



NEW YORK STATE
DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Jerome M. Hauer, Ph.D, MHS, Commissioner

State Interoperable & Emergency Communication Board Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2013
DHSES – Building 7A – First Floor Training Room

Board members present:

Robert M. Barbato	Chair and Director of the Office of Interoperable Communications
William Bleyle	Commissioner, Onondaga County 9-1-1
Steve Cumoletti	For Joseph D’Amico, Superintendent, NYS Police
Mark Slater	For Michael C. Green, Commissioner, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
Tom Lockwood	For Jerome Hauer, Commissioner, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services
Brian LaFlure	Emergency Manager, Warren County
Gary T. Maha	Sheriff, Genesee County
Roderic Sechrist	For Joan McDonald, Commissioner, NYS Department of Transportation
Kathryn Bohacek	For Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy, NYS Division of Military & Naval Affairs
Kevin Revere	Emergency Manager, Oneida County
Eric Day	Emergency Manager, Clinton County
Mike Volk	Director of EMS and Communications, Westchester County
John Merklinger	911 Coordinator, Monroe County

Board Member s Absent:

James Voutour	Sheriff, Niagara County
Richard Rotanz	Executive Director, Applied Science Center
Joel Eisdorfer	Partner, Real Estate Development Company & Community Representative
Daniel Chan	Acting Commissioner, NYS Office of Information Technology Services
Dr. Nariv R. Shah	Commissioner, NYS Department of Health
Joseph Gerace	Sheriff, Chautauqua County

Speakers:

James Cable	Deputy Chief, NYS DHSES OFPC
Toby Dusha	Radio Engineer, NYS DHSES OIEC
Matthew Delaney	Radio Engineer, NYS DHSES OIEC
Larissa Guedko	Radio Engineer, NYS DHSES OIEC

Introduction:

Robert Barbato, Chairman – Welcomed the Board and called the meeting to order At 10:05am. Introduced DHSES Deputy Commissioner Tom Lockwood.

DHSES Deputy Commissioner Tom Lockwood: On behalf of Commissioner Hauer I appreciate the opportunity to be here. We can learn a lot from the recent events in Maryland. Mr. Lockwood also mentioned building 197, where he used to work. In this business, what is the role of Interoperable Communications? Response on federal, district and state levels all coming together. We need to fuse information together. The Boston marathon discussion is very important because similar to 9/11 – we never thought it would happen. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Barbato: We would like to welcome Cora Edwards – Sullivan County Legislature, John Farrell Green County Emergency Management and Linda Messina with DHSES Counsel’s Office via audio. Reminder – please stay for the presentation with Steve Staffier around 12:30. Introduced new members, Mike Volk and John Merklinger.

The roll was called and the quorum was present.

The motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting was unanimously accepted. Motion by Maha, 2nd. By Bleye.

Presentation by Jim Cable – Credentialing Initiative:

Jim Cable: In response to the credentialing initiative, the main focus is including Fire/EMS and emergency management into the standard qualifications statewide. This will improve deployment of state and local resources to track response and recovery personnel. This will involve a qualification database, standard credential, and system integration. The program will focus more on qualifications and less on identification. The database will document those qualifications. Requests are made and sent out verbally right now, we are working on formalizing this process. Qualifications are established ahead of time to ease pre-qualification. It is an improvement to where we are today. We will rely on local, county/state partners, and agencies. This system will be integrated into existing procedures while using the same model for different disciplines and tracking.

Questions:

Why is this not integrating?

It will be expanded to (federal) which takes more resources. So this is on a limited basis right now. The role at the state level is different. For example, Linstar, the vendor is offering cards at approximately 60 cents each. The more elaborate FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standard) aligned cards are \$4 each.

Timeline? Zone? Troopers?

Right now Fire/EMS is the largest community. A controlled, phased implementation is desired. We are trying to minimize cost and impact to localities by leveraging cardstock, printer ribbon costs, etc.

To limit cost – are you considering using IDs in place now?

We can and will with help from the qualification database. Some counties have this and are trying to leverage and tie in. Local cards may be integrated into the standardized ID. Mobile communications and hand scanners will ease connection and uploading.

It is difficult to recruit volunteer firefighters due to the cost of trainings. With no funding, how are you addressing? Current and legacy training will be recognized. The Legislature provides funding and also through SFI’s (State Fire Instructors). We are not really raising bar on that.

Firefighter I is a general standard, but what about specialty teams?

We are NIMS compliant; therefore requirements will be specific and simple while focusing on relevancy.

Presentation by Toby Dusha NYS Channel Naming and Usage:

Toby Dusha: Quick update, the channel naming committee met and the first major decision was the common law enforcement channel 155.370 changing to NYLAW1. Hopefully this can clear up the Variety of channel names that are in use around the state. Additional channels to address are the common EMS channels and the air to ground channels. Air Medical service providers are completing a survey to capture their communications capabilities. This information will be provided to us for review and will assist in developing a channel plan. These topics will be reintroduced at the next meeting. We will identify the proper use of channels and programming, and transmit that information once established for training and incident command. 700Mhz National Interoperability channels – is the channel plan that assigns primary channels to each county.

Questions?

Chairman Barbato: What additional info can members expect for the next quarterly meeting? We intend to have the channel plan and naming. This seems to one step forward 2 steps back process and we are identifying issues as we progress.

NYLAW1 – Guidelines for the renaming of the 155.370 Law Enforcement channel, to NYLAW1, have been completed. The Communications Interoperability Working Group (CIWG) has approved the plan and recommended adoption by the Board. This is broader than just Law Enforcement and blanket notifications will be made.

Will you send guidelines to communicate to users? Outreach is critical. A distribution plan will be developed. It is important that vendors know proper procedures.

Is your group looking at the other common channels? Recommendations? Yes. 155.370 is getting used less, but is still programmed in almost all VHF radios used by local, state and federal Law Enforcement agencies. If you have the capability to maintain it, do so.. It is preferred to maintain common frequencies at least in a base station. There are many variables to address; it is not cut and dry. Whether very simple or complex let's aim to make it simple. National interoperability will be an issue/challenge, but it is the working group's intention to expand.

At the end of this process is it the intention to develop a guide for agencies, counties and for state recommendations? Ultimately yes – guides and end user documents. (Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan <TICP>, and Field Operations Guide <FOG> There are many little pieces to make it work.

How far out are we before putting something on paper? Plans and guidelines are drafted at this time.

Chris Tuttle, DHS/OEC: As for trying to get benchmarking of other states, there is a working document to be completed by early 2014. Right now that is hard to enforce. Is it best to use SCIP or also put in grant guidance?

It makes sense – but is also complicated. The goal is to get SCIP down to 30 pages as a reference to be updated easily. It is the goal for 2014 involving a two day workshop. The intention of the Working Group is to formalize best practices, guidelines, and to try to make info available at least for vetting purposes.

Report out from 911 Standards Advisory Subcommittee:

Report was presented by Sheriff Maha with the intent to make things more current and usable. Revisions are long overdue. We have had one face to face meeting, increased membership, a conference call and several emails for revising. We are in the process of putting it all together. We will be incorporating Next Gen 911, streamline language for ex: APCO Basic Telecommunicator – needs clean up and additions. This is a huge undertaking but the intention is to have more information available for next Board meeting.

Interoperability Network IP Plan, Brian LaFlure:

Project formed as a sub-committee of the working group to go over statewide interoperability spending money and installing equipment. The new plan is not going to work for everyone so not everyone is required to change. It is more of a recommendation to avoid conflicts, not a law or rule. There will be a guideline to use so as to not have a conflict with other consortiums or agencies. Many are using it and heading in this direction. I would like board to accept this draft for use. This does not affect your home system. This is for equipment to coordinate multiple consortiums together. Brian made a motion to the board to produce this. Seconded by Sheriff Maha. The Board approved this motion.

Questions?

Are radio vendors on board?

It has been reviewed and approved by NYS IT. We want to make sure the path is easy no road blocks first. The Statewide IT members did discuss this and right now round two contracts are out. The guideline to build the system is good.

Nothing is officially in place to cause conflict for network joining. So we will make sure everyone has seen it and we are looking forward to this being the first of many things that can be voted on and put to use as basic guide to help people.

Mr. Lockwood needed to leave the meeting and passed DHSES delegate status to Matthew Delaney.

Presentation by Matthew Delaney, Public Safety Broadband First Net:

NTIA is administering State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP). NYS submitted in March and the award is \$6 million. There are 2 phases of the grant: phase 1: outreach and education on public safety broadband. Phase 2: establish the state of infrastructure, site availability, network etc. This is not for equipment but planning only. Award is working through the fiscal process. OIEC is looking for partners interested in a State FirstNet working group. Looking for the board to formally establish a public safety broadband workgroup.

Motion by Steve Cumoletti to create a Public Safety Broadband Working Group. Seconded by John Merklinger
Chairman Barbato: Motion that the Board create the group – all those in favor – motion carried.

Matthew Delaney: The 2nd part of the presentation: identify interoperable and emergency communication capabilities of State agencies and individual counties. Identify gaps; build a road map to fix gaps, and production of State TICP and State FOG. NYSTEC will conduct survey and analysis in late Sept – Oct. State agencies and authorities information will be collected through interview. Help is available (WebEx, helpdesk, visits etc.). more details will be sent out with survey.

Chairman Barbato: I would like to add comments: It's very important as Brian LaFlure mentioned, there is a lot of activity in terms of communications, systems and networks. This work that the state is engaging is an important step to determine progress and gaps. We are sensitive to not overload.

Questions?

Does this aim us towards the consortium TICP?

This is not meant to replace or supersede anything done at a consortium levels. The work through this project could be a building block or resource.

Matthew Delaney: Previous surveys from several years ago will be available as well. Reports, maps, and diagrams based on info collected.

Chairman Barbato: We are looking to refine or expand for example: mobile data.

Matt Delaney: This is just one piece of several going on to come together.

Presentation by Larissa Guedko, Update on Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant Program:

Round 1: 2011 – 20 million to 16 counties. \$10,325,838 has been reimbursed to counties to date. 3 counties vouchered and were reimbursed 100% of requested amount. 6 counties vouchered and were reimbursed over 50%. 4 counties vouchered and were reimbursed 1-3% of requested amount. 3 counties did not submit at all.

Round 2 - \$102 million - 29 counties awarded. 28 counties are contracted. 1 county recently returned signed contract to DHSES. 2 counties have been reimbursed. 27 counties have not submitted vouchers. 2012 PSAP grant - \$9 million appropriated to 13 counties. \$7 million for improvements, 2 million for sustainment. 2013 PSAP grant will be released shortly after round 3 grant funds are awarded – approximately \$9 million will be available. Local enhanced 911 allocations. 2010 – 2013 – all funds drawn down, 2011-2041 - 94% and 2012-2015 - 77% drawn down.

Questions?

John Merklinger – We receive no notifications on funds and need to fix grant process. A 6 month grant process is too long. There is a delay on getting equipment and updated phone systems. Counties are losing money.

Chairman Barbato: Awareness and notification of budget comes from various groups and there is no vehicle for the grant implementation office to send out notices. We will discuss that more. No contemplation for 2014 Local enhanced 911 allocations yet. As for delays – there are significant amounts of available grants. Procedural problems – we are

sensitive to that and regret that it takes long. That process will improve as we are working closely with full support of agency grants office. Our grant managing offices also have a good relationship with the Comptroller. Telephone system end of life: A competitive grant model to reinvest in these is not efficient. The appropriation of grant stays the same.

Sullivan County – guest comments by Cora Edwards:

The 2.8 million is a tough selling job to legislature, we weren't aware of change in eligibility. This puts pressure on us to roll over old debt and head back to legislature. Are there other sources of funding? Counties should be allowed to use different sources of funding.

Chris Tuttle, DHS:

Attended the Working Group meeting 2 weeks ago. Rather than have the State determine the Technical Assistance needs of the counties, the regional coordinators will survey their respective counties and report back to Chairman Barbato. They are targeting old UASIs to update the existing TICPs. The Central NY Consortium completed their TICP updates with the assistance of TA contractor support. They need one day to build info then revise the plan based on that. Please provide any needs for training or exercise funding. They would rather know the requests to award throughout the year and have the need to spend.

Tom Gallagher: Other funding is available for example: The Assistance to Firefighters grants (AFG). Some have been successful and fire departments are eligible.

Chairman Barbato – New Business:

Sheriff Maha: Have been receiving several calls from media trying to receive scanner transmissions.

John Merklinger: They can go to any online scanner.

Matthew Delaney: Scanner manufacturer has the capability, but not actively manufactured right now.

John Merklinger: NextGen 911 - Many states passing by NY. We have been very radio focused. Cannot transfer tandem to tandem. It's very basic and we need to start addressing.

Chairman Barbato: Good idea, would you consider forming a team?

John Merklinger: Yes, solutions are cost prohibitive. There is interest across State, many would be willing.

Chairman Barbato: Assistance?

Chris Tuttle: Tell us what you want; we will form a TA (Technical Assistance)

Chairman Barbato: ICTAP catalog?

Chris Tuttle: Yes

Chairman Barbato: Copy of Board Annual Report? We will provide hard copy.

Last item – The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for November 13th. Please contact me if this is inconvenient. Final agenda preparation was helpful and will continue.

Motion to adjourn by Wm Bleyle, seconded by Sheriff Maha. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:45, thank you.