



NEW YORK STATE
DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Jerome M. Hauer, Commissioner

Minutes of the
State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board

Thursday, December 13, 2012
DHSES 7th Fl. Conference 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 Information Technology Services
Steve Cumoletti for Joseph D'Amico, Superintendent, NYS Police
Joseph Gerace Sheriff, Chautauqua County
Matthew Delaney for Jerome Hauer, Commissioner, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services
Mark Fettingler for Michael C. Green, Commissioner, NYS Div. of Criminal Justice Services
Brian LaFlure Emergency Manager, Warren County
Roderic Sechrist for Joan McDonald, Commissioner, NYS Department of Transportation
Kathryn Bohacek for Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy, NYS Division of Military & Naval Affairs
Kevin Revere Emergency Manager, Oneida County
Richard Rotanz Executive Director, Applied Science Center
James Voutour Sheriff, Niagara County

Board Members Absent:

Eric Day Emergency Manager, Clinton County
Joel Eisdorfer Partner, Real Estate Development Company and Community Representative
Gary T. Maha Sheriff, Genesee County
Michael J. Primeau for Dr. Nariv R. Shah, Commissioner, NYS Department of Health

Additional Speakers:

Matthew Delaney Chief Radio Engineer, NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
Toby Dusha NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
Thomas Gallagher NYS DHSES Federal Grant Program Administration

The fourth and final meeting of the calendar year for the New York State Interoperable and Emergency Communication 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 attendance at today's meeting.



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On behalf of Jerome Hauer, Commissioner of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), Chairman Barbato thanked the agencies, municipalities, and personnel for their support during Hurricane Sandy. This solid show of support for the citizens affected by this disaster affirms the dedication that New Yorkers have to assist each other in time of need.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Joseph Gerace made a motion to accept. Brian LaFlure seconded the motion, which was carried by all.

Matthew Delaney presented a briefing on interoperable communications during Hurricane Sandy. While this large scale disaster did place a burden on interoperable systems, the overall consensus was that public safety land mobile radio systems worked well. The largest problem appeared to be not enough available interoperable channels for the area. New York City deployed much of their PSIC cache of radios. OIEC deployed all vehicles for communications support. The maps in the slideshow refer to events occurring the first week of November, 2012. Issues with public service systems were largely due to wind and water damage. An overview of the response from the wireless (cellular) carriers was also presented. Communication Unit Leader Technicians were deployed downstate from the following counties/agencies to assist with communication support: Erie, Monroe, Oneida, Onondaga, Westchester, and the Office of Information Technology Services. Monroe County also supported Suffolk County directly with assistance through the Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce.

The following committees were formally recognized by the Board and charged with continuing their duties: The Communications and Interoperability Working Group; the 9-1-1 Standards Advisory Subcommittee; the Channel Naming Workgroup; and the Public Safety Network Interoperability Workgroup. Each plays an important role in advancing interoperability in New York State.

Joseph Gerace presented an update on the 9-1-1 Standards Advisory Subcommittee. The Subcommittee's goal is to provide guidance for the best 9-1-1 system available to users. A focus of the group will be on NextGen 9-1-1 and a proposal for audit/compliance of existing systems. Membership is evolving and more state-wide members are being sought, including membership from NY State Police.

Brian LaFlure informed the group on progress made by the Public Safety Network Interoperability Workgroup. A good portion of the State has agreed on a recommended framework for developing a common internet protocol structure. The framework was the result of discussion with users, vendors, as well as agency users. This platform is intended for system to system interoperable communication based platforms, not for platforms within a county. They are first working on a LMR framework, and data sharing will follow. The group will bring their framework to the NYS Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications for review. Members of the Board recommended releasing the framework to consortium members for their feedback. Thus far, all members who have reviewed this voluntary framework have chosen to participate in its implementation.



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Toby Dusha offered a review of the Channel Naming Workgroup's progress. Members from various consortiums throughout the State have committed to the group and Mr. Dusha is hoping to have a full contingent of representation soon. They are hoping their work will lead to the creation of a state-wide Field Operation Guide (FOG) for use by public safety first responders who assist outside their regular area. They also want to increase the number of Tactical Interoperable Communication Plans (TICPs) in force throughout the State. After Action Reports (AARs) from major events, such as Hurricane Sandy, will help move the progress of this committee. Board members encouraged the group to seek clarification on channel use and ownership, as well as use of channels by non-first responders, such as county departments, schools, and hospitals. Mr. Voutour encouraged the members of the workgroup to strongly encourage the use of common language, as it is both beneficial and a NIMS requirement.

In open discussion, the Board asked about the possibility of standardizing the names of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). More research will be needed to see if this is possible.

Robert Barbato provided an update of the status of the interoperability grants. Round 1 is running smoothly and all counties are actively involved in their projects. Due to an overwhelming response in applications to Round 2, the State is looking for ways to address the need. The Division is anticipating release of the award announcement. Due to the events associated with Hurricane Sandy, the deadline for the PSAP grants were extended to January 31, 2013. Chairman Barbato is aware the counties do not believe that the \$9 Million allocated by the Legislature for this grant is sufficient to address the current need.

The Board was made aware of reporting requirements of the group, including the annual report to the Legislature, which is due March 31, 2013. The report will be prepared by the Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications for review and approval by the Board at their next meeting.

The Board agreed to the next meeting date of February 20, 2013. OIEC will look for an alternate date to the proposed May 15, 2013 meeting date, as that is Police Memorial Week.

Tom Gallagher educated the group of the communications support protocol put in place during Hurricane Sandy. Due to the size and length of the response, more MOUs need to be put in place between counties and OIEC to assist the Office during times of large scale disaster, since the office is so small in comparison to its task. Ms. Bohacek recommended the MOUs contain position descriptions indicating what skill sets would be required for those who would come in to support the Office. Mr. Bleye also encouraged the Office to look into public/private partnerships for COMTs, as those positions are generally not available in most counties.

In closing, Chairman Barbato again thanked the group for their work during this initial year and for their and their associates' efforts with regard to Hurricane Sandy.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cumoletti. Voted and Carried. Meeting concluded at 11:56 a.m.