



Michigan's Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board

3/12/25 Meeting Minutes

MSP HQ – Centennial Room

1. Vice-Chair Brad Stoddard called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm. Roll call was taken and is noted below.

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

Also in Attendance:

In Person Attendees	Virtual Attendees	
Greg Farrer	Matthew Sahr	Derek Flory
Chris Russo	Tim Lee	Dominque Clemente
Al Mellon	Rob Dale	Nick Carpenter
Craig Swenson	Ted Roney	Art Thompson
Kathryn Hall	Chris Kuhl	
	Max Schneider	
	Steve Rand	

2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2025 Meeting

A motion was made by Chief Edwin Miller, seconded by Mr. Sean McCarthy and carried to approve the January 16, 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

3. Additions and Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Chief Edward Viverette, seconded by Mr. Gary Hagler and carried to approve the March 12, 2025 meeting agenda as presented.

4. Communications and Correspondence: None

5. 1st Public Comment: None

6. Old Business:

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

Brad Stoddard reported that he wants to provide clarity. MPSCS is not requiring this, MSP CJIS is requiring this for any CJIS traffic over the radio. The board brought this to your attention, and this is not unique to Michigan, many other states have this dilemma.

b. Updates - New Standard for Hospital talk-group naming on the MPSCS

Chris Russo said there are no updates, and they are still in talks on this.

7. New Business

a. Review – 2025 Michigan Statewide Interoperable Communications Conference

Brad said he appreciated all those who participated in this conference. It was very well attended and had three other states join as well: Indiana, Wisconsin and Connecticut. Connecticut spoke on the encryption challenges. There are changes happening at the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Center. They were formalizing managing the encryption slots and started it a year ago. There was conflict with the slots being used by federal and state agencies and it was creating some problems. They put a hold on new keys to clean the process up. A person leading on this retired and so there wasn't someone in that position. Scott Wright from Connecticut had some great concerns on this because we could go backwards potentially. We hope a new individual will be named. New vendors participated at the conference this year. It's the whole emergency communications ecosystem at the conference. Connecticut wants to model what we are doing in Michigan, and they want to do that. Indiana did that last year. This is our 15th year of the conference. For the first year they had only 20 attendees and second year was more formalized and had 50-60 attendees. Now we have over 300. Much of what we learned is that people get lost in a high attendance conference. A mid-size attendance helps with networking and learning. Once activity was moving people to a different table and then having conversations and building relationships. Sometimes people are uncomfortable with this type of activity. But by the third move to a new table people were having great conversations. Feedback was that was the best workshop we've ever done at any of our conferences. Brad asked if the Board members had any feedback.

Sean McCarthy said it was a very productive conference with excellent presentations. The networking was outstanding. Chief Edward Viverette said the most impactful presentation was the North Atlanta one. Using interop communications and facilitate the communications in that situation. Made him think how we would handle that. It was very insightful. Well put on by the staff, they did a great job.

Brad added he was just on a call with his counterpart from North Carolina, Greg. It was their first presentation on what they went through. There was a lot of good content. Brad wished they had asked them to record that. Just what they went through, things you wouldn't think of.

Chief Edward Vivierette added his in-laws were from the area. He knew the area and county. He thought that was the best session. McCarthy added that session was designed for 6 hours but they scaled it down for us. We could have had 2 slots on this, there was a lot a good information.

Brianna Briggs said the hybrid presentation went well. It was almost perfectly done, it felt seamless. Everyone was focused and not concerned about the virtual.

Colonel Raymond Stemitz added that there were speakers that brought the whole comms community together, like the North Carolina discussion and the national event in Milwaukee, those were seeing how the system is supposed to work -to include reaching out to AUXCOMM people. Outside discussions and the networking events, he met a lot of new people as a result of those. That was helpful. And he really appreciated the vendors that you brought in. He learned about some new technologies, and it was really helpful. Brad concluded, for those that couldn't attend, we hope you can attend next year. We try to make it affordable for our vendor partners. Primus for example have been there for many years. They are in test equipment. They find a lot of value in the conference. If you have any ideas for next year, please let us know. The feedback we got was saying we are going in the right direction.

8. Federal Updates

a. CISA Emergency Communications Division – Jim Stromberg

Jim Stromberg was not able to attend. Brad reviewed the slides Jim had sent as presented to the board ahead of time. Brad added that there is an individual up for the leadership position and waiting for a congress vote. He has experience with CISA. He is hopeful that leadership coming in will focus on critical infrastructure & emergency communications & will be more than prior leaders.

b. FEMA Region 5 RECCWG -Karl Arriola

Karl was not able to attend, and Brad reviewed a few items that Karl reviewed at the InterOp conference. The Region 5 has well over 500 members in the 6 states. They meet once a month and go through activities from each of the states.

9. Statewide Updates

a. Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) – Brad Stoddard

Brad reported that if you looked back at the last minutes meetings for agency numbers, it looks like we added more agencies than we did. However, there was an effort to pull each from Oakland County master and put them back to their agency. He said that about 27 years ago there was a handful of agencies and in about 1999 there was 152 agencies. To think that 27 years later with have over 2600 agencies that is pretty impressive. There was feedback from some of our Federal partners, they see the value in the system through the number of agencies and the collaboration. There is a jump in fire paging but that is due to different tracking for the system. We are continuing to see growth on the system across the board. Our people have been working on getting live and pending pagers confirmed and you will see we are just under 20,000 pagers on the system.

b. MPSCS System/Budget/Staffing

Still working on budget. We put together a proposal for DTMB prior to the 2025 budget that would have looked at remediation on the system. DTMB supported that and the budget office but was not supported in the Senate. The MPSCS team are working on this for long-term remediation. We still have a timeline and some of it's beginning to hit the system around 2030. We are trying to do what's best for public safety. We do know it's not part of the 2026 budget either.

c. Agency/County/Member Additions to MPSCS

Hillsdale Co millage passed in December. In Barry County we replaced our first tower in the system, the federal requirements on tower loading has decreased through the years and as Barry was adding more equipment, we couldn't put any more on that tower. We dismantled the tower and will use in a county that doesn't have one. At beginning not every county needed a tower to be successful. But now as we looked across the state, we saw some counties that could use one. We will probably put the tower in the Gladwin County and hopefully this year.

d. Current MPSCS Snapshot Data

- i. Agencies = 2,609
- ii. Radios = 151,755
- iii. Dispatch Centers = 128
- iv. Dispatch Consoles = 772
- v. Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) consoles = 64
- vi. Fire Pagers = 17,268

10. 911 in Michigan

a. Brad introduced the new State 911 Director, Amy Thomas. She has been in the position for a month now. He appreciated Cindy filling in until Amy was hired.

Amy reviewed her report that was submitted to the board ahead of time. Cindy said she would like to see some of Brad's people submit something this year. She said Jerry Nummer sits on their work group, and they spoke on this. Brad said they welcomed the opportunity so submit on this. She said Jerry mentioned something about radios and it should be PSAP technology related. Randy said he thought they could bring something.

11. Workgroup Reports

- a. **Communications Unit Workgroup** - Co-chairs Ray Hasil and Nick Carpenter. Nick Carpenter reviewed his report as submitted to the board ahead of time. He added they will be cancelling the April meeting since it's so close to the in-person meeting. Brad added that Nick will be the one to give reports at these meetings as Ray is stepping back to work on other things.
- b. **AUXCOMM Workgroup** - Co-chairs Max Schneider and Jaclyn Barcroft. Max Schneider reviewed his report as submitted to the board ahead of time. He added that had 5 additional volunteers and that brings us up to 37 volunteers who have been recognized. They will participate in the spring statewide AUXCOMM exercise. They will participate in Cobalt Magnet exercise. Brad added that Max, Jaclyn, and the team recognized District 7 member, Chuck Brew, CCE PSCO, as AUXCOMM Person of the Year. Max thanked Chuck for all his help too.
- c. **Public Alerting Workgroup** - Co-chairs Jaclyn Barcroft and Rob Dale. Rob Dale reviewed their report as submitted ahead of time to the board. He showed some slides to review his material. He added that their meetings are the first Wednesday a month, once a quarter there is a virtual, hour-long meeting. Invites anyone to attend that are interested. He said they are trying to revitalize the connections between the emergency management side and the broadcast side. If your county is in gray and want to join, please contact him or Jaclyn Barcroft. He said if you are in Ingham, Eaton, or Clinton Counties, there will be a live WEA next Wednesday at 12:59p to remind people of the statewide annual tornado drill notice. FEMA is excited that we are doing this tri-county test as its not been done before. It will be exciting to see.
- d. **Building RF & Fire Paging Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Greg Farrer & Greg Janik – Greg reviewed the report as submitted to the board ahead of time. He added that since the InterOp conference presentation, Chief Janik got a request for more information about the BDAs and the issues. He received communication from another fire chief that one of their schools had 2 different coverage assessments done and they said different things. He and Janik talked about adding what the requests are on the report. So, they can compare the reports. Since now they cannot do a comparison. He had lots of communications from City of Detroit that their BDAs installed by vendors they we didn't know about. So, we need to work on our communications out that they need to work with the licensees. Al Mellon added that microsite deployed at Hamilton was shut off by the vendor and the local agency didnt realize it was gone, but did learn it worked better with it. Also, the paging map, shows some counties are pending but they are implanted. He will update those things.

The Saginaw dispatch center had an outage and some fire depts didn't receive alerts. They were using IM responding.

- e. **Encryption Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Tim Jones & Chris Kuhl –Chris Kuhl reviewed the report submitted to the board ahead of time. He added at InterOp Conference they walked through items on CISA. The MSP Auditors will be asking and looking at the data that should be encrypted. He asked the group members where to take the group in 2025. A little thin on items for the agenda, so wanted ideas from them. Al Mellon wants to add a topic to encryption agenda, one day at home he heard the zone is 50% not encrypted and they revealed specific details of a case they were working on. He thinks maybe we can look for tools in the NCC Maybe we should discuss that with the work group.
 - i. Chris also added information about the hospitals talkgroups. They have met several times. They are trying to come up with a naming convention for hospitals. This is for EMS to ER communication. Other talkgroups can have whatever process they would like. But this is different as the hospitals change names so often that we are creating talkgroup alias that is no longer valid. Discovered that Bill Forebush who is the rep of the EMSCC Communications Subcommittee at MDHHS was working on this too, so they joined forces with him. In April the small group will convene and have some dialogue on that. This is a long-term effort so don't think that talkgroup names will change this year or even next year. It's progressing very well and appreciates the input from the group.
- f. **Security Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Capt. Kevin Sweeney & Brad Stoddard –
Brad reviewed the report as presented to the board ahead of time. He added that a significant amount of effort on the cyber security grants, he reviewed 94 of them and gives you a good perspective on. A reminder that we need speakers for Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference is in May. The work group meets bi-monthly if anyone wants to participate. The work group is to collaborate with physical and cyber security. Today he saw that Feds are backing off support of MSI SAC. They help local and state agencies around cyber. They will not continue financial support.
- g. **UASI Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Craig Swenson & Sean McCarthy. –Craig Swenson said there was no meeting held so they did not have any information to share.

12. 2nd Public Comment: Craig Swenson said Brad did a great job with the InterOp Conference. He wants the board to remember that small groups and dispatchers need our help too. The importance of good communications for the day to day, is it trains the user for the big event. Regarding CJIS, he thinks the issue is a challenge to this group because if another agency can come to this group and tell them that one dept can't talk to the other, that is problematic. One issue is the equipment, and it would be nice to have a roadmap for this. He doesn't like that there was a complaint about firefighters not hearing police. His question is what problem we are trying to solve; he doesn't understand. He started his career as a dispatcher. He knows CJIS is trying to protect personal information. So please give that a lot of thought about what can we do to compromise on this issue.

Brad replied that we are seeing a turnover in the 911 space and emergency managers. We recognize that not only was there a turnover happening, but new people didn't have those relationships, who they reach out to. The trend we are seeing is some new people just call the NCC even if the problem is not with the MPSCS. We have had twice a year meetings with PFN and they heard the same thing. We have ramped up our discussions with PFN to be sure we are on the same page. In fall last year, president of MEMA called him to say they are having a lot of turnover. They don't have the same relationship with the MPSCS that they used to. Brad talked with three people at the conference, to ask for help with this. They fixed the problem right there. The last few months we have been out with every one of the district coordinators and their regional meetings with EMs. We will continue that, so our local partners know who were are and contact info. We have supervisors in every region, and they have relationships in the area. Our intent is to continue to build the relationships, so they know who to call. We shifted Chris Kuhl to a different role to go out to our partners and he asks what is working and what's not working. In a one-on-one scenario, they will ask the questions. If you hear things out there, we are interested. We try to have a booth at each of fraternal conferences. We are there to answer questions and provide education. Its where collaboration between MPSCS and the board helps the state succeed. If you find someone we need to talk to out there, let us know. There are many times we are looked at as just radio, but we are more than that, including the infrastructure. There are still states across the nation that are trying to do everything they can to be like us. Some states say they will be better than us, but we encourage that.

Brad added that this is the 30th anniversary of MPSCS. If any board members are interested in being in a podcast or a short video on our 30 years, please let Board Clerk, Kathryn Hall, know. We also have a to-go kit, and we can come to you as well. We'd like to capture your thoughts on the anniversary. You are the voices for your community. If you know someone else in your community that would like to be involved, please let us know. September is the culmination of our big year.

13. Good of the Order: None

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Colonel Raymond Stemitz and seconded by Sean McCarthy. The meeting adjourned at 3:31pm.