



KATHY HOCHUL
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JACKIE BRAY
Commissioner

MARK J. BALISTRERI
Director

State Interoperable & Emergency Communication Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, 2024
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Welcome: Mark Balistreri, Chairperson of the Board (10:00 AM)

Welcome Board Members, Designees and guests to the May 15, 2024, SIEC Board Meeting. The meeting is called to order. Reminder that the meeting is being recorded, and for the benefit of those who have dialed into the meeting, when recognized by the chair or for any motions or seconds, to state your name prior to speaking. Any member dialed in, may not make a motion nor vote on a motion. It is highly recommended that this meeting be in person and it's great to see everybody here. This is probably the biggest one we've had this year.

Guests or persons having relevant knowledge or information may attend and speak as part of the agenda upon acceptance of the meeting agenda by the Board. All other guests must be recognized by the Chair before addressing the Board or participating in discussion.

Introduction of two new employees to OIEC. John Raymond, John comes from Herkimer County where he was the Director. He is a Radio Engineer and will be working with Matt Delaney in the Programs Unit. Amanda Schultz is the new Assistant Director of OIEC. Amanda comes from Livingston County and was the Director of Communications.

Roll Call for Board Members: Heather Fura

In-person attendance:

Mark Balistreri
Amanda Schultz
Tim Morris
Jeff Nuding
Jeffrey Houck
Bob Terry
Kevin Fairchild
Steve Dziura
Brian LaFlure
Michael Volk
Allen Turner
Juan Figueroa
Michael Cerretto

Not in attendance:

Kimberly Beatty
Anthony Tripp

Quorum Achieved



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Approval of the January 17, 2024 meeting minutes: Mark Balistreri

Motion to accept: Jeff Nuding

Seconded: Brian LaFlure

All in favor: Aye

Approval of the agenda:

Motion to accept: Tim Morris

Seconded: Bob Terry

All in favor: Aye

Committee and Working Group Updates:

911 Advisory Committee: Allen Turner, Chair

Everybody has received a copy of the draft standards. It's been fine tuned, and everything looks good.

NG911 Working Group: Paul Glasser Jr., Chair

Paul Glasser is Chair, Tim Hardy is Vice-Chair

The NG911 Working Group met last week after the Symposium, a short meeting. Brief discussion regarding the RFI. The RFI was published last week, June 4th is the deadline. Discussed what we're going to do once the recommendations come back. Next meeting is scheduled in August, consistent with the SIEC Board Meeting, however it was decided to have a meeting prior to that, so we can start discussing the RFI.

GIS Working Group: Steve Carr, Co-Chair

Steve Carr and Jason Baum are Co-Chairs

Three meetings since the last SIEC Board. Good attendance and a good exchange of information between GIS and how it applies to public safety. Based on the Chair's direction, we have put together a mission statement. The role has changed slightly, the committee is now GIS, not just Next Gen GIS because there is a lot of GIS inside of public safety independent of Next Gen. Thank the State's support, the counties and the cities in this committee. Happy to see the State attend the meetings and look forward to moving into the next phase of special data use within public safety including Next Gen 911.

State Agency Communications Committee: Matt Delaney, Co-Chair

Mark Balistreri and Matthew Delaney are Co-Chairs

The committee met on May 7th in hybrid format. Went through the Agency's present. Discussed topics and presentations for future meetings, what the State agencies would like to talk about, who they would like to see presentations from.



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Citizen Alerting Committee: Matt Delaney, Chair

Matt Delaney is chair; Melissa Nussbaum from State Emergency Management is Vice-Chair

Met on May 9th in a hybrid format. Had about 30, 35 people altogether in the meeting. Dr. Micki Olson from UAlbany have a presentation on research she has been doing on extreme heat communication, talking about the words they use for the general public to understand the risk that is being communicated to them on extreme heat. There's been a lot of attention in the last few years on the impact of heat. Heat is the number one weather related killer of the public, people don't realize it, but it is due to all the impacts during the summertime.

Had a discussion on WEA, Wireless Emergency Alert, messaging and the earthquake and solar eclipse and received some input from the FEMA IPAWS office who was with us on the phone. There were some issues that were observed with Wireless Emergency Alerts during those two events with some phones that did not alert, so there is some follow up occurring just to determine where the problem was. Was it a cellular problem? Was it something on the phones? More to follow as we figure out what happened.

Also discussed was Next Gen TV as ATSC 3.0. This is the next generation of digital television broadcasting that is starting to be adopted in some of the TV markets across the country. Some work is being done in North Carolina on the ability to alert both the public or first responders using television broadcast signals, so instead of today where you receive an emergency alert message, emergency alert system message on your screen as a crawl, it could be targeted to just people in a certain geographic area the way it is with cell phones, but also it could have additional data taking advantage of the fact that the usually television broadcasting can send a large amount of data and could include maps, pictures, video clips, but also it could direct it to just say public safety. Public safety could use it almost like a one-way receipt of emergency information broadcast to them using television broadcast transmitters that are usually very high power, cover a large area. ATSC 3.0 includes both the ability to receive it while in motion at high rates of speed, so you can receive it in a car while moving as well, that we can't do with video television today with liability.

Motion to accept committee reports: Matt Balistreri

Motion: Brian LaFlure

Seconded: Michael Cerretto

All in favor: Aye

Program Updates

Grants: Matthew Delaney

The 2024 PSAP Operations Grant and SICG Formula Grant were released on April 30th, due back early June. If you have any questions, contact your grants representative in the Grants Program Office regarding those



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RFAs. The next SICG targeted grant RFA is in the works, we will be getting awards back in the wintertime and now we're working on the Request for Applications to be released in the future for the next round.

Communications Unit (COMU): Julie Schwartz

Current course schedule posted, three courses are pending in the late fall, but hoping that we will get them approved soon, so we are going forward with registrations as though they are approved. If anyone needs the schedule, contact OIEC.

The other courses are coming up, the big one is the COML Train the Trainer. Encourage anyone who is able and meets the prerequisites to get into this course because CISA ECD is changing how they are going to set up these Train the Trainer courses for instructors. They haven't released all the information yet, but I do recommend if anyone can get into it now, to do so.

We are asking that everyone share our schedule to get our courses out there to people who need them or if there are any regional courses out there to people who need them or if there are any regional courses that are requested, you can submit a request to our office, and we will work with CISA to put it in the technical assistance and get it approved for a regional course. We've had three successful regional courses and the stakeholders have been happy and appreciative of the regional courses due to staffing and needs for travel as they can't send the staff to travel. We do ask that you share our schedule with any stakeholders or interested constituents.

We are working with CISA-ECD to get instructors authorized to teach incident tactical dispatcher, radio operator, and incident communications center manager, so that we can offer these courses as state sponsored and they will not have to go on our technical assistance, then we can offer them whenever we have the capacity in our schedule, including regionally.

911 Program Unit: Paul Glasser

We are working through the New York State Plan in addition to the Next Gen project, this is a separate deal that we're working with. The draft has been completed; it is in internal review. Once we get it back from internal review, we'll make additional edits based on those reviews, then we'll send it to the Advisory Committee and the working groups to review, prior to presenting it to the SIEC Board.

The Next Gen RFI was published, once the responses come through, we'll review for the Next Gen Working Group. NYSTEC has partnered with MCP, we have regularly scheduled meetings with them to keep the project moving forward. We already have the Next Gen 911 Roadmap, going through, updating it and getting everything prepared. While we're waiting for the RFI, we're working through some other documents that we can be prepared for, so we can move towards the RFP.



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Federal Partner Reports

FirstNet Authority: Dave Cook

Provided an update at the Symposium and have no further updates. On behalf of the authority, thank you for allowing us to participate.

Additional Reports

Communications Consortium Chair (C3): Dana Smith

We had the C3 meeting last night, we also met in Lake Placid at the Symposium. We too would like to thank the office, Mark, Julie, Heather and Joanna who worked on that effort. It was a great symposium, interaction and a lot of good information was provided, and the other chairs feel the same. Last night, all the regions were represented. We had just given regional reports in Lake Placid, so they were deferred for our next meeting in August. A good discussion about redefining our mission and making sure that the C3 is productive as possible, and its good use of everybody's time. The relationships and communications are significant, it has been a major change in the last year with the reorganization, but Assistant Director Schultz has a good recommendation we're going to follow with the new Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan. There are clear-cut goals that we're going to use as a guidance for our next meeting to bolster the mission of the C3 and make sure it's productive as possible for all the counties we represent.

Mark Balistreri: to reiterate what Dana said, the C3 group, adding in the state agencies and the 911 coordinators has opened up some communication gaps and have made a more productive group, and there's a lot of best practices and lessons learned from that group, to the betterment of us all: state and counties.

SAFECOM: Jay Kopstein

Preview of the [CISA.gov/safecom](https://www.cisa.gov/safecom) website that has a tremendous amount of information on it. Show you the operating guidelines, we went from SOPs to SOGs because an SOP has a legal requirement to follow, where our guidelines just met. 911 Cybersecurity section on the website is a resource hub, and if you go to it, it will provide best practices, and information on what's going on with cybersecurity. Strongly encourage use of the website, look at everything on the website, it's up to date.

The cybersecurity resource hub, you will be able to go into it, add information if you've been attacked, see information for other people who have been attacked, what the prospective solutions are and what CISA's guidance is.



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SAFECOM and NCWIC is looking at AI. Looking at a host of issues, especially in the ECCs, formerly known as PSAPs. We use AI for translation, triage, for transcription, for word recognition, as well as video analysis. Once we start taking in video, if you don't have an automated way of looking at it, it's going to be significantly personnel intensive to do an analysis.

There is a new toolkit out called Public Safety Communications and Cyber Resiliency, to help with cyber and the like. There is a new publication writing guide for standard operating guidelines. Again, guidelines rather than procedures. There are some states where jurisdictions have been sued and lost because the procedure wasn't followed line by line vs. a guideline which gives some flexibility. We're looking at cyber attacks to P25 systems. At least 10 systems were brute forced attacked, 2 systems were penetrated with ransomware and brought down. The director is aware of it and if further discussion is necessary, I'm sure the director can do it one on one. Still working on a new ICF position curriculum. GPS issues, problems have been getting worse, not better. We have to be aware that simulcast systems can be significantly impacted if they lose GPS connectivity. Emergency management personnel should always have a plan B and plan C, double redundancy and +2 whatever you want to call it. There have been some issues down in the southwest with the cartels and criminal elements jamming radio communications. Even if you're encrypted, even if you're trunked, you can jam a frequency. In fact, that's something that's happening down in the southwest. Data backups for ECCs. We know from prior incidents that if you don't have a good backup system that is totally segregated from your primary system, you can be in a world of hurt if you get brought down. We are going to be reissuing cyber risks to LM Law, there will be a second edition coming out, hopefully sometime this year.

Another issue that has become problematic in a number of communities is swatting and spoofing. CISA working on a project to address swatting and spoofing if we can figure out a way to mitigate it and it works, then it will come out.

ECD and CISA are doing international coordination and collaboration on interoperability and cyber risks, not just a US issue.

We are now working on the next grant guidance document for next fiscal year's grant guidance.

Mark Balistreri: can't stress enough of the cyber related items. We talk about it, have presentations at conferences, devote presentations, watch it online, but good cyber hygiene is important, and we talked about it last night a little bit at the C3, especially with counties connecting to each other, so what is your neighbor's cyber hygiene like? Do you have vendors who have access to your equipment remotely? Have they gotten rid of employees that still have access to the equipment? Do you have a disgruntled employee that still has access to your information? How is it connected back to county networks? There's a lot of things to consider with cyber. I know we keep mentioning it, and Jay mentioned, there were a couple attacks since our last meeting. It's going to continue and probably get worse, so it's important for everybody to look at it closely.



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Old & New Business

Old Business: Mark Balistreri

The 911 Standards were provided to the Board Members at the last meeting. We had no real feedback that was negative, one OIEC member brought something up that was a good catch. We made that change and sent them out to the Board Members a week ago to look at. Allen, my recommendation would be let's let everybody take one more good look at them from now until the August meeting, and we'll shoot to vote for them then. Our goal is to get them completed this year. Is anybody opposed to doing that? If you have any questions, please contact OIEC. Thank you to the advisory committee for the SIEC Board members that have been looking at these and bringing items up. This is an update to the current wireless PSAP standards. That will most likely be changing again as we move into NG911. Any questions? [No] Anyone opposed? [No]

Motion to accept old business: Matt Balistreri

Motion: Brian LaFlure

Seconded: Michael Cerretto

All in favor: Aye

New Business: Mark Balistreri

Heather Fura: For the Board Members specifically, there is a card next to your name tent with a QR code on it. This is to make sure that we constantly have your updated contact information. If you could take a moment to scan the QR code, fill out the form, to ensure we have your updated information, it would be appreciated.

Mark Balistreri: We have had one resignation since the last meeting, Richard Andersen, has resigned from the SIEC Board. The question was asked on how we are filling the vacancies. We have met internally about filling the vacancies and hope to have more information at a future meeting.

If anyone has any ideas for presenters that they would like to see come to this Board and do presentations, please get ahold of our office, we'd like to make arrangements to have that done. There are a lot of good presentations out there. Some good ideas just from the meeting today. Do we want to see a good cyber presentation? Do we want a good jamming presentation? Jamming is a very important item. Brian LaFlure does it for our COMU courses and it's valuable. Carriers, do we want to have the carriers come in and do presentations? There are a lot of things out there for public safety. They have equipment that if you guys need or your counties need it, or deployables. Please get ahold of our office offline if you'd like to see certain presentation and we'll try and get one lined up for the August meeting.

Jim Callahan: A quick reminder for the members who are appointed, the folks who aren't here representing a state agency, being on this board makes you a policymaker under state ethics law you must file a financial



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disclosure statement. Please get that submitted by the deadline, which happens to be today. It's run by the ethics committee; any questions may go to them but I'll help where I can.

Mark Balistreri: You can do it online I believe, it's relatively easy, once you do the first one.

Brian LaFlure: Remember there's a check box which you can get in the beginning will allow the system to preload all the information from last year.

Mark Balistreri: Once it's submitted, your status will change on the page, and it will say filed. Any other new business?

Motion to accept old and new business: Mark Balistreri

Motion: Brian LaFlure

Seconded: Juan Figueroa

All in favor: Aye

Meeting adjourned