



Michigan's Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board

9/18/24 Meeting Minutes

MSP HQ – Centennial Room

1. Chair Bryce Tracy called the meeting to order at 2:02pm. Roll call was taken and is noted below.

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

Also in Attendance:

Joni Harvey	Jaclyn Barcroft	Thomas Proffitt
Max Schnieder	Ray Hasil	Robert Jabkowski
Greg Janik	Chris Kuhl	Tom Dirlam
Tim Jones	Keith Bradshaw	
Kathryn Hall	Scott Schlenhuber	

Virtual Attendees	Tara McLeod	Derek Flory	Matt Bolger
Chris Russo	Dennis Fitzpatrick	Nick Carpenter	
Al Mellon	Ted Roney	Cindy Homant	
Jeff Kelley	Rob Dale	Dominique Clemente	

a. Bryce informed the Board that this will be an informational meeting only because we do not have a quorum. No votes can be taken on our action items today.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2024 Meeting.

Minutes from last meeting could not be approved without a quorum.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Agenda for the meeting could not be approved without a quorum.

4. **Communications and Correspondence:** Bryce said if you recall in the past, we talked about the 4.9 GHz band and preserving it. The FCC asked for comments to reserve it for public safety use. Back in 2022 the board did approve the draft of letter. However, approval of the letter got hung up in State government, so it didn't get filed. It has since reopened for continued comments. Our intent of the letter's focus hadn't changed, so the State filed during the continued comment period. Brad Stoddard as the SWIC filed on the board's behalf. Brad added that they focused on public safety although, in Michigan MDOT had also used the spectrum. We didn't include transportation in the letter he filed at this time. Previous version had stalled in the Executive branch before eventually getting Governor's office approval to move forward with a filing. Because the FCC already made a decision on some of the items in a previous version of our letter, Brad removed those items from the version that was filed and the context of the letter did not change. Bryce added that 4.9 GHz is important to all public safety. Our stance as a board is that we wanted to keep it for public safety. Bryce asked if any of the board had comments. Capt. Kevin Sweeney asked if Bryce could send the letter out to group? Bryce said yes.

5. **1st Public Comment:** Tom Dirlam addressed the Board. He said he is retired from MSP after 30 years and he consults with AT&T and FirstNet. He looked through meeting minutes and he didn't see a motion to accept the letter to the FCC. He asked what meeting was that approved at? Bryce replied that the motion to move the draft to the executive office was on 9/13/22. Capt. Sweeney said he told Bryce we should advise the Governor but not send it to the FCC. Dirlam said it doesn't sound like a motion, and there is nothing about what that meeting followed up on. Bryce said it got stuck in the executive office and only recently got back to them. Brad Stoddard as the SWIC knew that he had a short amount of time to make this comment period based on the information that the FCC has reported that they soon would be making a decision on the spectrum, but he did consult with Bryce, as the Chair, before making any decisions. Bryce

apologized for not getting back to the board. It didn't follow the process like we wanted to. He trusted the SWIC for context and he verified the contents as the MPSCIB Chair and approved it. If the board had an issue, he expects that they would come to him. Brad talked to the Governor's office, and they said we could revisit this. So that decision was made by Bryce to support the filing of the letter. The Governor asked Brad to revisit this and so he, as the SWIC, filed it. Dirlam said there is no motion on the record so how could they provide input to the chair? How would they complain about a letter they don't have? He doesn't understand. Bryce said we skipped the formal process and the Governor's office was ok with us submitting it. He and Captain Sweeney had a discussion about this too. He expressed that letter should come back to the Board and Bryce acknowledged that. Dirlam said there are things in the letter and issues that were discussed 2 years and 10 days before the meeting where it gets submitted. It seems weird to him that it went to the FCC and not the board. There are things in the letter that he thinks aren't evidence based. Bryce said he appreciates his concern, if he has further concerns, he can send the Board a letter and they will address it at the next meeting.

Keith Bradshaw addressed the board. He said he works for Oakland County. He is speaking in regard to 700MHz interoperable channels. The FCC rules in Title 47 state that the States are responsible for administration of 700 MHz. He is asking where does the authority lie? His question is who is the coordinating body for 700 MHz on the MPSCS system? He would like it put on the agenda for the next meeting. Bryce said he will add that to the next agenda.

6. Old Business:

a. FBI & MSP CJIS Requirements (LEIN Information via LMR) Discussion

- i. Mr. Kevin Collins from MSP CJIS board was to present information to the board but he is absent. Bryce said one of the things Collins is working on is a guide paper. The LEIN rules are written one way and the others written a different way. Collins was going to present a paper and show it to the Encryption Work Group to get input on it. We are trying to make it simpler. His auditors will be helped by this too. No one here wants to push out an unfunded mandate. The board and CJIS say we are making an effort to get to the standard. Keith Bradshaw said it would be nice if we can get the document. Bryce said we will get that from Collins and send it to the board.

7. New Business

- a. Presentation = Uncrewed Triple Challenge – Colonel (Retired) Ray Stemitz MING
 - i. Ray Stemitz gave his presentation for the board as summarized in the meeting materials and his handouts.
 1. Sean McCarthy said they will reach to other providers like Harris and Motorola. So, they are the same folks we are used to dealing with. The mission network will not be tapped into the state network.
 2. Brad added that the Governor offered state assets to develop company growth. It isn't so much a communications aspect but capability to support. This falls into the Governor's assessment. We see this as a

success to leverage those assets to foster growth but added investment when solutions are out there. We appreciate the participation with Ray Stemitz and the National Guard.

- b. New naming request “Building RF and Paging Work Group” under the MPSCIB

A decision could not be made without a quorum. This will be held until the next meeting.

- c. New Standard for Hospital talk-group naming on the MPSCS -Chris Kuhl reported that he is working with MDHHS to come up with a uniform talkgroup naming convention for hospitals across Michigan. Currently we are exchanging data to determine what talkgroups exist and if those sites are currently closed or open. Next, we will begin to consider leveraging some site ID information MDHHS holds to create uniformity in those talkgroup changes or modifications. Craig Swenson, Sean McCarthy and Keith Bradshaw volunteered to participate in that effort. Tim Jones added that he got an email from Bronson and wondered what was happening. He will forward the email to Chris Kuhl. Craig Swenson asked if there other systems with abandoned talkgroups. Chris said that is possible but a secondary task. We are focusing on the hospitals for now.
- d. COMU WG Action Items -6 attachments

A decision could not be made without a quorum. This will be held until the next meeting.

Ray Hasil added that this meeting packet is so big because of all the guides he included. He said to just go for the summary on page 11. He also suggested we just send page 11 in the next meeting packet.

8. Federal Updates

- a. **CISA Emergency Communications Division – Jim Stromberg (absent)**

Bryce told the board that Jim Stromberg was not able to attend the meeting today.

- b. **FEMA Region 5 RECCWG -Karl Arriola**

Bryce told the board that Karl Arriola was not present to give an update. He asked Jaclyn Barcroft if she knew of any updates. Jaclyn had nothing to add.

9. Statewide Updates

- a. **Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) – Brad Stoddard**

- b. **MPSCS System/Budget/Staffing** – Brad Stoddard said that for the budget we wanted \$10M added to our base. Our projects will span multiple years. Unfortunately, the request wasn’t approved by Senate and House in final deliberations. But they did provide a one-time \$25M for this FY 2025. Some projects were waiting for funds. We are working through the budget since they allocated less than we are appropriated. We are not sure if it will have impact on us.

- i. Brad said we are adding staff in key areas. The NCC is challenging to hire for given the legacy civil service classifications that do not align with the new technology expertise, and we have had some problems with Civil Service. We have bolstered some of the staff in other areas. Our backlog had less tickets in the queue so it's a significant reduction. Chris Russo, Manager of RPU/TDU confirmed that we were under 30 tickets now. RPU TDU staff have been added and efficiencies are better than it was a couple years ago.
- c. **Agency/County/Member Additions to MPSCS** Hillsdale County are adding four sites to bring it into MPSCS but it is a multi-year process. We are bringing the Downriver area into a Wayne County solution. Agency growth continues to expand. The number of dispatch centers will continue to increase. Some of the other MPSCS staff are offsite today having discussions with technical roadmap with Motorola. The roadmap will go through the year 2030. We are identifying the equipment age and what is no longer supported. Also note we have been working with Federal agencies, like the Secret Service. They got misinformation and so we are working close with them to expand coordination. This afternoon they are meeting with the Secret Service about spectrum issues.
- d. **Current MPSCS Snapshot Data**
 - i. *Agencies = 2,237*
 - ii. *Radios = 149,152*
 - iii. *Dispatch Centers = 127*
 - iv. *Dispatch Consoles = 765*
 - v. *Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) consoles = 62*
 - vi. *Fire Pagers = 9,486*

10. 911 in Michigan

- a. Joni Harvey reviewed her report that was submitted to the board ahead of time. She added the following: We have the 2022-23 audit with the Auditor General. She's happy to say they are closing it out. The meeting is this afternoon. Joni added that this is her last meeting as she has accepted a new position with NHTSA. Her last day is October 3, 2024. Her position is posted, and it closes tonight. You can contact Joni with questions. Captain Sweeney said thank you and we really appreciated having State 911 attend the meetings. Bryce said on behalf of the board, thank you for your service. You came in to a dedicated position to bring 911 to the board. We'll miss you but we will hope to hear from you again.

11. Workgroup Reports

- a. **Communications Unit Workgroup** - Co-chairs Ray Hasil and Nick Carpenter. Ray Hasil reviewed his report as submitted to the board ahead of time. He added that a lot of work was done on the five guides. He suggests reading the summary sheet. It's a lot of effort to building state-sponsored instructors. They are certified to teach five courses.

We have two people and possibly three that are doing Train the Trainer session in Wisconsin in October. And we then will get them certified for other courses. He talked with Jim Stromberg from CISA. Since the TA program was paused, we had to cancel three courses in the spring. With new process we should get two requests per year. Requests made in October and April. We will work close with Brad.

- b. **AUXCOMM Workgroup** - Co-chairs Max Schneider and Jaclyn Barcroft. Max Schneider reviewed his report as submitted to the board ahead of time. He adds that there is a change in New Items. State recognized AUXC is now five people.
- c. **Public Alerting Workgroup** - Co-chairs Jaclyn Barcroft and Rob Dale. Jaclyn Barcroft reviewed their report submitted ahead of time to the board. She added that they continue to work with Michigan Association of Broadcasters. We just had another meeting yesterday and will schedule a few more. It's going well and it's good to see the relationship starting. There is significant change in boiler plate language in this year's budget.
- d. **Radio Coverage Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Al Mellon & Greg Janik – Greg Janik added to the report that if the board approves the Building RF and Paging Work Group the focus is putting information into this work group. Higher level of information on what BDAs can do. There are good recommendations from Broward County in a webinar that Chris Kuhl provided. All this is creating awareness.
- e. **Encryption Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Tim Jones & Matt Groesser – Tim Jones reviewed the report submitted to the board ahead of time. He added most of the discussion has been do we put a deadline for ADP encrypting and limiting it on the system. We think we need to do that soon. In Flint yesterday, the Secret Service was there. They were on one event and it was different than other federal people. Chris Kuhl added that none of these actions are retroactive. What exists can stay. But moving forward we need to change. Bryce added a reminder that he will reach out to Mr. Collins after today's meeting so this work group can review his information.
- f. **Security Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Capt. Kevin Sweeney & Brad Stoddard – Brad Stoddard said they had nothing to add to their report submitted to the board ahead of time.
- g. **UASI Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Craig Swenson & Sean McCarthy. Craig Swenson said there was no report for today as the workgroup did not meet.

12. 2nd Public Comment:

- a. Bryce reviewed the PACE plan. He said if you haven't seen this, we will send it out to Board after the meeting. He added that if you remember the SAFECOMM document it was a good document. It had more than LMR. It talked about how all of them could get together. It came out in era where there were grants available. Homeland Security grants focused on interoperability. This document is really a watered down SAFECOMM continuum document. Interoperability has improved since the 1990s, but how are we maintaining it? One document we can control is the SCIP doc. It is a strategic document for interoperability across Michigan. We assess what we have now, and we add goals. The focus at local level isn't about tactical operations, TIC plan. We identified that shared channels and talk groups even VHF or 700MHz are used. We have interoperability there. We now have interoperability on VPNs or CAD the Cad. Instead of having a SCIP, we can

reference the MiFOG and statewide channels in that guide and use MISIMS too. We can use State 911 as its fully NG911. We achieved those so they are alternate or contingent today. With PACE planning it can be done at local and regional level. We can update the next SCIP with that. He wants to have regional PACE plans -finding primary and alternate plans in each region. He still believes that local communication plans need to have channel names, talk groups, etc. If we have to use local channels, we can refresh guidelines at the regional or local level using PACE. Specifically, the COMU Workgroup and information they provide and AUXCOMM -we can identify those even better in PACE. Emergency management is shifting guidelines to emergency support. If the SEOC activates they can employ COMCs to work with locals during events. If we do the PACE document, we are formatting ourselves if grants come and we can justify for those grants. It matches their format and lingo, and it's pushed in CISA and FEMA. It's simple so it works. If we can simplify our practices to the PACE formation, we might align ourselves to apply for grants. We don't want to go backwards. Bryce asked if anyone had a problem bringing it to the MSP level. Tim Jones said it's a perfect slide into the SCIP Plan as well. It makes sense. Bryce said it struck him at the RECCWG level, this document needs to be incorporated. Jaclyn Barcroft asked when we are next updating the SCIP. Bryce replied that we have them on a 3-5-year cycle and the last one was 2023. We looked at workgroups to collect any changes. Brad confirmed the cycle was 3-5 years.

- b. Bryce added that there are updates coming to the MPSCIB website. For example, the meeting minutes will be separated into draft of minutes and approved minutes. He said to get with Kathryn Hall (MPSCS) with any updates or more changes for the organization.
- c. Keith Bradshaw said there is a bill, HB 493, which will modify the Open Meetings Act to exclude non-compensated meetings to be in person. He also said that in tracking down errant BDAs in Oakland County, reflections pay a large role in 800 MHz. Oakland County has over 6,200 radios on system. They have purchased new pagers too. We have documented tone delays with configurations. We can share the information if you want it. He is happy to help with the PACE document introduced at the meeting today.
- d. Chief Greg Janik wanted to share about interoperability and encryption. We went to 800mghz to talk with people. We can't talk with law enforcement if they become encrypted. This is the single most impactful event since we went to 800 MHz. He worries about school events; we can't even talk to police on the other side of building. He is sharing this because it's been challenging but he does understand the whole thing. He comes to this group and Brad Stoddard because he believes in interoperability, and he believes in Brad and the board. However, he almost had three deputies run over at a barricade because they couldn't talk to them. It seems like you forgot about us.
- e. Craig Swenson added that he doesn't get the law enforcement stuff. He can't figure out what information is being protected with some of these CJIS rules. We are not passing nuclear codes here. There is an anti-interoperability movement out there. He hopes the board takes a stand against it. Some people out there hate government, and he sees talkgroups leaving radios of some fire departments. Same thing is happening with the Feds who are only giving out AES radios. These decision makers haven't worked on the job, and they don't understand. Most of the undercover work is still based on DES and federal partners have to scramble to find AES radios.

- f. Janik added that he went to the Undersheriff as to why we are on encrypted talkgroups for fire rescue. He straightened it out, but some fire chiefs don't talk to the police. But in Allegan County they gave fire the ability to talk to the police. How does he add encryption to all their radios? He feels like we are going backwards.
- g. Tom Dirlam asked who gave approval for that FCC letter. Brad Stoddard replied that the DTMB Director reviewed the letter and suggested changes to it. The Governor's office did have conversations with three agencies about the letter and then called Brad directly. Dirlam said so the Governor's office deferred decision of the letter's language and filing. Brad replied that the Governor's office approved the filing of the letter. Dirlam asked who spoke to Brad from the Governor's office. Brad said the name was Zach -can't recall the last name. He is out sick today and his information on the last name is in his office. He will provide that information to Dirlam. Bryce said any further comments can be emailed to the Board and they will be addressed in the next meeting.

13. Good of the Order: Bryce said that the next meeting is scheduled in December. Some of the information in today's packet will be in the next meeting packet for those action items that couldn't be voted on today. He encourages virtual people to come in person so we can take action and have votes on important issues.

14. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:38pm.