

STATE INTEROPERABLE & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 5, 2021

SPRAGUE: Good morning, everybody. I have 10:02, my time. I see a few more people have joined the meeting, so I think what we'll do is go ahead and start. I'd like to welcome everybody to the State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board meeting.

My name is Mike Sprague. I'm the director and also your Chair and I'm pleased to have everybody on board. The good part, I guess, in the long run is that we are slowly moving, I think, in the right direction.

You'll notice that probably less masks, everybody is getting their vaccinations and we're starting to get a little bit towards normality. I think we're headed in the right direction and I'm very hopeful for how things can move forward even with the Board, and I'll talk about that as we go.

We are having a virtual meeting because of all the issues with COVID and everything that's going on, but I think our next one, we might be able to change that up a little bit. So there's a couple things I just want to review before we start into the process.

This is a virtual board meeting and the Webex is set up with two different categories of participants. We've got the members of the Board and then we have the general attendees that wish to attend. There are separate links for both. The members should join with video and have the ability to mute and unmute themselves.

So if you are on as a Board member, please use your video. It is an important part of the meeting. During the roll call, members should speak their name and their location before acknowledging they're here. What that does is any time you do a comment or a vote, if you speak your name and location, your name first, that allows the video to select you up so we can see who's talking. I would appreciate it if you could remember to do that.

For all votes and discussions, please state your name before you comment and participants that wish to speak can raise their hand and indicate the nature of the comment in the chat and the Chair must recognize you before you're unmuted. So Matt Delaney is our master of ceremonies running the WebEx today and he will handle anything that comes in on the chats

and any need to uplift anybody into the presenter status or Board status. So with that, we will start to move forward with the meeting and we will go to roll call.

Joann.

WAIDELICH: Good morning, everyone.

Board Members Present:

Michael Sprague
Larissa Guedko
Chuck White
David Kislowski
Brian LaFlure
Bob Terry
Brendan Casey
Michael Volk
Allen Turner
Anthony Tripp
Juan Figueroa

Board Members Absent:

Brett Chellis
Timothy Morris
Richard Anderson
Brian Gifford
Todd Murray
Kimberly Beatty
Ryan Greenberg

GUESTS:

James Callahan
Joann Waidelich
Mark Balistreri
Matthew Delaney
Richard Tantalo

SPRAGUE: Very good. Thanks, Joann, and thanks, everybody, for joining on this wonderful kind of gloomy day in May. So the next thing I'd like to do is have approval of the minutes from the February 3rd meeting. Do I have a motion for approval?

TURNER: Allen Turner. I make a motion.

SPRAGUE: Thank you, Allen. Do I have a second?

CASEY: Brendan Casey. Second.

SPRAGUE: Thank you, Brendan. Any discussion? Changes? Edits?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Very good. I'll take an acclamation of approval. All those in favor?

(Affirmative responses.)

SPRAGUE: Anyone against?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Hearing nothing, all approved. Thank you. Approval of the agenda. You should have all received a copy of the agenda in your packets by e-mail. Do I have a motion to approve the agenda as submitted?

TRIPP: I'll make that motion. Anthony Tripp.

SPRAGUE: Thank you, Anthony. Do I have a second?

LAFLURE: Brian LaFlure. Second.

SPRAGUE: Brian LaFlure gets second. Thank you, sir. Any suggestions, discussions, changes to the minutes -- or the agenda?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Hearing none, all those in favor?

(Affirmative responses.)

SPRAGUE: Anyone opposed?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Very good. We'll move down the agenda. So the next thing on the line is SIEC Board membership. You may have noticed when we went through the roll call, there were a couple of new names. I'd like to welcome a couple of new people. First, Sheriff Juan Figueroa from Ulster County.

Sheriff, would you like to introduce yourself to the group?

FIGUEROA: Good morning, everyone, and thanks for having me. I'm retired from the New York State Police. I've got 25 years. I got elected in 2018 and I'm starting my third year as sheriff. I'm also a retired marine. Interoperability is something that's extremely important after I saw what happened, believe it or not, 20 years ago. And I'm glad to be on the Board. Thank you.

SPRAGUE: Welcome, sir. Glad to have you. And Brendan Casey, emergency manager from Orange County. Brendan, would you like to introduce yourself?

CASEY: Sure, thank you. I'm the commissioner of emergency services for Orange County. In that capacity, I oversee five divisions: 911, Emergency Management, Office of the Fire Coordinator, Office of the EMS Coordinator and Police Services. Prior to that, I was with the New York State Police for 30 years, retired as a captain zone commander out of Troop F Zone 2.

I see Juan smiling. You were looking for a state police representative before. I was like, well, me, Juan, we'll handle that end of it for you.

But we just built out our new radio system here. It's fantastic. We're really happy with it. It's the same that Rockland County has. We are tied in with Rockland and the

MTA. And it was a long haul. It was a little over 30 million dollars to get it completed, full rollout, all brand-new radios for all police, fire and EMS. It's fully operational right now and everybody appears to be very happy with it.

SPRAGUE: Very good. Thank you and welcome to the Board. We're happy to have you.

One of the other things I'd like to entertain is some thanks to Richard Tantalo. I know, Richard, you're on today, and one of the things that we have sent to him is a Certificate of Appreciation. He's been on the Board for some time and was a very loyal participant. You were here for all the meetings. Richard, thank you for your service to the Board.

TANTALO: Well, Mike, thank you very much and I want to thank the entire Board for that Certificate of Appreciation. The timing was exceptional; it came yesterday in the mail. But after a lengthy career in law enforcement, although not with the State Police, I retired and, ironically enough, took a job with Monroe County as the Department of Public Safety Director.

And I will just say that the information that was shared by all the Board members in the various projects that this organization has been involved in over the last few years and my association with it has really helped me in my new position as we oversee emergency management communications and a whole host of other public safety related duties. I wish all the best to the new members and congratulations on your appointment. And I certainly want to thank all of those members who have supported this project, your mission and critical infrastructure that has helped all of public safety throughout the State of New York. So all the best, everybody, and thank you very much.

SPRAGUE: Thank you, sir, and a copy of your certificate is on the next slide. There, you go.

TANTALO: Thank you.

SPRAGUE: You'll note that I had on the bottom of the previous slide that there's at least four, I think there's five people that I know at this point that are in the nomination process.

I think that both Juan and Brendan can speak a little bit to the long-term process it is to get on the Board. It is kind of interesting and it seems to be one that has a bit of mystery to it.

So we are trying to track and I'm making an effort to come up with a little more streamlined process to figure out who and how is in the Board pipeline at this point. If we could step ahead to the two slides. There, you go. This is a review of kind of where we are with the Board membership. There are seven appointees under the Executive. We have

three open at this time. There are two under the Senate and three on the Assembly side of things for vacancies.

I just wanted to kind of put it out there so everybody can see not only what vacancies are and what categories but what a full Board would actually look like, and also, there's some of the appointment times.

You'll see a couple of them that are actually in red. We're thinking that those are going to be renewed. One of the interesting parts of serving on a state board, apparently, is that if your term expires, you don't stop serving until you're either renewed or removed, one or the other.

So just because the time limit seems to have expired doesn't take you off the Board. You are still an active participant until, apparently, otherwise notified. So it's a little different process, but some of you, I know, are coming up in the near future.

Feel free to try to get renewed, but also, at the same time, don't feel like on the 3rd of August, two of you have to stop attending. So that -- or, actually, yesterday from the looks of it or two days ago from yours, Mike. It's an interesting process. I just thought it was a good opportunity to make everybody aware of what the status is. The other interesting part of it, and I know some of you have already run into this, is the JCOPE process. You know, there is a training that we have to do and, also, it has to be renewed every certain number of years. Jim Callahan who is our attorney is on and he handles that piece for us.

He can actually do that training for you and we've made an effort to make it available to you at different times should we need it. He's the one that kind of tracks that. So, one, you'll get a really interesting e-mail from the folks at JCOPE that remind you that if you don't do it, there's like a whole bunch of penalties that go along with it, but Jim is a much softer hand and will reach out to you and try to help you go through the JCOPE renewal process.

So Jim, anything you want to add to that while I'm talking about it?

CALLAHAN: So one thing I just want to note is that I can help you stay in compliance, but because a lot of the financial disclosure statements concern your personal information, I'm actually not made aware of whether or not you filed it or not until JCOPE has decided you've taken too long. So whether or not you're in compliance, that's a question for JCOPE. But the steps necessary to come into compliance, such as I can direct you to the forms and I can also run our ethics training.

So you need to do ethics training every three years or so, but we can do those remotely now so it shouldn't be much

trouble to get those completed. Just let me know if you have any concerns. Sometimes you'll hear from JCOPE before I do, but it shouldn't be too hard to stay in the ethics rules.

SPRAGUE: Thanks, Jim. I just wanted to touch on as long as we were doing membership, if you have any questions, if you are wondering what the status is, reach out to Joann or Jim and we'll facilitate anything to help you through it. Do you have any questions out there about the membership or JCOPE or any of that kind of stuff?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Very good. I will move along then. Standing Committee reports. So the first one we have in line is the 9-1-1 Advisory Committee. I'd like to welcome our new chair, Allen Turner. Allen is taking over for Wes Jones. Wes just stepped down off the Board. He had another commitment, so he left his position in Chenango County and so Allen has stepped graciously stepped into the limelight. Allen, anything you'd like to say as your opening remarks for your committee chair?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: It looks like we lost Allen. It could be a bandwidth problem. Well -- oh, maybe he's back.

TURNER: Delays.

SPRAGUE: There, you go.

TURNER: Hopefully, we can get moving as soon as we can and continue to move forward.

SPRAGUE: All right. We got just the tail end of your comments there. I don't know, I think you dropped out for a minute, if you had some other things you were saying.

TURNER: I'm sorry. Did that come through or not?

SPRAGUE: I got just the last little bit about delays and you hope to get moving.

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: All right. It looks like he's having more bandwidth problems. So anyway, with the Advisory Committee, we have some of the work that they've been working on for the standards. We are still working our way through those and we'll be able to get more information on that as we move forward.

Allen, I see you're back. We lost you for a couple minutes there. I don't know if you had something else you wanted to add.

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Well, the wonders of technology. All right, very good. I think we're having technical difficulties with Allen. I think we'll move into the next section, next slide there.

Brett Chellis was going to be doing this but he had an

emergency in the family, so he's not available today. So we are going to pick up for him.

The Working Group at this point, they're continuing to meet but they paused while the agencies respond to pandemic. Like most everything else, we're going to be trying to restart that process. We continue to work with the consultants on the NG 911 project and we're still going. We're starting to look at engaging stakeholders on the project proposal to answer questions, provide information and update those.

Next slide.

NYSTEC, along with the CISA Tuition Assistance expert and the OIEC 911 program, continue to collect PSAP data and other information for the RFP. We're still working through that. Next slide.

We're drafting the concept of operations and the NG 911 roadmap documents to supplement the plan. We're actively working on this piece right now trying to get a handle on what the next steps are. For those that were on our symposium, we had a really good presentation on four different states approach and how they implemented or are in the process of implementing NG 911.

This gave us some really good insight as to what they had to go through. Obviously, our path is going to be different than some of the other states, but there are similarities and where we can work through those. We're trying to learn from what they're doing.

The Working Group has been continuing input and will be resuming in the next few weeks. Part of this is as we look at this roadmap and we start to figure out more questions, more things that need to be determined as we work through the plan, we'll be taking that directly to the Working Group and having them help us go through that process.

So on the GIS subcommittee side of things, the co-chairs, Gerry Engstrom and Chris Rado, those guys have been and the whole committee has been working very hard. They've met consistently throughout this whole pandemic situation. They've continued to keep going and they've grown in membership.

Central New York ICC GIS committee has merged with them so they have added more people. And what it ends up doing is adding more expertise, more information and you're able to pick up more of the issues that we may run into as we work through GIS. So hats off to that group right there.

Next slide.

In other 911 program activity, things have been moving along. As everybody knows, the National 911 Program conducts a survey every year. That has to be completed by July 1st -- or

June 1st, I should say, and then the FCC does their survey to collect all the information as far as what's going on with not only the fees but also with the activity within the 911 program.

They basically look for all the information with regards to operations of PSAPs throughout the state. That is due the end of June. At this point, there's a survey monkey that's gone out. We're encouraging everybody to fill that out. We gave about three weeks to get that done. That'll give us a week to pull all the information together before we have to meet the June 1st deadline.

Some comments have been out there about, well, do I really need to provide you this information, et cetera? This is what the national report goes together with and if we don't have our information in there, then it really changes the landscape as far as what's going on in New York and how it's viewed nationally. So it really is important to do that. The other thing we've done is launched a 911 training webinar series. We've had a couple of those so far and we're going to continue to work through that. There's a little bit more later in the program here we'll talk about, but we've got a lot of activity going on the 911 side.

Any questions on anything I just talked about?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: All right, very good. So I did it a little faster probably than Brett would have, but that's okay. We're moving right along.

All right. Allen, I just got some information about you changed your audio. Do you want to give it another shot before we move on?

TURNER: Yes. Can you hear me okay?

SPRAGUE: There, I have you.

TURNER: Okay. I apologize for the audio difficulties. I'm just hoping to move the process forward as best we can. Understand that there are difficulties that we face just as government and, hopefully, we can get going with this as soon as we can and get an answer to everybody within a few months.

SPRAGUE: Very good, thank you. And welcome to the chair. Appreciate your being willing to step up and fill that gap there. Thank you Allen.

TURNER: Thank you.

SPRAGUE: All right, let's move on. The CIWG report. Jay Kopstein, you have the floor, sir.

KOPSTEIN: Good morning. I'm going to do this -- CIWG has nothing to report, but we have our SAFECOM list and with your permission, I'll go through it.

SPRAGUE: Sure.

KOPSTEIN: CISA sends out cyber alerts on an almost daily

basis. Hopefully, you've been getting them. If not, please reach out to the director or Joann and we can make them available.

We've had government e-mail accounts hacked and they leave access into some of the utilities. We have to be careful. Virtual training is continuing and I'll leave the rest of it up to Mark.

There are two new member associations to SAFECOM: Drone Responders and the All Haz's Incident Management Team Association. Director, if you recall, that was one of the groups that you were interested in. T-das (phonetic) and D-das (phonetic) attacks are continuing including ransom ware attacks. They emanate from the Gaza, Iran, North Korea, China and Russia.

As was mentioned by Brendan, Connecticut is also part of that MTA/Rockland/Orange consortium and they have the ability to interoperate on their operational channels.

The CASM refresh has been approved by both NCSWIC and SAFECOM.

We've had three incidents of note: The bombing in Nashville, the weather situation in Texas, the cold weather, and a Derecho in Iowa. The issue in Nashville was discussed yesterday at the spring SAFECOM NCSWIC meeting and it's quite in-depth. I don't want to take up the time now, but I think it's something that we really have to look into.

The role of NCSWIC has been redefined within CISA and it's no longer an association but it is now a council. We've had vandalism on 5G and two towers in Texas, one of which was cut down, one of which had its guide wires cut that hadn't collapsed.

One of the legal issues that's cropped up again is the use of private devices. There's some significant legal issues involving privately-owned SMART phones and the like and they have to be looked into.

The issue of state guards has come up again and New York and California have state guards. I'm not sure about which other states. But we have had members of state guards asking to become members of SAFECOM. The Director is aware of one of those individuals.

It's been determined that if anybody from state guard wants to become a member of SAFECOM, that will have to be endorsed by the political leadership of a state. In New York State, that would be the Director.

There's a new NIFOG that will be out soon. There's a guide that was published on unmanned aerial systems. There's a guide on infrastructure of structures that will be coming out very shortly. That's where we've all built out our infrastructure and now, some zoning board has allowed a tower

or something to go up to interrupt what we formerly had as a line of sight microwave.

The third-party dependencies document has been published. We've discussed that in the past. That's where we depend on somebody else to help us and we don't have the vaguest idea what their continuity of operations plan is.

There's a refresh on the contingency planning guide that will be out soon as well as an NSSC tool kit. There's a FEMA refresh on NIMS to include ICS coming up, hopefully, not too far in the future. That will include more robust all hazards in it.

Training and exercises, they should mimic the real world. And I think the Director can speak to the COMMEX portal. I think you're aware of that, Director, or whoever's doing exercises should be.

Chris Carney from Orange County is no longer on SAFECOM since he's changed jobs and Kevin McGuinness from Maine has also resigned from SAFECOM.

Sheriff Figueroa, Brendan, if you want separate briefings on SAFECOM and the like, we can arrange that. And that's what I have. I'll be more than happy to answer any questions. Thank you, Director.

SPRAGUE: Very good. Thank you, Jay.

A couple things I'd like to add. We actually reported out at the symposium that the multistate communications agreement was finalized and I think that Jay was referring to that. That will be coming up to all the counties here shortly so that they can have it in their possession. We just got the finalized copy and introduced it for the symposium.

The other thing I wanted to touch base, he talked about the presentation that was done yesterday for SAFECOM from the folks that responded and handled the issues with the AT&T outage back in the Christmas time frame. That was the exact same presentation that we had at our symposium. And for your information, we'll talk about it a little bit later, but all of those sessions have been posted for your viewing pleasure whenever you'd like to do it or anybody who happened to miss it on CASM. We can give you a little more information on that.

But we have been able to post those and that presentation literally was done by the same people that was done yesterday. So it's available for you guys any time you want to take a look at it.

With that, I think unless there's any other questions for Jay or myself, we'll move on to the COMU program. Mark, you've got the floor.

BALISTRERI: Good morning, everyone. I'm going to do a COMU

update for everybody. Let's go to the next slide, please. Our technical assistance process this year is a little bit different. Generally, we're offered five offerings annually, but all our stuff from last year was postponed due to COVID. So this year, we tried to incorporate making up those postponed courses, plus our additional five offerings. Next slide.

Here is what was postponed. Our April course, COML, we had a COMT train-the-trainer, a COMT course, a RADO, an AUXCOMM, INTD. You can read the list. There's a lot of things that were postponed.

Next slide.

As I said, we decided to try and incorporate all of them. It's a very busy schedule for this year and, unfortunately, the year is cut short, because we're not going to be getting started as soon as we would have liked.

Next slide.

What we're looking at for this year is CISA ECD has incorporated quite a few virtual courses. Not everything is virtual. We tried to put the virtual courses up first and then do the in-person courses later on in the year hoping that things will be back open.

We completed an AUXCOMM virtual course in March. We had scheduled an INTD and an INCM virtual course in April; however, CISA ECD was unable to support those courses. They don't have enough instructors. Our next course will be a virtual COML course.

We do have seats open if anyone's interested, but you're going to have to get back to me after the call today because there's some paperwork we need to get in yesterday. We have four seats open.

Then, we're going to have an AUXCOMM virtual course the 17th through the 19th. And then, our first in-person course, we are hoping, is going to be a COMT course at the State Fire Academy in Montour Falls the 21st through the 25th.

Knock on wood, everything is falling into place for that, so it looks like that will be our first in-person course this year. CISA ECD also has been throwing out some virtual courses they're trying to fill across the country.

There is an INCM course on the 21st through the 24th. I've put out to our groups that the seats were open and we've had a couple people sign up for that.

Also, what we're trying to do as well is this year, we're doing a COMMEX planning workshop for our consortium. The idea is there's nine consortiums in New York State; we can assist them in how to plan a COMMEX themselves in their regions.

Then, there will be nine communications exercises annually

out there for folks to get their position task book signed off on. It'll also help us as a stepping stone through a statewide communications exercise we're going to be planning in the summer of 2022.

I sent out a feeler to all the consortium chairs, asked them to provide at least two members from each consortium to attend this workshop. It's virtual. And hopefully, we'll come out of there with a plan for them to hold communications exercise regional.

We also have an INTD course in August, the 2nd through the 6th, and that is also virtual.

Next slide, please.

One of the other things we wanted to add in this year was the opportunity for folks to take these courses to get their position task book signed off on.

So CISA ECD now has a COMDEX for COMU Trainees, which we're going to hold on the 17th through the 19th at the SPTC, and this will be for folks who take courses this year and they'll be allowed to come and get certain tasks signed off on their task book.

We are also going to have a COML course August 30th through September 3rd at the SPTC. This was again a CISA ECD request. They asked New York State if we could host the course, because the state that they had for that course was unable to logistically support it, so we agreed.

Then, we have a RADO course the 14th and 15th of September at the SPTC; another COMT course the 20th through the 24th; an AUXCOMM train-the-trainer course on the 19th and 20th of October.

Then we are going to try and do a COMU EMAC workshop to try and coordinate a smoother operation between our communications unit and our EMAC process. That's going to be a two-day virtual. And that's more for an internal New York State thing, but I like listing everything, all inclusive, on our COMU schedule so everybody's aware of what's going on.

We are going to offer another COMT course in November, the 15th through the 19th, at the SPTC. And then we want to try and have a meeting of our COMU instructors. We have twelve COML instructors, eight COMT instructors and we now have three AUXCOMM instructors.

So what we'd like to do annually is have a meeting, go over the courses we taught during the year, brainstorm a little on what we can improve on and kind of plan the next year's schedule for our COMU program. We thought this was a good way to have interaction and coordination between you folks that use the program and our office.

Next slide.

It's a pretty aggressive schedule. We're hopeful that it's going to help our program get back on track. During COVID, we found out right away that our pool of COMU personnel across the state were a huge asset to us. We do appreciate all their support. Just to give you an indication of what I mean, we were able to set up communications at odds for testing and then, eventually, vaccines but there were a lot of sites that went up and we have limited personnel at our agency.

So having our COMU personnel out there to assist was a huge asset, because we could go set up the equipment and then these folks maintained and monitored the equipment and we were able to take our personnel and move on to the next site.

What we found out was the COMTs were the most valuable at this point, because it's all technical, you know, setting up stuff and monitoring. So that's why we're going to try and boost our pool of COMTs across the state probably over the next couple years at least. And we are offering three COMT courses this year to try and increase that pool.

Next slide, please.

I already talked about this. We don't have to go over it again, but it's real important that we have all the consortiums' participation in this. It's a huge opportunity for us to set up some communications exercises on a region-wide basis across the state. And it's going to be a big boost to our COMU program if everybody participates.

Next slide.

I already spoke about this and it's exactly what it is; it's for them to get their task book signed off on. We are limited on space due to COVID, but we're going to try and maximize as many people as we can get through that process in August.

Next slide.

And I already explained this. I guess I got ahead of myself on the slides. Sorry about that.

Next slide.

We've also requested assistance in creating a NYSTICFOG Smart application for Android, iPhones/iPads. This is going to give folks the NYSTICFOG right at their fingertips. Right now, there is a NIFOG application that everybody has out there and as we talked about before, the NIFOG from the feds and our NYSTICFOG from our state, these are companion documents. It gives you a supplemental document that has a lot of New York State information right at your fingertips.

Next slide.

I just want to quickly talk about CASM a little bit. Go ahead.

We are doing our monthly CASM trainings again. We were already doing them last year even during COVID. But

basically, for those folks that aren't really familiar with CASM, it's just basically a one- to two-hour WebEx on a monthly basis and we go over whatever anybody wants to go over. It's totally up to who's on the call, what they'd like to see or if they have questions about how to enter something, and we do this on a monthly basis.

Next slide.

This is the schedule. We have one in April starting it back up and this is the schedule for the rest of the year. If any of you folks wish to be on this, just send me an e-mail and I'll send you a WebEx invitation. Generally, it only lasts about an hour, hour and a half, but it's good information, it's good practice. And even if you just want to get in and see what CASM is all about, you know, we'll show you what it's all about. Next slide.

I'm going to turn the presentation now over to Julie Gray who's been instrumental in working on this new Learning Management System, LMS portal. She's going to talk about this briefly with you guys. Julie.

GRAY: Hi, good morning, everybody. My name is Julie, as Mark said. DHSES does have the new Learning Management System which has been up and running. We have a couple courses in the system, but we have not published them yet. We are looking to publish them as soon as they come on or we're going to do mainly register people ourselves. If you do not already have an account, you can go to the website you see on the slide and you can follow the steps to set up your own account by using web forms. And I would be happy to assist you in setting up your accounts if you need help. Any questions can be directed to the e-mail at OIEC.training@dhSES.ny.gov.

Slide, please.

This is just an example of what you're going to see when you go to that website. The highlighted portions are where you're going to want to navigate to to create your account. Next slide, please.

And if you have any questions, you can contact us. Thank you.

SPRAGUE: So just to follow that up a little bit, our team here has been working hard with the folks at DHSES on this new Learning Management System. As many of you, I'm sure, are familiar with the different versions that have gone on over the number of years, especially if you've been around for a little while, they've done a good job of trying to pull everything together into one system.

If you have been in the system, you probably received an e-mail from DHSES, from us, that's talking about having to log in and become a user in the system. We encourage you

to do that. Please jump in there, try to get in, see what's in there. If you have any questions about it, again, contact us here at the office, and Julie has done a great job over the last year. They made a commitment to not stop this process during the entire COVID operations, so they've been working on it diligently over the last year to get to that point.

So just want to make everybody aware that it's happening out there and that we're going to be using that. And you know, congrats to the team for working so hard to get this thing up and running.

Any questions?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: All right. Next up, Public Safety Broadband User Group. Matt.

DELANEY: Hello, everyone. Good morning. I will talk today a little bit about the SLIGP 2 grant, the State and Local Implementation Grant Program. It's a grant program that we've had. It started at SLIGP 1 with the original appropriation from the federal government and then when that expired a number of years ago, they took the remaining funds that were available in the federal appropriation and made it SLIGP 2.

This grant program was specifically for things related to broadband and FirstNet. So SLIGP 1 was focused a lot on out reach, on the state plan portal, understanding the state plan evaluation from AT&T and FirstNet. And then the SLIGP 2 grant was focused on the transitions to FirstNet.

I'll give a couple metrics here in the next slide, but I just want to emphasize that even though the grant has ended, you expect little change from our involvement in public safety broadband. We'll continue to do basically everything we've done all along related to public safety broadband even without the federal grant support.

So during the SLIGP 2 grant, we presented to this group 13 times related to broadband updates. This is just during the SLIGP 2 grant. We reached 526 individuals during presentations and webinars, presentations to this group, presentations on topics related to user adoption, webinars we held last fall in conjunction with AT&T. And we furthered the identification of eligible public safety users and we've identified coverage needs.

We fed some of that back to AT&T. We continue to have discussions on a regular basis. We have quarterly meetings with AT&T's RAN, or Radio Accident Network, team to talk about coverage and we will continue to have those even without the SLIGP 2 grant. And we executed one contract that assisted us with consulting services on the above efforts.

I will just give a quick sort of summary. I think this is a good time with the grant ending just to talk about how far along FirstNet has come. When SLIGP 1, which was just called SLIGP at the time, was started in 2013, the legislation that created FirstNet was still new. Procurement had not yet occurred.

But after that, the FirstNet authority had consultation meetings, developed an RFP, conduct a procurement, went through an entire procurement evaluation, award process, legal challenges and eventually awarded it to AT&T. AT&T has been building out FirstNet and just recently passed their IOC-4 milestone, their five-year contractual build timeline.

They have over two million -- this is nationwide -- over two million active connections on FirstNet and over 15,000 user agencies. It has come quite a ways since we started SLIGP 2 and especially since we started SLIGP 1 back in 2013. That's all I have on the broadband side. I don't know if anyone has any other questions. Mike, back to you.

SPRAGUE: Thanks, Matt. Any questions for Matt?
(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: All right, very good. Moving right along. State Agency Communications Working Group. Next slide. So we haven't had a meeting. Everybody has been pretty well tied up with all of the state operations. State agencies have really been doing a lot of things out of the ordinary. So we've really not had a meeting.

But one of the things we're doing, we sent out a canvass to state agencies to look at compiling a general request for a five-year plan.

I know some agencies put together a five-year plan a number of years ago. You know, the time limit basically has run out on those, but we still haven't really been able to move forward. So the thought here is that we're going to try to bring all the state agencies' requests into one big ask and try to highlight it for a five-year kind of capital plan of some sort that maybe we can get some more traction.

You know, some of the reasons why, you know, most state equipment is beyond the life expectancy. Some of the stuff we've got is pretty old. It does not have the multiband capability that today's systems and the system of systems that was built out across the state really embraced. And you know, encryption now obviously with all the things that have gone on in the last year, everybody wants encryption. Most of our equipment is not capable of being able to do that. And you know, the programming capability that's out there now is far and away above what used to be out there as far as programming.

The idea of actually having to plug into each individual radio is becoming a thing of the past and we need to figure out how to get there. So that's kind of the premise behind the canvass that we're sending out. You know, we'll get the results of it, have the state agencies get together and we can sit down and kind of gnaw on it and take it a step further. Any questions to that?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Very good, okay. With that, moving on. And we'll go back to Matt Delaney for the Channel Naming and Use Working Group.

DELANEY: Thank you, Mike. So as you've heard me say many, many times in the past, repeaters off, repeaters off, repeaters off. I'll give a few examples in the next few slides of some of the issues we've seen lately, but we are still seeing multiple instances of national interoperability channel repeaters on the air when they're not in use, not being coordinated. And this is more important now than ever, it's always been important, but in the past year, it's been super important, because we have dozens of locations around the northeast using interop channels in direct mode.

Virtually, every -- in New York State, virtually, every test site or vaccination site is using national interoperability channels. For a while there, they were being used across the northeast in addition to that for the various civil services and just other things and, now, we're running into events season, so we're going to see more marathons and various events, concerts, other things, festivals, where there will be interoperability channels used.

So it's super important that they are off, they're not accidentally or step on coordinated users and if they are needed, to be used both in a coordinated fashion and to be used in that least sort of area that needs to be covered. If you can cover an event with simplex on portables, there's no reason to turn on a repeater. I mean, use the repeaters if you need the wide area coverage, but if you don't need the wide area coverage, you don't need the repeaters. And that's what we're doing in test sites and vaccination sites; they're all in close enough range that they can all just talk on direct mode.

A few recent activities that we've seen. Our office, our staff have been out working with county staff to identify various repeaters that are interfering or found on the air. So here are a few examples.

We had a UTAC43 in the mid-Hudson Valley. It was determined to be a fire district repeater. That repeater was set up by a local vendor on a very good mountaintop site, it had

very good coverage. The vendor believed it was on a different PL than the national interop PL, which in itself is an issue because if it's on UTAC43, it shouldn't be on that kind of PL.

But it actually turns out that the repeater was in carrier squelch and was repeating all traffic on the channel regardless of the PL. It's been turned off now and remote control will be configured so that the county PSAP, it's in control of the county to turn on and off the repeater and not left on to serve that one fire district.

We found a UCALL40 in the mid-Hudson Valley. That site had suffered a power outage and when the power came back on, the repeater re-enabled on power restoration. It had been off. It had been off for a long time. The power blipped, came back and the repeater was programmed to come on in repeat enable mode.

We found a UTAC43 that was not operating properly and it was programmed with the wrong CWID. Fortunately, it led to the right agency, but it was not for that particular channel but it was able to determine what the agency was based on that ID.

There's an 8CALL90 in the Albany/Saratoga area. We attempted to locate this one. An e-mail was actually sent to all the area counties. And the repeater was mysteriously shut off without anyone identifying where it was or admitting to it.

So just remember, if you have it on and turn it off, it's okay to tell us. I mean, no one will get in trouble. It's good to know, because then we know the footprint and so if we see it again, we can say, hey, wait, that might be such and such that we've seen before.

Several in the midtown Manhattan area. An agency cycled their console control of the repeaters and they all went off. That might have been an example of the console control and the local repeater being out of sync. We've seen that a number of times.

8CALL90 and 8TAC92 in the New York City/Long Island area, we're still looking to locate this one. We believe it's probably the same agency as the repeater tails are identical and the signal strengths are very similar. They are probably collocated at the same site.

UCALL40 in the Glens Falls/Saratoga area, this was another issue where the repeater enabled after a power outage. Their vendor has already come and reprogrammed the controller to fix the issue.

So verify with your techs or vendors that for any national interoperability repeaters you operate that the repeater remains off if the power is lost or returns, meaning it

doesn't boot with the repeat mode on. That should be in the controller.

Your remote control capability, whether that be a console, a DTMF, some sort of telemetry system, that it functions correctly. You know, test that occasionally maybe when you do your site PMs, you know, have the center cycle on and off and make sure at the site, you're seeing it cycle on and then back off and that it's reflecting what's on the console. If it shows it's off, the repeater is off. If it shows it's on, the repeater is on. During site PMs, have your vendor or your techs just confirm that the repeaters are off, just take a look at them, confirm that they're off and that the vendor understands why they should be off. It seems counterintuitive to people who aren't really familiar with why the channels are there that, well, it shouldn't be off, it should be turned on. But there's a reason that it's off, so just make sure that people understand that; and that the repeater controller transmits a CWID, a Morse Code ID, with the correct call sign when the repeater is enabled. So if there is a repeater that's on, it's very easy to quickly identify where it's coming from and whose repeater it is. There's a lot of repeaters out there with no CWID on them. So that's all I have barring any questions.

SPRAGUE: All right. Any questions for Matt?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: If you haven't seen it, we did a section during the symposium, again, it's available for viewing, that talked a lot about our interop program and some of the issues, some of the tracking we've been doing over the last, I don't know, 24 months now of multistate usage of interoperability repeaters.

We've been very diligent, we've been helping out the other states around us in mapping these things, especially down in the very close tri-state area that these things don't end up interfering with each other and overlapping so nobody can make good use of them. So that's, I think, eventually going to become one of the best practices probably from this whole thing is a four-state, five-state cooperative effort. It really doesn't happen very often.

Okay. With that, moving right along, Citizens Alerting Committee. Next slide.

So I wanted to give you an IPAWS update. They just sent this out not long ago. And beginning May of 2021, they were going to be starting to decommission the old IPAWS system. They've gone to the cloud version. You kind of wonder why does that make a difference. Well, there's a couple different things.

Access by IPAWS-authorized entities is going to come through

a different direction. I just got the notice last week that the end of June, they're going to turn off the old links to the IPAWS system. So you will have to go through the cloud base.

What's the other advantage of the cloud-based system? The other advantage of going through the cloud-based system is this will enable the connection between IPAWS and the NOAAs system, which will then allow it to get into the NOAA radio transmitters. It's four years since this IPAWS system came up, there's been no connection between the two.

Literally, the weather service would have to pick it up and retransmit it and, now, this is going to enable the automatic translation of it into the NOAA weather radio, which is really kind of the backup notification statewide in the event of major power outages, all that kind of stuff, because all those transmitters are all backed up on generator power. They have separate connectivity, that sort of thing. It's really going to make a difference in the system.

And the other update piece here is the monthly proficiency. Next slide.

This is kind of what the status is and it shows how people are actually doing the testing that they're required to do. It's actually doing pretty good when you start looking at how many are actually doing it and what the process is. If you don't, there is a process for suspension and I believe that generally will catch most people and get them to switch around and become more proficient.

Part of this is making sure that people are using and testing it monthly. It's really important. If you don't touch this thing for a year, six months, more, it's a complicated system to be able to send out a notice and get it done correctly. So having these things stay active and tested is a really critical part of the IPAWS system and we're very glad and pleased to see them actually pushing the point. That was kind of the question going into this, you know, how they would be able to enforce it and it seems to be doing reasonably well. Any questions?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Very good. We'll move along to PSAP, SICG and Targeted grant updates. Larissa, you're on.

GUEDKO: Thank you very much, Mike.

Next slide, please.

This is overall view for spending and performance period for the SICG part of the grant, SICG formula grant. We'll start with Round 4 SICG.

As you can see, the performance period for the SICG has been extended. Due to COVID, it's still causing some issues with the vendor delivery, equipment, services that vendors

provide because of the access to public facilities and other reasons, as well as 2016 and '17, they also have been extended.

Round 4 SICG, there's only a few projects left, a few counties and we do anticipate to close it down by the end of this year. We'll take a closer look into 2016 and 2017 SICG formula grants.

The spending, as you can see, is going up. Counties are beginning to actively progress their projects and spending has increased compared to the previous year.

Next slide, please.

PSAP Operations grant. As you're aware, we have announced 2019-'20 grant a little late, but the performance period will be ending in 2021, at the end of the year.

We closed down all other, grant spending has been completed and all vouchers have been submitted and, now, there's only one grant that's left open is the one you see on the bottom of the table.

Next slide, please.

Targeted. We announced the Targeted Phase 2 grant and there's no spending for now, but it looks like the contract had been developed. And right now, counties are working, starting to work on their projects and procurements.

For the Phase 1, the spending has increased. It's up to 12.1 million now. And the regional project period is still one and a half year away, it's the end of 2022. And right now, we do anticipate there will be most likely a few extensions, because projects are large, very large. Almost each county has about 6 million dollars to spend on their projects and a lot of it is infrastructure development. So as you know, with infrastructure development, it can take a lengthy period of time to implement and put all the pieces together.

Next slide, please.

The next RFAs, you are aware that 2020-21 PSAP RFAs already have been prepared and awards have been reviewed and it's in approval process. So all applications have been submitted, all counties have submitted their applications and right now, we are going through the approval process for awards.

2020 SICG Formula and the next 2020 SICG Targeted grants, the RFAs have been prepared. We are waiting on approval and go-ahead to post those RFAs.

So far, we have total over 567 million in grants awarded to counties for various projects and including sustaining their operations for PSAPs and SICGs. Please, as a note, we are reimbursing expenses and submit your vouchers as soon as possible for reimbursements.

Next slide, please.

Any questions for me?

(No audible response.)

GUEDKO: Hearing none, back to you, Mike.

SPRAGUE: Okay, thank you. A couple things. I'd like to thank Eric Abramson, the official head of the grants unit, and his team for all the work that they're doing helping us through this rather interesting time in grants and grants management. The last year with all of the issues with COVID and things going on not only at the state level but also at the county levels trying to implement the grants has made life very challenging. Their grants team and their grants representatives have been working hard with the counties to work through these delays.

We understand that when you have to shut down your centers or limit traffic, it's very difficult to get work done. So we know that there's going to be extensions. We know that as the grants themselves are a little bit delayed, it impacts projects that may already be in the works.

You know, if you have any questions working through that process, be sure to reach out to either us or to the grants representatives with any questions you've got, any issues that may pop up.

You know, it's very important to make sure that you don't start in on a project before the grant has actually been issued. And there are a number of ways that we can work around that, but it needs to take hand-in-hand coordination to make sure we stay in lockstep on this. So again, thanks to our grants unit for a lot of the help that they're doing. I know that they're very busy and fielding lots and lots of calls with this stuff. Any questions?

GUEDKO: Mike, this is Larissa. There is a question from Allen Turner. The question is: Will the PSAP grants be awarded by the end of this month? And he had some problems with audio and posting this question, but he was able to actually post it finally.

SPRAGUE: Allen, I can't answer that question for sure. I would love to be able to say yes, but right now, we're just kind of in the waiting stage. I would like to think so, but I can't promise that to you.

If there's an issue that we have to work through, be sure to bring that up to your grants rep and also to us and we'll try to work through whatever it is with you. I understand that, you know -- and that's one of the reasons why I think the PSAP is the priority here is because I know this is expenses that you guys are actually putting out the door. So we're eating into that clock. I don't know if that helps your question, Allen.

TURNER: Thank you.

SPRAGUE: You're welcome. Any other questions?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Okay, very good. Current business. A couple things. We hit on it a couple times. We talked about the 2021 symposium. We averaged about 85 a day, which really was good. It was consistent. So, you know, I was concerned that some days, it might go up and down quite a bit, but it stayed pretty even.

About 50 percent of the attendees completed the feedback form, which is probably right in there. Actually, sometimes that's a little high. But the feedback was excellent for the virtual sessions. It was so good that we never want to do this again.

Feedback indicated a preference for in-person. We knew that. However, you know, with the virtual session, you know, it was difficult. We tried to come up with a reasonable schedule so people could attend and then work around it. So you know, the feedback that we got from everybody, there really was nothing negative in the feedback at all. Next slide.

One of the things I talked about, we bounced this around a little bit as we've been going through this, every one of our sessions was recorded. We've gone in and edited out the kind of strange parts, the intros, that kind of stuff. So it's kind of the meat of the program. But we had some really good programs that we put together for this symposium.

Every one of them has been recorded. Every one of them is now posted on CASM and it's in the media library. When you go in there, you bring it up, log into CASM, go into the media library. And then in there, you search for symposium and they'll pop up. And like I said, all six of them are in there. Some of those presentations have been reused already.

Anybody who happened to be on one of the OCT webinars saw the presentation that was done with regard to the vandalism of tower sites. That is posted, so people can see that. The nice part about it being in CASM is it's not wide open to the world. But if you need access getting into CASM, contact Mark Balistreri. They do require you to upgrade your password on a fairly regular basis. That's probably one of the more painful parts of CASM is that you constantly get about every, I don't know how many days, but you get an e-mail that says you're about to be expired in CASM if you don't log in.

We are really pleased, I think this is probably the first time any state has done this, posting this stuff onto CASM. We continue to kind of expand the envelope for CASM and it's

really what CASM, I think, is meant to do. So again, any questions with that, talk to Mark. He can work you through it. So next slide.

So as I said, it was so successful we never want to do it again. It was a lot of work. Doing it over three weeks seemed like it was never going to end. Splitting it up so it was two days over those three weeks, it really seemed to drag on.

You would think that not having to do all the lodging and all that stuff that goes along with an in-person would make it easier, but to be honest with you, it was the other way around.

And I'm sure that Joann is over here nodding her head, because she's the one that had to do a lot of the work. The whole team really stepped up and worked us through this, but it's a tough thing.

So for 2022, we hope to be back in person. I think everybody wants that. The biggest thing, and we could not figure out how to do it with this current virtual process, is the networking piece that goes on during our symposiums.

Everybody gets to meet everybody, they get to exchange, they get to talk about things, they get to discuss issues that are at hand or problems they run into, we didn't get to do any of that unfortunately with this particular symposium. We are going to be back to Niagara Falls. We had basically postponed the original hotel arrangements and meeting location and they've been very gracious in holding that reservation over for us. Hopefully, they remember who we are when we go back next year, but I think they will. They were very eager to let us off the hook this year with the idea we'd come back the following year. So that's kind of where we are with the symposium. Any questions?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: All right, very good. We'll move on to new business.

Next slide.

I'm going to do is I'm going to introduce Tyler Lemire. Tyler has been away from us for a number of months serving his country and we greatly thank him for his service. He's come back and he's rearing to go on the 911 side of the world helping Brett and one of the things he's been digging his teeth in is the 911 webinar series. So Tyler, it's yours.

LEMIRE: Thank you, Mike. Good morning, everyone. Just to briefly go over what we're doing here, we created a monthly educational series. We're aiming to host it the last Wednesday of every month. It's a very broad range of topics. We've already hosted two of them, one on OnStar in February and one on Entrado (phonetic) in April. And we request if

you have other topics of interest to please send them to us. We have a list of ones we're going to be going through. Next month, we're looking to have Broome County do a presentation on ASAP implementation. But if you have ideas or requested topics, we ask you to please send those to us so we can incorporate them into the series.

We're also hoping to have them posted online. There may be applicable continuing educational credits for 911 dispatchers and personnel. We're currently working with DOH to try and get that hosted there. We may look at CASM as well.

And finally, if you can just spread the word, co-workers, colleagues, fellow 911 professionals throughout the state. You know, this is a great free training opportunity that we hope that will provide 911 professionals with a broad range of information that they find applicable and interesting. And if you have any questions, please reach out to me or the deputy director or the director and we can get those answered for you. Pending any questions, sir.

SPRAGUE: Thanks, Tyler. This is kind of a direct offshoot of our symposium. Everybody, I think, is aware that last year was going to be the first year that we did it in coordination with the 911 coordinators. Unfortunately, that didn't come off. So we continued that this year into this year's symposium. One of the things we did was sat down last fall and said, okay, what are some topics that you guys think would be interesting to have as part of the symposium? They came up with a lot of great ideas, so many that there was just no way to get them all into the symposium.

What we did is we captured those ideas and we came up with the idea of putting together this 911 webinar series so we can actually have a format that these presentations can be posted on.

They were trying to figure out how to do it during their meetings, but unfortunately, with COVID, their meetings have been, like everybody else, postponed, canceled, changed, whatever. There hasn't been any opportunity to do this. So we thought this would be a good way to try it and Brett and Tyler are doing a good job of trying to get them scheduled so that everybody can get a chance to do it.

The key there is that, again, we're going to record them and then people can watch them at their leisure, because we know especially if you're trying to get active telecommunicators to watch these things while they have shifts going on is not possible. We are trying to work through it and it seemed like a really good opportunity. Any questions from anybody?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Very good. We'll move on to the next slide. The next SIEC Board meeting, we're now to that great time of the meeting where we start talking about the next one. So August 4th is the next scheduled meeting. We are making the assumption here that the first part of July, everybody's going to be back to work at the state agencies. That still means that there will probably be some telecommuting, et cetera. But I think, optimistically speaking, that our next meeting could be a hybrid meeting where we actually do have people in person, but we allow, and we've always allowed, with the SIEC Board meeting the ability to do video. It was rarely exercised, mostly because most people didn't have video set up at their desks to be able to do it. We will see what the next meeting produces but, you know, in August, it should be a nice day to travel. We shouldn't have six inches of snow, hopefully, in August that everybody's got to deal with and people may be willing to get out, come out here, have a meeting, have a little bit of lunch and again do that networking piece that we've not been able to do for, in this case by the time we get to there, probably at least 18 months. I'm looking forward to the possibility. I'm usually not the optimist, I'm usually the pessimist, but in this case, I'm going to try to be more optimistic.

Any questions, comments?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: All right. Well, we'll move on to the next slide, which is basically summary and closing. Anybody got anything for the good of the order?

(No audible response.)

SPRAGUE: Okay. Hopefully, everybody's audio is still working. With that, I guess we've gotten a lot done, I think, over the last year even though we've not been able to come together in person.

You know, you look at our symposium and the success of the symposium, even though it was all virtual. You know, some of the projects that we're working on seem to be moving forward, sometimes at a snail's pace but they are still moving forward, even though we've been doing a lot of things that nobody would have ever guessed we would have been doing a year ago.

If you look back, a year ago today we were just kind of starting into this kind of black hole called COVID and now we can kind of see over the horizon and, hopefully, see our way out of this and I think we're doing well to keep moving forward.

We've got a few new members on the Board. Again, hopefully, you've gotten a little bit out of the first meeting, we

haven't scared you off and that you come back for the next one. And you know, I'm looking forward to everybody's participation in August.

If nobody's got anything else, I'm going to call for adjournment.

TRIPP: So moved.

MEMBER: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

SPRAGUE: Thank you. And I take that as a second behind that. All those in favor, feel free to sign off. If you're against it, please stay on and we'll see who's left.

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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.

Theresa L. Ardia

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

Dated: May 8, 2021.