
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

IOWA STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 2017

Meeting. The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) Board met October 13, 2017, at the West Des Moines City Hall. Significant agenda items included:

Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) Report. Coordinator Chris Maiers reported:

- The Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan is complete and ready for Board action.
- During an industry meeting in Dallas, Texas, with vendors, it was discussed that an online portal to share information with users would be useful.
- Outreach to counties through meetings to discuss interoperability needs continues. Coordinator Maiers has been able to answer questions and gather concerns. Presenting at the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) conference was an excellent outreach opportunity.
- The Encryption Committee is attempting to identify device landscapes. There is no easy way to identify feature sets from a manufacturer that will fill all needs.
- Regional Interoperability Committees have been assigned projects, including prisoner transport policy and interstate cooperation.

911 Council Report. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) Legislative Liaison John Benson reported on several items:

- Progress continues on establishing the NextGen text-to-911 program. As of today's meeting, there are 85 counties utilizing text-to-911. Governor Kim Reynolds has issued a press release announcing details of the program. The goal is to have all Iowa counties able to participate by the end of 2017.
- The request for proposal (RFP) to combine the wireline and wireless networks into a shared service has been ongoing, and the Department of Administrative Services has entered a contract with two vendors. Those vendors are the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) and Zetron. When the project is complete, there will be savings to the local governments in operating expenses. The savings on equipment will vary by Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), depending on the PSAP schedule for replacing equipment and whether the PSAP opts to use the shared system.
- The HSEMD will be proposing legislation for the 2018 Legislative Session. No changes are being proposed in funding or allocation of 911 surcharge funds.
- Three PSAP grant requests totaling \$134,000 for Geographic Information System projects were approved by the Council.

Finance Committee. The Committee is encouraging the Board to pursue restoration of the FY 2019 General Fund appropriation to the Board to \$154,661. The appropriation to the Board had been cut in FY 2017 and FY 2018 by \$39,000 to \$115,661. The Committee also recommended spending \$50,000 to continue the contract with Federal Engineering for technical assistance. The Board approved this spending item.

Governance Committee. The Committee is considering the creation of a grant process and should have a policy ready for the Board to consider in the next month or two.

FirstNet Outreach. Outreach Specialist Shawn Wagner reported that work is being done on several fronts:

- Changing the ISICS joining forms to make them easier to understand, and developing public service announcements and a direct mail campaign for PSAPs.
- Setting up an event to showcase FirstNet on November 30, which will be livestreamed from the West Des Moines City Hall. After November 30, other regions will be holding events.
- Reworking work flows, a PSAP survey, and community outreach in conjunction with FirstNet and ATT.
- Working with the Governor's Traffic Bureau on a distracted driver video.
- Enhancing social media usage to connect with local users.
- Archiving past policies on the ISICS Board website and highlighting approved radio standards.
- Working with the Office of the Chief Information Officer on website updating.

Other Reports. The following other items were reported:

- The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department has been researching how to set up a "See Something, Say Something" public safety campaign and where those calls would be routed. Discussions with the Iowa law enforcement community are being held for their input, and other states' experiences are being considered.
- Chairperson Tom Lampe discussed doing another round of regional operability meetings on FirstNet.
- A representative from Motorola reported that work on the ISICS is 71.0% complete. Work is currently going on in downtown Des Moines. There is an identified need for six leased towers throughout the State, but lease agreements will not be entered into until it is confirmed they are needed near the end of the process of building out the system. Aside from these six towers, there are an additional three towers owned by Iowa Public Television and three towers owned by the Department of Natural Resources that will be utilized.
- Office of Emergency Communications Regional Coordinator Jim Lundsted stated that the Iowa interoperability plan was ahead of many other states. He also reminded everyone not to open email links unless they were sure of the source as they are the main source of malware.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2017, at the West Des Moines City Hall.

STAFF CONTACT: Alice Wisner (515.281.6764) alice.wisner@legis.iowa.gov