



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

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
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
Steve Cumoletti for Joseph D'Amico, Superintendent, NYS Police
Joseph Gerace Sheriff, Chautauqua County
Francis Wade for Michael C. Green, Commissioner, NYS Div. of Criminal Justice Services
Matthew Delaney for Jerome Hauer, Commissioner, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services
Brian LaFlure Emergency Manager, Warren County
Gary T. Maha Sheriff, Genesee 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
James Voutour Sheriff, Niagara County

Board Members Absent:

Dan Healy for Daniel Chan, Acting Commissioner, NYS Office for Information Technology Services
Eric Day Emergency Manager, Clinton County
Joel Eisdorfer Partner, Real Estate Development Company and Community Representative
Kevin Revere Emergency Manager, Oneida County
Richard Rotanz Executive Director, Applied Science Center
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 Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
Linda Messina Counsel, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
Christopher Tuttle US Dept. of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications, Region II Coordinator

The first meeting of the calendar year for the New York State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board ("Board") was called to order at 10:00 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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Jerome Hauer, Commissioner of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), thanked members and their staffs and agencies for their support during Hurricane Sandy. Sandy reaffirmed many lessons, including the critical need for reliable interoperable communications during a disaster. DHSES will be working with counties to assist them in filling in their interoperable communication holes. This Board is valuable to help DHSES stay on their mission of providing reliable communication during times of crisis. The use of plain language, which is encouraged by the Board and the federal government, will provide commonality with other regions and agencies.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Gary T. Maha made a motion to accept. James Voutour seconded the motion, which was carried by all.

Linda Messina gave a brief presentation on Project Sunlight. Project Sunlight, an important component of the Public Integrity Reform Act of 2011, is an online database that provides the public with an opportunity to see what entities and individuals are interacting with government decision-makers. A text of the law, is available at Chapter 399 Part A, § 4 of the Laws of 2011. At this time, DHSES counsel believes all Board members are subject to this law when acting in their official capacity as a member of the Statewide Interoperable and Emergency Communications Board. If Board members have any questions regarding Project Sunlight, they are encouraged to contact DHSES for guidance.

Tom Gallagher presented a briefing on interoperable communications during the recent February Winter Storm. OIEC provided support, primarily to Suffolk County, who endured the brunt of the winter weather. Roderic Sechrist offered the gratitude of the NYS Department of Transportation to all of DHSES for their assistance. Together, both agencies provided efficient, reliable support to the people of New York. The Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) vehicles, a product of the federal PSIC program, have been active and in use since Hurricane Irene. As the vehicles are used more often, standard operating procedures and governance are being developed so that other agencies and regions can use the vehicles. While not yet defined, training will likely take a few days for those with a communication background.

Matthew Delaney presented an update on the FirstNet Board meeting of February 12. FirstNet agreed to support early BTOP recipients and use these projects as early test beds prior to implementation of FirstNet standards. New York was not a BTOP recipient, so is not part of this early group. The FirstNet Board's April meeting will focus on financing and infrastructure of the network. NTIA announced their grant application process. All states who submit a passing application will receive funds. Funds can be used for governance and the collection of data. Funds cannot be used for equipment or tangible assets. DHSES will submit the application on behalf of the State of New York. Christopher Tuttle reminded the group that the US Department of Commerce and the NTIA are the lead agencies for this project, and the SAFECOM Board is the recognized advisory group to the FirstNet Board.

Mr. LaFlure had questions concerning a stimulus grant received from the federal government by DANC communications. DANC is trying to bring fiber to the Adirondack region, but there is a potential to lose backhaul connectivity because of the timing of one grant closing before the other opens. Mr. Tuttle suggested these concerns be routed, by email to



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Robert Barbato, the NYS Statewide interoperability Coordinator, who will forward them to Michael dame at NTIA for situational awareness. Ms. Bohacek inquired as to how connectivity rates will compare with those of the NYS Office of Information Technology. More information will be available on rates as they are set by FirstNet.

Robert Barbato provided an update of the status of the interoperability grants. Round 2 award notices were sent on February 7th. 29 counties received awards totaling \$102 million. We hope to have an RFA for Round 3 out this Spring, subject to an approved State budget with appropriations. DHSES is hoping Round 3 will begin to close the loop for consortiums where some members' applications have been unsuccessful in the past. As in the past, counties who apply must commit to the use of state and national mutual aid channels and the use of non-proprietary standards and technology. Mr. Belye noted that feedback for all participants in the grants was important and encouraged updates from consortiums so that the long term plan of linking systems can come to fruition. Questions arose regarding applications for consortium-wide projects. OIEC is looking into this option. Mr. Cumoletti agreed that the Board should do what it can to assist the global concerns of consortiums.

Toby Dusha updated members on the work of the Channel Naming and Use Working Group. The State Fire Chiefs are looking to develop a FOG for fire services. Mr. Dusha will coordinate with the fire chiefs' communications committee to see if we can collaborate in our efforts to collect the same data. Our requirement is to collect data from all services in all counties and state agencies, not just the fire service, that will aid in the development of the state-wide FOG. Members of OEC will be in Erie County the last week in February for a COMLEX exercise. One area of discussion will be Canadian channel usage.

Joseph Gerace stated that the 9-1-1 Standards Advisory Subcommittee's next meeting is March 14.

Brian LaFlure informed the group on progress made by the Public Safety Network Interoperability Workgroup. Conference calls from 25 counties currently in consortiums have occurred. A draft plan will be coming to OIEC in the near future for review. Plain language and channel naming are components of the plan, which passed a test run in the Adirondack Consortium.

In open discussion, Christopher Tuttle informed the Board that federal Department of Transportation is having a webinar on March 14 concerning the state of 9-1-1 in the United States. He also offered to sponsor a Public Safety Communications Center Operations course for New York State. Chairman Barbato tasked Tom Gallagher with coordination of this event.

Mr. LaFlure reminded members that there is a bill in the Senate aimed at making changes to how 9-1-1 surcharge funds are distributed.

Members agreed on a proposed meeting schedule for the rest of the 2013 calendar year. SIEC Board meeting will take place May 22, September 18 and November 13, 2013 at the DHSES headquarters at Building 7A in Albany, NY. Mr. Maha motioned to approve the dates, which all accepted.



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Mr. Sechrist made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Board meeting concluded at 11:40 AM.

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