STATE INTEROPERABLE & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 4, 2021

CHELLIS: Welcome, everybody. My name is Brett Chellis. I'm the Deputy Director of the Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications here at the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Thank you to those who traveled across the state and are representing either your state agencies or board members that are appointed for respective representation in the areas you come from.

We have an agenda today that's going to be a typical agenda for our meetings and we'll move through it. I appreciate your understanding. Director Sprague did retire last Friday, and I will go over that in a minute, but I want to welcome you and thank you for coming. So, we'll start out with a few things here. I guess we better start out with roll call and approval of the minutes.

Appreciate your understanding Director Sprague did retire last Friday and I will go over that in a minute but welcome and thank you for your attendance. So, we'll start out with two things here I guess we better start off with roll call, approval of minutes. Joann. WAIDELICH: Good morning, everybody.

Board Members Present:

Brett Chellis
Larissa Guedko
Charles White
David Kislowski
Brian LaFlure
Jeffrey Houck
Bob Terry
Todd Murray
Brendan Casey
Michael Volk
Allen Turner
Juan Figueroa

Board Members Absent:

Richard Anderson Kimberly Beatty Anthony Tripp

Ryan Greenberg

GUESTS:

Joann Waidelich Mark Balistreri Matthew Delaney

WAIDELICH: We have 11 members present. We do have quorum.

CHELLIS: Thank you, Joann. Can I have a motion to approve the minutes? They were distributed from the last meeting. There should be a copy in your folder.

TERRY: I'll make the motion. CHELLIS: Motion by Bob Terry.

LAFLURE: Second.

CHELLIS: Second by Brian LaFlure.

Any opposed?

(No audible response.)

CHELLIS: All those in favor?

(Affirmative responses.)

CHELLIS: Minutes are adopted.

Can I have a motion to adopt the agenda for today's meeting?

LAFLURE: So moved.

CHELLIS: Motion by Brian LaFlure.

CASEY: Second.

CHELLIS: Motion by Brendan Casey.

All those opposed? (No audible response.)

CHELLIS: All those in favor?

(Affirmative responses.)

CHELLIS: Carried. The agenda is adopted.

I'll go over a few etiquette and safety as it says on the agenda. There are some ground rules basically for the board meeting that we go over at every meeting so everyone understands the participation and the quidelines for those that are seated and present here in Albany and those that are on the videoconference. Board members attending by video conference may participate in this meeting for all purposes including a quorum but only if there was prior public notice of each videoconference location and notice of the public's right to attend the meeting at each videoconference location. Guests or persons having relevant knowledge or information may attend and speak as part of the agenda upon acceptance of the meeting agenda by the Board. All other guests must be recognized by the Chair before addressing the Board or participation in

discussion.

If a Board member is unable to attend in person, or by prearranged videoconference as described above, his or her designee may attend the meeting and vote on behalf of the member unless they are an appointee not representing a state agency.

Are there any questions on that? (No audible response.)

CHELLIS: We'll proceed. I'd like to remind the individuals on the phone please announce who you are before speaking.

Okay. Basically, the bathrooms are across the hall for those attending. If there is a fire or alarm for fire, we're going to proceed out the exits. There is an exit there and an exit here. Proceed out through the front entrance and they've designated an area of the parking lot for us to reconvene and make sure that everybody is present and everybody is evacuated safely. Please leave the fire lane open.

Please move away from the building so fire apparatus can approach the building. I appreciate that. I think we've got that covered and we'll move on.

As I said, I want to just take a moment here in the beginning before we start first on the Standing Committee Reports and I mentioned earlier that I am sitting as the Chair today. I'm the Deputy Director of the office.

Michael Sprague who served as Chair and our Director retired last Friday. I'd just like to take a moment and thank Mike for his service.

Mike has been Director of the Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications since July 14, 2016 and he also served as the State Wireless Interoperability Coordinator, or what we call the SWIC, and the Chair of this Board.

Prior to his service with OIEC, he was a regional director for Region 4 in Central New York for the New York State Office of Emergency Management, also with Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. He was appointed in 2012 and served four years in that capacity.

Prior to that, he served in the emergency services community for 37 years, specifically in emergency management for 28 of those. He began his career with Steuben County in 1989 and eventually became the Director of Emergency Management and Fire Coordinator for Steuben County.

Also, he was certified as a Regional Fire Instructor

with New York State OFPC and was a COML instructor here at OIEC. He was past Chapter Chair for the Greater Steuben County American Red Cross, past President of the Environmental Emergency Services which was a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit local flood warning group that he helped put together and put flood warning devices throughout the creeks and rivers in that region of New York. At the time, it was a very technology forward-thinking and technology forward project that is still not seen in many parts of the state.

So, we want to thank Mike for his service to this office, to this Board and also for his Emergency Management and Emergency Communications service throughout his career and he will be missed. But I'm glad that he's able to go to retirement and use his technology to travel the country. We wish him the best health and happiness going forward.

Okay. Standing Committee reports. We have up first 911 Advisory Committee. Allen Turner.

TURNER: My name is Allen Turner, Orleans County, New York. I'm Chairman of the 911 Advisory Committee. As with so many things with government in general, our committee hasn't been able to do a lot because of COVID. We are hoping between now and winter to get our committee back together in person and pick up where we left off last year with the standards.

We have done some adjustments trying to get things that are requirements as opposed to best practices sorted out. We're still early in that process and hope that we will be able to have a much more in-depth report at the next meeting.

CHELLIS: Thank you, Allen. Any questions for 911 Advisory Committee or Allen?

(No audible response.)

CHELLIS: NG 911 Working Group. The Working Group meetings will be resuming in September. They were paused while the agencies responded to the pandemic across the state. In the meantime, the NG 911 plan continues to be flushed out and built upon utilizing the concepts outlined by the Working Group in the plan. The 911 program continues to utilize the services of NYSTEC's growing team of SMEs to collect the information, analyze data and consult on the development of a concept of operations document which supplements the NG 911 Draft Plan and defines the scope of work for the next phases of the project.

The GIS Subcommittee has continued to meet throughout. They've been meeting regularly. The co-chairs are

Gerald Engstrom from New York State ITS GIS, and we certainly want to thank Gerry and his team there at ITS for their work.

Chris Rado, he is with New York City DOITT GIS and serves as a co-chair and has been very active with the group and New York City's presence on the group. They've met consistently. They have a lot of enthusiasm. They continue to refine the edge mapping, develop PSAP boundaries, build their knowledge base for the projects' GIS requirements. We've got, last I knew, like 14 county GIS professionals working with the GIS Subcommittee from across the state.

They have a close working relationship with New York City NG 911 project that is current and ongoing. They have a GIS team there and it's been an asset to both the city and the state. It both brings compatibility and efficiency to our project as well as the cities to have us working together. That concludes my NG 911 report. Anybody have any questions?

(No audible response.)

CHELLIS: Hearing none, we will move on to Mr. Jay Kopstein, committee chair for the CIWG.

KOPSTEIN: All right. I'm going to talk about, as I usually do, SAFECOM. It's been a while since we've met. We've been doing a slew of conference calls. We're talking about 5G and 5G is going to be implemented in three phases. Ultimately, millimeter 5G is going to be about using hubs across its line of sight and high capacity. Initially, around 5.96 gigahertz. They're talking about in rural and urban environments, a million devices per square kilometer. Traffic lights, traffic cameras, et cetera. And the probable need to create mesh networks around them to provide for lack of interruption. Department of Justice is trying to put push-to-talk on broadband in general. There have been a number of cyber incidents.

Fortunately, in one of them, the F.B.I. got word of it from a field office in South America, notified the city up here in the United States. The city was able to break off from the net with all but one of their sites hacked. One site was able to begin to restore what their option was. They basically scrubbed their system and restored from backup. Had that last site been taken over, perhaps, they wouldn't have been able to do that. Again, we have to be careful with our backup sites and the like. Chris, are you going to talk about regionalization or you want me to mention it?

TUTTLE: I'll cover that.

KOPSTEIN: So, Chris will talk about the regionalization. Everybody knows the MTA's expanding their radio system. There are a number of reasons for it, but from what I understand, it's going to be a robust system.

Going through my notes here, FEMA has asked to be included in New York City or the regional NYMAC system. I know Director Sprague had asked about it. We haven't had a NYMAC meeting. I think, perhaps, OIEC is still interested in getting approval to use NYMAC. It's a robust system, built out to Westchester County. I can tell you I did portable coverage from West Point. It's a devoted system and it goes from the northern Peekskill out to Montour Point. So, I would suggest that we continue looking at it.

We looked at FirstNet and the plague and, apparently, FirstNet has been used in a lot of communities to supplement their communications because of the plague at the various vaccination sites and the like; in some cases, the need to link their computers back to a sponsoring hospital to keep records.

Particularly, in New Jersey, it was used significantly. In New Jersey, 2 percent with voice, 98 percent with data. New Jersey also used GMRS at their vaccination sites.

We know that the colonial pipeline -- again, I'll apologize for my voice. I'm on a new medication for my 911 stuff and it affects my throat. Expanding broadband to the rural areas is a big thing and it's going to be included in the federal legislation if and when it gets passed. It's being pushed by CISA as well. A lot of discussions about Winter Storm Uri and what happened in Nashville. Is everybody aware of the

happened down in Texas and the like as well as what happened in Nashville. Is everybody aware of the bombing in Nashville and the extent of the failures? I think we discussed it at the symposium. That became an issue and that has to be looked at again.

Wind and ice and dishes, not this DHSES but satellite dishes and the like, don't get along well. There are, by the last count, 210 different devices that are approved for FirstNet use. So that's something we're looking at. We know that the administrator has been approved by the senate. So CISA now has, or DHS now has an administrator. Jen Easterly, is that her name, Chris? So she's been approved. She's been active. She's been speaking with the Emergency Communications Division, so we're hoping everything gets off to a good start.

The next semiannual meeting for Emergency Communications will be in San Diego the week of the 13th of December. And that will also be for the SAFECOM and NYSWIC meeting. Chris is going to talk about regionalization. The Cyber Working Group from ECD is putting out documents. I hope you're getting them. If you're not, please let me know. You are getting them, okay. I would ask that we make sure that our stakeholders get them as well. Everything on IOD and the like, I'll leave up to Chris. That's basically what I have. Chris, do you want to just talk about the regionalization now?

TUTTLE: Yes, if the Chair wants. CHELLIS: I'll recognize Chris.

TUTTLE: So starting October 1st, the ECD regional coordinators will be reporting to the region directly. It is really an administrative function. The end user, the stakeholder won't see any difference in my availability and my engagement. If you do, automatically complain. I believe this provides better service offering to the stakeholders. The CISA regions have not only diversification coordinators but they will now have the protective security advisors looking at infrastructure security, cyber security advisors and chemical security advisors. So, we're looking at infrastructure and cyber comms all together.

As we all know, emerging technology is bringing the cyber piece more and more into public safety communications. It's something that's really going to be integral moving forward. I also believe the protective security advisors are going to play an integral part now with two missions; looking at preparedness and restoration.

As Jay said, Nashville is a perfect example, but even our preparedness for before and after, co-location of jointly owned properties next to privately owned properties, things of that nature that we all need to be aware of.

We recently held a town hall about a month and a half ago which spoke to this issue. It was a CISA joint F.B.I. New York presentation. If anyone's interested in seeing that we're happy to share the link with Brett. It was recorded so it's something that can be looked at on your own leisure.

So, with all that being said, I believe we will be able to provide a better service offering to the stakeholders. You know, I'm still the same person, I'll

still have the same hat on. There will be a dotted line between the CISA regions and ECD on how that's going to work. It's above my pay grade and I really don't care as long as my job is still what it is.

Just two other quick things that Jay spoke on that I just wanted to bring up. So, there is a Nashville aftermath review that came out. I will send that. It's public safety sensitive so you guys will all have it. Share it with your stakeholders. Please don't post it on a website or anything like that.

And the last thing, which I can't believe you didn't mention, the 2021 version Interoperability Continuum. So anyone who knows the Interoperability Continuum, that was kind of the foundation for what we do in central office. It has the five basic areas of governance, SOGs, technology, training exercises and usage. What they've done is taken the SOG portion -- I'm sorry, SOP portion out of SOGs and FOGs which is really all in the same boat, and our technology, which I'm still educating myself here, they split into three areas. So, they have data elements, security and continuity of operations and voice elements and that branches off into different aspects.

These are documents as well I'll share with Brett and share with the Board. Not really much different than we all know. We all know that the Interoperability Continuum has kind of matured over the years. We've all done that on our own. This is just based on feedback from the SAFECOM community.

Finally, with how everything's going in the world right now, I was finally allowed to start traveling about two weeks ago. I was in Puerto Rico yesterday, I'm here today, I don't know where I'll be tomorrow. But there are, you know, all sorts of restrictions that are starting to come up again with regards to scuttlebutt that we might get shut down again for travel. So, if you need me now, call me. I'll be there as fast as I can. But I don't know what the next few weeks holds. Also, our federal fiscal year ends in about a month. So once October 1st comes, I turn into a pumpkin and you probably won't see me for two or three months. That's all I have. Thank you.

KOPSTEIN: Chris mentioned the Interoperability Continuum. If anybody has any questions about why we made those changes, ask me. I chaired that committee. I know a little bit about it. And John Driscoll still the regional director?

TUTTLE: John Durkin.

KOPSTEIN: John Durkin. All right. Great guy. I worked with him for many, many years. He's really easy to work with. So, if you need anything, you need to talk to him, talk to Chris or talk to me. He's a real good guy.

CHELLIS: And for the record, this was Chris Tuttle, the Regional Director of Regions 1 and 2?

TUTTLE: Region 12.

CHELLIS: Region 12. DHS/CISA group. And you can tell me what that stands for. I'm not going to attempt it at this moment. Okay. All set, Jay?

KOPSTEIN: Yes, sir.

CHELLIS: Thank you. Next up is the COMU program and Mark Balistreri.

BALISTRERI: Good morning, everybody. I just want to give you a quick update on the COMU program, where we are since we're starting back.

In 2021, we requested courses that were postponed from 2020 as well as our courses from 2021 that we were planning on hosting. Created quite a stir, I guess, Chris, right, down at CISA ECD.

Our goal was to try and get back on track from what COVID did to us. So, this is what we've done so far this year. We've had an AUXCOMM course virtually completed. We couldn't get these two courses, because CISA ECD was unable to provide support for them, because they're obviously -- with virtual courses, there's a ton more people out there requesting stuff, so they just weren't able to do it.

We held a virtual COML course, another AUXCOMM course and then we did our first hybrid course, which I believe was the first in the country, right? Basically, we did some virtual and then we had three days of hands-on down in Montour Falls. Brian LaFlure was there. And who else was there? Just Brian and I and some of the folks from our office. It was very successful. Everybody enjoyed it, but everybody wants to get back out there and take courses in person.

We had a virtual INCM and we had a COMMEX planning workshop for consortiums. Again, this was the first one, I believe, in the country. What our goal is we have nine consortiums in the state, so what we want to do is have these consortiums each be able to host their own COMMEX. Because you've got hundreds of trainees out there in communications roles and they can't get any kind of a planned event to get their task book signed off. It's also going to help exercise those regional plans that folks have.

So, this is the first one in the country, I believe, that's taken place and we had representatives from each of the nine consortiums with the exception of one, and it went very well. So, they're all put in together 201s and planning documents to hold their own COMMEX, hopefully, within the next year, year and a half, which would be very good.

Right now, this week, as we speak, we have a virtual INTD class in progress right now. Coming up, as you can see, it's a pretty busy schedule. We have a COMMEX for COMU trainees in two weeks. Basically, that's solely for folks to come and get their task books signed off Right now, I believe we have 14 people coming to that. Then, we have a COML course at the end of August, a RADO course in September, a COMT course in September, an AUXCOMM train-the-trainer in October, a workshop with the EMAC folks to try and bridge some gaps we have there, another COMT course in November. And in December, we're going to try this, it's a two-day meeting/exercise with all our instructors in the state. What we want to do is we want to take a look at how we did this year, what we accomplished, what we need to tweak and I'd like to come up with a plan for next year's schedule. We figure that's the best way to get buy-in as well as support as our partners out in the field, we work well as a team, so we want to expand that team effort and make the program better.

So again, it's an aggressive schedule. Our COMU program did benefit us during COVID, because we had a pool of COMU assets, credentialed folks out there that were able to assist with the vaccination sites, the testing sites and there's some equipment that's still out there, I believe.

They were able to monitor and maintain this equipment for us, thereby, freeing our limited staff up to be able to go out and set up other testing sites and other vaccine sites. Not only that, but they gained the experience of working with the state equipment that we set up.

As you know, we have our own COMT instructors and we are going to try and be aggressive with the COMT each year. We're offering three this year. We found that a COMT role is probably one of the most important roles, because you're getting down right in with the equipment, you're doing the hands-on, you're setting everything up, you're monitoring and maintaining it. We feel it's a pretty important role.

I already talked about this, but this was very

successful and we're hoping it's going to lead to at least eight or nine COMMEXs next year other than just what the state does, which will give us a great opportunity for folks to get stuff signed off. Again, folks are coming in two weeks to do their task books and then I talk about the meeting.

The next two slides are going to give you a little bit of an overview of where we were and where we are. In 2017, we had one credentialed COML in the state. We started building the program in '18. Just so you know, I'll just give you a brief explanation.

Basically, when someone takes a COMU course, there's seven different positions that fall under there. But you take the course and then you're assigned a position task book and then you have to get those tasks signed off. Then, you submit all that paperwork to the state and we credential you in that position. So that's the process.

When we first started the process, we went back through the 400-plus records we had for COMU positions and past courses and pulled out the folks that were pretty close to getting credentialed. And we were able to credential 36 COMLs right off the bat in '18. In '19, we expanded into the different positions. 2020, the same thing. And as you can see, we started highlighting on this and then COVID hit and we got crushed, because there really wasn't anything virtually yet so everything just shut down.

But this shows you basically who we have credentialed. We had two that retired. So basically now, from 1, we are at 129 credentialed folks in the state, and that's across the state. If I were to pull up the map, it's pretty evenly spread throughout the state, too, so it worked out good.

This is what COVID did to our training. As I said, we tried to start to increase more COMT training and things here and then expanded into the different things. This is what we ended up postponing, basically, almost 200 people we were unable to train because of COVID. In 2021, we picked up. Again, we had two that they couldn't support. But since 2018, we're approaching right now, including what we have coming up this year, about 340 additional people that we were able to train. And like I said, we had 450 records to start and I believe that was from inception all the way through 2017. We also requested assistance in creating a NYSTICFOG update, but what we want to do is we want to create an app. Everything is about apps. You have an

app on your phone, you have an app on your iPad. What we're trying to do is work with CISA ECD who is going to help us update our NYSTICFOG and then we're going to create an application that you can basically download onto your phone or your iPad, whatever you You'll be able to have the NIFOG and then our need. NYSTICFOG will be a companion document to that. I just want to touch on this quick. As most of you know, CASM, we've been pushing that over the last few years. It's a very valuable tool to communications personnel. And what we've done is we've required people, anybody taking the course, to put in an application and get a CASM account. Then during each course that we hold, we go through CASM a little bit and give them an overview. Then they go back to their respective counties and say, "Hey, listen, we need to update our stuff in here." It's worked out well and it's starting to spread a lot more. Then, what we did was we started holding a monthly Webex. What we do is informal, we get anybody that calls in, I think the last one, we had 12 people. Basically, we just go over the basics of CASM. If anybody has any questions, Jeff Lee, who is good at CASM, gets on the calls and starts showing things that I'm just learning. But it's a really good tool. And if anybody wants to see it or jump on these Webex's, just e-mail me and I'll send you the invite. The last couple of slides I have are talking more about the new learning management system. Basically, before, when you registered for courses, you would register directly through the SPTC or the Fire Academy, wherever it was being held. Well, New York State rolled out a new learning management system and, basically, this is going to be the portal that everybody is going to register for any kind of courses. This is the link for that. We've started using this and now, everybody for our upcoming courses are registering. We are assisting people if you need help, so don't be afraid again to e-mail us right here at oiec.training@dhses.ny.gov and we will walk you through how to do it. That's kind of what the page looks like if you don't have a user account already. You've just got to go to web forms and request a new user access. They did migrate all the data from all the different systems out there, whether it be OFPC, OIEC, OEM, they migrated -- and DCJS also, they migrated them all into this portal. There are probably some things that need

to be cleaned up on your accounts if you're not already in there doing that. But let us know if you need any help and we'll get it done. Any questions? (No audible response.)

BALISTRERI: Okay, thank you.

CHELLIS: Thank you, Mark. I want to echo Mark's I know Director Sprague had mentioned this at the last meeting, the expansion of this program and the credit to Mark for building this, taking the ball and running with this when he came to the agency in 2018 and the amount of people that have been credentialed but trained and then, in addition, credentialed which is the most important and hardest step, it's paying off big-time. And thank God, we did that before the pandemic. We had a good start on it. Because, again, the assistance given to this agency and to the New York residents by these COMU trained personnel, whether they're COMLs or COMTs, whatever, they were basically helping with bringing local assets to help support the training sites. We have a lot of equipment and assets that we can put around the state, but the counties are able to supplement that with a lot of their own assets such as portable radios or different other types of communications infrastructure, and it's all benefited the whole response.

The continuing of care, maintaining it, making sure everything's accounted for, things are operating, fixing or replacing out anything there's an issue with and retrieving it when the site is demobilized and doing all the paperwork they need to do to report statuses. So, it's an effort and it's appreciated by us and it's recognized. And I'm sure as people become more and more aware of what's been done, it is appreciated by many. So again, a lot of that is to your credit, Mark, but also to the team and their response and ESF, too, and everyone managing and utilizing these people. One of the things we've been doing is every time we have a planned event, our team at OIEC needs to go and set up some type of a communications asset. We've been plugging in one of the certified and credentialed COMU personnel to assist our team. So, their skills, they continue to learn to use and operate our equipment as well as bring some of their own, if needed. It's a working relationship and it's paying off and it's helping us be able to expand and carry out our mission throughout and answer the requests for service. I just think it's important to recognize the efforts of this

program and all the counties, cities and local folks that have been participating. Thank you.

BALISTRERI: Can I add one thing? I was remiss in mentioning, thank you to the folks that are in this room, Chris Tuttle, Brian, Kevin, Steve, Larissa, Joann, all these guys from OIEC, Phil and Matt, for helping with this program, because it's a team effort and it's from Chris Tuttle all the way down through our local folks that that effort gets done. So, thank you for being part of that team and helping me with this program.

CHELLIS: Thank you, Mark.

Okay. Next, we have Public Safety Broadband User Group and radio engineer, Matt Delaney will present.

DELANEY: All right. I'll talk a little bit about a few things, updates on Public Safety Broadband. So, ProSe, Proximity Services. This was originally intended to be a standards compliant method of direct communication between cellphone devices.

Right now, your cellphone communicates to a tower to the cell network. There are other technologies like Bluetooth and Wi-Fi built in, but there's basically no direct communication between phones. I mean, anything that there is like Air Drop is built on top of Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. There is no real cellular type standard for that.

ProSe was something that was developed through the Standards Committee to allow that direct communication and that would be very important to the public safety world, because you need to be able to communicate with devices when you're off the network.

The idea was if FirstNet and public safety broadband and wireless broadband were to be prevalent in the public safety communications environment, there would have to be a way for the devices to talk amongst each other, if you were in an area with no coverage, if the network was down or other maybe certain location tracking or things that need to talk to each other.

The idea here with ProSe was that these devices would have a standard. You could build it into the phones. The manufacturers can build it in and they could communicate and this could be a solution, for example, for what we traditionally call simplex or direct mode communications in LMR. Well, the problem is it never really took off. It was put into the standards, but the development has stalled.

Only one manufacturer ever built it into a chip set on the phone. And the biggest problem for public safety

was it was very low power. Your LMR radio is 3 watts, 5 watts, 6 watts, depending on the band. This is on the order of a couple hundred milliwatts.

The range would have been extremely short, like you probably wouldn't even necessarily be able to talk from one end of the building to the other end of the building. So that's a problem, obviously, for public safety.

Whether this really ever ends up anywhere or whether we end up with the need to continue hybrid devices, there are a number of devices on the market right now that are hybrid. They are radios with a cellular device built in. They provide traditional P25 in this country or tetra in other countries. Communications between radios utilize simplex direct mode as well as network P25 trunking, but they also have a cellular component and they can use push-to-talk over cellular. They can use data devices, CAD and other things that come to the device.

But if you are out of cellular coverage, you still have that ability to communicate directly with radios using traditional LMR type technologies and power. So right now, these kinds of devices are interoperable on the LMR side. So analog, P25, that's very standard, no problem. You can talk one manufacturer device to the other, radio to radio.

But the push-to-talk over cellular side of these devices and the cellular side is not interoperable right now, not without making significant connections on the network side, the devices themselves still are not. So, we're in a hybrid right now of devices that are the idea being that they can talk to each other, but we're also still in a proprietary or nonstandard base, because they haven't adopted the ProSe component of having those devices talk to each other.

So, we'll just have to over the years see how this proceeds and what sort of technology it brings. But I think it just further proves that LMR and the LMR components of devices is not going away.

That ability to communicate with 3 to 6 watts of power on analog or P25 on interoperability channels or on network channels is probably going to be around for a long time, simply because public safety needs that kind of capability that right now is not available on the cellular side.

And even if ProSe was better adopted, it probably wouldn't have really met the needs. I know in England where there is a significant move to migrate from TETRA

and the airwave solution to LTE public safety network countrywide, there is a lot of pushback from public safety, because they need that LMR component for that direct mode stability.

So, on FirstNet, we worked last year with AT&T on a series of webinars regarding FirstNet features. We plan to continue with new webinars this fall. These are produced by AT&T. They're provided by AT&T. There are various people from AT&T or FirstNet or by outside individuals who have a relationship with AT&T. We just make sure that you're aware of it and we sort of help to get the word out that these are there and communicate with our stakeholders.

If you have any topics you'd like to hear about with FirstNet public safety broadband, let me know. If you did not receive these invitations last year and you want to be included when we start them back up this fall, let me know and we'll get you on that mailing list. You can just send me an e-mail and I'll add you.

AT&T FirstNet update. So here, in New York, they're now at the point of having over 2,000 sites, AT&T sites, that have Band 14 on them. Band 14 is the public safety band. It's what a black SIM or FirstNet device primarily homes on when it's available.

It's available for public safety as the primary use and if public safety is not using the capacity, then the commercial users can use it.

MALE VOICE: Do you know how many of those 2,000 are outside New York City metro area?

DELANEY: I do not have that breakdown. I know that there are quite a few upstate that had Band 14 added to them. Plus, many of the -- in fact, I would say basically all of the new build sites that were specifically built as part of the FirstNet project were built upstate. But I don't know the exact breakdown. I can ask or go through my materials and see if I can find that

So nationwide, originally, AT&T as part of the FirstNet contract deployed 72 assets, deployable assets. These are cell on like trucks, cell on wheels, and those types of things that can be called to an incident. There are now over 100. They've added additional ones, because there's been such a demand for them, not just with COVID but with wildfires and hurricanes. There's been such a demand for these deployable assets, they've added additional ones, additional CoWs and CoLTs as well as if you haven't seen it, they have a blimp. It's a large tethered blimp.

They have what are called flying CoWs, which are drones with an LTE site on them. They're tethered. And they have used these after some of the hurricanes a couple of years ago on the Gulf Coast to provide coverage when the network itself is lost.

FirstNet/AT&T has announced that they're going to have a new Motorola Mission Critical push-to-talk solution this winter and it will integrate with Motorola Critical Connect, which is Motorola's car-based solution for tying P25 systems together. We'll see where that goes. There is still a cautionary tale. Anyone looking at push-to-talk over cellular, there is a lack of good interoperability between the systems right now as I mentioned on the other slide. Are you tying yourself into one carrier and one software solution? There are some that work over top that are not dependent on the carrier, but they still have to communicate with their other copies of that same application on their devices.

They've launched MissionKeeper, which is a UAV, or unmanned aerial vehicle, drone video sharing. This is a third party solution of KSI, but it's being sold and dedicated through FirstNet. They prioritize that video traffic on the AT&T network for that in a low frequency solution.

FirstNet messaging, this is another thing that they just announced. This is group message notification for public safety. I want to say up to twenty thousand users can be group messaged and notified and it has within the network confirmation of delivery, assured delivery and all those kinds of things you need in a public safety solution for messaging.

Verizon update on their public safety broadband. So, they re-branded their public safety solution as Verizon Frontline. That is their new branding name for their public safety component for their network and solution. The OGS contract has been updated with some of their new PTT and interoperability features. Again, same caution as a moment ago. If you're looking for a PTT solution from one carrier, what devices do you have? Are they all able to communicate? Are you tying yourself into one solution or not?

Verizon has a response team as well for deployable assets. They have loaner phones and devices, LTE routers, in building solutions and they have CoWs, CoLT's mobile communications trailers, charging centers, et cetera, and they are available at no cost to public safety agencies.

Similar to AT&T/FirstNet, one call to request deployable assets, Verizon has a public safety response center as well for requesting assets. Any questions on broadband?

KOPSTEIN: Director?

CHELLIS: Go ahead.

KOPSTEIN: FirstNet in one of our SAFECOM meetings said they're working on a project where, similar to LMR, your communications on FirstNet will be recorded. The next time you talk to them, if you can get an update on that for us, please. That's one of the big issues in the law enforcement the recording of communications.

FEMALE VOICE: Just to clarify, Jay, are you looking for FirstNet voice or messaging or both?

KOPSTEIN: Well, messaging is recorded now, from what I understand. I'm talking about voice. You're on the FirstNet system. You make a call. Your host, whoever is paying that bill so to speak, will have no conversations recorded. Just like on an LMR set, if you're on a voted (phonetic) system, most agencies record those messages. FirstNet is looking to do that on their system as well.

CHELLIS: When you actually make a phone call -- MALE VOICE: You're talking on a push-to-talk, Jay, right?

KOPSTEIN: No. I'm talking about FirstNet communications. One of the big issues is you call complaining from your cellphone, that right now is not recorded. You have a gap if an arrest is made based on that telephone conversation in what was said. Right now, there is no discovery.

If you call 9-1-1 or if you call most police agencies, those conversations on the landline are recorded. Similarly, LMR. FirstNet is going to be looking to do the same thing.

CHELLIS: Where are they recorded to and how would somebody access the recordings then?

KOPSTEIN: Well, the accessibility is the way that now depending upon the state whether it's FOILable or not, but if police department A has 100 FirstNet phones, police department A will be able to record anything that goes in and out of those 100 phones.

CHELLIS: But on their own recording system, you're saying?

KOPSTEIN: That's what FirstNet is working on. Whether FirstNet's going to do it on FirstNet infrastructure or whether your home agency is going to do it on its infrastructure through a link into the FirstNet system, that engineering hasn't been -- if it has been done, we

haven't been told about it yet.

DELANEY: There's a couple of ways that could be done from a technology standpoint. Like you said, the easiest way to do it would be to record it in the FirstNet call, all that traffic, similar to the way a wiretap would be done, have it recorded all there. Obviously, I'm sure there would be within the agency as to how it's going to be done and stuff, and I'm sure there is a lot of legal type things about the liability of having it recorded. But also, where do you store it? How is it done? The other option would be if you're literally recording phone calls, you'd have to send all that traffic to an agency to record at their own end. So how would you direct all that?

We're talking about a convergence of voice phone calls, voice push-to-talk. You've got all sorts of messaging apps, carrier related messaging, MMS. You've got third-party apps that can do messaging, everything from Whatsapp to Facebook. Everything is a way to communicate information.

How do you look at it? What do you authorize? Do you lockdown devices so that people can't use that so you don't have to worry about the traffic occurring on a device that you can't record? Then, you can't use that encryption between the two devices because you have to record it in the middle.

There's a lot of things to think about there and what are your requirements or needs.

CHELLIS: I would imagine, Matt, through the app. We are using apps for so many things. I don't know how you could tie the actual phone call to an app, but I imagine the app could record the call just like on your phone now that you can have apps that record your call and then you have access to them.

I know personally, I have a Nest system at my doorbell and they all have microphones and I can retrieve up to 60 days or save video and voice and if I want more, I can contact them and they have it. You know, you pay for that service, but I would think it wouldn't be that far a reach for that type of thing to record on FirstNet.

KOPSTEIN: The legal issues --

CHELLIS: We're not talking about the legal, that's a separate issue.

KOPSTEIN: -- what's accessible based on state law or territorial law based on each individual state. Just like you have with the body cams. In some states, those body cams are 100 percent public information, public

access except for very specific things, like sex crime victims and children and the like. In other states, it's all subject to certain discovery and not public information.

And the question would then become, where is the physical call located and if that state law governing on the physical call, which is why you might want to have it recorded back at your home location, because then it's covered by the state law where you are. And anybody in New York State that knows about law enforcement and the new laws that have been passed, discovery in New York State is a nightmare. You've got to give DA offices information within 48 hours. So, it's got to work itself out, if you will.

DELANEY: And of course, you can use -- as an agency, you can use that device management to lockdown if you're issuing an agency device to prevent -- you know, if you want to limit communications to certain methods that you know you can record or if you want to record and so forth, you can lockdown the devices so that people can't use anything but authorized applications and methods on the device so that you're sure that you're getting all the traffic that you want recorded or are legally required to record recorded without using any out of band methods.

CHELLIS: Good, thank you. Anything else? Any questions for Matt? (No audible response.)

CHELLIS: All right.

DELANEY: So just a couple of slides here. I'm sure I continue to sound like a broken record for those of you that have seen this before. I think I've had the same beginning slide here for a couple of years now. Repeaters off, your national interoperability channel, so please repeaters off when you're not using them. I will say this is getting a lot better, so I thank you. There are many agencies that have had repeater issues in programming, their repeater's not programming correctly, there's controller problems and so forth that are causing repeaters to be on the air.

Huge thanks to many agencies that have gone in and had their vendors or their internal reprogram them or add a controller or develop a new policy to make sure the repeaters are off. This is definitely getting better. It's not a hundred percent. We're still seeing occasional repeaters on the air that are interfering or unknown or they don't ID, nobody knows whose repeater it is and then we have to go out and radio direction find

them and find them.

But I will say this is definitely a lot better than it was just a few years ago. So, thank you to those who have been keeping them off the air and keeping them coordinated.

Encryption. We are hearing more and more interest in LMR encryption. I know a number of agencies in the state over the past year or so have either implemented it or have begun looking at implementing LMR encryption. A couple of things there. As a reminder, OIEC has a guideline on our website related to encryption. It's not very long, I think, two pages, but it basically just says about using standard based encryption. becoming more and more common to use standard based encryption. We're seeing people moving away from using nonstandard encryption, but that's good, and to coordinate your key numbers, not the actual key values but just the numbers to make sure that you can share your keys, because there is a key reference in the radio and in the P25 transmission references a key, just to make sure you can share.

Everybody can't use one, because if everybody uses one, you can't do mutual aid operation, your TAC teams can't communicate or share their keys, because if everybody uses one, it will just wipe out your key when somebody else tries to load their key. So just follow those guidelines.

If you're considering encryption or conducting any consortium planning for encryption, please just loop us in so we know what you're thinking. And certainly, we ask, too, that you make sure your state agency partners if you are considering encryption or making changes to your encryption, that you've thought about your state agency partners who also need to communicate and making sure that they have the ability to as well.

Any questions on encryption?

(No audible response.)

CHELIIS: Next up is Citizen Alerting Committee. Matt.

DELANEY: Good morning. My name is Matt Delaney. So on Citizen Alerting, I just have a few slides here. Mike usually gave these slides, but Citizen Alerting Committee I don't believe has met since at least a year. It needs to meet again. I think we'll have to do one of those things when we're back to having meetings again. I was participating in those meetings when they were occurring.

So, a couple of things. The National EAS test. For those who have not heard, there will be a National EAS,

Emergency Alert System, test August 11th, 2:20 p.m. with a backup date of August 25th. When they announce these, they always set a backup date in case there's a hurricane making landfall on August 11th or something along those lines, they'll postpone it.

So, at 2:20 p.m., this tests the Emergency Alert System and WEA, Wireless Emergency Alerts. However, this will be the first time that they are going to use the WEA test category instead of a regular WEA alert. If it works as planned, only those people who have enabled WEA test alerts on their phones should have it go off on their cellphones.

The next couple of slides talk about how to enable it. If you are interested in finding out if you are getting the alert, go ahead and enable that test alert on your phone.

I won't read these in detail here. These are available online. These are from FEMA these diagrams. On IOS, on iPhones, you just open the phone app and the keyboard and you enter in the string that's up here and these will be posted. Like I said, you can Google this and you'll get an alert on your screen that says "test alerts have been enabled".

That way, you'll then actually get that test category alerts, for example, on August 11th. So, this is iPhones. On Android, it's a little different. There should be in your alert section, which is different on every sort of flavor of Android, there is a slider "state local test alerts" or something like that. By default, it will be off. You can turn that on as well on your Android and you'll be able to get those test alerts when they're transmitted.

MALE VOICE: If you're already signed up for New York Alerts, is it enabled? I get those.

DELANEY: No. This would be different than New York Alert. WEA, Wireless Emergency Alert, is a program that uses special signaling on the cell carriers, on the cell sites, to send a mass alert to every single cellular device within -- it can be targeted down to an area, to cell sites.

That's why you might get a flash flood warning from the National Weather Service on your phone, it makes that loud squeal, at least on iPhone a loud squeal tone and you get like a flash flood emergency or tornado warning. This is nationwide. This will be sent to every cell site nationwide. They've done this before.

The difference is the ones in the past have just been on every phone. Now, they're just going to be on a test

category where people will have to enable it to see the text. It doesn't affect your ability to get the other alerts; for example, tornado warnings and stuff. only ones you cannot opt out of are presidential alerts, which they're changing that around a little bit. still going to be mandatory, but it's going to be more like a national emergency alert, not a presidential But those are the only ones you can't opt out. You can on your phone, IOS as well, you can opt out of things if you don't want to get any tornado warnings, you don't want to get Amber alerts, you can turn those off as well. But WEA is targeted just to all of the devices within that footprint. It's not where, as a year ago, you have to subscribe to and sign up and get those alerts or download the app and you can tie those up, WEA just sends them to all the devices within that footprint or that area noticed and your device decides whether to display it.

MALE VOICE: So, the screen prior that shows you how to put it in, it's just if you want to be in the test?

DELANEY: Right. So, this is IOS, iPhones, yes, if you want to get that test alert -- you'll still get if you're listening to FM radio, you'll get that, if you're watching TV, you'll get that alert in the scrolling or on the radio. But if you want to get it on your cellphone, the test alert, yes.

This has no impact on getting a real, for example, tornado warning or flash flood emergency or something along those lines. This is just if you want to see that test.

And there's a process in place for them; there will be certain agencies that will be helping them gauge that the test alerts work and so forth. They pick certain agencies around the US, including New York City Emergency Management, to help them gauge whether that worked.

One of the things on the state plan, so every state has an emergency alert system plan, EAS plan. It's in conjunction with the state's EAS Committee and the Broadcast Association, the broadcasters in that state. New York State has a Broadcast Association, which is one of the members of that committee, along with DHSES and the Department of Public Service and the Cable Industry. And the FCC has required all the states to update that plan. There are basically some new requirements in there and stuff.

And it's been around for a while and they said we're going to have a new system to file that in called their

alert reporting system. And once we come up with a way for you to file it, we're going to set a one-year deadline for you to update that plan and submit it.

Every state will be required on or before July 5, 2022 to update their plan and file it electronically. It's just something that the system learning committee will have to keep track of and have to reengage with the EAS Committee and the State Broadcast Association to make sure that's done. I think that was all I had on Citizen Alerting. Any other questions?

(No audible response.)

CHELLIS: Thank you, Matt. Okay. The State Agency Communications Working Group has not met since our last Board meeting. Hopefully, that's another thing that we'll schedule something for September and try to get that group back together. There are a few things I want to go over with them.

Next, we have grants. Larissa Guedko, radio engineer. **GUEDKO**: Good morning. Here is the latest update for the Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula grant. This is a grant, typically \$45 million a year. And at this point, those are all active grants. If you don't see it on this screen, that means that the grant has been closed.

We are still working through 2019 SICG formula. The spending right now is about \$10.2 million reimbursement and the deadline is 2022 at the end of the year. As you can see, those grants all end right at this point at the end of 2021.

There is a concern about this grant and this grant and there are still some counties, you see the amount of a few million each of those, in some cases, large amounts for counties that still did not spend it. We are working with those counties to make sure that they submit vouchers for reimbursements.

In some cases, counties do the projects, spend the money, but we're still waiting for those vouchers to come in. Please work with your grant representative to make sure that all vouchers are submitted in a timely manner.

And this is the PSAP Operations grant. All those grants you see highlighted above; they are closed at this point. But I do believe, and correct me if I'm wrong, we're still missing vouchers, perhaps, for this one. Because of COVID, it has complicated matters with projects with counties and hit all of us, the state agencies as well, and some projects were delayed. Some projects just couldn't happen because of personnel and

vendors were not allowed to be on-site.

So, we have extended 2019-20 PSAP grant, as you can see in the deadline there, but we are hoping that projects will be completed by the end of the year. It shouldn't be difficult from looking at the spending.

The 2020-2021 PSAP Operations Grant has been announced not that long ago and right now, from what I understand, there's a few contracts still in development. We don't see any spending just yet. We will talk to the county, because this grant was announced late in the year. Because of COVID, all the timelines have shifted for all the grants. We will contact counties and gather some intelligence whether projects can be accomplished by the end of the year.

Due to the lateness of the grant, we will work with counties to see whether we need to extend this grant whether six months or one year and it's going to be on a case-to-case basis.

And the Targeted grants. There is spending on the first round of Targeted grants that we see, and the projects are going well. On the second one, we do not see any spending yet. From what I understand from talking to those counties, a lot of them are still in development phases and, in some cases, they had to issue an RFA and wait for responses to come back. It does take time. Sometimes it might take a year just to determine who the vendor is for that project. Since those projects are very large projects, it will take longer; hence, our timelines as you can see are four years.

This one, we feel that it might have to be extended beyond the time because, again, we lost a lot of time due to COVID pandemic.

What do we have upcoming? Right now, 2020 SICG Formula results are in the review and approval process. One thing I wanted to mention about grants and applications. When we get applications from counties, a majority of them submit it on the last day or in the last three days. Only from that point, we can start working and analyzing all the data.

Now, when we start doing this, I found that almost anywhere from 40 to 60 percent of applications contain errors. I have to go back to those counties and wait for responses. Sometimes it's a month or more before we can actually calculate any awards pending all mistakes have been corrected, and data has been provided back to us.

So, when a county submits an application, I highly recommend that each county have a couple of people

looking at it, like really looking at the application and the data.

You can also compare it to previous year application which are all in E-grants right now and whoever is submitting application should have access to E-grants. Because at times, I see it could be a zero missing or extra zeros. Sometimes it's completely blank and there is no data.

So, these type of mistakes; you have one application to submit. You, perhaps, can ask somebody even just a simple overview, is all the data in the application? Does it all make sense?

Now, for us, for our office, it's 58 applications to do quality control and we do that. We go back and we compare to previous years, we do analysis before we actually proceed with award calculations. But for me, it takes a lot longer, because I'm the one who mostly is doing 58 and for counties, one application, a couple of people can look at it for quality control.

Now, the next step would be those three RFAs, PSAP which is also Formula, SICG Formula and SICG Targeted. At this point, we are working on the concept and it hasn't been approved yet, but we have talked to our stakeholders at different consortium meetings and at different webinars. We plan to propose all three RFAs at the same time and stagger the dates for submission for each RFA and see if we can somehow improve the timing of everything, the RFA, the application submission, but mostly, the award announcements also. So hopefully, it will speed up a little bit the approval process and it will speed up the whole timeline overall. Right now, we have \$577 million in grants provided to counties for PSAPs, for interoperable communications and please submit your vouchers. Please work with your counties to make sure it's all submitted. We need to show spending. Any questions for me? (No audible response.)

CHELLIS: Thank you, Larissa. And I'd like to emphasize to please do a little QA/QI on your data before you send it in. It would save everybody time in getting these grants processed through.

I've seen it on the PSAP and your total calls should -you know, when you take your line and wireless and
others, the total should be the total. When that's less
than the number of some of the calls, there's a problem.
When it's known your wireless is normally 70 percent of
your calls and it's missing a couple of characters or
something, it kind of stands out.

GUEDKO: It happens, but it happens a lot more than I wish it would.

CHELLIS: All right. Let's see. Next on the agenda, we have old business. Anybody have any old business to present?

(No audible response.)

CHELLIS: Okay. On to new business. Anything new?

KOPSTEIN: Director.

CHELLIS: Jay.

KOPSTEIN: Chris mentioned something that will appear in all -- or should appear in all new Emergency Communications' documents coming out of CISA. And the attorneys in the room will appreciate this. Any time you will see SOP, you will see a forward slash and SOG. In certain states, failure to adhere to an SOP is a cause for action. So, they changed it to SOG as a guideline to eliminate that course of action. That's just something -- that's why that will be appearing on those new documents.

CHELLIS: Chris.

TUTTLE: Just one thing. Just on the cyber side, (inaudible) understand that there are county procedures and notification for cyber attack. We would ask that courtesy notification be given to CISA for the region just as a heads up. Not for federal action, not for federal involvement, for tracking purposes only. We understand there's procedures, there's already actions to be taken by the state to assist municipalities, counties, agencies, et cetera. And in the private sector, we see a lot of third parties getting involved to mitigate the cyber attack on behalf of those entities. We just ask for tracking purposes. Just as law enforcement canvassing an area for suspicious activity might lead to a crime, it's the same thing for us. Just understanding what the event was, what the impact was, so we can track it and start to build profiles, it would really be helpful. Thank you. CHELLIS: Now, to clarify, you're asking that of any incident in the state that affects public safety agency or government in general, even local government? TUTTLE: So, it's a broad stroke. Education Department, DMV, public safety, you name it. Eventually, if it's touching some sort of government entity, it's touching public safety (inaudible) law enforcement public safety system as well as education as well as tax assessor and things like that. They all can eventually touch each other.

CHELLIS: (Inaudible)

TUTTLE: We've also seen the carrier side (inaudible) we recently had an issue where their 911 pass-through went down for five hours, (inaudible) a portal, if you will, for that entity and there was no notification from the telco that there was an outage. And when the entity questioned the telco, they said it was on the entity side.

Entity checked it all and it was good and they came back and they're like, "Oh, yeah, we might have had an issue with our trunk and there might have been dropped calls." And it turned out from what we could determine it was most likely a PDOS (phonetic) effect that occurred for five hours but the entity didn't know (inaudible). A government entity could look further into this So it backed us into really having a strong relationship with your (inaudible) providers at different levels, have that relationship now. Explains to them (inaudible), the repercussions, what's going on, use that relationship.

CHELLIS: If you don't mind before you leave, I'd like to talk about how we build that connection from our cyber team upstairs to your office or whether it's already built.

MALE VOICE: So just to understand that a little bit better, in the ITS EMOP (phonetic), it identifies a reporting structure, a reporting diagram structure of the chamber and the watch center. So, would the watch center be reporting back to feds?

CHELLIS: This is what I want to determine, because we have the ITS team that has certain responsibilities, certain agencies and you have the DHSES team. And they already have all this figured out with the chamber. So that's not for me to muddy up. But we want to make sure that what his request is, is somewhere in that process.

MALE VOICE: Understood. I believe that watch center and all DPC agencies have that built into their EMOP already, because there are cyber groups in many agencies. It's not just ITS.

CHELLIS: I know that's the way the notifications spin out as well through a setup chain to go down to the locals.

TUTTLE: Most agencies have a fusion center it rolls up to and then (inaudible).

CHELLIS: Very good. Thank you. Next is any other new business? I moved Mike up to the top of the agenda just because we really appreciated him, but again, congratulations to Mike and good luck with the fifth wheel.

All right. So any other comments for the good of the order?

(No audible response.)

CHELLIS: Our next meeting will be October 27th, 10:00 a.m. to noon. We please urge all state agencies to have a representative in person and all of you as well. These are statutory duties.

It is very, very important that a quorum be made and we have a voting representation. We ask you to make every effort to be here in person. We do understand there are certain circumstances and we will be following guidelines and have direction as things move on and we'll notify you if there's any change for the next meeting. But we do appreciate you coming and we appreciate those that are serving on the Board and serving elsewhere in public safety.

So, thanks to all and I guess that was my closing remarks. I'll ask for a motion to adjourn.

LAFLURE: So moved.

CASEY: Second.

CHELLIS: We can always count on Brian for that one, right? Thank you. Brian LaFlure made the motion, Brendan Casey seconded it and we are adjourned. Thank you very much.

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CERTIFICATION

I, THERESA L. ARDIA, Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do hereby CERTIFY that the foregoing record taken by me at the time and place noted in the heading hereof is a true and accurate transcript of same, to the best of my ability and belief.

Theresa L. Ardia

Theresa L. Ardia, CSR, CRR, RPR, RMR

Dated: August 9, 2021.