STATE INTEROPERABLE & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2021

SPRAGUE: Okay. Good morning, everyone. I have 10:01. I think we can go ahead and get started. I'd like to welcome everybody to the State Interoperable and Emergency Communications Board meeting.
Matt, if you want to move to the next slide.
And I am Michael Sprague, the Director; also, the Chairman of the Board.
Again, thank you everybody for joining. We've got a good list of panelists and we've got 15 people out in the attendee list, which is great as well. So, welcome all. We're doing this virtually, as everybody's aware. That is kind of the motif of the day. In this instance, it's a good thing. A lot of people don't have to drive in February to get here. I know some people don't have a lot of snow and other people are buried.
As we all know, these are interesting times; everybody is working through the whole COVID situation and what it's done to our ability to meet in person and some of the activities that we're doing in our office.
You know, now, the focus is starting to shift more to vaccinations. A lot of you are supporting vaccination sites out in your areas and working through that process. So, it keeps shaping what we're doing. You know, the main business that we normally handle is being impacted by that and we just have to roll with the punches. I appreciate everybody being part of the group here and participating in our meeting.
With that, Matt, if you'd go to the next slide.
So basically, we're going to start off at this point with the roll call. Joann if you would do the roll call. And part of the roll call, I'll run through a couple of things that's part of the WebEx before we do that. We've set the WebEx up with two categories of participants. We've got the board members and the general attendees that wish to attend. Members should join the video, so please turn your video on and have the ability to mute and unmute yourself. During the roll call, the member should speak their name and their location, because it is being done on video.
For all those in discussions, please state your name before your comment to allow the video to switch to you, so we see

your picture come up. So again, when we do the roll call, even though your name has been stated, state your name and then that you are here. Participants that wish to speak can raise their hand and indicate the nature of the comment in the chat. Matt Delaney is monitoring all that and, at that point, the Chair must recognize you before you'll be unmuted. With that, I'm going to go to the roll call. Joann if you want to pick that up.

WAIDELICH: Good morning, everyone.

Board Members Present:
Michael Sprague
Larissa Guedko
Chuck White
David Kislowski
Brian LaFlure
Brian Gifford
Bob Terry
Todd Murray
Michael Volk
Allen Turner
Anthony Tripp
A. Wesley Jones
Ryan Greenberg

Board Members Absent:
Richard Anderson
Kimberly Beatty
Richard Tantalo

GUESTS:
James Callahan
Joann Waidelich
Mark Balistreri
Matthew Delaney
Alex Rau
David Cook
Eric Abramson
Glen Gosnell
Julie Gray
Steve DeChick
Steve Sharpe
Lana Cawrse
Lawrence Mitchell
Michael Rowley
Nicole Erickson
Peter Giammarco

Jay Kopstein
Peter Kwitkowski
Ryan Lamothe

SPRAGUE: Thank you very much.   And thank you, everyone, for attending.   I'll move into the approval of the minutes from the last meeting.   Any discussion?
(No audible response.)
SPRAGUE: Do I have a motion to accept?
JONES: Wes Jones.   I'll make a motion.
SPRAGUE: Thank you, Wes.   And do I have a second?
TURNER: Allen Turner.   I'll second.
SPRAGUE: Thank you, Allen.   Any additions, deletions, questions?
(No audible response.)
SPRAGUE: If not, I'll move for a voice vote.   All in favor.
(Affirmative responses.)
SPRAGUE: Anyone opposed?
(No audible response.)
SPRAGUE: Very good.   Carried.
And now you should have all received a copy of the agenda for today.   I'll move for a motion to approve the agenda.
TURNER: Allen Turner.   I'll make the motion.
SPRAGUE: Thanks, Allen.
TRIPP: Second the motion.   Anthony Tripp.
SPRAGUE: Thank you, Anthony.   Any discussion, changes?
(No audible response.)
SPRAGUE: All those in favor?
(Affirmative responses.)
SPRAGUE: Anyone opposed?
(No audible response.)
SPRAGUE: Very good. Okay.   I'll just run over the brief ground rules.   Board members attending by video conference shall constitute presence at such meetings for all purposes, including quorum.   Participants must make notice of their location pursuant to the Open Meetings Law.   We already mentioned that.   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 participating in discussion.   And if a board member is unable to attend in person, which obviously, we're not; we're doing this by video conference, 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.

Very good. Let's move on to the Standing Committee reports.
With that, we'll go to 911 Advisory Committee. Wes, I think
between Wes and Jim, we are going to handle that. Wes, any
comments? I know you haven't had a chance to have a meeting.
JONES: No. If you want to have Jim go ahead first, I'll
comment after.
SPRAGUE: All right, very good. Jim.
CALLAHAN: Jim Callahan here. Can you guys hear me all
right?
SPRAGUE: Yes. Gotcha, Jim.
CALLAHAN: Okay. Yes, I just want to give a quick update.
We do still have the draft standards that we got from the
Advisory Committee. I just wanted to explain that.
Essentially, we're still going through the process of
reviewing that. We got the draft standards from the
Advisory Committee and we started to review it and decided
to go through all the steps we need to be doing to make sure
it's all ready to be actually adopted formally as a
regulation, and partly because if we have to make changes
to get it adopted, we wanted to bring that back to the
Committee with the changes already incorporated rather than
surprising you guys later.
And this process has turned out to be fairly time consuming
as we go through each step and stumble over things along the
way.
We're still working on making sure it complies with all rules
necessary to get it published in the State Register. That
includes multiple layers of review, checking for things like
identifying legal issues, constraints, necessary
clarifications, considering possible follow-on impacts of
the regulations as drafted and drafting additional
supporting documents necessary to continue this review
process.
We are actively moving forward with that and we're going to
try to get an adoptable version of the draft standards to
you when we can. But unfortunately, it's just taking more
time than we would have liked, especially with everyone
involved in this review process having divided attention due
to ongoing events. So that's where we are right now.
SPRAGUE: Thanks, Jim. And I'll pass it over to Wes. Any
comments?
JONES: I'm still frustrated by where we're at. I just wish
we could move this process along a little bit better. We
keep adding steps every few months or whatever. And I
understand, you know, this is new for everybody. And so it
seemed like a simple proposition and has turned into quite
the show.
So, I'm hoping that we can get these back at some point and

do what work that we need to clean them back up and get them back out and work on them. I was hoping that we might be able to do that simultaneously. You and I have had several discussions about that and been told that that's just not possible. So, we'll wait on that.

SPRAGUE: Yeah, we'll continue to work with this. I know when we had our in-person meeting, we left with a lot of anticipation and we had no idea that COVID was going to jump in the middle of this, for one thing. But the development process we're going through, I think, will streamline what we get on the back end, but unfortunately, it's taking some time.

So, we'll continue to work with you guys to keep you informed and try to move this as rapidly as we can which, in a legislative process is not a very speedy thing, unfortunately. But we thank you for what your committee's doing and your patience, basically. Any comments or questions?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Okay, very good.

JONES: One other thing on the 911 Advisory Committee. Another avenue that the committee was working on or it started working on was discussion in reference to training, education and things like that. As a result of COVID, one of the things that's happened is, is that the Communications Symposium will be held virtually, as we know.

But in addition to that, we ended up with more topics than we had time, which wasn't a bad thing, but what's come out of that is that we have some extra topics and we have some stuff that has appealed to a broader audience, not just directors and 911 directors and things like that but to frontline telecommunicators.

I know Brett has put together a program with OnStar that will be held virtually, I believe it's February 13th possibly, February. And I think that's step one towards getting some more education available to some of our frontline telecommunicators.

That's been an important aspect that our committee has wanted to pursue. There's a lot of fire training out there. There's a lot of law enforcement training. There's a lot of emergency management training. A lot of the 911 or PSAP-type training is ultimately done more at the local level, and we would like to see that expanded, take advantage of the Center in Oriskany and do some things that again have a broader appeal and can add to -- you know, it's an extension of the standards and a big piece of the standards was the education and training component. And we feel that that's important.

So right now, in the COVID world, you know, we're going to do it on a virtual side but, you know, it's afforded us that important to at least get that ball rolling a little bit and I hope that we can build and expand upon it.

SPRAGUE: Yeah, Wes, thanks for bringing that up. Because we have been -- and there's a number of things as we get further in the agenda that kind of touch on this. But we have been working with the 911 Coordinators Group to get the Symposium off the ground and everything is virtual now. It's kind of turned the whole training situation upside-down which, in some ways, is a really good thing.

But you guys gave us a lot of topics that, needless to say, we couldn't fit in the Symposium but we have listened to your input. We're going to try to put those into a broader picture. We're working through a number of steps, and I'll talk a little bit about that as we go.

But your input was very well received and I think that that's probably something that we can circle back with your committee, really, and dive into a little deeper. I'd ready like to work on that training aspect of this. I think it's something that's missing, seriously missing in the whole telecommunicator perspective.

Yes, so I'm glad you brought that up, because we can definitely engage your committee a lot deeper into this. I look forward to doing that.

JONES: Yeah, and I'm not suggesting there's no training. Obviously, there's things going on with the interoperable communications. There's still stuff at the Fire Academy for the actual basic, and the basic class and the supervisor class.

So there's certain things that are out there, but I think that there's training that's available that we can put together and, you know, host at Oriskany or Fire Academy or wherever the right venue is to get more, not just specialized or brand-new dispatchers or telecommunicators but, you know, the wide gamut of frontline telecommunicators who could benefit from some training outside of their own agency, particularly if it's something that their agency can't support themselves.

SPRAGUE: Yes, absolutely.

JONES: Something like the Denise Amber Lee program that's been hosted here in the state a couple times, but those have been group efforts from different counties who have chosen to bring them in and pay for the expensive cost of that, and that's good, but we can reach a much broader audience if we looked at it from a bigger perspective.

SPRAGUE: Yeah, agreed. Definitely agree. All right, well, very good. I think we'll move on to the next slide

and hit the NG 911 Working Group. Brett Chellis is under the weather today, so I'm going to be sitting in and trying to work through his slides for him. So, if you want to move to the next slide there.

So, a little bit on the NG 911 project update. We continue collecting technical data from NYSTEC on PSAPs for use in conceptual planning and the RFP development process.

I know that a lot of you have been responding to the data collection piece that NYSTEC's been working on and I appreciate everybody that's provided the information. We continue to reach out and refine that. There are some holes that we're still trying to fill.

We're continuing the dialogue with DHSES executives in review of the plan and we're working on providing timely answers to their questions and concerns. We're updating the draft plan as more information is obtained. We mentioned this before, the draft, the 911 plan, it's a living document. It's not going to just stop. As things change, as we learn more, as we come up with more things to flesh out the plan, it will continue to be updated as time goes on. So, that's kind of where that goes. Next slide.

The Working Group. Brett held an informational virtual meeting in the fall to update the Working Group on where we were and answer some questions. We're in the process of setting up regular meetings to resume with that group and we're giving more information and also providing or getting information from you guys to flesh that out.

We look forward to doing that. Now we're out from under the holidays and all of that, we'll generate that working group meeting. I want to have a fixed agenda and I want to have things on there that we're engaging you folks in doing. So that's one of the keys to bringing the Working Group back into the fold here. Next slide.

One of the things we're doing, the Symposium, we'll talk a little bit more about the Symposium coming up in March, but we're working directly with the 911 Coordinators to set the agenda, engage them and have this as a joint conference like we intended to do last year. Unfortunately, we ended up having to cancel that, but we are going to go down the road of a virtual conference and I'll talk a little bit more about that as we get deeper into it.

But, one of the days that we're going to be doing, we're going to have an NG 911 implementation presentation and we're going to have Joel McCamley. A lot of you know Joel, he's been working with us and he is basically on loan to us from CISA through the ICTAP program to help us work into the NG 911 implementation. Joel brings a tremendous nationwide perspective, because he has worked with and is currently

working with a lot of the states across the country in doing implementations, having gone through the RFP process and doing implementations and he brings a wealth of information that we can benefit from. That's one of the pieces to that. He's going to be doing an introduction and a review a little bit on NG 911. And then he's going to act as a panelist or as a moderator for a panel that's going to be a multistate NG 911 implementation panel. And in particular, it's going to be North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Indiana and California. And all are in various stages of implementation, all have done it a little differently and we can learn from what their process is to get there and some of the hurdles that they run into, roadblocks.

Obviously, North Carolina just hit a roadblock down the road here a little bit ago, because when the bombing happened in Nashville, it impacted North Carolina heavily. There's a lesson learned that we can pick up from there. So, we're looking forward to that presentation.

I think it's going to be a really good one for everybody and we're looking forward to working our way through that. If you want to hit the next slide.

Wes just talked about the presentation that we're talking about doing. We are going to set up a virtual training opportunity for 911-related topics. We're going to start with our first one on February 17th. And as Wes said, you know, there was a lot of topics that came up, but a lot of them are focused to 911.

We thought it would be good to start a series of webinars where we can do this. We can open it up to PSAP training staff, to anybody who is on a dispatch type basis that could benefit from this stuff and it wouldn't be just the managers. We can make it available in a wider audience and the intent is that everybody has to have the 21 minimum hours of continuing education. We'd like to make this available and it helps the 911 administrators find some of this training that we can bring in. Not everybody can come to a location when you host this training. By doing it virtually, we're hoping two things. One is they either have the time to attend it; or, secondly, we're going to record these things and make them available later. We've had a couple of questions about this. We're still working out the details of how we host that. But we can make them available later so people can pick them up.

When we do it, we're trying to make it so that people have to register so we'll have a record of who actually registered to take it, but it's back to the centers to basically document the folks that attended these things. But we have a whole list of topics that we've gone down. The first one is going

to be -- and you can jump to the next slide there Matt. The first one is going to be OnStar.

OnStar provides -- it sounds simple. OnStar, you just reach out to that and you get emergency assistance. But OnStar has a tremendous amount of capacity within their system to not only make the connections for 911 and how that information gets presented to the 911 center, but they also have the ability to reach out and actually shut the car down. There's a lot of different things that they have in their capability to do. And it has changed over the years.

Sherry LeVeque is going to be doing this from General Motors' OnStar and we look forward to doing this as the first one out of the gate. Again, we will record this and we're trying to figure out the best way at this point to make it available for folks after-the-fact, because we realize that people are on staff.

Brett is doing it after 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon because sometimes that shift change, maybe that helps, maybe that doesn't. We will take feedback as to whether that's a good time or a bad time or maybe it just doesn't matter.

We will skip March because of the Symposium going on and then we'll start back up in April doing these things, and we'd like to do them once a month. Again, we'll take feedback if it's helpful to do it during the summertime. But if we're recording it, maybe it doesn't matter. So that's pretty much Brett's report.

Any comments, questions?

GREENBERG: This is Ryan. If Brett wants to contact me, I might be able to have some options for hosting it in a centralized place where we can track who watches it and maybe help with that part as well.

SPRAGUE: That would be great. Okay, thank you. Any other comments or questions?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Very good. Thank you, folks. With that, we'll move on to CIWG and pass it over to Jay Kopstein.

KOPSTEIN: Good morning. And because of the plague, CIWG hasn't met. But with the Director's permission, I will do a SAFECOM report.

SPRAGUE: Sure.

KOPSTEIN: First, I've been elected as the Vice Chair of SAFECOM. If anybody has any issues that they want brought forward, please forward them through the Director's office.

CISA has regularly been putting out cyber alerts. If you haven't been getting them, please put your request in to the Director, we can have Joann forward them out.

On the Communications Section Task Force, the NIC (phonetic) hasn't been particularly cooperative in moving up towards

the communications branch.

We had a presentation by AT&T on FirstNet push-to-talk. AT&T did not disclaim peer to peer; they were kind of vague on it. The 4.9 gig issues came up again on state control. The National Governors Association had questions about state control.

Apparently, there have been a slew of vendors approaching governors for the use of 4.9.

Public Works directors have been requesting information on participating in interoperability.

There have been denial of service attacks on 911 PSAPs. Some of the PSAPs are now trying to use number screening and authenticity processes to try to stop the spoof numbers to the PSAPs. Some of those spoof numbers have come back to law firms and universities.

Similarly, there have been ransomware attacks on PSAPs. One of the ways they've gotten into some of the PSAPs is through the help desks, because some of the contracted help desks get in through remote access and they have been accessing that way.

There was one PSAP that had its backup system on the same major system as its primary system and they were both taken over by the ransomware.

One of the things that's being looked at is on CAD interoperability. There should be multiple firewalls both on the individual's CAD and on any third-party vendor CAD associates; their firewall needs assessment.

There's talk about what kind of cyber protection is going to be used within the 5G rollouts. I saw Chris Tuttle is on; he may want to comment on the expansion of the role of the regional coordinator.

Late onto the presentation, California stated that they are not looking to monetize 4.9 gigahertz.

The explosion in Nashville took down FirstNet for four to six hours, according to FirstNet or according to AT&T, specifically impacting for a long period of time Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky. Tennessee PSAP was down for three days and a hundred 911 centers experienced issues due to the explosion.

Iowa had the same issues due to the echo that was there. And California is now looking to implement regulations saying 72-hour tower backup power is insufficient.

As everybody's aware, the TA courses are being virtual now and they're adding one day to the virtual courses to try to get everything in.

There's a new form being looked at right now to go to public comment called an ICAR form and that will be used by ECD to capture COMU activity at events. That's what I've got.

Thank you.

Any questions, please forward them through the Director.

SPRAGUE: Thank you, Jay, and congratulations on your vice chairmanship.

And since you brought Chris Tuttle up and his changing role, Chris, anything you want to add to that?

TUTTLE: The stakeholders should not see any difference from me. We continue to be heavily engaged with all of you, especially OIEC and the CISA offerings. For those of you that don't know, I'm still covering Region 1 as well as the New England states and I've been advocating as well as Mike and the other SWICs in the northeast that we do things on a regional basis.

So, as we have technical assistance opportunities that present themselves and open seats, we will pass them along or I will pass them along to the surrounding states. As an example, Connecticut has an upcoming AUXCOMM class that's virtual and half of that class is filled by New York stakeholders.

I'll continue to make sure we do things collectively and together and there's awareness amongst all the states. Because as we know, anything that affects one of our states in the northeast affects all of us, for the most part.

Other than that, I continue to look forward to a positive and productive 2021 with all of you.

SPRAGUE: Thanks, Chris. Any questions for Jay or Chris?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: All right. I'd just like to follow up on one of the things that Jay talked about. We have had some instances of damages to tower sites in New York State and I highly suggest/recommend that anybody who's running a communications system to kind of double-down on your security. If you have an alarm system, be sure to pay attention to it. That alarm may actually be trying to tell you something.

I know it's always an issue; you get false alarms and everybody kind of gets kind of accustomed to that. But in this day and age, people are actually out there trying to damage your communications stuff. Keep track of it. If somebody has an issue that pops up, please report that to NYSIC. We are trying to track that.

As evidenced with what went on in Nashville, there are people out there trying to do bad things to our communications and you just never know if you might be the guy that gets hit. I just want to put that in everybody's mindset. We are definitely trying to make sure the NYSIC hears every bit of it.

With that, I'm going to move on to and let Mark add his

Communications Unit information onto the CIWG.
Mark, you've got the floor.
BALISTRERI: Good morning, everyone. Happy day after Groundhog Day. Six more weeks of winter, which is what we need anyway. So, go ahead and go to the next slide.
We talked a little bit about the TA and if Chris wants to expand, jump in, Chris. Go to the next slide.
Our plan for 2021 is to put in requests for these courses. As you know, with COVID shutting us down for about a year, we lost a lot of our courses that we had due to COVID. We basically postponed them, but we're looking at restarting the program.
I don't have a date, but I'm hoping it's going to be within the next couple months, maybe by springtime, I hope. And these are the courses we're going to put in for, for our five TA requests. Go ahead and go to the next.
As you guys know also, we can teach COML and COMT. We found that probably the most valuable position out there has been COMT, and that's due to the technical nature of the position itself, working with the state equipment. And I think I'm going to touch on how valuable it's been during COVID for us later on. But since we can teach both these courses, we're going to probably do multiple COMT courses once we start back up and try and build our base of COMTs across the state. Next slide, please.
We've also requested assistance in creating a NYSTICFOG Smart application for your Android and iPhones.
This will be a good companion with the electronic NIFOG that you probably already have on your Android and iPhone, and this will give you both of them right at your fingertips. Next slide, please.
We'll dive into the Communications Unit a little bit, just to give you some updates. As I start all the time, I like to just continue with the fact that, reiterate what COMU is. These are the seven positions in COMU. Next slide.
This is what it looks like. We drew in the ITSL, but basically, this is what the COMU looks like today. Next slide.
In '18, we began to build a better, more efficient program, as everybody knows, and we started with a five-year plan. The next charts are going to show you the program over the last two years and how COVID affected it. Next slide.
This was our credentialed personnel statewide. As you can see in '18, we started with COML and then we went into the instructor phase, and COMT; some COMTs, some COMT instructors, AUXCOMM in 2019. And then we started to do more COMT in the other courses and then COVID hit. Next slide, please.

So, in 2020, what was postponed, basically, was 160 students, opportunities for folks across these different positions. We're just going to pick this plan up and start it back up in 2021. We're also going to work on some more exercise workshops. There are some good opportunities out there. We'd like to do at least one a year and possibly do the train-the-trainer type exercise workshop as well. Next slide, please.

We were able to utilize our credentialed COMU personnel during COVID, which was very, very valuable. It allowed our personnel in OIEC to set up the equipment and then our COMU folks were able to monitor and maintain that equipment freeing up our personnel to move to other assignments. Next slide.

We also were able to rely on the regional communications assets out there, the caches, et cetera, and this allowed us to avoid having to purchase additional communication equipment from the vendors or get anything from the federal government. Next slide.

We're currently exploring and have created a hybrid course for COMT. The only problem is, and I'm just saying that lightly, you want the three days in person, you want the hands-on stuff for the COMTs. It's very hard to do the hands-on virtually. I think it's easier probably to do a COML course completely virtual, but COMT, you definitely need the hands-on.

The course we developed is two days virtual and three days in person. And depending on how we start back and how that process works, we may start back with something like that. Next slide, please.

Again, we do have 12 COML instructors and 8 COMT instructors, which allows us to teach those two courses. Next slide.

We partnered with the SPTC; this provided a good centralized location for us for folks. Obviously, it's closed down right now. But it was an extremely helpful and useful area and tool for us to have for our COMU program.

In 2021, there is a new training portal that's getting rolled out, it's called ACADIS. I believe they're looking at some time in March. There's a lot more coming with that and I don't want to get too far into it. There's just more to come in the future on ACADIS. Next slide.

We still also will review a request for courses once we start back up if we want to do it regionally and try to accommodate as much as we can. Obviously, it's a big state and we want to offer the opportunities for all the folks across the state. And we are currently looking at the possibility of using the Fire Training Academy in Montour Falls to hold some courses as well. So that gives us two locations, SPTC,

Montour Falls and then if we look at some regional stuff, we'll fill in with that as well. Next slide.
Any questions?
(No audible response.)
BALISTRERI: Thank you.
SPRAGUE: Thanks, Mark. Just a couple comments, and it goes back a little bit to what Wes had mentioned. You know, the incident communications center manager and the incident tactical dispatcher are two courses that we definitely want to get into the loop. We're really looking at offering those classes as well. We had them on the schedule and then they got postponed. But again, we're looking at both SPTC and the Fire Academy.
We have been increasing the communications capability at both centers. And part of that is to provide better resources to be able to use for training for any kind of operation out there whether it's some sort of a SWAT operation or if it's communications training, exercise, design, any of that kind of stuff. We're looking at trying to upgrade that to provide more communications, more hands-on communications training at those locations.
I know Mark is really focused on getting some of that done as well. And I don't want to let it pass by, you know, we've been able to utilize a lot of the COMU resources, the COMTs and the counties have really stepped up to help us out in some of the locations where we needed portable radios. And that helped, that worked all through the testing process. But as we've moved into vaccinations, it's also helped us out in the vaccination process. We have a number of counties that have stepped up and helped us with personnel and portable radios communications capability from one end of the state to the other. So, thanks to those guys.
The COMU training really has pulled a lot of people together and it really is doing a tremendous thing. We're looking at some exercises and this is a resource that we will be pulling into different exercises as we move forward.
Any questions for Mark or myself?
TUTTLE: Director, just really quickly.
SPRAGUE: Sure.
TUTTLE: To everything that Mark said and as I spoke about, the advent of these virtual courses and the regional concept, if stakeholders, counties, cities, agencies, et cetera, have personnel that are interested in any COMU classes, even if you're not sure when it would be, just provide that information to Mark so he has a running list of folks. Because as I said, I will be getting notifications from, for example, Maine for an INTD class and we might have a short turnaround to get names in. So, it's going to help Mark

expedite the process to get the proper people into these classes for the State of New York.

SPRAGUE: Yeah, thanks, Chris. We are looking much more, especially with virtual, we can look much more globally and you can participate in a class with people from some other region totally. And I think the learning experience becomes that much better.

With that, any other questions, comments?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Very good. Let's move on to Public Safety Broadband User Group. Matt Delaney, our host, you're up.

DELANEY: Thank you very much. You know, it's funny, I was just thinking the other day, it's been four years, it'll be four years this March since the FirstNet contract was signed and we're, what? It'll be about eight and a half, nine years since the FirstNet was created in legislation, the idea of FirstNet.

So, here's the build update. This is from AT&T dated November 30th, 2020. It's relatively recent.

In terms of Band 14 coverage in New York, the percent of planned FOCs, so this is planned five-year coverage, that's currently in place, in terms of what's categorized as nonrural square miles, a hundred percent of what they had contractually obligated themselves to build has been built in New York and covered. It doesn't mean they're stopping, but that's what they were contractually obligated to do. And 97.2 percent of the rural square miles that were obligated to be covered by Band 14 have been covered.

In terms of new sites when the state opted in, one of the commitments made during the opt-in was that there would be a hundred new sites specifically targeted to where public safety and government wanted sites in terms of types of areas. So as of November 30th, 35 of those sites are on the air; 17 sites have completed construction; 10 are under construction; 15 have completed the site acquisition; and 23 have their preferred location identified, which means they're in sort of the site acquisition process.

In addition to those 100 sites that were dedicated as to the opt-in program and for public safety needs, there were 260 commercial sites that were to be built in the same time period. Of those, 146 are on the air. And just as a reminder, whether a site is commercial or a site is specifically built under the FirstNet program, it's available to all users, FirstNet users have priority and preemption, whether it was built as a commercial site or built as a public safety site.

The new Band 14 sites are also commercial sites, so the public can use them as well.

In addition, 250 sites were committed to have backup power added to them that did not. Many of the sites did, but there were 250 sites committed to have backup power added to them and as of November 30th, 23.2 percent of those have been added.

A couple of updates FirstNet's planning to do in the near future, and I want to particularly point out the FirstNet high powered user equipment, the HPUE, Band 14, the FCC allows Band 14 devices to transmit up to 1.25 watts, which is higher than the 250 or 300 milliwatts that traditional cellular devices can transmit on.

When devices are operating on Band 14 that are capable of higher transmit power, they can usually carry a cell site further, longer range, and at higher upload speeds, because they have more power. And in the cellular world, the higher the transmit power up to a point, the higher the speeds that you can see.

So, this is a great benefit that we're going to hopefully test here shortly in New York. There are two products that have just recently become available and this is now becoming available for purchase. So, we're hoping to test this out shortly, both in terms of extended range in areas that may be challenged for coverage and also in terms of throughput side by side compared to a non-HPUE device.

Another option or another topic that we have is webinars. OIEC has been working with AT&T FirstNet to develop a series of virtual sessions to share more information on FirstNet. I think many of you have joined one or more of them over the last few months. We held it September, October, November and December.

Previous topics included the GNOC, which is the Global Network Operations Center security, the HPUE, FirstNet deployables and others. And more details will be coming at future sessions. That's all, Director

SPRAGUE: Very good. Any questions for Matt?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: As you can see, there's been a lot of movement on their tower sites. It's pretty interesting to see a contrast of a map of where they were and where they are now and what's on the board to move forward. It's been very encouraging to watch that development. So, very good.

Moving on to State Agency Communications Working Group. There's been a tremendous amount of activity going on, on the state side, with lots of other things, vaccinations, COVID, all that kind of stuff. I think everybody in the State Agency Working Group is working on other projects other than sometimes our main focus.

So, there really hasn't been a chance to pull that meeting

together. But I will be pulling one together in the near future here. Next slide.

Channel Naming and Use Working Group. Matt, you're up again.

DELANEY: Thank you. I'll talk here a little bit about continued use of IO channels, interoperability channels. They continue to be used in support of COVID-19. The test sites, which now have been using some of these channels since mid to late March of last year, we're coming up on almost a year, still using the channels they were assigned in the spring and summer. These were primarily 7TAC and UTAC assignments.

They're being used on-site for coordination, vehicle coordination, especially in drive through where you have a lot of vehicle traffic, much larger spread-out operation. The state supported vaccine sites are using a standard channel plan based on the 7MED channels. Those are 700 MHz interoperability channels. It's called 7MED, there's four of those, and they've been assigned through a standard channel plan at the state vaccine sites.

In addition, a number of local deployed vaccine sites are using interoperability channels. To date, everything in New York that's being used, either test sites or vaccine sites, are using simplex. There's no reason to tie up wide area resources for a very small area. Most of these sites are a few hundred feet, maybe a thousand feet in diameter, all within range of simplex operation. So, there's no reason to tie up those wide area resources. And because it's simplex and 700 MHz, a lot of times, the channel reuse, within a couple miles, you can use the channels again.

We continue to have an open line of coordination with the neighboring states in the northeast. We've been doing this since the spring. We continue to track the IO channel use across each region of the country.

When notifications are made, State of Connecticut Listserv for interoperability channel activations, we track that on a spreadsheet and map that as well as needed so that everyone can see a picture of what's in use in the region.

We did see an increase in activity in the early to mid-January time frame with activities that were occurring in the country. Most of those channels have been deactivated, but the ones related to COVID test sites and COVID vaccine sites are still in operation.

So, here's an example of the map that we generate. This has been dithered, so these locations are not the actual locations. They've been moved slightly. And the channel names have been scrubbed down, so this is not a public safety sensitive map.

This is just an example of what we do track. But as you can see, we do track the locations that are in use, we track channels that are in use at each location. This is a GIS map created from our spreadsheet. So, we track where they're being used across the northeast states; in this particular case, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania.

And this allows easily to see on a map, are you going to have a conflict? We created a separate one that zoomed in on the New York Metropolitan area due to the number of channels that are activated in New York City and Long Island and New Jersey. You can see very easily a visual representation of what channel and where it's being used so you'll know if you're going to have a conflict or not; or if you need to activate a wide area channel, you'll see if it's being used in simplex within that smaller area.

Any questions? That's all I have.

SPRAGUE: Matt, if you could back up to that slide.

DELANEY: Sure.

SPRAGUE: It's kind of interesting. One of the things that is hitting the thought process at this point is that these sites, especially these testing sites, have been operational for almost a year. We're taking a long hard look at that because, you know, a lot of those cache portables had intermittent use. Now, they've been used for almost a year straight and probably some hard use. We're starting to look at some maintenance issues, some cycle-out, that kind of thing. It's one of the things that's in consideration.

The other part of this is that it has really fostered a lot of coordination among the states in this whole region. This has become a normal process over the last year now and, I guess, being looked at from a couple of different perspectives. Obviously, we're crossing two regions here. Even though Chris Tuttle is responsible for both regions, it does cross region boundaries, plus state boundaries. And I think there's other places in the country that are kind of looking at what we're doing.

Chris, anything you want to add to that? I know I'm throwing you under the bus.

TUTTLE: No, it's a great point. We continue to be a best practice for the nation. As we all know, RF knows no boundaries, so we're not stopped at state lines. We've had a lot of lessons learned over the last several years from interference issues and some hard work done by the stakeholder community, specifically Matt and Larissa. Can't thank you guys enough for the hard work you've done. And the coordination piece with the different use of spectrum for interoperability, OIEC has basically taken the lead for

the northeast on this. So the SWICs of the bordering states provide which channels they're utilizing, when they're using them and what they're being used for, for this long-term operation, and Matt and Larissa do track them and it provides a really good lay-down of what's available and what's not. And just as an example, as we've now transitioned or are transitioning, in some cases, from testing to vaccination sites, New Jersey this past week has now five mega sites and five mobile sites; they have also added statecom channel, which is an internal state talk group for the fixed sites. But they did a mission assignment, a federal mission assignment, for 300 cache radios from the National Interagency Fire Center out in Idaho, and this is a first for the East Coast. We haven't done this as far as we know in over 20 years.

It's something that's not normal. It's something that's different, but we're utilizing the long-term events, if you will, to kind of tease out some other details that might be able to support other emergency operations and supports the state.

So, you know, that package will be on VTAC. I just saw we are using UTAC today in Massachusetts. So, there's a lot of use of these channels and without the strong work by Matt and Larissa tracking these and keeping them up-to-date, it would be an absolute train wreck of RF in the region. So, thank you, Mike, and your staff for taking a lead on this.

SPRAGUE: Thanks, Chris, and that's interesting. Chris knows we actually looked at the possibility of utilizing the cache radios. That turned out to be a lot harder than it sounds. There was a lot of questions, there was a lot of issues, programming, a number of things that popped up to look at that.

And honestly, thanks to our COMU groups, our partnerships out there, it saved us from having to do that. That is no small lift, by any means. You're pulling it out of the wildfire cache from out west. And when we first started talking about it, they were like you want to do what?

So, it was interesting. Thankfully, we didn't have to do it, but it's interesting that New Jersey is. I'll be very interested to see how that all plays out, because there's quite a logistics process that goes into that thing. Thanks, Chris.

Any comments, questions?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: All right. Let's move on to the next slide. Citizen Alerting Committee. A couple things have changed here. As everybody knows -- you can move on to the next slide -- last summer, well, actually it was even before that,

FEMA and the IPAWS group has required mandatory testing. So, they are giving us a map that we get periodically that comes around to show what the status of testing is. The gray is people that are not; they don't have their COG in place or whatever the case may be, and they're currently not testing. If you have a COG in place and you are testing on a monthly basis, you're green. If you missed a month or so, you're in the yellow. So that's the main part of it. What always boggles my mind is if you look at what is typically known as a place called Tornado Alley, which you would think would be depending on IPAWS for everything, it is blank. So, kudos to all our counties and all of our groups in the state that are actively participating in this program. It's still a mind-boggling thing. So, I'd like to give you a status of how this is going. If you go to the next slide, Matt.

This gives you the monthly proficiency that's been done for New York through September, October, November, December. So, it's just kind of follow it to see how things go. Actually, this is a nationwide one. With that, the committee itself hasn't met. Obviously, there's lots of other things on the agenda and it's been very difficult to try to get a group together, but we will continue to move it.

This gives you a status update of what's going on in the IPAWS world. They periodically send out monthly newsletters. There hasn't been one since we had our last meeting, but I'll provide those as we move along. Any questions?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Very good. We'll move on to the next slide there. Larissa, you're up with the PSAP, SICG and Targeted Grant update.

GUEDKO: Thank you, Mike. Next slide, please.

As always, I'm going to give you a quick update on all the spending that we have in the state. And as you can see, there is improvement and the counties do spend money even during all this hardship that COVID has brought us, the spending has increased. Next slide, please.

The same goes for the PSAP grant. There's one note for the 2019 and '20 PSAP Operations grant, since COVID has begun, some of the PSAPs have limited access to the facility. So hence, vendors had difficulty completing projects and installing equipment.

Therefore, we are accepting requests for extensions even though it was supposed to be one grant, but this year, just it was super difficult for everyone and we are extending on the as needed basis.

So, if you have a project on the PSAP Operations grant that

you still have not completed, we will consider the extension
and we already have done it for several counties. Next
slide, please.
Targeted grants. There is some spending increase on the
Targeted grant side. A lot of those counties that have
received their awards, they are still right now in the
project development status. There are some very small
projects going on at this point. But we are anticipating
the increase in that. Next slide, please.
So, as of right now, we have prepared RFA. We know that we
have not posted any RFAs in 2020. However, we are prepared
to do so as soon as we are given direction that we can. The
total spending has not changed at this point; it's still at
$538 million. However, one reminder: Please submit your
expenses for reimbursement. This is very important.
Our grant unit is working diligently with the Budget office
and Comptroller's office to make sure that all those expenses
eligible for reimbursement are being reimbursed. On
another note, again, due to the difficulty COVID brought us,
we're also extending not just the PSAP grants that I have
mentioned but also the SICG grants. Right now, there are
just a couple counties that are still trying to complete
Round 4 grants and we have received multiple, multiple
extensions for the other grants. Next slide, please.
So also, on a good note, DOB recently approved $1.9 million
in vouchers for various years of SICG grants and PSAP grants
and they are ready to be reimbursed. Our grant unit is
working with counties on reimbursement process. The 1.9
million grant came after I developed slide and calculated
all the numbers being reimbursed, hence, it was not included
in totals that you saw on the previous slides. This is going
to be reported, and hopefully a little more, during the next
board meeting. Next slide, please.
So, this is what we had so far when I was developing the
slides. We had three PSAP extensions, one extension for the
Round 4 SICG, four extensions for 2016 SICG, 20 for 2017,
31 for 2018, and 2019 is still in the grant performance
period, so right now, extensions are not necessary. But
please keep in mind if you can't complete a project in time,
please contact your grant rep and request an extension.
On another note, again, since I developed those slides, we
have received close to 20 additional extension requests on
the various grants, SICG, PSAP and so forth. And so far,
99.9 percent of those requests have related to COVID-19
difficulties. We see a lot of manufacturing delays and
deliveries. Since equipment is not delivered, counties
cannot complete the project. And we're working with Budget
and Comptroller's office to make sure that they understand

all those difficulties. And so far, they did not deny a single extension. They all have been granted, because there is enough reasonable information provided for each extension request. Next slide, please.

Next slide, please.

And that would be the end of the report. Any questions?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: If you back up that slide there for a second, Matt. I want to thank Larissa and Eric Abramson, Nicole Erickson, Ryan Lamothe and their entire team over there that's been keeping up with getting all of the requests for funding that has been spent and also working through all of these grant extensions.

As you can see, there's a lot of effort going on to stay on top of this while we've been in this limbo period that's been created by COVID. It's been a difficult financial time. There's been a lot of effort and a lot of work that's gone on behind the scenes to make sure we keep up with this.

And we said initially going into this, one, we wanted to make sure that you got any money that you had already expended, that we got you paid for that; and secondly, keep us posted, because we knew that this situation was going to create issues where we had to come up with extensions.

The team has been working fantastic to keep up with all of the demand that's going on here. On the flip side of this, some good news is that late Monday night, we got word that we can start to move our grant process forward.

We're really looking to get things back into motion. And to that extent, the PSAP RFA actually just got posted on the website this morning and notice will be going out that it's available and then you can start to work on it.

So, PSAP is going to be our number one and we have got that out the door or ready to go out the door so we can get you guys to apply and then we can start to get that processed. Look forward to more coming along in the grants process as we go here, but it's been a long hiatus here that we've had to be patient and get through.

And I appreciate everybody's patience as we've been going through this process. There's been rumors out there it was going to be discontinued, all kinds of things. I'm happy to say that we are moving the process forward and we'll be getting you more information as time goes on.

But just having that posted today is a big ray of sunshine. It will get you some of that funding. And also, because we're starting it late, we know that we'll have to be cognizant of extensions to go along with it. So with that, any questions for Larissa or myself or even the grants team? I know they're on in the gallery.

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Okay, very good. Thanks, everybody. Let's move on to new business. And with new business, the next slide, we have a couple things: The Annual Report and the 2021 Symposium.

The Annual Report is due every year. It's supposed to be out by, I believe, April 1st. We are in the process of putting that together and we'll assemble it, share it with you guys as we get it close to finalization. And it's just one of those things that we do every year, so I just wanted to give you a heads up on that.

And on the 2021 Symposium, the next slide. One of the things we wanted to do is we wanted to make sure -- we went with no Symposium last year. That was noticed by everybody. Everybody missed it. Everybody's commented that they really miss the interaction and the activities that went along with it.

Unfortunately, with things the way they are, we've had to commit to a virtual Symposium. However, that gets everybody together. We'll have an opportunity for conversations and that sort of thing. In order to be able to cover what we'd like to do, we tried to run it basically over a three-week period and these are the dates that we have selected. You should have already received a "hold the dates" and we've got an agenda coming out, draft agenda coming out shortly. But you're looking at March 16th, March 18th, the 22nd, the 24th, the 30th and April 1st.

And what we tried to do is run it for half-day sessions. We know nobody's going to be able to sit there through the whole thing. Matt, if you want to jump to the next slide.

So, we're doing it over six half-day sessions over six days. The registration and draft agenda is out there. We're working on getting it to you. We want you to register for it. We're doing it again in cooperation with New York State 911 Coordinators Association.

Last year was going to be the first hosting it as a joint group and, unfortunately, you know, we had a great agenda, we were all set to go and we ended up having to pull the plug, because COVID took over.

We're going to use Webex meetings and we're going to do an operations center approach here in the office to run the Webex. We want to make sure that the Webex comes off very smoothly. You know, all of us have been on Webexes that worked and some of them that didn't. One of the things we're going to try to do is -- you know, Matt is getting to be an absolute expert at running Webex. So, he'll be kind of our flight controller. And we're going to have a couple other people to monitor chat and to move the slides and kind of

keep things organized. So that as you come in, we can
keep -- you know, if somebody decides to put us on hold and
put elevator music or drives into an area where all we get
is static, we can drop them immediately, it doesn't tear up
the Webex and we can keep the process under control. So,
we're working on a process to do that.
We're also going to use Webex Meetings to record it all and
we understand that there's a way to go in and edit it so that
we can take out stuff that doesn't need to be there and we
can make it available for people to view after-the-fact.
It's still a lot of planning, it's still a lot of effort.
Even though we're not doing lodging and meals and all that
kind of stuff, there's still quite a bit, as everybody knows,
to putting together a really good Webex Meetings approach.
So, we are continuing to work on that and we're going to try
some interesting things. If you want to go to the next
slide, Matt.
Some of the topics that we've already got in place, thanks
to Chris Tuttle, he is working up a panel that's going to
talk to us about the Nashville bombing. We're going to be
doing planning, training and exercises.
We had that program on the agenda last year for looking at
how other states do their exercises, what resources are
available and then we did that -- as Mark mentioned earlier,
we did an exercise design workshop and the idea was to follow
that up with this presentation last year. We're going to
bring that back into the fold here and talk about exercise
design with the idea of trying to get a full-scale state
exercise somewhere down the road. Everybody knows about,
has heard us talk about the Librarian project. We're going
to highlight that. That has really come a long way and is
maturing in what it is and what it can help us do.
The MTA has launched officially their radio project and we're
going to get an update on how the implementation is going.
Cyber security, obviously, is a big thing for everybody, and
we're going to have a presentation about that. In
particular there has been interesting things about denial
of service for 911 centers; we're going to highlight that.
Tropical Storm Isaias and the outages, some of you have lived
through that. We're going to bring in a few of you to help
us with that presentation. Obviously, the COMU program that
we have, Mark will be talking more about the implementation
of that, when we're going to do it, how things are going to
be done, that kind of stuff. The interoperability during
COVID, you know, we talked a little bit about that already
in this program, but we'll lay it out in a little more detail.
And we're also going to have some of the SWICs from the other
states be part of that conversation.

NG 911 implementation is going to be highlighted. We talked about that a little bit. And the New York State 911 Coordinators Association will have their meeting during this. We are going to support that as part of our sessions so that they can have their association meeting and have an open discussion on how that goes. So we've got a lot of stuff we're cramming in there and that's why we said we came up with a lot of topics that we couldn't put in here and we're trying to find other ways to do that through the web programs that we're going to do and other things.

Any comments, questions about the Symposium?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: We're really looking forward to moving that program forward. We've already talked with the hotel and if COVID is a thing of the past in 2022, we still have our standing reservations for the hotel in Niagara Falls that everybody was so looking forward to last year. We're keeping that. Although logistics was figured out, we just have to dust it off and start over again. So that is on the drawing board going forward for 2022 and let's hope we can do that.

With that, I'm going to open up to the floor on new business. Anybody got anything they want to bring up in regards to new business or good of the order?

TERRY: This is Bob Terry. Yes, I would.

SPRAGUE: Yes, Bob.

TERRY: I wanted to ask a question about where you guys and the Department, OIEC, is taking the 4.9 gigahertz proposed rulemaking changes.

SPRAGUE: That's a really good topic, Bob. We have been able to file some comments. They went in a shade late, but it looks like the FCC used them. They came up in a mission critical article here recently. We are of the opinion that it needs to be reserved for public safety operations, first and foremost. And we're not in favor of it being given over to some other group to manage it.

We think that it needs to be done by somebody who is familiar with public safety and that type of thing for the idea of, one, that they would give it to somebody else and the other idea is that they could give it to somebody externally, you know, we're definitely against. So that was part of what we put there.

Jim Callahan, if you want, or Matt, if you want to elaborate a little further, you guys drafted the remarks.

DELANEY: Yes, this is Matt. I'll just say that, you know, we'll have to see -- I totally agree with what Mike said. And we'll have to see a little bit going forward, too, whether the FCC moves forward on actually implementing these

changes.

You know, the FCC is changing -- with the changing administration, the leadership at the FCC changes. There are a couple of petitions for reconsideration that were filed by national organizations. I don't believe the FCC has acted on those one way or the other yet. So, it will be interesting to see as well as some of it may end up getting put aside. We'll have to see.

I don't know, Jim, if you have any comments.

CALLAHAN: I can only agree with Mike and Matt here. We are close to monitoring what the FCC is doing on this and they have the opportunity to change direction on this and we just need to wait and see, particularly with the petitions for reconsideration, which have not yet been published to the Federal Register. Once we do see that, we might see a bit more motion in where the FCC wants to take this in the future.

TERRY: I see that we could be behind the eight ball. Do you think that issue with New York State and the deferment of the 911 funds is going to go away with the new administration?

CALLAHAN: It's hard to say. Part of it is these are two different topics and we're hoping the FCC will recognize it as such, but for now, we're not sure.

SPRAGUE: Yeah, and it gets a little more complicated, because they now are having another Notice of Proposed Rulemaking coming up on the whole 911 stuff. So how that may impact things, we don't know. But you know, our primary goal is to look at it from the technical perspective and you guys have a big stake in 4.9 in the Onondaga region in particular. So you know, having somebody come in and carte blanche, you know, give that away or use it for other resources, we have the same issue because we can move around the state and set up links and not have to be worried about somebody else transmitting over the top of us. There's some real concerns there.

TERRY: Thank you.

SPRAGUE: Any other comments or good for the order?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Very good. I want to thank everybody for tuning in this morning for this call. We've got a lot of things going on and some of the things are restarting.

You know, we're still dealing with everything having to be remote and how we do our business, so it really makes it interesting. But I appreciate everybody's willingness to jump on this platform and to work with us. We're getting a little better at it. You know, Matt is becoming the consummate professional and I really want to thank him for his ability to make this all work seamlessly.

We know that that's not always the simplest task. I think every one of us has tried to run a Webex at some point and had it go seriously wrong. So again, thanks to Matt for doing what he's doing and for the team for pulling together to pull this off.
With that, I'll move for adjournment.
TRIPP: So moved.
TERRY: Second.
SPRAGUE: Any discussion?
(No audible response.)
SPRAGUE: All those in favor.
(Affirmative responses.)
SPRAGUE: Anybody opposed, you're welcome to stay on the Webex. Thank you, everybody.

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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.

<u>Theresa L. Ardia</u>
Theresa L. Ardia, CSR, CRR, RPR, RMR

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