



Michigan's Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board

6/10/26 Meeting Minutes

MSP HQ – 1917 Room

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

Board Member	Present, Absent or Virtual
Ms. Emily Bergquist	Present
Mr. Brad Feister	Present
Mr. Gary Hagler	Present
Fire Marshal Thomas Hughes	Absent
Mr. Sean McCarthy	Present
Chief Edwin Miller	Present
Mr. Matthw Sahr	Absent
Colonel Raymond Stemitz	Present
Mr. Brad Stoddard	Present
Captain Kevin Sweeney	Present
Mr. Art Thompson	Present
Mr. Bryce Tracy	Present
Chief Jon Unruh	Present
Chief Edward Viverette	Absent -with notice

Also in Attendance:

In Person Attendees	Virtual Attendees	Virtual Attendees
Chief Greg Janik	Tara McLeod	Rob Dale
Kate Jannereth	Chris Kuhl	Nick Carpenter
Anastasia Ferguson-Nelligan	Monica McAlister	Matt Bolger
Randy Williams	Jacob Kostrzewski	Dennis Fitzpatrick
Kathryn Hall	Ray Hasil	
Chris Russo	David Rozell	
	Ted Roney	

Bryce Tracy welcomed our new board member, Brad Feister, replacing Mr. Tom Lafave, representing MDOT. Brad Feister said thank you for welcoming him. He is happy to be here and if you need anything from MDOT, let him know. Bryce thanked him for joining the effort and that Brad will be a good fit. He talked to Tom and he will still be involved just not on the Board.

2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from Meeting on December 10, 2025

A motion was made by Mr. Art Thomas, seconded by Chief Edwin Miller and carried to approve the December 10, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.

3. Additions and Approval of Meeting Agenda

- a. A motion was made by Chief Jon Unruh seconded by Captain Kevin Sweeney and carried to approve the June 10, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda as presented.**

4. Communications and Correspondence:

- a. Bryce said in May we sent a notice to appointed members about their expired/soon to expire terms. He asks members who intended to re-apply, we're they able to? Sean McCarthy said his application was stuck in limbo since 2024, he couldn't edit it but it has been resolved. Bryce asked Chief Jon Unruh about his application. Chief Unruh applied but he hasn't heard back but shows it was accepted. Bryce said they heard from Governor's office in early May. We asked what to do about member terms that expired. But didn't get a reply so we asked for an application link. Then some had problems. We'll try and engage Governor's office again. Brad: He knows some of your terms expired several years ago, the Governor's office said then to continue until reappointed or replaced. We appreciate your continued patience on this. Governor's last communication was they were making changes on Board to include 3 law enforcement, 3 fire and 3 EMS. We know in past we had challenges to fill EMS position and would have liked input on that change. We appreciate all you that have applied. Some past members applied too. We hoped it would be resolved by this meeting. We hope for resolution by September's meeting.
- b. Bryce: To follow up, at beginning of 2025 we issued Chairman's Directives for members' participation to make sure Board still has engaged/active members. For our new members, we will get you a copy. It's just basic attendance requirements, so we can be productive. Any discussion from board on this? There was no discussion.

5. 1st Public Comment: None

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business

- a. Unanswered False Emergency Alerts – NCC Response Protocol

Josh Drazkowski, NCC Manager said: appreciated opportunity to address the board. He's asking for some support for a change their policy on how the NCC works with PSAPs in response to emergency alerts. If you're not familiar, emergency alerts are the orange button. Handheld radios has more accidental alerts due to quick reaction. In 2025, we had over 30,000 alerts and we don't reply to all unless they go unanswered. NCC is charged to contact dispatch that the talkgroup was assigned, to see if its ok. The alerts don't show on some consoles. They do have a system to check alerts but they don't actively monitor that. NCC has same application listed by zones. If an

emergency alert happens and is false, dispatcher can stop them on console. We allow 2 min for dispatch to answer. If it's not followed up, NCC contacts dispatch. Sometimes they say it's not their talkgroup/radio ID. So NCC tries to track it down, but it's very cumbersome. When we contact these centers, I don't know that we're adding value in tracking these. Certain dispatch centers get exasperated when NCC calls on this. Some is because a radio is programmed for alerts, but an agency, say 2 years later, signs MOU and now they have talkgroup that never intended to have alerts. So their dispatch don't see the alerts we are calling them on. But NCC sees every alert. We want board support to change policy for how NCC responds to them. We want to retain ability to watch for these but not required to track them down. It's a large amount of time spent. NCC will always help if a center is offline and needs help to track these. We have about 130 different accounts in Michigan that have RCM alerts and some in multiple zones. We have been talking about it with user groups and others to get their feedback, would they see this change as a detriment or are agreeable. Does anyone have any questions?

Bryce asked will you put together a comparable on what current policy is and what new policy change is? Josh said yes. We would provide that and the changes to the board. Bryce said have you asked for comment from any PSAPs or others involved? Josh said not in an official letter but our outreach dept has talked to groups over the last 4 months at events like Sheriff's Conference and InterOp Conference. It's an informal request for comment.

Bryce said I don't expect a detailed answer but is there a need to limit the number of talkgroups they are monitored on? Maybe its not necessary for some but keep it on dispatch talkgroups or active tactical talkgroups. Josh said that is a great question and decision is probably for our RPU team. Bryce said they are all try to reconfigure their consoles because they are maxing out on resources. It used to be a big user priority when first joining the system and why many switched to 800 system. Maybe talk with RPU and get supporting data. So there is a basis for the proposal to the board and for users on system.

Josh said that's a good point. This was done at beginning due to technical issues and the way the system reacted. Bryce said there's a lot of fire departments using 800 system, has a big push for emergency alerts for them. There is debate with dispatch centers and fire departments over who should be monitoring for that alert -is it incident commander or dispatch center? This relates so it's a good holistic discussion to have.

Josh said he appreciates the input and how to document this for the board. Bryce asked if his intention was to have material for next Board meeting for discussion? Josh said yes. Bryce asked Board if they had any questions.

Sean McCarthy said extremely topical in Macomb, our fire chiefs expressed interest. Our county dispatch center, like the NCC, gets everything that doesn't have an RCM. We put a hold on it since our center couldn't handle all the calls. We are doing a policy right now. He would be interested in a discussion group or some SOP for their centers. Guide them how to do that.

Josh added it also leads to conversation on what that button can do and what it cannot. And how maybe the MPSCS can support agencies by education & outreach. Chris Kuhl has done some and since there have been a few changes over the years, it may be helpful. McCarthy said they hope to tell the primary agency handling the emergency that the onus is on them, to let county and state know they have it covered. Josh said on our event request form its listed: they ask who is the person, RCM account holder, we should contact as MSP is not monitoring the special event group.

Chief Edwin Miller said we should look at root cause, why are we having all of these false button pushes? Maybe programming the radio could add a delay to the button. We did that with our new radios we added the delay. Josh agrees, its good feedback. Maybe that is easy start and then education piece is huge. People who only do training once don't remember.

Gary Hagler said he applauds them for looking at the problem and trying to get an appropriate solution. Anecdotal info at a conference is different than a survey out to Chiefs' Association leaders (Law, Fire) so they can reach out to members and have input and don't feel blindsided. Same with PSAPs, might make us more bulletproof with this action. In last 30 years how many times did this result in life saving resources? Josh said we don't track those, if dispatch says its false or it was real and we got alert. Hagler added it's a good item to work on.

Bryce: thanked Josh for that a great topic to look out for on behalf of all users on the system. We look forward to more information at future meeting.

8. Federal Updates

- a. CISA Emergency Communications Division – Brad Stoddard said Travis Johnson still provides support to us. Though he lives in Louisiana and covers southern states, he offered support to us. His support has been classes thru ECD, supported our MPSCS team and our workgroups to champion those. Highly doubtful someone new will be assigned anytime soon.
- b. FEMA Region 5 RECCWG -Brad said Karl Arriola has recently retired as of last week. Jim Cullen will be taking over though he is out on vacation until late June. He and Brad will connect. Jim asked for guidance on RECCWG and those monthly meetings. Hope is that Jim will pick up the baton like Karl had.

9. Statewide Updates

a. Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) – Brad Stoddard

Brad said NCSWIC continues to meet twice a month & each meeting over 50% of SWICs participate. We might be able to partner with private sector and building relationships is the root of that. One of his peers in Maryland is facilitating talks with an organization. That has been helpful for large emergencies and in planning. Michigan is taking lead with Secret Service on how they work with SWICs around the nation with focus on interoperability. CISA & ECD facilitated early conversations and the NCSWIC group has helped. MPSCS team has put together an action plan with Secret Service and they have implemented that in other states. Lot of discussions around FIFA it's a significant impact to some states, not us though. Not just interoperability with different public safety but federal partners and security coming in from other countries. They provided some info to some of those states and some have multiple events at same time. Not just FIFA but sub events happening around those communities. People from other countries coming and looking at how it impacts other states. About 18 months ago FIFA lead and FCC had concerns. FIFA wanted to block a number of frequencies inside stadiums but some were public safety. Fortunately a number of very skilled ex-public safety experts are now working with FIFA. We don't have anything in Michigan but may see some go through here to Toronto. This time of year significant weather events is other area where SWICs are providing support. Some is resources from other states emergency ops centers. Or providing contacts in private sector space. Its really opening the door for new relationships that didn't exist on interop side.

b. **MPSCS System/Budget/Staffing**

Brad said UP weather events delayed us starting lifecycle effort for UP. Like MDOT, weather affects us. Generator replacements also paused due to flooding & snow. Anastasia Ferguson-Nelligan added we are in full swing right now for the UP. We are doing 2 sites per week for ASTRO, then in July we start 3 per week. We expect our partner Motorola to be completed in Sept/Oct for the entire UP. That is with funding we have already. The other lifecycle is generators; some are 30 years old. We are looking at funding needs to complete the rest of the state. As we move downstate its more complex unlike UP, they have Simulcast. We can do some lifecycle now but we don't have funding for doing the rest. One of our top priorities over next 3-5 years.

Kate said there was not a lot to report. We are in limbo right now for what next year brings. At the State, we are approaching purchasing year-end deadlines. We are looking at funds to encumber for lifecycle. All of our current work projects are spent or encumbered. Hoping to wrap up with FEMA soon, we submitted \$3 Million for reimbursement from ice storm in 2025. For staffing, we have 132 people, 3 vacancies in process, and 2 limited-term staff. For projects, we are currently working on Livingston, Hillsdale, and Huron Co.

Brad added that we have had conversations with 2 legislators. One around lifecycle funds and the other about using drones for our sites. Legislation paused in House. But our policy makers want to know more. In August, the State Budget Office requested a meeting with him and State CIO, to talk about lifecycle. He explained that we are a wireless highway for public safety. The challenge is we can't see the pavement to connect all counties. When system was built it had support of lawmakers but there wasn't an effort about funding for lifecycle and if there was adequate staffing. The MPSCS hasn't had the type of issues that policy makers look at. Ice storm is latest example, that system worked as expected. He is hopeful by next meeting we'll be able to share about discussion on lifecycle. He doesn't anticipate any funds in FY2027 to address lifecycle.

c. **Agency/County/Member Additions to MPSCS** -there was no discussion.

d. **Current MPSCS Snapshot Data**

- i. *Agencies = 2,651*
- ii. *Radios = 160,861*
- iii. *Dispatch Centers = 134*
- iv. *Dispatch Consoles = 793*
- v. *Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) consoles =64*
- vi. *Fire Pagers = 18,634 (live and pending)*

10. 911 in Michigan

Amy Magirl was not in attendance. Bryce will reach out to see if there is anything of importance.

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 they have made good strides with reimburse instructors and additional costs when they do a class. AUXCOMM funding was removed

in October 2024. So since then if you wanted to do a course, you were paying out of pocket for hotel and meals. Its critical we have those courses & working with MPSCS on this.

- b. **AUXCOMM Workgroup** - Co-chairs Max Schneider and Monica McAlister. Max reviewed his report as submitted to the board ahead of time. He added a shout out to Randy Williams who has been helping with that instructor reimbursement.
- c. **Public Alerting Workgroup** - Co-chairs Monica and Rob Dale. Rob Dale reviewed their report as submitted ahead of time to the board. Monica added the missing endangered person code is live and when first one went out it was great, it was to capture those that don't fall in Amber alert. FEMA updated 105 program now so she is teaching a class up north on it.
- d. **Building RF & Fire Paging Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Greg Farrer, Al Mellon & Greg Janik –
Al Mellon reviewed the report as submitted to the board ahead of time. He added that in conversation with federal partners, they say MPSCS is miles ahead and they are talking about activating radios online, encryption we're using, its fantastic feedback. Greg Janik added that we are a resource for some issues. For example, a BDA installed but they won't register it. Greg Farrer worked through the situation with them. Also, a large dept on eastside, wanted a different code for the system. They're now in compliance with state code. All we want to know is the location so if we have life safety systems problem we know where they are. Greg [Farrer] and Al are working on solutions. One idea we had is a UL certification for installation. Is it something Board would be interested in? We don't feel factory training is enough. Bryce: would there be a potential for a location registration policy from that? Janik: Greg is working on website to update with content for registration process. Farrer said the form was built years ago and installer and maintenance fields were optional. There are those that avoid telling us where the BDAs are. The UL presentation for certification of installer, makes sure that installers get permission from licensee to turn on BDAs. Bryce: do you track these as interference versus an intrusion impeding the system? Greg Farrer: we have work orders that we have found if they cause interference, we haven't tied them to BDA records. Bryce: if we want teeth in that, we need a way to measure this to see what is interference vs. intrusion. Part of success of interoperability is the security of it. A wi-fi site, especially the vendors who work for other providers use tie ins to our system. I understand your approach but make its measurable. Farrer: We do have the registration and are looking at ways to improve that process and get info to vendors that they need to get consent for install. Certification would force better installation too. Janik: we are trying to raise the standards of the installers. What can we do to help with certification. Farrer: Some fire suppression companies are installing BDAs and they don't know what they are doing, its plugging in a box to them. Chief Edwin Miller: do UL and other certifications address the concerns you have? Janik: Yes, they go to site to see install. Miller: seems like good fix; we want to have competent people installing them.
- e. **Encryption Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Tim Jones & Chris Kuhl – Tim Jones reviewed the report as presented to the board ahead of time. He added we are starting seeing a move to AES. With our group talking and spreading work. Monroe, Gratiot, Iosco, Kalamazoo & Kent County all in some phase of going to AES. We are seeing change like Genesee we bought our radios in 2017 and we are trying to make that change.
- f. **Security Workgroup** - Co-chairs: Capt. Kevin Sweeney & Brad Stoddard –

Captain Sweeney reviewed the report as presented to the board ahead of time. He added a thank you to Board members who assisted with 4 state-level disasters we've had since March 6.

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

Sean McCarthy said trying to get a workgroup, essentially in District 2, with representatives in each county to discuss interoperability procedures as they manifest in our area. And once established they'll move forward with recommendations. Randy Williams asked if they are including state agencies like MSP & DNR as they have seen recent struggles in that area. Craig replied they would make sure they do.

12. 2nd Public Comment: None

13. Good of the Order:

Bryce said the next meeting is Wednesday, September 9 at 2:00pm in Lansing. A notice will be sent out & he thanked the Board Clerk for keeping them in line on that.

14. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:13pm