New York State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board 2012 Annual Report

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Section 1 - The State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board

Introduction

The State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board was created under Section 326 of the New York County Law and charged with the following duties:

- Make recommendations to the Commissioner of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services on the expenditure of grants and other funding programs related to interoperable and emergency communications;

- Make recommendations related to the development, coordination and implementation of policies, plans, standards, programs and services related to interoperable and emergency communications, including but not limited to ensuring compliance with federal mandates for interoperable communications and compatibility with the national incident management system;

- Establish structures and guidelines to maintain interoperable communications planning and coordination at the statewide level;

- Establish, promulgate and revise standards for the operation of public safety answering points; and

- Establish guidelines regarding the creation of regionally based radio communications systems compatible with the structures and guidelines consistent with federal mandates and best practices.

- The 25 member Board is comprised of state agency heads, state legislative representatives, representatives of first responder organizations and experts in the field of interoperable and emergency communications. Members are appointed for a term of four years.

Membership

NAME	AFFILIATION	APPOINTMENT
CHAIR		
Robert M. Barbato	Director, Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications	Exec. Law §717
MEMBERSHIP		
William Bleyle	9-1-1 Commissioner, Onondaga County	Executive
Joseph D'Amico	Superintendent, NYS Police	Ex-Officio
Eric Day	Emergency Manager, Clinton County	Executive
Brian Digman	CIO, NYS Office of Information Technology Services	Ex-Officio
Joel Eisdorfer	Private/technical expert	Senate
Joseph Gerace	Sheriff, Chautauqua County	Executive
Michael C. Green	Commissioner, Division of Criminal Justice Services	Ex-Officio
Jerome M. Hauer	Commissioner, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	Ex-Officio
Brian LaFlure	Emergency Manager, Warren County	Executive
Gary Maha	Sheriff, Genesee County	Senate
Joan McDonald	Commissioner, Department of Transportation	Ex-Officio
Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy	Adjutant General, Division of Military and Naval Affairs	Ex-Officio
Kevin Revere	Emergency Manager, Oneida County	Senate
Richard Rotanz	Private/technical expert, Suffolk County	Senate
Nariv R. Shah, MD	Commissioner, Department of Health	Ex-Officio

2012 Meetings

        As required by statute, the SIEC Board met four (4) times during the calendar year 2012. These meeting were held on March 27th, June 27th, September 12th and December 13th. The meeting agendas are attached to this report as Appendix A.

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Section 2 - The Statewide Interoperable Communications Grants

Introduction

As authorized by Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2010, the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), through its Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications (OIEC), is designated as the principal State agency for all interoperable and emergency communications issues and is responsible to coordinate and to implement a grant program to facilitate the development, consolidation and/or operation of public safety communications and networks designed to support statewide interoperable communications for first responders.

For public safety purposes, US Department of Homeland Security guidelines define *interoperability* as the ability of emergency responders to work seamlessly with other systems or products without any special effort. Wireless communications interoperability specifically refers to the ability of emergency response officials to share information via voice and data signals on demand, in real time, when needed, and as authorized.

The Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG) is a competitive grant is funded by cellular surcharge revenue. This report encompasses results from the first year of a multi-year program. The first year allocation was $20 million. Additional years increase the allocated amount to $45 million and $75 million.

Communications (for routine operations and incident-driven interoperability) is assessed more from a capability perspective; and would apply equally to all hazards. Therefore, these grants focused on how cross-jurisdictional first responders talk to each other and how to improve the current capability. This factor, in itself, presents an enormous risk to public safety operations when multiple agencies respond to any natural or manmade disaster.

Plan/Goals of the Program

The five-year year goal of this program is for New York State to have 75% or more of counties able to demonstrate an "advanced" level of interoperable emergency communications within three hours of an event by 2017.

Assessing this public safety communications capability relies on the US Department of Homeland Security guidelines (the SAFECOM Continuum) to gauge whether a jurisdiction has effective:

- organizational and management structure (governance)

- operating procedures
- technology for voice and data
- regular training and exercises
- usage patterns

Ratings against the continuum are described in terms of four development stages--early (minimal); intermediate; established and advanced (maximal).

Statewide Interoperable Communications Status

Based upon county responses collected during the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) Goal 2 survey, on a statewide average, most counties can be categorized at the intermediate stage or less. There is less development among technology, training, and usage categories.

Urban areas (New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Albany) and metropolitan counties are the most advanced--and in some cases are highly performing.

In contrast, most rural and suburban counties – especially upstate – have been more challenged. Many gaps and disparities exist, especially in communications infrastructure, technology and governance. This contrast is reflective of the fact that the cities and metropolitan areas have been able to receive a greater share of homeland security and counter-terrorism funding over the past ten years (including communications support) as their dense populations had placed them at risk. However, to achieve universal interoperability across the State, and meet federal goals, the underserved communities must be brought up to the same level as urban communities.

Past Funding/Grant Opportunities

Funding for public safety communications and interoperability to date has been predominantly supported through federal sources and State funding. The two primary programs from the federal government during the past five years are the U.S. Department of Commerce Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program. Generally, the federal support has centered on urban areas and other regions with high profile homeland security concerns or legacies of communications breakdowns (i.e., WTC). The beneficiaries of these awards were typically a single or select few agencies at the municipal level. Counties would then disburse funds to qualifying local entities.

Though the distribution has included agencies among some twenty-nine (29) counties and New York City, the majority of the funding went to urban areas. New York City and the downstate counties (Westchester, Rockland, Nassau and Suffolk) received over 60% of these dollars. The remaining large recipients were the Buffalo, Rochester, Albany, and Syracuse urban areas.

In contrast, only eight (8) of the counties that were successful in the first round of the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant have received funding through the federal programs during this period, and the funding on average was much less than the $2 million available to each county under Round 1 or Round 2 criteria.

Until now, State funding for communications and interoperability has been primarily distributed through the Local Enhanced Wireless 9-1-1 program initiated in 2002. The program, supported by the State cellular surcharge, is aimed at ensuring that local emergency call centers can receive 9-1-1 calls from mobile devices (cell phones) and dispatch the appropriate first responders. Approximately $9 million is allocated annually to 56 counties (including New York City). Allocations are non-competitive, and based upon population—so densely populated counties receive larger allocations from the annual appropriation. This funding did help deploy communication equipment and gateways between dispatchers and first responder's radio systems, but did not fully support construction of broadcast infrastructure, expand radio coverage or allow for the conversion to new technology or shared networks in the recently opened higher frequency bands. This program will sunset in 2015.

Round 1 of the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant

Application and Award Process

The Request for Applications for the initial $20 million allocation of grant funding was released on March 18, 2011 and posted as required by law. Additionally, information was distributed to County Emergency Managers, County 911 Coordinators, County Sheriffs, and County Executives. The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) also distributed information to its members.

The application deadline was May 17, 2011. Submitted applications were reviewed and rated by DHSES staff and a panel of external subject matter experts. Due to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, application announcements were delayed. Applicants approved for funding were notified on December 20, 2011.

Goals of Funding

The FY 2010-2011 Grant Program sought applications for the following three categories. Counties could submit an application in any or all of the categories listed below. Awards were limited to $2 million per award, per category.

Category 1 - *Improve interoperable communications by ensuring capability for National Interoperability Channels, meeting narrowbanding requirements, and developing and implementing solutions to achieve spectrum efficiency*. To ensure interoperability among all responders, National Interoperability Channels must be used in all capable and eligible subscriber equipment. The State recognizes that plans for narrowband compliance are an opportunity to implement this requirement, but resources to comply with these requirements are a challenge among counties.

Category 2 - *Improve interoperable communications through operational efficiency and effectiveness by consolidating public safety answering points (PSAPs) and promoting cross-jurisdictional standard operating procedures (SOPs).* The State recognizes that many localities across the State have not developed comprehensive SOPs that address interoperability and that operation of multiple PSAPs within the same geographic area is inefficient. The means to advance adoption of comprehensive SOPs can include centralization and consolidation of dispatch.

Category 3 - *Improve interoperable communications through expanding, consolidating or developing large-scale, regionally-focused Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems for public safety use among two or more counties supporting multi-jurisdictional and multi-discipline, including State agencies.* The State recognizes that multiple jurisdictions and agencies operating on disparate radio systems can lead to an inability to communicate and jeopardize safety. Efficient and effective solutions can be realized through partnering among local and State agency responders.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for and receive grant funding, applicants must:

- Be a county government requesting funding for the benefit of the county as a single entity. New York City is considered a single county for this grant.

- Be an active member of, or demonstrated a commitment to, a regional consortium. Such a consortium shall consist of two or more counties formed to promote multi-jurisdictional (two or more) and multi-discipline (two or more) (e.g., law enforcement,

fire service, emergency medical, emergency management, public health, public works and communication centers) public safety communications and interoperability; and must support the agencies of the State of New York. If not currently a member of a consortium, the commitment to participate in a consortium must be in effect and certified within 120 days of notice of potential award.

- Acknowledge accessibility for other jurisdictions and levels of government, including state agencies, to share communications systems to achieve further statewide cross-jurisdictional and intergovernmental interoperability goals and objectives.

The Results

Forty-five counties submitted fifty-eight applications requesting over $69.5 million in funding for the first Round of the Grant, a 77.5% response rate. Seventeen awards were given to sixteen counties (Cortland County was successful in two categories). Thirteen counties did not apply for Round 1 funding. Awarded counties represented over 30% of the land in New York State and 15% of the population. While not a factor in the decision making process, one-third of all counties with declared disasters as a result of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee received grant awards.

Funding Uses

A result of Round 1 shows progress in the following areas:

- Technology (among 13 awarded counties) examples:
  - Portable/mobile equipment in more efficient digital equipment
  - Install base stations and microwave links for connections with command & control and system redundancy
  - Construct additional towers/antennas to increase radio coverage and signal strength.
- Governance (among the 16 awarded counties and over 40 others) examples:
  - Expanded public safety communications regional partnerships & consortiums
  - Includes participation of State agencies
- Usage (among multiple counties and regions)
- Access to radio channels and user equipment among agencies and across counties (including State Police)
- Allows for "help" calls through national interoperability channels

Distribution of Round 1 SICG Awards

County	Proposal Amount	Award Amount	Use of funds
Cortland	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	Equipment for new UHF system for Central New York radio consortium.
Cortland	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	Radio equipment for new countywide system to be connected to Central New York radio consortium.
Delaware	$1,078,000	$1,078,000	Installing new radio and microwave infrastructure, National Interoperability base stations.
Essex	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	Implementing a gateway and infrastructure solution to permit the counties in the consortium to link their radio systems together; and narrowband compliant mobile radios to integrate in their new radio system.
Genesee	$228,309.46	$228,309	Replacing non-compliant interoperability channel base stations, and new simulcast equipment permitting first responder interoperability.
Greene	$893,000	$893,000	Installing new radio and microwave infrastructure, National Interoperability base stations.
Madison	$1,997,812	$1,997,812	Equipment for new UHF system for Central New York radio consortium.
Nassau	$1,995,511	$877,729	Radios for local PDs/other responders to use county radio system, and other multiband radios for supervisors to communicate with Suffolk County.
Niagara	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	Is in the process of building a new UHF digital radio system. They will utilize their award to purchase subscriber radios, upgrade a tower site and refresh their PSAP.

			Distribution of Round 1 SICG Awards		

County	Proposal Amount	Award Amount	Use of funds
Onondaga	$331,446	$331,446	Replacing non-compliant EMS ("MED Channel") equipment used to contact hospitals for medical reports & direction while en route to hospitals.
Otsego	$1,128,000	$1,128,000	Installing new radio and microwave infrastructure, National Interoperability base stations.
Schoharie	$858,000	$858,000	Installing new radio and microwave infrastructure, National Interoperability base stations.
Steuben	$1,523,264	$1,523,264	Converting existing system to digital to meet the narrowband deadline. And installing National Interoperability base stations. The system upgrades will be keeping pace with neighboring counties and their systems.
Sullivan	$1,198,000	$1,198,000	Installing new radio and microwave infrastructure, National Interoperability base stations.
Ulster	$978,000	$978,000	Installing new radio and microwave infrastructure, National Interoperability base stations.
Warren	$736,938	$736,938	Implementing a gateway and microwave solution permitting counties to link their systems.
Washington	$171,500	$171,500	Implementing a gateway and microwave solution permitting counties to link their systems.
	Total:	$20,000,000	

Progress of Awarded Projects

As of March 22, 2013, counties have submitted for payments as follows:

County	Award Amount	Amount Paid	Amount Available
Cortland	$4,000,000	$4,000,000	$0
Delaware	$1,078,000	0	$1,078,000.00
Essex	$2,000,000	$1,128,721.00	$871,279.00
Genesee	$228,309	$226,009.46	$2,299.54
Greene	$893,000	$2971.03	$890,028.97
Madison	$1,997,812	0	$1,992,812.00
Nassau	$1,995,511	0	$1,995,511.00
Niagara	$2,000,000	$20,504.64	$1,979,495.36
Onondaga	$331,446	$213,808.38	$117,637.62
Otsego	$1,128,000	$12,301.51	$1,115,698.49
Schoharie	$858,000	0	$858,000.00
Steuben	$1,523,264	$788,509.45	$734,754.55
Sullivan	$1,198,000	0	$1,198,000.00
Ulster	$978,000	0	$978,000.00
Warren	$736,938	$735,674.45	$1,263.55
Washington	$171,500	0	$171,500.00
TOTALS	$20,000,000	$7,128,499.92	$13,984,280.08

Section 3 - Round 2 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant Program

The next round of the SICG program — re-appropriated at $45 million from 2011-12 and $75 million from 2012-13 -- was aimed at continuing the momentum of the first round, which established the State's regional approach to interoperability and improved collaboration with state agencies.   Expanding regional partnerships, formalizing governance, implementing operating procedures between counties and agencies, and improving efficiency of emergency communications systems are the main objectives.

The application announcement, question period, and evaluation process were consistent with those done in Round 1 of this Grant and complied with all State regulations.

Budget/statutory amendments required that a specific amount within the Program be dedicated for Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) purposes. Therefore implementation of the SICG Round 2 consisted of two parts:

I.   Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG) $36 million (and potential $66 million) dedicated for further development of statewide interoperable communications for public safety

   <u>Released</u>:   May 17, 2012   <u>Notice of Awards</u>: February 4, 2013

II. Public Safety Answering Point Grant (PSAP Grant) $9 million (a second $9 million later) dedicated for proposals relating to operations and improvements, including next-generation technologies. Per amendments to statute -- $7 million for consolidation & improvements; and 2 million for operational expenses. [See PSAP Grant Outline under separate cover]
   <u>Released</u>: October 5, 2012   <u>Notice of Awards</u>: Pending

Consistent with Round 1, Round 2 of the Grant solicited proposals from counties for projects that include two components reflective of SAFECOM/NECP guidelines leading towards improved interoperability. Counties could apply for only one component of the grant.

Component A: For equipment, infrastructure, and technology to improve interoperable communications by developing, expanding or consolidating large-scale, regionally-focused LMR systems for public safety use among two or more counties supporting multi-jurisdictions and multi-disciplines, including State agencies.

Component B: Improving governance, standard operating procedures (SOPs), training and exercises and usage to promote efficient interregional communications, interoperability, cooperation and overall first responder readiness.

Round 2 SICG Results

Forty-nine counties responded to the SICG (85% response rate), with the total amount of funding requested at over $158 million. As expected, counties demonstrated significant needs for improving public safety communications and interoperability among multiple agencies and jurisdictions; and affirmed their commitment to the regional communication partnership approach.

Forty-eight applications were evaluated and ranked by their total score. One application was disqualified for incompleteness. Among these, major progress can be realized through the distribution of awards using all current allocations appropriated for this purpose.

Recognizing an available total allocation of $102 million for this component of the SICG Program, comprised of $36 million re-appropriated from the 2011-12 Budget and $66 million appropriated in the 2012-13 Budget, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency services sought to use of all available allocations to make awards from this RFA. There was no statutory prohibition (Tax Law Section 186-f (c)) hindering this disbursement. As a result, twenty-nine (29) counties received awards by using the $102 million allocated.

Benefits of this approach of award distribution included: expediting the schedule for the SICG Program, getting back to timeframes envisioned for program; avoiding a redundant, time consuming, second RFA issuance in the fall of 2012; whereby non-awarded counties would simply resubmit the same proposals or drop out entirely from the process further delaying program progress; and facilitating project execution for counties by coinciding with county budget cycles and allows them engage sooner with contractors/suppliers before year-end.

No claims for reimbursement are expected until 2013-14, due to the contract execution process at the local level; and the cash flow management counties must exercise for submitting claims for reimbursements though these awards.

	Distribution of Round 2 SICG Awards	
County	Award Amount	Brief Project Description
Albany	$6,000,000	Consolidation and upgrades to existing communication system. Deployment of system and technology to link surrounding regions and improve multi-jurisdictional response.
Chautauqua	$6,000,000	Upgrades to existing VHF and UHF LMR system and radio equipment. Development of SOPs.
Chemung	$6,000,000	Infrastructure and equipment upgrades of existing LMR system. Development of SOPs and training and exercise program.
Clinton	$2,152,080	Build out of a seamless wireless interoperable network for local & state public safety communication. New high speed, high capacity microwave network backbone components & LMR gateway equipment to support interoperability with surrounding counties.
Cortland	$6,000,000	Infrastructure and equipment for P25 LMR system with full support of multiband interoperability channels. Improvements in coordination and operations with state agencies.
Delaware	$3,404,000	Infrastructure and backbone developments, connectivity with adjacent counties. Development of interoperable infrastructure throughout the consortium.

Distribution of Round 2 SICG Awards		
County	Award Amount	Brief Project Description
Erie	$830,405	Installation of gateway devices. Infrastructure equipment for development of multi-band Interoperable Communication Channels.
Essex	$2,251,759	Additional infrastructure development. Expansion of P25 radio system to meet the needs of the consortium, state agencies and public safety agencies. Equipment upgrades and site development. Microwave upgrades to allow all necessary agencies the resources they need to become interoperable.
Genesee	$5,435,095	Upgrade of existing 800 MHz system from a proprietary analog system to a fully digital, P25 system, with P25 InterRadio Frequency Sub-System Interface (ISSI) interoperability and AES encryption for select users. New tower that will provide additional coverage in Genesee County and also serve as the gateway location for consortium partners to tie into Genesee County as a phased approach to allow roaming within the consortium.
Madison	$4,194,189	Develop additional capacity and improvements for existing radio system. Expansion of interoperability amongst local, regional, and tribal mutual aid. Formalize governance and implement standard operating procedures within and between counties and other agencies.

Distribution of Round 2 SICG Awards

County	Award Amount	Brief Project Description
Monroe	$5,468,173	Enhancements to radio coverage and interoperability with surrounding counties and on the international border. Improvements in SOPs. Training and exercise programs.
New York City	$3,543,309	Infrastructure and backbone developments and improvements. Build out of VHF National Interoperability Channels in addition to existing capabilities. Development of SOPs for wide area of interoperability.
Niagara	$742,164	Implementation of additional end user equipment and technology to enhance the County's infrastructure. Additional radio equipment to enhance communications capabilities in larger structure incidents.
Onondaga	$4,959,000	Infrastructure upgrades. Conversion to standard encryption protocols. Enhancements in training and the creation of a Field Operations Guide (FOG)
Ontario	$2,202,885	Additional base stations to implement 700 MHz interoperability channels. Deployment of VHF base stations, providing the county with access to the primary dispatch frequencies of surrounding counties.

Distribution of Round 2 SICG Awards

County	Award Amount	Brief Project Description
Orange	$5,998,000	Microwave infrastructure solution to inter-connect to Hudson Valley Interoperability Communications Consortium (HVICC). Extension 700/800 MHz P-25 radio communications solution. Utilization of National, State & local public safety channels. Creation of Governance and Standard Operating Procedures & Protocols within the HVICC, including training, exercises and regional emergency responses which require inter-county public safety communications.
Orleans	$2,000,000	Infrastructure and backhaul development. Improvements in governance, SOPs, and training programs to promote interregional communications.
Rensselaer	$5,066,512	Implementation of National Interoperability capabilities in the county's infrastructure. Develop governance, SOP's and training standards.
Rockland	$5,500,000	Infrastructure development, microwave connectivity and radio equipment to implement National Interoperability Channels.
Schoharie	$433,500	Microwave connectivity and network equipment. Development of governance and interoperability channels.

		Distribution of Round 2 SICG Awards	
County	Award Amount	Brief Project Description
Schuyler	$4,271,900	Infrastructure development, implementation of VHF and UHF National interoperable channels, development of radio system that supports all public safety providers, from local and state agencies.
Steuben	$3,169,693	Enhancements to the interoperable communications infrastructure. Development of a long-term interoperable radio plan for fire and EMS services and recommend operating procedures.
Suffolk	$6,000,000	Infrastructure developments, gateways and other radio equipment to link with neighboring county and other state entities. Development of SOPs.
Sullivan	$841,833	Infrastructure and backbone developments, connectivity with adjacent counties. Development of interoperable infrastructure throughout the consortium.
Tioga	$2,342,000	Infrastructure development, microwave connectivity. Development of SOPs and implementation of training and exercise programs.

		Distribution of Round 2 SICG Awards		

County	Award Amount	Brief Project Description
Tompkins	$2,854,312	Expansion of Radio Communications System to establish interoperability with adjoining counties/regions. Installation of base stations for National Mutual Aid Channels for UHF, VHF and 800MHz; build-out of tactical repeaters through the current and expanded microwave system; and deployment of UHF U-Call and tactical channels to facilitate communications with adjoining counties. Formalization of governance relationships on an inter-county multi-region basis and training.
Wayne	$2,036,700	Improvements to the County's radio infrastructure. Development of the national interoperable channels. Development of governance, training and exercise documents.
Wyoming	$1,771,236	Microwave connectivity and infrastructure equipment. Implantation of National Interoperability Channels.
Yates	$531,255	Addition of VHF, UHF and 700/800MHz interoperability channels. Infrastructure improvements. Development of SOPs, training and exercise programs.
Total	$102,000,000	

Section 4 - Working Together: County Consortiums

A primary objective of the new SICG program is to encourage the development of regional-based communications consortiums and partnerships. These serve as the framework by which statewide interoperability can be accomplished through a "network of networks" for local, State and other first-responder agencies to use.

Prior to Round 1, consortium affiliations were rather diverse, and broadly-defined with purposes not exclusively for communications or interoperability (e.g.; UASIs), and many were not fully inclusive of agencies/ stakeholders that crossed over jurisdictional boundaries. Example: Buffalo/Erie/Niagara UASI

After Round 2, these partnerships became more refined affiliations focusing on communications and interoperability goals; and by definition more inclusive of other agencies and jurisdictions. Examples: Catskill Consortium (Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster); Adirondack Regional Communications Consortium (Clinton, Franklin, Essex, Warren, Washington).

Addressing the need to work together with State Agencies, the New York State Police (NYSP) was identified as an active or potential participant in all applications in both Rounds. The needs and interests of NYSP and other State agencies was widely acknowledged and incorporated in proposals.

This increase in consortiums/partnerships would not-only serve as the basis for sharing bandwidth, infrastructure and technology, but more importantly provide an operational, administrative and governance vehicle to make it workable.

List of Counties in Consortium after SICG Round 2	
Adirondack Regional Interoperable Communications Consortium	Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Warren, Washington
Hudson Valley Interoperable Communications Consortium	Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester
NYC- Urban Area Working Group (UAWG)	New York City, Port Authority of NYNJ, Westchester, City of Yonkers, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), Nassau, Suffolk
Catskill Interoperable Communications Consortium	Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster
Central New York Interoperable Communications Consortium	Cayuga, Cortland, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, NYS Police, Onondaga, Oswego
Southern Tier East Regional Emergency Service Interoperable Communications Alliance	Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, NYSP-Troop C, Otsego, Schoharie, Tioga, Tompkins
Southern Tier Interoperable Communications Consortium	Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben
Finger Lakes New York Interoperable Communications Consortium	Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates
Northern New York or Thousand Island Regional Interoperable Communications Consortium	Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence
Western New York Interoperable Communications Consortium	Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Wyoming
Capital Region Urban Area Security Initiative	Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie
Six County Regional Interoperable Communications Coalition	Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Wayne

Section 5 - The Future: Where Do We Go from Here?

The concept of interoperability is not whether government agencies can communicate, but whether they can communicate in a way that enhances their collective impact on daily operations and in responding to natural and manmade disasters. Agencies in New York State generally have the basic ability to communicate. Many counties and agencies, however, are at different phases of interoperability.

The capability to communicate between State agencies and local governments in real time, over wide areas is limited, but improving. There remain a diverse assortment of gaps and challenges. These vary from region to region, and county to county, and can include the following:

- Lack of federal, state, and local funding for improving interoperable communications;
- Lack of dedicated public safety radio spectrum and interoperability channels;
- Limited or no international, interstate, interregional, interagency, and intra-agency, interoperable communications;
- Coverage gaps in many localities due to inadequate radio systems;
- Outmoded technologies;
- Licensing obstacles;
- Lack of multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency SOPs;
- Lack of integrated training and exercise programs;
- Cross-border communications issues with Canada; and
- Disparate Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs).

OIEC recommends that addressing these and other issues leading to a statewide solution in New York is best viewed by examining three interdependent paths. They are:

1. Funding Path;
2. Statewide Architecture Path; and
3. Programmatic Path.

Funding Path - refers to the establishment, execution and use of the SICG program as the primary means to support county, agency and regional development and sustainability. This program incentivizes a county to be a member of a regional interoperability consortium, and the commitment to partner with agencies from other jurisdictions and levels of government (e.g.; State Police), allowing for access to their communications systems. The efficient and economic use of State support is a key benchmark.

Statewide Architecture Path - refers to the envisioned "gateway" solution to interconnect radio systems and public safety dispatch centers in the State, ensure national interoperability channel architecture is in place, and provide a resilient microwave backbone to interconnect regions. Establishing a "network of networks" requires comprehensive planning, collaboration and development of projects guided from the State on this path.

Programmatic Path – refers to assessing public safety communications capability from an organizational or operational perspective. This path relies on the US Department of Homeland Security guidelines (aka SAFECOM Continuum) to gauge whether a jurisdiction has effectively developed and implemented organizational and management structure (governance); operating procedures; technology for voice and data; regular training and exercises; and shown usage patterns. These are the established benchmarks for interoperable communications in the public safety communications field.

Combined with goals and time tables, measuring progress and forecasting returns on investment must recognize and incorporate these paths to have a true perspective.

Conclusion

As Governor Cuomo reminded us in his 2012 State of the State address, a core mission of government is public safety. During the first decade of the twenty-first century, government's ability to fulfill this mission has been tested by many large-scale emergencies and disasters coming with increasing frequency and affecting widespread areas. Yet, the public safety mission is just as real every day for localized emergencies, whether they occur within or beyond the boundaries of a single jurisdiction. Regardless of scale, the crucial element in dealing with a crisis is the ability of responders to effectively communicate with each other.

Homeland security strategy on the national level has placed significant emphasis on interoperable public safety communications, and each state has been required to develop plans and demonstrate their capability to achieve interoperable communications on a statewide basis.

In New York, the responsibility for ensuring that there is adequate interoperable communications to protect first responders and the public they serve has been shared by authorities between the state and local level. Coordination and collaboration among levels of government, disparate systems and multiple disciplines has been a significant challenge over the past decade; however, effective communications are a top priority for everyone.

APPENDIX A - Meeting Agendas

Statewide Interoperable & Emergency Communications Board Meeting
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Tuesday, March 27, 2012
Harriman State Campus, Building 7A, 1st Floor Training Room
Albany, New York

AGENDA

Welcome and Opening Remarks	*Jerome Hauer* Commissioner, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
Roll Call	*Robert Barbato* Director, NYS Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications
Review of Enabling Legislation	*Thomas McCarren* Counsel, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
Overview of Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant	*Robert Barbato*
Overview of New York State Success with NECP Goal 2	*Larissa Guedko*, Radio Engineer *Toby Dusha*, Outreach Coordinator NYS Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications
Overview of Public Safety Wireless Broadband	*Matthew Delaney* Radio Engineer, NYS Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications
Participation of the Communications and Interoperability Working Group	*Robert Barbato*
Adoption of Schedule for Future Meetings	*Robert Barbato*
Closing Remarks and Adjournment	*Robert Barbato*

Statewide Interoperable & Emergency Communications Board Meeting
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Wednesday, June 27, 2012
Harriman State Campus, Building 7A, 1st Floor Training Room
Albany, New York

AGENDA

Welcome and Opening Remarks	*Jerome Hauer* Commissioner, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
Roll Call and Approval of Minutes of the March 23, 2012 Meeting	*Christina Porter* Analyst, NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
Round 2 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant Update	*Robert Barbato* Director, NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
Adirondack Interoperable Communications Consortium Progress and Success	*Brian LaFlure* Director, Warren County Office of Emergency Management
Interoperability Gateways	*Matthew Delaney* Radio Engineer, NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
State Agency Communication Capabilities & Cooperative Planning	*Matthew Delaney*
Next Generation 9-1-1 & Consolidation of PSAPs	*Larissa Guedko* Radio Engineer, NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications *Toby Dusha* Outreach Coordinator, NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
DHS/FEMA Funding Spent on Interoperable Communications by NYS Jurisdictions	*Thomas Gallagher* Sr. Admin. Asst., NYS DHSES Federal Grants Program Administration Unit
Closing Remarks and Adjournment	*Robert Barbato*

Statewide Interoperable & Emergency Communications Board Meeting
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Wednesday, September 12, 2012
Harriman State Campus, Building 7A, 1st Floor Training Room
Albany, New York

AGENDA

Welcome and Opening Remarks	*Jerome Hauer* Commissioner, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
Roll Call and Approval of Minutes of the June 27, 2012 Meeting	*Robert M. Barbato* Director, NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
Public Safety Broadband Update	*Matthew Delaney*, Radio Engineer NYS Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications
Round 1 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant An Update on Progress	*Larissa Guedko*, Radio Engineer NYS Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications
Round 2 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant	*Larissa Guedko*
PSAP Grant Update & SICG Efforts	*Robert Barbato*
Strategic Technology Reserve – Recent Deployments	*Robert Barbato* *Toby Dusha*, Outreach Coordinator NYS Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications
Channel Naming and Use	*Toby Dusha*
9-1-1 Advisory Sub-Committee	*Joseph Gerace*, Sheriff Chautauqua County
Duplication Advisory Working Group	*Brian LaFlure*, Director Warren County Office of Emergency Management
New Business	
Closing Remarks and Adjournment	*Robert Barbato*

State Interoperable & Emergency Communication Board Meeting
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Thursday, December 13, 2012
Harriman State Campus, Building 7A, 7th Floor Conference Room
Albany, New York

AGENDA

Welcome and Opening Remarks	*Robert M. Barbato* Statewide Interoperability Coordinator Chair, State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board
Roll Call and Approval of Minutes of the September 12, 2012 Meeting	*Robert M. Barbato* Director, NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
Hurricane Sandy	*Matthew Delaney*, Radio Engineer NYS Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications
Formal Adoption of Subcommittees/Workgroups	*Robert Barbato*
9-1-1 Standards Advisory Subcommittee	*Joseph Gerace*, Sheriff Chautauqua County
Public Safety Network Interoperability Workgroup	*Brian LaFlure*, Director Warren County Office of Emergency Management
Channel Naming and Use Workgroup	*Toby Dusha*, Outreach Coordinator NYS Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications
Statewide Interoperable Communications Grants Update	*Robert Barbato*
Administration Matters Annual Reporting Requirements SCIP Update Schedule for 2013 Meetings	*Robert Barbato*
New Business	
Closing Remarks and Adjournment	*Robert Barbato*