, you can share it without someone else in your agency. If you start in public survey, you can't save it and you must complete it in one seating.

Jim added that the Board just talked about funding and the State 911 group was talking about technology and rural areas. There is no guarantee that Congress will do something. But this survey gives us stats to take to them. We can say, "across the country here is what is happening". So, we definitely need your support to complete the survey. He said he would have expected everyone here to have completed it.

He also asked the Board to spread the word about the survey and the importance of it. He asked, what's in it for you? And then he answered that the federal people will be able to "slice and dice" the data. They can look at Michigan and the differences in certain areas. Funding can be targeted better for your State's needs.

Jim concluded that if you don't have the survey information, he can send you the link for your particular agency.

Brad added that the survey is 30 minutes long and with the link you can pause the survey and get some of your people to assist with the data for the Ssurvey.

B. Brad Stoddard spoke on behalf of Dr. Karl Arriola.

He said one of the things that we are doing with the workgroup is a review to identify the roles of the RECCWG. They are going back to the governance model and reviewing what the scope of voting members is and associate members. That is the effort they are doing behind the scenes.

There is discussion around a future exercise, or a re-hash of past exercise. We asked, what did we glean from them?

One item to share with the board is that many times leaders at state and local government ask what is the value of being a member of RECCWG? It's a proud reason for the State of Michigan because four of us are leaders within this regional/national organization. Max Schneider is leading AUXCOMM, Bryce Tracy chairs the cross-border interoperability subcommittee and Matt Cook is heading WebEOC.

So, what is the value that comes out of it? From us, MPSCS's Randy Williams has helped lead the planning as well as Jacklyn Barcroft from MSP. Some of our representatives participate in calls even out of our region like from North Carolina, and we can bring pieces of that to us. It's the information we can receive from our peers around the state and the nation that is important. He said it's always better to share information on blue sky days and not in an emergency. The feedback he has received, is that those relationships have proven invaluable. There is a time when participation wanes, but with RECCWG, its close to 500 people in 6 states. If you have a partnership that large, you are bound to get information out of that. Brad added thanks to Karl Arriola who parlayed that this is more than emergency communications, it's a dialogue.

Jim Jarvis added that August 22 is the next session. It's probably a Long-Term Power Outage table exercise with FEMA. FEMA is supported thru the RECCWG with the potential

	<p>to communicate to the federal group and into something bigger. They are looking at a functional exercise later this year on this long-term power outage - including how do we do our resources requests.</p>
<p>IX. Statewide Updates -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) B. MPSCS System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critical Connect Project 2. County Additions 3. MPSCS System Snapshot (Data in Notes) 4. FY 22 budget 5. MPSCS staffing 6. CISA Meetings C. 911 in Michigan 	<p>A. Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)</p> <p>Brad Stoddard said there is value in taking time to do the Survey. It's broken down in a number of areas and there may be parts where it's your wheelhouse, but if someone else knows another section, you can send it to them to complete. He added, the role of RECCSWG, is to inform Congress. Then direct them to investments from Federal government to address those needs. If they identify that SOPs are the biggest concern in Michigan, there may be some suggestions from CISA in other areas as needed.</p> <p>Brad said he's provided a survey but not providing the whole survey so it's good to see that it's going to multiple sources. Please take time to fill it out. It is not difficult, just a lot of clicking the mouse on a selection.</p> <p>Jarvis added that MSP was sent a survey and each of their posts was sent one too. There may be some idiosyncrasy that can be gathered. For example, there are different issues for Negaunee than for the Lansing area.</p> <p>Brad stated that when we went through the SCIP, we were mapping those national emergency plans directly to our SCIP plans to show the state objectives matched the national plan.</p> <p>B. MPSCS System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Randy Williams reported that they are working with AT&T and Verizon looking at onboarding and will continue working on that. 2. Anastasia (Stacey) Ferguson-Nelligan reported that as of July 10 of this year, there

will be 32 towers and 20 dispatch centers. They're focusing on that now. They are also working on backhaul server upgrades. Bryce asked how many radios did that add? Stacey replied, since Spring 2022 there are a little over 6,200 radios added.

3. Agencies = 2,212

Radios = 143,668

Dispatch Centers = 103

Dispatch Consoles = 652

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) consoles = 62

Fire Pagers = 9,486

4. Kate Jannereth reported that they will be looking at surplus for FY 2022 and rolling it into budget in middle July. They will be spending prior funds as well.

5. Brad Stoddard said that they have successfully completed an organizational structure and identified internally what their greatest needs are now and what is the biggest impact that they can staff. Recent changes they looked at were the two Deputy Director position that they revamped for their needs. The new Deputies are Randy Williams and Tim Lee.

Brad stated that our biggest need is ensuring that we are aligning technology and people. I don't know if the FCC has had any discussion on A.I. but there is a need for further discussion on that. How we can bring in some intelligence there, that provides us information on the System where a human can't pick it up as fast. Looking at what is the investment that will give us the biggest support. But there is not a lot of cash out there, so we are trying to align the right people, to solve the problems, and address challenges.

Brad asked, how do we address that? We have a team in place working with our folks with experience in the LMR space. Also, there is a difference between government pay and private sector pay structures. For example, our Engineering section has had an opening for 5

	<p>years. We have two new resources (contractors) this week working in the NCC for a few months. Contractual costs have also gone up as well, since ours is nice space. Another challenge in recruitment for state government is the reality of working from home in the private sector. Emergency communications will continue to see those challenges, with retirements, phasing out, etc.</p> <p>6. Jim Jarvis had nothing to add to his earlier report.</p> <p>C. Briefing –State 911 Office Joni Harvey was unable to attend the meeting, so Bryce Tracy read her report which was included in the materials sent to the Board ahead of time. Bryce added that Joni wanted the Board to know that there are a number of PSAPs having staffing issues and are tempted to have a dispatcher work 6:00am to 6:00pm shift and move ops to another locations for coverage. Situation is how the funding follows it.</p>
<p>X. Workgroup Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Communications Unit Workgroup Co-chairs: Ray Hasil & Nick Carpenter B. AUXCOMM Workgroup Co-chairs: Jaclyn Barcroft and Max Schneider C. Public Alerting Workgroup Co-chairs: Jaclyn Barcroft and Rob Dale D. Fire Paging Workgroup Co-chairs: Al Mellon and Greg Janik E. Encryption Workgroup Co-chairs: Tim Jones and Matt Groesser F. Security Workgroup Co-chairs: Capt. Kevin Sweeney and Brad Stoddard G. UASI Workgroup Co-chairs: Craig Swenson and Sean McCarthy 	<p>A. Ray Hasil attended virtually and added to his report the following information. Electric Forest Festival gives a COMLs/COMTs a chance to complete their task book in one setting. They haven't done that since 2018. There is a lot of planning going into that and it's possible that 32 task books could be approved. The workgroup meets the last Wednesday of each month via Zoom.</p> <p>B. Jacklyn Barcroft added to her report, that they have lots of AUXCOMM people engaged in events during the busy summer season. They just completed a statewide AUXCOMM exercise on June 3. Folks had a lot of fun. The winners for the exercise were Wayne, Oakland, and Genesee Counties. They will get certificates sent to them.</p> <p>Bryce asked how the D4H database is coming along with the people being in the database and when is that mirrored in MICIMS. Jacklyn replied that Tara McLeod (from MPSCS) is working with the COML folks, still trying to collect the data. The process is going well. She</p>

has updated in MICIMS already and has to get some location data to update the MICIMS and it will mirror D4H.

Bryce said these are the experts that we will call upon in an emergency, it's important that folks know who they are.

Bryce added that maybe down the line we can know how many COMLs are in the state, so it will help emergency managers to know who to call in, like for the Gaylord tornado incident.

C. Jacklyn Barcroft added the following to her report submitted to the Board ahead of the meeting.

She and Rob Dale participated in the National Meeting of State Public Alerting Officials in April. FEMA, CISA, and FCC were there. Rob was on a panel discussion. They definitely learned a lot, and it was nice to be in a space with peers. FCC required EAS plan now. moving forward to work with local emergency communication people to get their plans up to date.

They had a lot of great feedback from the first Michigan Advanced Alert Workshop. Walked thru a couple exercises, and folks really liked that, and we want to host more of these later in the year.

D. Chief Greg Janik reviewed his report submitted to the board ahead of time and further discussed the recent BDA installation at Douglas Elementary School as the Board viewed the RF Study slides on the TV screen. Al Mellon added additional information. He said when NCC gets trouble report and they check for the BDAs causing this, it's just delaying the response. He referred to the map in the report and said there are 34 counties that use us as their paging sources, and the western end has a lot of gaps, it's a field issue of how to do pager programming.

Fire Marshall Kevin Sehlmeier asked Bryce, about how many fires in schools do you think we have responded to in the State? Bryce guessed about 200 and Kevin said it was close. We had 127 in 2022. 100 fires a year in schools is the average. This is why it's important that

	<p>we can communicate because there are so many fires in our schools. Over the last 5 years not all of them are started by someone, but he found this number shocking. He didn't know there was so many. Kevin said we need the ability to work in these buildings 24/7.</p> <p>Randy Williams added that it's really important that we share that they need to have maintenance agreement with that hardware. MPSCS may be able to identify problem, but they can't fix it. So they need to have a vendor lined up to fix them. Chief Janik said that annual testing and inspection is required.</p> <p>E. Matt Groesser did not have anything to add to his report submitted ahead of time to the board.</p> <p>F. Brad added the following to the report submitted ahead of time to the board. He reminded everyone what the scope of the Security Workgroup really is. The intent is to provide some level of communication out to local partners and community for security awareness.</p> <p>They want to reframe the mission of the workgroup about getting information out to that community. The correlation for the State cyber security program and survey they will do and working with our partners in the 911 community that there is information out there. We are not looking at this workgroup like the others. Security workgroup is not about solving a problem. Hopes to continue to evolve workgroup to other communities.</p> <p>Insp. Michelle Sosinski noted that the next meeting is July 24th.</p> <p>G. Sean McCarty said they did not have anything to add to their report which was submitted ahead of time to the board.</p>
<p>XI. 2nd Public Comment</p>	<p>Jacklyn Barcroft stated that 2024 Interoperability Conference is scheduled in February in Muskegon. The Save the Date information is going out this week. She said they are still looking for paper submissions or</p>

	ideas. Please let them know if you or your colleagues have any suggestions.
XII. Good of the Order	NONE
XIII. Adjournment	Bryce thanked the Board for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38pm.
XIV. 2023 Meeting Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 15th – MSP Headquarters • June 14th – MSP Headquarters • September 13th - MSP Headquarters • December 13th - MSP Headquarters