



NEW YORK STATE
DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Jerome M. Hauer, Commissioner

**Minutes of the
Statewide Interoperable and Emergency Communications Board**

**Tuesday, March 27, 2012
DHSES 1st Fl. Training Room, Albany, NY
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Board Members present:

Robert M. Barbato	Chair and Director of the Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
William Bleyle	Commissioner, Onondaga County 9-1-1
Dan Healy	for Daniel Chan, Acting Commissioner, NYS Office for Technology
Steven Cumoletti	for Joseph D'Amico, Superintendent, NYS Police
Eric Day	Emergency Manager, Clinton County
Joseph Gerace	Sheriff, Chautauqua County
Mark Bonaquist	for Michael C. Green, Commissioner, NYS Div. of Criminal Justice Services
Jerome M. Hauer	Commissioner, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services
Brian LaFlure	Emergency Manager, Warren County
Gary T. Maha	Sheriff, Genesee County
Robert Sack	for Joan McDonald, Commissioner, NYS Department of Transportation
Kathryn Bohacek	for Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy, NYS Division of Military & Naval Affairs
Richard Rotanz	Executive Director, Applied Science Center
Brian Y. Scott	for Dr. Nariv R. Shah, Commissioner, NYS Department of Health
James Voutour	Sheriff, Niagara County

Board Members Absent:

Joel Eisdorfer Partner, Real Estate Development Company

Additional Speakers:

Matthew Delaney	Chief Radio Engineer, NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
Toby Dusha	Director of Outreach, NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
Thomas McCarren	Counsel, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services

The first meeting of the New York Statewide Interoperable and Emergency Communications Board ("Board") was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by the Chair, Robert Barbato. Chairman Barbato welcomed the members and thanked them for their willingness to serve on this Board. Pursuant to statutory authority, as Director of the Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communication (OIEC), Mr. Barbato serves as Chair for the Board.



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Jerome Hauer, Commissioner of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), indicated that interoperability is a critical issue for DHSES. He acknowledged that awards for the first round of the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG) went out late and that will not happen again. The focus of this group will not be to redevelop the Statewide Wireless Network. This group will focus on ways to develop infrastructure that works on a regional basis, because it is critical that emergency responders can communicate with one another. Regional consortiums are the first step in this process. Regions will own this network of networks, so interoperable solutions should be tied to what counties and regions want and need. Grants need to focus on solutions that are useful and sustainable.

Thomas McCarren, DHSES Counsel, advised the Board as to their roles and responsibilities. The Board has direct authority regarding oversight and review of policies related to the organization and reimbursement of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The Board should seek to create policies that help localities increase the efficiency of their PSAPs and encourage the use of emerging technologies. The Board functions in an advisory capacity regarding the direction of all other interoperable communication policies, including the direction and distribution of State sponsored interoperable communication grants. DHSES Counsel will provide assistance and guidance to the Board, as needed.

Mr. Barbato gave an overview of the Statewide interoperable Communication Grant (SICG) program. The grant program encourages the deployment of assets in an organized fashion that increase interoperable communications consistent with state and federal goals. The \$45 million next round of grants will focus on taking action to increase interoperability along with advancing local governance and standard operating procedures. Grant applicants will be asked to show how they are making wise investments that provide measurable, sustainable outcomes. Projects will need to show a commitment to mutual aid and national interoperability channel programming. Grants are 100% state funded, with no local match. Funding for the grants is through the cellular surcharge. Director Barbato answered questions from the group regarding bonding (no MBBA in this round of the grant), budget authorizations (\$75 million in the current budget), connection to other projects (the MTA project is funded locally, not in connection with this grant), and a timeline for release (Spring 2012).

The E 9-1-1 standards have not been modified since 2009. While still valuable, technology is ever increasing. Director Barbato would like this group to give a fresh look to these standards and provide input on any changes they believe would benefit. These standards are the basis for the Local Enhanced Wireless 9-1-1 reimbursement program that is operated by OIEC.

Toby Dusha gave the Board an overview of the New York State results of the National Emergency Communication Plan Goal 2 exercise. With over 97% county participation, New York State did very well in this exercise. These exercises provide the State with a baseline to use as it directs future projects and funding. Progress and investments are being made by counties to improve their emergency communications capabilities for events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies. This data allows the State to better focus their efforts to assist counties to improve their interoperable communication efforts. Already the State is working to assist counties with improving their standard operating



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procedures and implementation of the state and national interoperability channels with the next round of grant funding. The State is also offering training and exercises so that public safety first responders know how to better use their available resources.

Matthew Delaney provided an overview of advances in the field of Public Safety Broadband (PSBB). In particular, he focused on recent legislation. HR 3630, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 provides for \$7B to build a national public safety wireless broadband network under the control of an independent authority of NTIA ("FirstNet") with funds from auctions of Federal and TV spectrum. FirstNet would be responsible for the procurement of the network build. The Governor of each state must accept the national build's details in their State within 90 days of FirstNet supplying them. It provides provisions for the States to opt-out of the national build instead, but then the State must complete its own statewide procurement to similar requirements within 180 days and submit to the FCC for approval. Under the legislation, no state can completely opt out of building their portion of the network. The technical advisory board for this program is in place, but no details are finalized as to the build out requirements. OIEC will keep the Statewide Interoperable and Emergency Communications Board apprised of any advancements in this area.

Director Barbato provided Board members with information on the Communications and Interoperability Working Group (CIWG). This select group of public safety interoperable communication practitioners was brought together to offer expertise and practical solutions to the interoperability challenges facing the State. The 35 members represent all areas of the state and all public safety disciplines. Two meetings occurred during the first quarter of 2012. Areas of discussion included federal and State grants, training and exercise, and recent developments in the area of Public Safety Broadband. The CIWG will assist the Board by providing a view of those using interoperable communications on a daily basis and in emergency situations.

Voting Items:

Dates for future meeting were presented to the Board. Sheriff Gerace motioned to approve May 9, September 12, and November 28, 2012 as dates for future Board meetings. Sheriff Maha seconded the motion, which was carried by all.

Sheriff Gerace motioned for the establishment of an exploratory committee to review and make recommendations regarding 9-1-1 standards. Mr. Day seconded the motion which was carried by all. Sheriff Gerace volunteered to chair this committee.

Sheriff Maha motioned to adjourn the meeting, which concluded at 12:03 p.m.