

STATE INTEROPERABLE & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
IN-PERSON BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 25, 2022

CHELLIS: Well, I would like to welcome everyone. Thank you for joining us today for the May State Interoperable & Emergency Communication Board meeting, State of New York. And I'd like to welcome, we have a new board member with us today. We have Director Michael Cerretto from Monroe County Emergency Communications, City of Rochester. And we're familiar with -- (inaudible).

(Pause in proceedings. No sound.)

TRIPP: Brett, we lost sound on the computer.

Board Members Present:

Brett Chellis
Mark Balistreri, Designee for NYS DHSES Commissioner
David Kislowski, Designee for NYS ITS
Timothy Morris, Designee for NYSP
Todd Murray, Designee for NYSDCJS (by phone)
Chief Jason Sellars, Designee for NYSDMNA (by phone)
Brian LaFlure
Brendan Casey
Allen Turner
Juan Figueroa
Anthony Tripp (by phone)
Michael Cerretto

Board Members Absent:

Michael Volk
Bob Terry, Designee for NYSDOT
Ryan Greenberg, Designee for NYSDOH
Richard Anderson
Kimberly Beatty

GUESTS:

Joann Waidelich
 Greg DeWolf
 Matthew Campbell
 James Callahan
 Ryan Lamothe
 Jay Kopstein
 Gerald Engstrom

CHELLIS: Thank you, Joann. I'd like to entertain a motion for approval of the minutes as distributed from our last meeting.

LAFLORE: So moved.

CHELLIS: Moved by Brian LaFlure. Do we have a second?

FIGUEROA: Second.

CHELLIS: By the Sheriff. All those in favor.
 (Affirmative responses.)

CHELLIS: Opposed?
 (No affirmative response.)

CHELLIS: Carried. Minutes are approved. Now, we need to entertain a motion for adoption of today's agenda that's in front of you.

TURNER: I'll move that, Brett.

CHELLIS: Motion first from Mr. Turner. Do we have a second?

TRIPP: I'll second that, Brett. Anthony Tripp.

CHELLIS: Okay. Second by Anthony Tripp. All those in favor.
 (Affirmative responses.)

CHELLIS: Opposed?
 (No affirmative response.)

CHELLIS: Carried. Okay. The agenda and the minutes are approved. We'll move on to Standing Committee reports. We'll start out with board member, Allen Turner, who is the chair of the 911 Advisory Committee.

TURNER: We presented the modified plan for the updated standards back in February. It's been turned over to Mr. Callahan and Brett. It basically is a work in progress right now. It has not been able to be approved yet, but it is in progress.

CHELLIS: Anything else? Any questions for Mr. Turner?
 (No response.)

CHELLIS: Okay. We'll move on to Next Generation 911 Working Group report from me. And with that, we had a -- go to the next slide, please. We have a presentation, Gerry Engstrom from GIS program office. I don't see Gerry here, so we'll move on through

the agenda. If he appears, fine. But I can tell you, just short and brief, the GIS Subcommittee of the Working Group has been working tirelessly and throughout the pandemic. They've still been meeting virtually for months. That group is probably 15 to 20 strong.

They've got a lot of GIS professionals from across the state representing a number of counties and the City of New York. The City of New York has an active Next Gen 911 implementation project in place, and they have contractors there, Geocom, some political investors, primary contractors. The Geocom is doing a lot of GIS work for New York City. There's a lot of good information and so on being brought into this group that's beneficial and will benefit the entire state program as we move forward with Next Gen and the state.

I'd like to give a lot of credit to the ITS GIS program, Gerry, Roger, and the rest of the team down there. They've done a heck of a job in organizing this and moving us forward so that we're prepared. I've seen Next Gen projects across the country.

A lot of the states, they get everything all implemented, ESInet and the services and they need to do legacy routing until they can get the GIS platform up and it's built for PSAP boundaries and all that that would make intelligent routing 911 calls.

We're going to be ahead of that curve and we're going to be prepared for that when the time comes. So big kudos to them, and I'll let the rest wait until they are here present to show. But Gerry -- just one last thing, Gerry from our ITS GIS program office and Chris Cody from New York City DOITT, now, I believe they have a new name, Office of Technology, and they co-chair this group and have done so since its inception here. Thank you to them as well for their leadership. So that's where we go with that.

Any questions?

(No response.)

CHELLIS: Okay. Next group is the CIWG group. Jay Kopstein, you're up.

KOPSTEIN: Good morning. All right, we're going to do it short and sweet. SAFECOM published a document on the **derecho** out in the Midwest and what the vulnerabilities are. I think we ought to look at it.

The national paper should be out shortly. We were briefed on that last year. Third-party dependencies document is out. I think we ought to look at that because we are dependent upon third parties in our Internet connections and, in some case, their subcontractors. There's an obstruction document out. It's more applicable in rural areas or suburban areas, if you will, when construction is

going on and they put up a tower, like a wall tower, to aid in construction and that interferes with microwaves. ECD is working on an in-building communications project utilizing existing Wi-Fi that's in the buildings. Many states have requested that we, in addition to SOPs, use SOGs, which will now appear in SAFECOM documents. In some states, the procedure must be followed to the letter where a guideline gives you some flexibility and there's been litigation on it.

There's a document out on cyber incident response; rapid response to an incident involving cyber. We need to look at unmanned aerial systems again. They're becoming more and more in use and they're getting a little bit cluttering under some circumstances.

And last, but not least, the current administration in Washington is looking to use the Hatch Act locally. Here in New York State, we've been cited once but the warning is out there, and the penalties are significant. For example, if you're using federal money to hire support employees, the penalty for a Hatch Act violation is twice the annual amount of the grant for two years. It's a significant penalty. Other penalties can involve the suspension of federal grants. So, my advice is stay away from supporting candidates on either grant-supported vehicles or on any vehicles or the like if you're using grant funding for anything within your community. That's it. Back to you, Brett.

CHELLIS: Thank you, Jay. Any questions for Jay Kopstein, the CIWG chair?

TURNER: Jay, what you just spoke about, is that something on a particular local level?

KOPSTEIN: On the Hatch Act?

TURNER: Yeah. Are you referring to somebody, a local government or state level?

KOPSTEIN: Yes. We had one sheriff that was cited but not penalized, but the warning is out there. We haven't had this type of enforcement in the past, but it's apparently something that the administration is looking at. There was one sheriff who was formally cited but not penalized. It was basically a warning, but it was again a documented warning.

CASEY: What did he have? A campaign poster on a sheriff's vehicle? That's what it was?

CASEY: What were the specifics?

KOPSTEIN: It was a Support Trump flag on a sheriff's office boat.

TURNER: I heard about that.

CASEY: That would trigger this administration.

KOPSTEIN: But it's something we need to be concerned of. Because you have agencies that fly banners from their vehicles and we've had our official warning. We don't want to wind up losing significant dollars because of it.

CHELLIS: Thank you for that clarification, Jay. Any other questions?

(No response.)

CHELLIS: Okay, all right, moving on. You're up, Mark.

BALISTRERI: I just want to give you an update on our COMU program. I always like to start with these two slides. I put them in every presentation, because some people haven't seen it and they need to know the Communications Unit is why we call it COMU. But there's seven actual positions that fall under the COMU: COML, COMT, INCM, RADO, AUXCOMM, INTD and ITSL.

The org chart looks like this. Pretty much, regardless of where you are up here, from here down is how we're setting up our program to run in the state so that we cover all the positions.

You may see the AUXCOMM work more with the COMT. We talked about that at our recent COMDEX. There's discussion about having Communications Unit as a command line in ITS, but that's not really going anywhere. Some charts have it under logistics, some charts have it under the service unit. But what I tell all our students in classes is it doesn't matter. We're just concerned with this down. We don't care who we report to.

I did a couple charts and I like showing these as we go along, because it gives you a history of where we are with credentialed folks and also where we are with our training program.

This chart basically shows you since we started at the end of 2017 to build a program where we are with credentialed folks. Obviously, in 2020, COVID hit, and we hit a big barrier for training and credentialed folks. But right now, we stand at 154 folks when we had one at the end of 2017. So, our program is moving along as we were hoping it would. And a lot of this is thanks to the folks out in the county and our partners out there working with us and helping us with this program.

This chart shows you how our training is progressing. We originally started with a five-year plan and, again, COVID in 2020 kind of threw a dart in that. So right now, we're getting back on track with our program and we're hoping to have somewhere between 150, maybe 200 trainees a year. This year, we're scheduling around 228. We started with about 450 trainees. At the end of this year, we'll be another 540. So, we'll have over a thousand trained

personnel out there working on getting that credentialed. So again, we're in good shape thanks to the counties and our staff here working with us.

So as far as courses -- give me one sec.

As far as the program, building it, we have five TAs a year, that request that we put into the feds for courses. It's hard to build a program with seven positions and only five requests a year. So right off the bat, we worked to develop our own trainers in New York State. We currently have twelve COML trainers, eight COMT trainers and five AUXCOMM trainers. We can teach three out of the seven courses. We're hopeful that by the end of this year, we can also teach INTD and RADO, which means five out of the seven we can teach, and that will greatly enhance our ability to build this program quicker.

This is what we have going this year. So far, the first half of the year, we were able to complete all these courses. We just had a COMMEX last week in Oriskany at the SPTC. We had 40 people participating and we were able to get 23 task books signed off, so there's potentially about 23 people out there that are close to getting credentialed. It was a big success last week thanks to Brian, who was part of that. Who else in here was part of it? Joann. That's about it. Maybe some people on the phone. But we've really been working hard to try and get people credentialed and get their task books signed off.

This is what the rest of the year looks like. We have an INCM course scheduled for next month, a COMT course in July, a RADO in July, INTD in August, AUXCOMM in August. ITSL, which this is a new course that they offered. It's basically your IT, your technical folks out there, computer folks. They revamped the course and now, they have a new offering. So, we put in for that to see what that's all about. Another COML in September. An AUXCOMM train-the-trainer in October. Our goal there is to try and increase our AUXCOMM instructor pool. We have a COMT course in November. And then in December, we started this last year, it worked out well. We get all our instructors together for two days and we go through what we did well this year, what we need to change, and we plan for the next year, what we're going to do next year.

If you have any folks out there that want to take any of the courses, have them go into LMS and register 90 days before the start date. If you want to take a picture of that, that's the portal. It's also a good idea for folks to go in there and check their information, make sure their current e-mail address is correct and their primary phone numbers are correct. Basically, this database was created from all the

training databases out there, DCJS, SPTC, OEM, OFPC, us. So whatever your default e-mail is, it may not be the one you want.

Yes, Sheriff?

FIGUEROA: Where are these courses held at? Are they virtually? Are they regional?

BALISTRERI: These are all at the SPTC. Encourage your folks as well as you to get in there and check your information out, make sure it's correct, so that when you do register for something, it goes to the right e-mail address.

We also did request -- I don't want to go too far into this, but we have a NYSTICFOG that's a companion document to the national NIFOG which our communications folks use out there. We created our own and what we're requesting this year is to turn that into an application that you can use on your phone or your tablet. Right now, the NIFOG is an application. It would be nice to have both of them out there.

They also have the AUXFOG as an application as well, which is another great tool for our COMU folks. We've been pushing CASM. It's a great database. I won't go too far into it, but if you've heard of it or want to know more about it, we do offer training sessions through WebEx coming up in September and November.

Those are the dates for the next two. Just send me an e-mail and I'll send you an invite for the WebEx. There was a new refresh they put out, it's a lot more user-friendly and there's a lot of great information, as long as people keep it up.

Any questions?

(No response.)

BALISTRERI: Thank you.

CHELLIS: Thank you, Mark.

Public Safety Broadband User Group. During the April late-season snowstorm, OIEC received a request for assistance with communications for Broome County, the eastern edge of Broome County, which is Village of Deposit, which falls halfway in Delaware County. The county line moves right up the center of the fire station and the village itself is the point of interest.

The OIEC team responded and brought some vehicles, and the purpose was to reestablish communications to the EOC in Village of Deposit. They had a lot of families there without power and cell service and other things were compromised. They learned there's a partial outage of the FirstNet due to cell sites being down, the AT&T sites, and that affected the emergency operations of the fire department to the

community.

We requested a FirstNet deployable, SatCOLT, and less than eight hours later, it was on the air in the village and providing services and restored that wireless capability in the village. It's worth reporting. It just shows the capabilities we now have with the deployables.

CERRETTO: Where was it being deployed from?

CHELLIS: I think -- there's two in New York and there's two -- I know New Jersey has some. They're all -- you know, it's up to them who they deploy. But I can't really tell the exact locations, Mike, but I'll get that information for you. I'm not sure exactly where it came from. I'm thinking it came from -- I'm not sure.

I think that's it for that. Any questions?

(No response.)

CHELLIS: We'll move on to the channel naming and use working group. Matt, by the way, is on vacation this week and then the board meeting got rescheduled. I'm doing Matt's reports. That's the reason.

The IO channels. As we enter the season, Matt wanted to remind everybody to ensure that your interoperability repeaters are not left on. They should be turned off whenever you don't have an incident using them.

If you do have an incident, the Connecticut listserv should be notified that you're on the air and it should be notified when you're going off the air.

That listserv serves this whole region of the northeast, thanks to Connecticut. It's a good way everybody knows what ones are being used and not. This is an ongoing problem, and it seems almost continuous. We have these things being left on.

I ask you to please pay attention to that, go out, talk to agencies in your area, your footprint, and just advise them of this. It can interfere with important communications during incidents or planned events.

LAFURE: Brett, is there a way in the future where if somebody turns it on would automatically trigger a signal, say, to your office?

CHELLIS: We've identified a number -- I remember one time I was out in (inaudible). We were doing service on a tower down there in Delaware County and you start monitoring from the top of the mountain, we just turned on recordable and see if we could hear any of them. We could hear repeaters. You could hear the squelch, yeah, the repeater just running. So, we'll get call signals every 30 minutes or so and we were able to -- Matt, he had no problem, he read the Morse Code. And what I did was recorded it, sent it to Matt. He read the code and told me who it was, and he notified that county

that they need to turn that off and to pay attention to that. That's the easy way of finding them.

We've had to find them through directional systems from vehicles. We've had to go out for hours just to search what is keyed up. And if they don't have the automatic all sign, you know, there is FCC rules on that, that needs to be done. But that would help to your point if that was on all these channels.

So certainly, I'll sit right here and say we encourage people to do that, if possible. That way, we at least know who to call.

LAFLORE: There are some organizations that don't know theirs is on. If they have a power bump, the power goes off, comes back on, many of these repeaters are designed to come up in the repeat mode. There may have been a bump in the power at a tower site somewhere, and people in the dispatch center don't know that that's on and, hence, we're trying to work with the vendors to make sure these units get reprogrammed, so they don't come up in the repeat mode. I couldn't tell you the repeat time, how often, but check it out.

CHELLIS: I've always been told, it's like --

LAFLORE: Some are automatic; some are every time the repeater's used when it goes down, it sends a message at the end of its transmission. I'm not sure right off the top of my head, Brett.

CHELLIS: Okay, let's see. Citizen Alerting Committee. I'm also reporting for Matt Delaney in this one. IPAWS proficiency testing. For the entities that have a COG with FEMA, COG is your first layer of notification in the emergency broadcast, the COG is also an agreement, a certificate of agreement, with FEMA and that allows an agency to submit alerts into IPAWS.

IPAWS is a dashboard run by FEMA that basically grants an agency access to emergency alerting tools, your emergency broadcast system, your cellular wireless emergency alerts and other avenues of streaming, different avenues they've come up with to push out presidential emergency alerts and ones from state and local governments.

So, the reminder is that once you get a certificate with FEMA to operate into the IPAWS dashboard and activate alerts, you need to maintain your certification and you also have to do monthly testing. And you need to successfully send in a test alert monthly. And if you don't do it three months in a row, you're suspended until it's figured out and an agreement is made to do the testing as required.

There are several entities in New York that have not conducted their testing per the requirements that are -- you

know, we're reminding, basically, pay attention to this, it's very important that this alerting functionality is operational.

We ask that you meet the testing requirements so that we don't lose certifications out there. There are backup agencies that can do alerts. It's not like it's not able to be done. There's plenty of backup systems in place. However, it's very important we keep the alerting program with the agencies to directly do them the fastest way possible.

Any questions?

(No response.)

CHELLIS: State Agency Communications Working Group. The Working Group met several times in recent months. We've discussed the status of current agency radio infrastructure, identify opportunities for interagency projects where different state agencies are working to either replace or improve their communications systems, and basically just coordinate a dialogue between agencies and put out kind of a matrix of the status of wherever the agencies are in terms of their systems, what they're using, the footprint of their use. Do they have statewide or are they --

CASEY: I have a question. Is anybody here from around Fort Drum? And I'll tell you why I'm asking this. West Point wants us to take over their emergency services dispatch. It seems like it's a nationwide program because they don't want to have to train MPs and then they transfer and, you know, dispatch has become kind of a career unto itself now. It's not like back in the day, you answer the phone and send a car.

I was just curious if that's happening at Fort Drum or anywhere else around the state where it's a federal facility that has its own fire -- I mean, West Point has its own hospital, they have the MPs. But we're going to be taking over their COMs.

CHELLIS: The one at West Point, to my understanding, I did a little bit of research into this, they're not anymore, a full-fledged in terms of trunk lines and all that. Right? They do the dispatch of internal calls and so on.

CASEY: We answer their 9-1-1 calls.

CHELLIS: Right, right.

CASEY: They're part of a mutual aid system. We frequently send resources in there.

CHELLIS: You're going to take over radio dispatch.

CASEY: Yeah, with the exception right now of EMS, because EMS is run out of the hospital. But that's probably going to become ours also. It's good for us to get them on our radio system, because we interact with them anyway. We just had graduation there, it's a large event. But it seemed to

me this was something coming down from DC.

CHELLIS: It is. The Division of Military Affairs, actually, is involved. The National Association of (inaudible) Administrators. We always have representation, a member of Division of Military Affairs as well as the Armed Forces themselves has representation. The Marine Corps does. They have ongoing projects to -- or they have more PSAPs than any state in the U.S. When you think about the U.S. military, just in the continental U.S. alone, not including outside, there's over a thousand PSAPs that have military facilities.

CASEY: They're going to pay us, because they don't pay taxes in Orange County. We normally wouldn't take over dispatch or anything for a village or a town unless it was a really large one. Like, Newburgh has talked about it, but that would require some additional personnel but...

CHELLIS: They're trained to coordinate the -- like, improving the communications and moving to Next Gen with the states that those things resided, because they're part of those communities. And North Carolina was the first test, I believe it's --

MEMBER: Fort Bragg.

CHELLIS: Yeah, Fort Bragg, that was the first one that consolidated their PSAP with the county. That was successful from everything I've heard. Both the North Carolina administrator and (inaudible) seemed happy with it. The Division of Military Affairs is kind of coordinating it, so there isn't a different type of program in all different branches of military. So, you're probably seeing that.

CASEY: And we really just came up with a number. We were like, "Well, it's going to be an extra dispatcher. About \$300,000." They were like "okay". You know, there was no real direction on it. And it makes sense from their point of view because they don't have to keep training people every two years.

CHELLIS: Right.

CASEY: And our resources on that end, our new radio system and everything is superior to what they have.

CHELLIS: Fort Drum has a real, you know, a full PSAP. They have trunks, 911 trunks, selective routers, everything. You can confirm that with Jefferson County and Division of Military Affairs. That one, I haven't heard of anything, but I can't say there isn't any...

CASEY: That would have probably a much larger impact on Jefferson. West Point from our perspective, a lot of crime there, a lot of police calls. It's a pretty controlled atmosphere. Just large events, they have (inaudible) stadium and like that.

LAFLORE: As far as Fort Drum goes, Joe Plummer, he's the emergency manager up there. I know he deals with them all the time. It's the same thing they deal with, the reservation. The reservation has their own fire, their own law enforcement. So, either him or Rick in Franklin. They could give you some good information.

CASEY: Yeah, I just want to see if anybody else has gone through it.

CHELLIS: If you have any other questions, I have contacts with Military Affairs and with the Army, some of the branches.

CASEY: Our law department is involved, so it's not going to happen because they're a mess. We'll see how far that goes.

CHELLIS: All right. Anyways, we basically report out and the agencies are working amongst each other as needed and so on. We'll continue to keep an eye on it. Assist in ideas or research, if necessary, to kind of put the information together. Any other --

TURNER: Regarding that, do you see state agencies moving more onto local systems or connecting to them?

CHELLIS: In some areas, there's agencies that work similar to (inaudible), entire county, there's agencies that work the entire state. The State Police, for example, they cover every corner of the state, so they operate -- they happen to operate their COMs, I don't want to speak for the lieutenant too much, but they operate as a regional basis, troops, okay. Other state agencies, like DEC, they do a lot of their dispatch centralized.

Some of it down in the region. So, there's a little bit of different aspects of the actual operations and it's usually for good reason. Some of the agencies have, I'll call them islands of radio systems, like SUNY or DOCCS with the prison system. You know, they have systems for each facility, but it's not one big statewide system.

So, there are a number of them, courts, so on and so forth. So, the idea of this was just to identify the types of systems, the areas, take kind of a broader look at it than each agency looking only at themselves, and see what gaps there are, what unmet needs and where they're all at. And if they want any other assistance or coordination or ideas or anything, we're there to help. But we're not going to tell any of these agencies what, that's a level higher.

CERRETTO: The state highway in our county, we don't have any direct communication with them other than by phone to their regional center in Rochester. And I didn't know if other counties -- I'm using them as an example. Do they talk with the other local highway departments or is it more

important that they talk with the other residencies within their region?

CHELLIS: It's up to policy within the county and what they see as needs of interoperability. Interoperability doesn't always mean you want every snowplow to be able to talk to every police car and every fire truck. Imagine what that would be like.

You have to control those things. Usually, it's a command staff thing. I know DOT talking to this troop thing, they have supervisors in each region that cover mostly the big incidents and emergency managers and they have set up with many of the counties the ability to communicate on whatever system the county has, you know, within policy.

MEMBER: Yeah, I can tell you when we built out our system, we thought we were going to have a lot of headroom on it when Motorola built out the system and the idea was to take the load off the municipalities, all their radio and communication costs. So, we did that for fire, police and EMS. We really thought we were going to be able to give the towns a channel for their snowplows and their DPWs and stuff. But I don't think so at this point.

When we looked at really how much usage, you know, the talk groups, how much they're being used, how much headroom is on the system, I don't think we're going to go in that direction at this point.

We really thought, you know, when you're dealing with the salesman, right, the sky's the limit. You'll use 25 percent of the system. But really, when you get out there and you see the usage on a lot of things, now, that doesn't mean we can't look at like our sheriff's SOG teams, like, we need five tactical channels. What's the usage on those? When you really look at it, they're not used. So, you could probably move those talk groups around. We thought we'd be able to take that burden completely off the municipalities, because they all still have radios now on their snowplows and the water departments and it's not on our system. And they pay for --

MEMBER: My county, we have a trunk 800 system. So, law enforcement, fire, EMS, highways, everybody is on our system. But one of the agencies that is not is our State DOT.

MEMBER: Troopers are on ours.

MEMBER: State Police are on our system.

CHELLIS: DOT, their system is low band. Think about it; as far as I know, they don't have a need and haven't issued portable radios to every DOT worker. They have mobile radio coverage is pretty much what they need, vehicles to be able to get a hold if there's an emergency or to report their

status or whatever.

Low band is not that bad for mobile coverage. It's not the greatest thing for portable coverage in today's standards. But it's definitely not bad -- because you need a lot fewer towers to cover a big area of low band, and nobody's on it anymore. You got a lot of room.

Anyway, (inaudible) has been active in the group talking and other agencies and look at the needs. They're certainly looking, too, with what their best answer is as far as future systems and so forth.

To get back to your original question, a number of the counties can speak to that, arrangements in a number of counties to share communications with.

MEMBER: Yeah, we're in same boat as the other state agencies trying to keep up. So it's just a matter of we do the MOUs with the counties, we try to get the end user equipment to be on their systems, because we don't have seven, eight hundred portables to hand out as they come on.

As we're notified, we make arrangements to buy equipment at that point. The same thing we do with DOT, we have to go to consolidated centers, TMCs, you know. But to Brett's point, DOTs operate on low band. They're really only talking to regionals. They don't talk to the trunks. They let the regionals handle that.

We've even set them up so they're on our state frequency and our current car so they have that option as well. These signals were -- the design goes back to each regional coordinator.

CHELLIS: It works kind of on a regional basis, yeah, but they also have their own operations. It depends on the type of system.

All right. Any other questions?

(No response.)

CHELLIS: All right. Now, I am Phil McGeough. Phil is doing interviews. Every year, we have one or two interns, college interns, working on either emergency management or something related to emergency communications, site or whatever, and they spend time with us. He's working on those interviews, so I'm covering his report. I'm going to get up for this one to be able to read the slides.

So, these charts, most of you are familiar with. It kind of gives you the status from inception of these grant programs. The SICG's Formula grant. You can see the red ones are the ones that the original, beginning ones and those are the ones that are closed.

The rest of them are still open and have some extensions or whatever, request of particular counties. And you can see where they are in terms of the amount reimbursed, the total

appropriation of that grant.

You can see here 90 million for 2021, this was the latest program that we're working, and this goes out to 2024. This was done to catch up the program. During the pandemic, some of the grant stuff fell a little bit behind.

Our goal has been, and we've been working tirelessly, thanks to our grant's unit, thanks to all the people that have been involved and also to the counties in getting these things put out so we can do it. What we're doing is doubling up the appropriation and doing two cycles to catch it up.

We do strictly review extension requests. We don't just rubber stamp them. We're getting more and more. It's really a lot of money out there on the street and it's sometimes tough to get money justified and so on, so much unspent from five years ago.

We just encourage you -- I know many of these projects, especially in this area, are big projects. Building communication systems is a big -- it takes a lot of land acquisition; it takes frequency coordination and licensing. It takes a lot of coordination and time. However, to get the grant, you got to get the people that you need to coordinate the project. You need to meet the timelines as much as possible. That's all we can ask.

FIGUEROA: I got a question on that last one.

CHELLIS: Yes.

FIGUEROA: So, in 2018, there were six counties selected for that targeted grant cycle, but it was actually (unintelligible) in 2021, so there was a three-year delay. The reason why I bring this, there are a couple counties, including Ulster County, that during that period, there were no applications accepted or appropriations for 2021 and '22, which makes them ineligible for the 2022 and '23 application requirements, because you must have a 50 percent reimbursement.

How do we come up with that 50 percent number? Is there a way -- because the money wasn't spent? Let's say it was 1.8 million for a six-million-dollar grant and they're not at 50 percent but at 25 percent, that that automatically makes them ineligible for the other grants in this particular round. So how do we come up with that 50 percent and is that adjustable?

CHELLIS: That was a decision between the grants office and administration based on -- you've got 62 counties, 57 in the City, right, applying for these things or eligible to apply every year. Okay, now, we did have a couple years without, that's why again we doubled up grants. We had money left over from the '18 is why we rolled out last -- in 2021, they rolled out the rest of that money. Then, this cycle is

basically a couple years combined to catch this up. So, it's bigger awards, but you've got that many entities.

Now, only about 10 have received these grants since its inception in 2018. So, you've got 40-some counties out there trying to get grants and many of them have very good, justifiable projects that are going to get these national inter-op channels up, so we have that footprint across the state at a desired level of 85 to 90 percent coverage. And it also will connect consortiums. It'll connect counties, like ISI connections or whatever to other counties, and make some the concept of the system to system work.

Now, the only reason I'm saying that, Sheriff, is it's hard to give a county two in a row if they haven't even spent even half of the one you just gave them. Okay? I know the timeline has pushed this close, however, it just means this year probably not -- you know, it just made a clean cut. You wouldn't think --

FIGUEROA: Is there any break because of COVID and the ability to spend this money? I mean, it's hard to spend this money because you can't get the contractors to --

FIGUEROA: The three-year delay. So, it's kind of tough to spend it because of the pandemic and the three-year delay and those counties, and I know at least two feel like they're penalized, because they didn't spend the money in time.

CHELLIS: The time we're going to have a year after a year. If we had one every year, every year, it would be rolling out. Our decision was it doesn't make sense to give a county a grant in year 2 if year 1 hasn't been spent down yet. Because there's X amount of money to spend. We can only give so many a year. Maximum six million award and you got twenty million. So how many grants is that? You know, as few as -- three or four counties a year are getting a grant. To give somebody two in a row... that's all it is.

We got a letter from the County Executive of Ulster yesterday and there's no decision yet. So, the answer to your question is we're going to review the letter, we're going to talk about it. I'm not making the decision alone. Okay? And we'll get back to the County Executive.

FIGUEROA: The other county that has the same issue is Niagara County.

CHELLIS: Okay, good to know. Director, I didn't mean to cut you off if...

MEMBER: No. You answered it.

CHELLIS: So we're going to review that and answer the question. For right now, the rules are the rules. Counsel Callahan, is that pretty much right?

CALLAHAN: Yes.

CHELLIS: Okay. The PSAP Operations grant, these are

smaller grants, but they're for the 911 PSAP operations. They're done annually. We normally require them to be spent in the year. We made some exceptions to that due to the pandemic and the time it takes to spend. We made them two-year rollouts, a couple of these.

So, we have a lot of these now where we're breaking the process. We received, the RFAs went out, we're calculating all the data, crunching the numbers and going to have award announcements on the PSAP, the Formula and Targeted are going to be rolling.

Then, we have a whole other year to go right out behind it. Our goal is to get this caught up so as soon as the state budget is approved in, hopefully, April of every year, as soon as possible after that, we will get the RFAs out for that year's system so the counties hopefully will have an award number by the time they complete their budget process, which usually runs from May to November, at least the county I'm from.

And the counties have always asked -- they want to make the budget for next year, it's nice to know how much money they're going to have to work with. We're doing everything we can to try to make that happen. The state budget doesn't come until April. County budgets start in January, so you have to understand they're built in four months there.

However, we can do a lot closer than we've ever been able to before, thanks to this administration, grants working with us, you know, just the ability to roll out multiple years or multiple grants at the same time, that's all. And the counties in our feedback was they'd rather have the grants on time and the numbers they need even if it meant they had to do two applications within a short period of time two weeks apart.

I think it's working. I think it's going to be a smoother rollout of this stuff. And I thank all the people and their ideas.

Larissa has -- I should report this. We haven't had a board meeting since and everyone is wondering where Larissa is. Larissa has been from inception, she was here at beginning of OIEC, she came from statewide wireless project. She basically has been the main grant lead in the office since the grants began. In 2010, the office was formed and I guess this program started in '14.

Larissa has taken a promotion. She's still within our division. She is with the Office of Recovery and Finance, I believe it's called, and she is Deputy Director, I believe, there and she is doing very well and likes it. It's a good challenge for her.

However, this is like her baby to her. She's down here

almost every day to check. She's helped mentor Phil McGeough who's taken on the grants and we're also giving him assistance. It's not going to be one person, it's going to be a few. We're working as a team through these latest grants. I have something here to answer.

(Pause.)

CHELLIS: All right. So, where we are. Please get these things caught up on your end and we're doing the same on our end.

All right. Targeted grant. Targeted is, again, very good, we're in the middle of crunching numbers, (inaudible) another year coming out right behind it. So that one, we hope.

We did add an objective in the target this time around and that is the connection of more stronger and it's still the national interoperability channel repeaters is still a full objective of the program. In addition, we've added the connection of counties to counties, the backhaul infrastructure, whether it's microwave, fiber, whatever is needed to do that. It could be connecting cores between two different counties, cores for P25 radio systems, one could be the backup and then for the region, it could be consortiums, whatever. That's part of the system to system objective (inaudible) shared. That is a change in the evolution of this program and I think it's a good one. Any questions on the Targeted or the PSAP or the Formula? (No response.)

CHELLIS: All right. I just said, you know, the backhaul is the one that's been added in the objective. Also, tactical channels, we covered that one.

Over 629 million has been rolled out since the inception of the program. I do want to thank Phil for stepping up and taking on this challenge. It's not an easy one. It's really had him busy, busy and awake at night a little too much, I think. And thank the counties for being patient, working with us. Any questions on that? That's enough, right?

Okay. Old business. Any old business? Gerry, we'll go back to your report. Gerry Engstrom, co-chair of GIS Subcommittee.

ENGSTROM: Not a lot to report. The GIS Subcommittee is meeting; we've still been meeting monthly. New York City and the GPO have been co-chairing. We have some new members from some other counties that have joined in. We continue to stay apprised of new technology, new requirements from the federal government, especially elevation requirements, 911 calls, so height in a building.

One of the main things that we've been working on all along

is to get our shared GIS editing environment stood up to build our statewide PSAP boundaries layer for Next Gen 911. That has been approved in concept by ITS now all the way up to the CTO. So, we have gone through an engineering intake with the chief operations office. We are on our way. We have not selected either -- and it'll be Cloud-based. We haven't selected Amazon or Google yet. We've somewhat pit the two of them against each other to try and get the best deal. We're letting them two duke it out. ITS is letting them duke it out.

The initial cost estimate from Google came in much too high. We went back and revisited and brought Amazon to the table. We don't have that finalized yet, but the ITS side of the house is being worked on as we speak.

They are building the proposed platform or designing the proposed platform. It's just a matter of time when either Amazon or Google is selected and that's just where the application will be housed, on their Cloud. So, it will live out in the Cloud; that works sometimes.

But the two vendors are the top tier vendors in the Cloud world, obviously, so that will give all the participants, theoretically, any county that wants to join in, to be able to have an editing environment where we can all work in the same place and at the same time on our PSAP boundaries.

Because while we all probably have a PSAP boundary, if you throw them all together in a map, there are going to be significant challenges. There will be gaps, overlaps, things of that nature. That does not work well with CAD. It does not work well with Next Gen 911. There can't be any gaps, overlaps, undershoots, overshoots. It has to be perfect matches all the way around, because that's what's going to determine where a call gets sent.

So once the environment's stood up, everybody puts their data in, it's kind of like the throw it on the wall and see what sticks approach. And then that's when the real work begins where each county starts talking to their adjacent county and hashing out the details of who covers what.

So that's the big news that we have. And probably by the next meeting, I hope we have at least a concept, something in a conceptual stage stood up. It's a possibility. We are working pretty hard towards that. But in the meantime, we have still met all through the pandemic. We never dropped the meetings and we've stayed in touch with each other, each of the counties that's involved.

New York City has been a big help, actually, because they are ahead of the state. We've got a couple of people that contribute from New York City. Very helpful. Giving the rest of us, both the state and the counties, some direction

as to what we need to really pay attention to, kind of the -- I can't think of the term, a lookback, what went wrong, what went right.

So, it gives us the opportunity to really advance in that particular...

CHELLIS: It's good to have this network of information to have this many people working together. As I said, even the Working Group itself when it was very active, providing input towards the original concept planning and working with us. Mike, thank you for being here. But working together to provide input towards the planning documents is a very, very important process. This concept is built from the ground up, I'll say from the PSAP up, not from, you know, top down. And whatever solution is chosen for a state system, whether it's done regionally or statewide, it's done considering the operations of the different types of agencies that are responding.

With 998 coming in this year, adding almost a fourth first response entity, I see it as, a mental health, there's many local communities that have been response task forces. It's coming and you'll be sending calls, referring them over to 998, back and forth with 998 coordinating response, whether or not the call requires law enforcement or emergency medical response, accurate determination of that and the proper management of calls, so on and so forth.

A lot of coordination, a lot of stakeholder involvement going on behind the scenes with all these. I think everybody does that, working as a subject matter expert or just learning as we're all learning and it's a moving target. It's a dynamic situation, because changes are happening every day, it seems, with this stuff.

Thank you, Gerry, for that report. You guys are doing a good job and thank you for chairing it.

Is there any other old business or current business for the Board today?

(No response.)

CHELLIS: Move on to symposium feedback. The symposium, we feel, went well as far as our staff. Thank you, all, that participated. It's still a challenging time out there. We did a survey and Joann's crunching numbers, too. And Joann, you want to say what you've seen so far flash before your eyes?

WAIDELICH: About 95 percent have responded to the survey so far. Almost all of it is very positive. Networking seems to be the number one aspect that everybody gets excited about and really enjoys at the symposium. We will do a joint conference again in the spring and we've got some good topics that were suggested. We have a year to work on that.

CHELLIS: Everybody, it was the first time in person we did this coordination with the 911 coordinators. It was proposed three years ago but, again, got setback and they were excellent to work with, Mark, Kelly before Mark as president, we worked with them in the planning a couple years. Mark stepped up as president, moved up to president this year, doing a good job, it seems. He did a good job with the conference. It was in Niagara County. He had the local contact with the hotels, familiar with them. It seemed to go very well, I thought it went well. They pretty much put together the agenda for Wednesday morning until Thursday at noon. And it was their part of the agenda for the program side. And you know, I think overall, the information was good and the feedback back and forth was good. I thank everybody that came, the people that presented. We'll start planning next year's.

Any new business?

(No response.)

CHELLIS: Am I missing anything, Joann? Mark?

(No response.)

CHELLIS: So we'll talk about the next meeting. It'll be August 3rd. Same date last year, right, Joann, August 3rd, wasn't it?

WAIDELICH: 4th or the 2nd. It depends on what day we shift it onto the Wednesday.

CHELLIS: All right. If you would, Director Cerretto, if you could just stick around for a few minutes, we could meet with you and welcome again.

Before we adjourn, I want to thank Larissa for all her time in the grants and years. I'd like to do something more formal from the Board at a subsequent meeting to thank Larissa for her contributions to this program over the years, her service to OIEC, and public safety communications. She was also chair of one of the regional 800 RPCs, whatever they call them, (inaudible) systems. And she was vice chair, I think, or something, technical chair, one of the others. She had stepped down from those positions and those regional boards. She's needed in Recovery. They certainly have (inaudible) in the state. They need her skills. We hated to lose her, we're glad she can help there and she's not that far away. I want to thank her.

I also want to have a Moment of Silence for the victims of the senseless domestic terrorism that occurred in the City of Buffalo.

Our hearts go out, prayers to the families, the public safety agencies that had to respond and have to deal with that for the rest of their lives, and the communities that have to recover, both in Buffalo and last night in Texas.

Senseless. Let's have a Moment of Silence.

(Moment of Silence observed.)

CHELLIS: And also, Director Cerretto, condolences to your agency on the loss of your telecommunicator. A senseless violent act.

CERRETTO: Thank you.

CHELLIS: A bad time for that in the middle of all this other stuff. It's a bad time any time. Condolences to your agency.

CERRETTO: Rough year so far. (Inaudible).

CHELLIS: I would like to put together a -- I don't want to lose track of the public safety communicators that we lost to either COVID or other circumstances. Those duties are a little harder to do in this type of a world (inaudible) EMS, people that are active in their positions and they've passed. I'd like to start keeping track of that.

We have it from the beginning of COVID. We kind of did a little recognition of that this year at the symposium, the 911 coordinators did it. So, in assisting them, I think they'll take this on.

There's also a national list started of dispatch personnel lost to COVID. A half dozen or so at least in this state if you take technical personnel that work to support that, like our own radio engineer we lost to COVID in December, Gil Saez. It's something we shouldn't forget.

But your agency is really -- having lost a dispatcher in that several years ago shooting incident with firefighters.

That's up in Webster, West Webster. (Inaudible)

CERRETTO: Thank you.

CHELLIS: Okay. With that, we will adjourn. Do I have a motion to adjourn? It's supposed to be a motion.

CASEY: So moved.

TRIPP: Motion, Brett.

CHELLIS: We have a second. Thank you, all, for attending and your attention. Hopefully, next time, I won't be reporting for everybody and you'll hear different voices.

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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