



Michigan's Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board

12/13/23 Meeting Minutes

MSP HQ - 1917 Room

1. Chair Bryce Tracy called the meeting to order at 2:01pm. Roll call was taken.

Board Member	Present, Absent or Virtual
Ms. Brianna Briggs	Virtual
Mr. Gary Hagler	Present
Mr. Thomas LaFave	Absent
Mr. Sean McCarthy	Present
Chief Edwin Miller	Present
Mr. Matthw Sahr	Present
Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier	Present
Colonel Raymond Stemitz	Present
Mr. Brad Stoddard	Present
Captain Kevin Sweeney/ Insp. Michelle Sosinski	Present
Mr. Art Thompson	Virtual
Mr. Bryce Tracy	Present
Chief Jon Unruh	Present
Chief Edward Viverette	Present

Also in Attendance:

Kate Jannereth	Jim Jarvis	Cindy Homant	Virtual Attendees
Kathryn Hall	Joni Harvey	Danielle Stewart	Robert Jabkowski
Randy Williams	Derek Flory	Tom Proffitt	Tim Lee
Chris Kuhl	Greg Janik		Rob Dale
Jaclyn Barcroft	Tim Jones		Karl Arriola
Max Schnieder	Joe Bertram		

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2023 Meeting.

A Motion was made by Mr. Brad Stoddard, seconded by Chief Edward Viverette and carried to approve the September 13th Meeting Minutes.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A Motion was made by Mr. Brad Stoddard, seconded by Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier and carried to approve the December 13, 2023 Meeting Agenda as presented.

4. **Communications and Correspondence**

a. Governor's Appointments

Bryce said we received a letter from the Governor on November 2, 2023. It was regarding the appointment of two of our board members, Chief Edwin Miller and Mr. Matther Sahr. He reviewed the information in the letter. Bryce thanked them for their continued service to the Board.

5. **1st Public Comment: None**

6. **Old Business:** Bryce asked Chris Kuhl what the feedback has been with the termination of legacy radios. Chris said that mainly they have given explanations on time frames for those that contacted the MPSCS. They were able to help answer their concerns and there is a good acceptance out there now. Bryce added that a lot of things are changing in the communications ecosystem and interoperability, and we need to let people know who to ask about this. He applauded the efforts of MPSCS and their outreach on this issue.

7. **New Business**

a. **Proposed 2024 MPSCIB Meeting Dates**

Bryce announced that they selected proposed 2024 meeting dates of March 13, June 12, September 18, and December 11. He added those dates correspond to the days that the State 911 Committee (SNC) will meet in 2024. The SNC are in the morning on these days. Brad added that the board meeting time is still at 2:00pm.

Bryce asked if anyone had any problems with the schedule. There were no replies.

A Motion was made by Mr. Matthew Sahr, seconded by Chief Jon Unruh and carried to adopt this schedule for the 2024 MPSCIB meeting schedule.

Bryce added that we will get the 2024 meeting dates out the members soon.

b. **2024 Michigan Statewide Interoperable Communications Conference**

i. **February 27-29** - Jaclyn Barcroft said that conference registration is open and Board members should have received email with instructions to register. It's a survey and not in MITrain. Workgroup chairs should have received an email too. Registration is open to exhibitors and general attendees in MITrain. Bryce

encourages all board members to attend the conference. He added that it's good to network and show support at this conference. If you have questions, there are instructions posted on the website or you can contact Jaclyn Barcroft.

c. Action Item - AUXCOMM WG -Support Request

i. Asking for letter of support from MPSCIB regarding USFS Waiver Fees

Max Schneider drafted the letter. If you read between the lines, it's for commercial users only but it's not spelled out so our volunteers would have to pay. Senator Stabenow oversees the committee, and we would like to send her this letter. Its documenting the issue. We have repeaters in District 7 and 8 that would be affected by this. Matthew Sahr asked if the cost would be \$1,400 and we are trying to eliminate that. Max said yes. Matthew asked if there is an acceptable amount. Max said that already some amateurs pay utility bills. This money goes to the US Forestry Service. Max explained that the county volunteers don't have any income and so they would be faced with shutting down.

A Motion was made by Chief Edwin Miller, seconded by Mr. Sean McCarthy and carried to send this letter in support of waiver of USFS fees to Senator Stabenow.

Max will work with Kathryn Hall to complete the letter. Max said thank you to the Board for their help.

8. Federal Updates

- a. CISA Emergency Communications Division -Jim Jarvis reported that he just completed a meeting with the Federal Resource Sharing Group. The discussion was that Federal agencies are using State systems for operability and not interoperability. The Feds don't have the ability to buy equipment and so they use state systems- like the MPSCS. We are encouraging the Feds to develop a state plan. They need to show us their plan on how they would use the system.
- b. The Federal Interoperability encryption key is NLE IO D has been compromised. The Communications Group has identified 20 encryption keys that are interoperable between state, local, and federal. We knew that it was compromised when a Federal agency's activities were being rebroadcast on Facebook. If you are doing a joint operation with the Feds, we suggest using your own keys. He added that there is an Implementation guide available that has questions to ask when procuring smart technology.
- c. Unित्रonics Vision Series has a known vulnerability with organizations not changing the default username/password. This equipment is primarily used in the water sector, but serves as a reminder that manufacturer default log in information should be changed.
- d. The stock ransomware guide is updated, they are adding some recommendations now.
- e. There is one Tech Assistance open for Michigan and it's a state leadership course, COML. They will work with Communications Unit to deliver that.

f. FEMA Region 5 RECCWG -Karl Arriola

Brad Stoddard spoke on behalf of Mr. Arriola. Brad said Karl is still supporting our group, but he is transitioning to a new job. It will be interesting to see as Karl transitions to his new role who his replacement will be.

9. Statewide Updates

a. Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) – Brad Stoddard

Brad reported that last week was the joint biannual NCSWIC Meeting with his peers the SWICs of each US State and Territory. They covered a lot of information over the week. They gathered videos on “what is a SWIC?” and “what is interoperability?”. He added that just because you know what emergency communication looks like in one state, doesn’t mean that it’s the same in another state. There were discussions with CISA and State SWICs to provide overviews on what state communications looks like in each state and territory. There is a focus to put this information out to Governors and other state leaders. It’s just information and there is not an ask. Some of the things we talked about is our interstate collaboration and how well we are working together as a region. We will see videos and letters out in the first quarter of 2024.

- i. CISA designated April as Emergency Communications Month. In past they did a lot of social media and tie in with local elected officials.
- ii. They had a fiery debate on the Tech Assistance offerings. There is a backlog. Michigan hasn’t had that challenge, but we are looking to help the region as a whole. This is a collaboration with CISA and the states and helping us grow knowledge. COML and COMT training has been facilitated by the Tech Assistance. If there is a COML class, they would offer it to other states. We are doing much better with collaboration. He noted that if an exercise for a state isn’t in their SCIP then it’s less of priority.
- iii. Jim Jarvis added that the AI presentation was quite eye opening. He said Tech Assistance is turning into a funding issue. CISA has two different funding streams, but one is Congressional money and is only for rural communications projects. The other funding is for 911 and we could use that for Tech Assistance. That is where the impact would be.
- iv. Karl Arriola joined the meeting on Teams and added more RECCWG information. He said they are meeting with management tomorrow to finalize bylaws concerning table top exercises. They will have HQ RECCWG contractors and team with Region 5 to do the annual report to Congress for 2023. He would like to give appreciation to AUXCOMM leadership: Max Schneider, Brad Stoddard, and Joe Serrone. He and Max have had coordination calls for Wisconsin Childrens Hospital regarding an exercise with hospitals in the Fall. He reached out to CISA to help, but the financials are not available. He reached out to FEMA planning, and they are going to help us design the tabletop exercise for the hospitals. The exercise is to take one hospital off network and work with volunteers to pass resources to another hospital. This is to test the

communication system with AUXCOMM. The doctors are aware of recent cyber-attacks for ransomware and that is projection of the exercises in 2024.

- b. **MPSCS System** – There are no updates at this time.
- c. **Critical Connect Project** -Kate Jannereth reported that they are working to see how to track assets so that all 3 PTT apps work well.
- d. **County Additions** -The last center for Oakland County went live yesterday.
- e. **MPSCS Budget** Kate reported that the budget is quiet right now. There is no word yet on the increase we requested. That increased amount was \$12 Million.
- f. **MPSCS Staffing** -Kate said we have two ITM 14 positions open and two Steeplejack positions that are posted now.
- g. **Current MPSCS Snapshot Data**

Agencies = 2,229

Radios = 146,143

Dispatch Centers = 121

Dispatch Consoles = 705

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) consoles = 62

Fire Pagers = 9,486

10. 911 in Michigan

- a. Joni Harvey reviewed her report submitted to the board ahead of time. She added that for MiSNAP they are working on first round of enhancements to improve for the PSAP side of house. It's going live tomorrow.
- b. They are still working with a few counties that needs data uploaded to GIS. If they don't get that, they have to use open-source data and that is not usually 100% correct.
- c. Joni attended the Michigan Traffic Records Coordination Committee Meeting in November. She explained the necessary equipment to operate a 911 Center and highlighted the importance of interoperable communication. The committee were very interested in this. They didn't know about half of the equipment systems, and they are interested in working with us. She will continue to work on that.
- d. NENA sets national standards for 911, they are working on a standard for the nation. We are pioneering this, and are well ahead of other states for 988. Once NENA finishes theirs, we can look at setting our own standard. NENA are reviewing public comments now. It could be a month or year for that process to be complete. Bryce added that GIS is already successful in shaving response times and saved lives since it was turned on.

11. Workgroup Reports

- a. **Communications Unit Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Ray Hasil & Nick Carpenter -the chairs were unable to be here, so Bryce reviewed highlights for them. They are using the D4H

software tool. The workgroup wanted to thank Tara McLeod in managing that database. To date, since 2022 there have been 46 recognitions processed. They are still on a push since some books expired in Jan 2024. COML, COMT, ITSD or ITSL have about 65 people. We are still looking to grow that list. Courses will start in Spring of 2024.

- b. **AUXCOMM Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Jaclyn Barcroft & Max Schneider reviewed his report. He added that the exercise had 400 volunteers and participants from Red Cross and some Emergency Management people.

- c. **Public Alerting Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Jaclyn Barcroft & Rob Dale

Jaclyn Barcroft reviewed her report submitted ahead of time to the board. She added that in October, the FCC took official actions to enhance WEA. Some items to work on are multi lingual alerting, location on maps, performance, and public awareness testing. Getting more info out there to see what devices get messages and where. In the current budget, \$1.5 Million is allocated to improves power and EHMSD are working on an RFP for that. Bryce wanted to applaud Jaclyn on her effort to get those alerts out and seeing that on the map is impressive.

- d. **Fire Paging Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Al Mellon & Greg Janik – Chief Janik reviewed the report submitted to the board ahead of time. He added that the RFP was released. This is a city-wide initiative to test all schools for radio coverage and the funding is there. There is only one school in Allegan that didn't have a resource officer. It's a concern with having coverage in schools where officer is there. It will be tested for those schools that would like to. They had a good meeting with one of the large school districts. There was good conversation and lots of questions. Just getting people together in the same room was helpful. There were a lot of misconceptions, and they addressed all that. Al Mellon added that the device has passed our security review and is in our Business Unit to work out an MOU if one is deployed. He reminded the group that if they need help, we are here to assist.

- e. **Encryption Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Tim Jones & Matt Groesser

Matt Groesser said there is not much to add to his report but wanted to highlight that their meetings are now quarterly. He added that Chirs Kuhl and Jerry Dubzak were phenomenal to work with when addressing encryption items.

- f. **Security Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Capt. Kevin Sweeney & Brad Stoddard

Inspector Sosinski reviewed the report submitted to board ahead of time and had no additional comments.

- g. **UASI Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Craig Swenson & Sean McCarthy

They had to reschedule their meeting, so they have no report at this time.

12. 2nd Public Comment: None

13. Good of the Order -Bryce asked if anyone had any comments.

- a. Brad Stoddard said regarding alert warnings, this year they did the first national meeting and are planning a second one likely in the second quarter of 2024.
- b. Bryce thanked everyone for being here today and said to take time for yourself and your family/friends this holiday season. He said he would see us at the next meeting on March 13 in 2024.

14. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.