



# ISICSB

Iowa Statewide  
Interoperable  
Communications  
System Board

Dina McKenna, Chair  
Thomas Lampe, Vice-Chair

John R. Benson  
Homeland Security &  
Emergency Management Division

Tom Berger  
Epworth Fire Department  
(Volunteer)

Tom Boeckmann  
Department of Public Health

Bridget Edson  
Floyd County Emergency  
Management

Judy Flores  
Black Hawk Consolidated  
Communications Center

Ted Kamatchus  
Marshall County Sheriff's Office

Tom Lampe  
Department of Public Safety

Jason Leonard  
Waverly Police Department

Dina McKenna  
Story County Sheriff's Office

Ron Miller  
Member-At-Large

Sandy Morris  
Des Moines Police Department  
Communications

Jason Sandholdt  
Department of Natural Resources

Patrick Updike  
Department of Corrections

Robert A. Younie  
Department of Transportation

Legislative Members  
Senator Tom Hancock  
Senator Joni Ernst  
Representative Bob Kressig  
Representative Joel Fry

Jim Bogner  
Iowa Statewide Interoperability  
Coordinator

## Report to the Iowa Legislature on the Status of the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) Calendar Year 2012

### Overview

During the first session of the 82nd General Assembly, the Iowa Legislature established a new Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB). 2007 Iowa Acts, House File 353, created Iowa Code Section 80.28, which addresses the membership of the Board, with Section 80.29 identifying its duties, as follows:

"A statewide interoperable communications system board is established, under the joint purview of the department and the state department of transportation. The board shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level, and coordinate with similar efforts at the federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system. For the purposes of this section and section 80.29, *"interoperability"* means the ability of public safety and public services personnel to communicate and to share data on an immediate basis, on demand, when needed, and when authorized."

### Legislative Report - 2012

The ISICSB has been in existence for five years.  
The current Chair and Vice-Chair are as follows:

Chair: Dina McKenna, Story County Sheriff's Office,  
(515) 382-7469, [dmckenna@storycounty.com](mailto:dmckenna@storycounty.com)

Vice-Chair: Thomas Lampe, Department of Public Safety  
(515) 725-6113, [lampe@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:lampe@dps.state.ia.us)

During this calendar year, there were five (5) local/state and three (3) legislative member changes in the Board.

### Current ISICSB Members

#### Local Representatives

Name	Position	City
Judy Flores	Communication Center Manager	BlackHawk County
Sandy Morris	Communication Center Manager	Des Moines
Bridget Edson	Municipal Police Department	Fayette County
Jason Leonard	Municipal Police Department <i>(replaced Clinton McClintock, Cedar Rapids, who was completing Roxanne Warnell's term)</i>	Waverly
Tom Berger	Fire Department	Epworth Volunteer Fire
Rick Roe	Fire Department <i>(replaced Mark Frese, Davenport, who retired)</i>	Clive
Ted Kamatchus	County Sheriff	Marshall County
Dina McKenna	County Sheriff	Story County
Ron Miller	At-Large Member	Fairbank

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#### Representatives

#### State Agency

John Benson	Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division
Tom Boeckmann	Department of Public Health
Thomas Lampe	Department of Public Safety
Jason Sandholdt	Department of Natural Resources
Patrick Updike	Department of Corrections
Robert Younie	Department of Transportation

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#### Legislative Ex-Officio Members

Senator Tom Hancock *(retiring after 2012)*  
Senator Joni Ernst  
Representative Joel Fry  
Representative Bob Kressig

#### Communications Interoperability Efforts

The ISICSB holds monthly public meetings, typically on the last Wednesday of the month, except for a combined November-December meeting due to the holidays. The ISICSB maintains a web site at [www.isicsb.iowa.gov](http://www.isicsb.iowa.gov) where its activities and information is posted.

During 2012, the ISICSB addressed its legislative mandates, as contained in Iowa Code 80.29, as follows:

**1. *Implement and maintain organizational and operational elements of the board, including staffing and program activity.***

- Using its last Federal grant fund, the ISICSB hired a part-time (780 hr.) assistant for the Board and Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) to facilitate outreach and support its legislative mandates, projects and office operations. That person left for a full-time position elsewhere. The ISICSB is again going through the process of locating and processing a suitable candidate for this necessary position. However, when the Board's Federal grant expires, this position, as well as the SWIC position, will terminate unless legislative funding can be found to continue these two staff positions. The SWIC position will become even more critical with the advent of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) planning and build-out starting in 2013, as the SWIC is the point-of-contact for this whole statewide mandatory national project. The SWIC is the only full-time staffing position in support of the Board. Each Board member has a full-time professional position and performs their Board duties on a part-time basis. As the above legislative section notes, staffing is critical to normal program activity, and will become even more critical with the broadband initiative.
- After completing adoption of its Administrative Rules in 2011, the ISICSB is undertaking adoption of a set of supplementary Procedural Rules in holding its meetings and related stakeholder activities. This project will be completed in the coming year.
- Organizationally, the ISICSB consolidated its Outreach and Education Committees into a single combined committee to more efficiently focus and coordinate its outreach, education and training activities with its stakeholders.
- With the passage of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) legislation by Congress in February of this year mandating the build-out of a public safety broadband network in each state, the ISICSB created a Broadband Committee to address the planning and technology issues of this coming national network in Iowa. Besides two Board members, additional subject matter experts (SMEs) have been added to this committee, to include: the State CIO (Chief Information Officer), ICN Director, Governor's Office, Department of Management, E911 Council Chair, and Connect Iowa Project Coordinator. Governor Branstad has selected the ISICSB and SWIC as the points-of-contact for the NPSBN planning process and implementation in Iowa.

**2. *Review and monitor communications interoperability performance and service levels on behalf of agencies.***

- The ISICSB has been active in monitoring and educating Iowa stakeholders regarding the FCC Narrowbanding mandate to ensure each license holder is aware of the requirements to comply with this mandate by 12/31/2012. This is an unfunded Federal mandate, and the ISICSB has no funds to assist Iowa stakeholders in updating their radio equipment to meet this requirement. Besides engaging in educational outreach on the narrowbanding requirements, the SWIC reviewed the FCC license holder database for Iowa and identified those whose license information indicated may not have yet narrowbanded their radio equipment. The SWIC then notified those with listed license points-of-contacts, either by mail or email, to remind them about the mandate deadline and offer assistance.
- The ISICSB and the E911 Council and Program Manager have coordinated their activities and scheduled their meetings at the same location following one another to ensure greater

coordination regarding interoperability. As an example, the ISICSB used some of its Federal grant dollars to fund a 911 Feasibility Study in 2011 in order to take an in-depth look at Iowa's 911 PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) in order to explore best practices, greater efficiencies, and service levels. A final report of this study was issued in February, 2012, and furnished to the Legislature. (See that report posted on [www.isicsb.iowa.gov](http://www.isicsb.iowa.gov) for detailed results and recommendations.) Additionally, the SWIC and several ISICSB members participated in a 911 Task Force to review that report and issue a separate 911 Task Force report to the Legislature by December 1, 2012 with legislative recommendations to improve communications interoperability in Iowa.

- The SWIC was instrumental in planning a Tri-State (Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) communications interoperability exercise to test and evaluate communications interoperability capabilities in a disaster or terrorist event. The SWIC met with the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) to propose that this exercise be used as a template in developing similar regional and statewide communications exercise as well as developing county-wide Tactical Interoperability Communication Plans (TICPs).
- The ISICSB, working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) developed a broadband survey to assess Iowa's public safety use of high speed wireless networks in preparation for the NPSBN build-out. This survey was distributed widely to public safety agencies in all 99 counties, with approximately two-thirds of the counties responding to date. The results of this survey will be reported in January, 2013.

***3. Establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate policies and protocols to ensure that interoperable communications systems function properly.***

- The ISICSB is promoting the national policy of using Plain Language in radio communications throughout Iowa. The ISICSB approved a policy adopting the use of a minimum number of national interoperable channels in each radio as a statewide standard by January 1, 2014, and adopted the use of the national standard channel nomenclature (naming channels with standardized national names). The lack of any enforcement authority is seen as a hindrance to this effort.
- The ISICSB held a series of six outreach workshops training and promoting the use of two interoperability tools: CASM (Communications Asset Survey & Mapping) and TICPs. The CASM tool allows first responders to quickly determine their interoperability capabilities with other agencies while the TICP provides a documented interoperability plan for emergencies and large-scale events.

***4. Allocate and oversee state appropriations or other funding received for interoperable communications.***

- For Fiscal Year 2013, the ISICSB received a single year appropriation as its first state appropriation in the amount of \$48,000 for operational expenses with the restriction that these funds could not be used for personnel costs or for any contracts. Some of these funds have been used to support the ISICSB's outreach efforts. The remainder of these funds will be used for the federally required planning activities for the impending NPSBN.
- To date, the only funding received by the ISICSB which can be used for staffing has been from federal grants, which are due to expire in May, 2013.

- The ISICSB is developing a plan to be able to partially reimburse some of the costs to public safety agencies who participate in the use of CASM and develop a county-wide TICP, as well as programming the national interoperable channels into their radios.
- The ISICSB will not be able to perform its legislative mandates without future state appropriations.

**5. Identify sources for ongoing, sustainable, longer-term funding for communications interoperability projects, including available and future assets that will leverage resources and provide incentives for communications interoperability participation, and develop and obtain adequate funding in accordance with a communications interoperability sustainability plan.**

- The ISICSB established a Finance Committee to oversee and seek state appropriations. The Committee consists of the Chair, SWIC, HSEMD Board member, 911 Program Manager, and the four ex-officio legislators. For Fiscal Year 2013, the ISICSB received a single year appropriation as its first state appropriation in the amount of \$48,000 for operational expenses with the restriction that these funds cannot be used for personnel costs or for any contracts. To date, the only funding received by the ISICSB which can be used for staffing has been from federal grants, which are due to expire in May, 2013. The ISICSB must receive the necessary annual state appropriations to sustain its operations and critical staffing needs as outlined above.
- The SWIC submitted a proposal during the 2012 legislative session seeking \$18 Million to start building a statewide interoperable communications network consisting initially of connecting and leveraging existing communication systems together in an integrated system-of-systems approach. This initiative did not receive the needed state appropriation to implement this plan.
- The ISICSB will certainly require a state appropriation to progress towards statewide interoperability through the building of a common land mobile radio (LMR) communications platform. Such an interoperability project cannot progress without it.
- Additionally, Iowa was one of twenty-one jurisdictions (one of seven states) to be granted an FCC license to build a public safety high speed wireless network, the precursor to the NPSBN. The ISICSB applied for, but did not receive a federal grant to initiate construction of this network. The grant was denied because the ISICSB lacked the 20% matching fund requirement and had no sustainable state appropriations.
- The ISICSB held a DHS/OEC facilitated ‘Sustainable Funding Workshop’ in January, 2012 with its public safety stakeholders. This workshop explored best practices of sustainable funding options that other states have successfully used for presentation by the ISICSB Finance Committee to be considered by the Legislature in the upcoming session.
- During the 2013 Legislative Session, the ISICSB will work to acquire sustainable state appropriation funding in order to carry out its legislative mandates as contained in Iowa Code 80.29.

**6. Develop and evaluate potential legislative solutions to address the funding and Resource challenges of implementing statewide communications interoperability initiatives.**

- (See # 4 and #5 above.)

**7. Develop a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system that allows for shared communications systems and costs, takes into account infrastructure needs and requirements, improves reliability, and addresses liability concerns of the shared network.**

- The ISICSB hired an independent engineering consultant who developed a statewide Master Plan in 2009, as mandated above. It is on our web site and an executive summary of that plan can be found at: [http://www.isicsb.iowa.gov/documents/planning\\_efforts/Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.isicsb.iowa.gov/documents/planning_efforts/Executive_Summary.pdf) However, without the required funding, the ISICSB has been unable to implement this plan.
- The SWIC submitted a proposal during the 2012 legislative session seeking \$18 Million to start building a statewide interoperable communications network consisting initially of connecting and leveraging existing communication systems together in an integrated system-of-systems approach. This initiative did not receive the needed state appropriation to implement it.
- In Iowa, the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems Board (ISICSB) submitted a total of ten investment justifications (IJs). The goal of these projects was to improve the status of interoperability within Iowa while also creating examples of projects other jurisdictions could model to improve interoperability within their jurisdiction. The Board feels that all 10 of these projects met that goal. We saw the projects themselves generate positive outcomes while also generating great interest amongst other agencies about how they were accomplished.
- Below you will find a narrative for all ten IJs.
  - **IJ #1 - Strategic Technology Reserve**
  - With IJ #1 the ISICSB intended to create mobile assets for use by first responders during actual emergencies as well as during training and exercise events. With the completion of this IJ, the overall state of emergency interoperable communications with Iowa has improved. This has been accomplished through the creation of three stand alone mobile communications systems as well as adding E911 equipment to an existing communications bus to create a mobile PSAP. The mobile communications systems each carry a base station and 36 mobile radios that preprogrammed to utilize the national interoperability channels. The base stations and mobiles can be reprogrammed on site to adapt to local frequency usage. Additionally each mobile system carries a cross band switch so as to be able to integrate a wide variety of radios and frequencies into one cohesive system. The standalone systems and the mobile PSAP are capable of functioning for 48 hours before being refueled.
  - The STR was the last of the PSIC projects to be completed within Iowa. The ISICSB elected to do this so as to place any unused funds from other IJs within the STR.
  - The initial training on these assets was attended by 40 COML and COMT certified personnel. At the time of the training each received a Standard Operating Procedure that provided detail on how local agencies will access the assets during times of emergency as well as to support training and exercises. This SOP can be found online as well on the Boards website. Initial interest from local agencies indicates that there is great interest in using the STR assets during a wide variety of exercise scenarios as well as to support numerous planned real world special events in the coming year.

- **IJ #2 - Statewide Interoperable Communications Implementation Plan**
  - This IJ sought to develop a statewide interoperable communications system plan. This plan was completed and adopted by the ISICSB on September 29, 2009,
  - This plan provides a detailed pathway for all of Iowa to follow in its efforts to achieve statewide interoperability. The overarching idea is to create a backbone that operates in the 800 MHz frequency and then present users with multiple choices on how to operate and interoperate on this backbone. The plan is written so as to give users options based on their unique needs and level of financial support so they can achieve interoperability. These options directly mirror the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum.
  - Agencies with Iowa are already using the Plan as basis for communications purchases they are making at this time. While the backbone does not exist, local agencies are purchasing equipment that will provide them with the capability to utilize this backbone. An additional benefit is that these purchases are also increasing interoperability in the near term at the local level as these agencies move to open source, open standard equipment.
- **IJ #3 - Hardin County**
  - This IJ sought to increase operability as well as interoperability with Hardin County with the construction of a new tower site with the county. The tower has improved operability for mobiles and portables within the county while also increasing the level of interoperability for first responders. This interoperability presents itself in two significant ways. First, the two communications centers now serve as backups to each other due to a microwave link installed on the new tower. This link also provides real time interoperability. Secondly, this has allowed the mutual aid interoperability channels to be extended to cover the entire county. Now first responders can interoperate within the entire county. A secondary benefit yet to be realized is the tower will provide support for the 800 MHz backbone that is proposed in the Master Plan created in IJ #2.
  - This project was delayed due to issues in obtaining NEPA approval for the construction. State grant management staff was able to work with the local and NEPA to complete work that the consultant did not complete. Ultimately, all requirements were met within specified timelines.
- **IJ #4 - Central Iowa Interoperability Improvement Project**
  - This IJ encompasses the largest geographic area of any of the equipment purchase projects within the Iowa PSIC grant. The counties of Davis, Jasper, Lucas, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, and Poweshiek all participated in this project. The primary goal was to provide interoperability through the upgrade of base stations as well as interlinking these base stations through the use of IP enabled gateways.
  - These equipment purchases have created an interoperable communications environment that is used by first responders in these counties on a day to day basis. Exercises in the area now include a communications component so that all first responders are familiar with the new protocols and know how to effectively use their communications tools on a daily basis as well as during times of emergency. The strongest statement that can be

made about this project is that interoperability is now used on a daily basis in places where it did not exist in the past.

- **IJ #5 - Johnson and Scott County Upgrade**
  - The projects in Johnson and Scott County are mirrors of each other. They both sought to upgrade their existing EDACs and UHF/VHF systems so as to provide a more complete interoperability capability. While both of these projects were large scale systems, the PSIC portion of the funding focused on enhancing interoperability. In both cases, gateways were purchased to enable disparate radio systems to be linked. Also P25 capable radios were purchased to address immediate interoperability needs but to also provide a clear pathway to interacting with the proposed statewide backbone found in the state master plan created in IJ #2.
  - Both projects proceeded forward with limited issues. The projects provided an immediate increase in the number of users with access to interoperable communications while also increasing the day to day usage of interoperable communications. Notably these new capabilities were utilized during a large scale landfill fire that burned in Johnson County for several months in 2012. The response involved the traditional public safety responders but also included public works agencies within the county as well as agencies from outside the county. The new network elements allowed for a seamless integration of a variety of communication systems.
- **IJ #6 - Linn County**
  - When the ISICSB originally approved this IJ, Linn County envisioned developing a fiber ring to join together their local communications centers and having a joint CAD/RMS system so as to more effectively share data and communications traffic within the county. Over the course of the project, which was saddled with delays due to the ongoing recovery from the 2008 floods, the county determined that a more effective usage of the PISC grant funds would be to continue the fiber portion of the project and purchase a VIDA switch instead of the CAD/RMS. The Board approved the change in scope and the project moved forward.
  - With the installation of the fiber and VIDA switch the county now has a system that provides seamless voice and data interoperability for three communication centers and the 30 unique first responder agencies that they dispatch. Additionally the fiber will allow additional agencies to attach to it run their communications to the VIDA switch. This will allow schools and public works to be able to communicate with first responders in an interoperable environment on demand and when needed.
  - This system has already provided benefits as several multi-agency multi-discipline events have been handled with seamless interoperable communications occurring amongst the responding agencies.
- **IJ #7 - Plymouth County**
  - This IJ is the smallest completed within Iowa for PSIC. It focused on a tactical level interoperability solution that is readily deployable and provides on scene interoperability. Plymouth County looked to use this asset within the county but also to be able to provide an asset that could be used within northwest Iowa on a moment's notice.

- The purchase was completed with no adjustments made to the timeline or budget. The system has been routinely exercised within the county with excellent results. It has also been used for regional exercises with the same result. The system is now considered a rapid response asset for the county and region and has been deployed multiple times for real world events where it has provided communications interoperability where it had not existed in the past.
- **IJ #8 - Polk County**
- This was the second planning project that utilized PSIC funds. The goal for this planning project was to create a plan to interoperate all public safety communications within Polk County, the most populous county in Iowa. The first portion of the planning effort involved issuing an RFP to obtain a vendor to complete the planning process. This portion was accomplished as outlined in the initial IJ.
- The second portion of the project was, however, altered after this point in the effort. One of the political subdivisions withdrew from the overall project. This caused the county to adjust the effort contained in the second phase. The group asked for a change in the scope to allow for the hiring of a consultant to oversee the implementation effort along with a corresponding budget reduction. The ISICSB approved this change of scope and budget reduction.
- The larger project has been completed with interoperability being provided to 10,000 unique responders within the Polk County area. The effective and timely management of the project occurred as a direct result of the funding provided by the PSIC grant.
- **IJ #9 - Story County**
- This project sought to increase interoperability within Story County through the purchase of VoIP enabled, P25 compliant dispatch consoles. The eight consoles are contained in 3 communications centers within the county. All of these consoles are interlinked via an IP enabled network thus allowing for interoperability to be established when needed and on demand amongst the various radio systems deployed within the county.
- This portion of the larger project was delayed as other planning and purchasing elements timelines ran long. However, the time extension was approved by the ISICSB.
- As part of a larger project, Story County now has a fully interoperable communications system that is P25 compliant and provides a clean path to interfacing with the statewide backbone laid out in the Master Plan when it is constructed. It allows the county first responders, city of Ames responders, and Iowa State University public safety personnel to interoperate on a daily basis. This system is also extensively used during special events like university football games which can bring an additional 80,000 people into the county
- **IJ #10 - Woodbury County**
- This final investment focused on providing an increased communications training capacity for the State of Iowa. This was accomplished by providing funding to support the creation of a dedicated interoperable communications training facility at the Security Institute on the Campus of Western Iowa Technical Community College.

- This project was completed within the timeframes outlined in the request and was completed on budget as well. The facility has provided training to over 270 students. Other courses including COML and COMT courses are being scheduled for this facility due to the unique hands on training it possesses.
  - Additionally this project purchased additional radios for use on the areas interoperability backbone. These additional radios are used by first responders that are not daily of the Woodbury County system. With the placement of these radios, first responders can instantly interact with each other. This system was leveraged during the Missouri River Flooding of 2011. During this time you had local, county, state, and federal responders all interoperating to the benefit of not only local citizens but those downstream as well.
- In 2012, the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Department of Transportation (DOT), and Department of Corrections (DOC) began working together with the ISICSB to develop a plan and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for using State infrastructure and any other resource that could be used to develop a communications interoperability radio system. It is the intent of the RFP to gather all information as to how a radio system could be built and maintained leveraging all available State current assets as well as any resources the State of Iowa has to offer. Once this system is built, it is the Interoperability Board's duty under Iowa Code to oversee this network. All results of the RFP will be presented to lawmakers to determine the best course of action to develop a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system for the State of Iowa, as mandated by Iowa Code.

#### ***8. Investigate data and video interoperability systems.***

- Iowa was one of twenty-one jurisdictions (one of seven states) to be granted an FCC license to build a public safety high speed wireless network for data and video interoperability, the precursor to the NPSBN. The ISICSB applied for, but did not receive a federal grant to initiate construction of this network. The grant was denied because the ISICSB lacked the 20% matching fund requirement and had no sustainable state appropriations.
- Despite the lack of funding, the SWIC has aggressively explored the latest industry developments in high-speed LTE (Long Term Evolution) data and video networks. The SWIC has been extremely involved nationally in the development of a nationwide interoperability broadband framework and protocols, which would allow interoperability not only within Iowa, but with its adjacent states and the national network. The ISICSB's SWIC is Vice-Chair of the national Early Builders Advisory Council (EBAC) investigating these systems.
- The ISICSB issued an RFP and sponsored a demonstration project of the LTE technology for public safety and elected officials during the Iowa State Fair in August. This provided education regarding the capabilities of this high-speed technology for public safety as proposed in the NPSBN legislation. The ISICSB is working on a second LTE demonstration during the month of February, 2013 in the vicinity of the State Capitol for legislators and public safety officials.
- With the passage of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) legislation by Congress in February of this year mandating the build-out of a public safety broadband network in each state, the ISICSB created a Broadband Committee to address the planning and technology issues of this coming national network in Iowa. Besides Board members, additional subject matter experts (SMEs) have been added to this committee, to include the State CIO

(Chief Information Officer), ICN Director, Governor's Office, Department of Management, E911 Council Chair, and Connect Iowa. Governor Branstad has selected the ISICSB and SWIC as the points-of-contact for the NPSBN planning process in Iowa.

- Additionally, this federal legislation created a national Board, called FirstNet, to oversee the build-out of this NPSBN and mandated the creation of a Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) to advise FirstNet in this build-out. The EBAC will be a sub-committee of the PSAC, thus involving Iowa in investigating data and video interoperability systems on a national scale.

***9. Expand, maintain, and fund consistent, periodic training programs for current communications systems and for the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system as it is implemented.***

- The ISICSB established an Outreach Program which includes forming Regional Interoperability Committees (RICs), holding meetings in each of the homeland security regions throughout the state, providing education and training in public safety interoperable systems, updates on the ISICSB's planning efforts for build-out a statewide system, and soliciting input from the RICs. During 2012, the ISICSB held Outreach Workshops in each of the six Homeland Security Regions in Iowa, focusing on interoperability via the use of the CASM tool and development of county TICPs.
- The ISICSB held a Broadband 101 Course in March of this year to educate public safety officials about this emerging technology and the new Federal legislation creating the NPSBN.
- The ISICSB sponsored the following communications-related courses during 2012:
  - A Communications-Leader (COM-L) course for public safety officials, providing them with the training and tools to create interoperability solutions in emergencies, disasters, and special events.
  - A Communications-Technician (COM-T) course that provided more technical training for public safety personnel showing them how to deploy and connect their interoperability equipment, such as gateway devices (which can connect radios of different frequencies for communication).
  - An Auxiliary Communications (AuxComm) Course for amateur radio and like operators, providing them with the educational tools to assist first responders and COM-Ls in emergencies and large-scale events where amateur radio resources could be leveraged by public safety.
  - The ISICSB is scheduling additional COML and related courses, such as an Audio Gateway course, in 2013.
- Maintaining consistent interoperability-related training for Iowa's public safety community will require annual legislative appropriations.
- The ISICSB established Facebook and Twitter accounts to use the social networking sites to better inform, educate, and keep stakeholders updated on interoperability efforts on a timely basis.

- 10. *Expand, maintain, and fund stakeholder education, public education, and public official education programs to demonstrate the value of short-term communications interoperability solutions, and to emphasize the importance of developing and funding long-term solutions, including implementation of the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.***

  - Maintaining, not to mention expanding, stakeholder education will require a legislative appropriation.
  - The initiatives noted previously, with an emphasis on the use of the CASM tool, development of TICPs, use of common interoperability channels, and training workshops are demonstrating the value of short-term communications interoperability solutions.
  - Long-term multi-year implementation and funding solutions are being sought. The ISICSB endorses a six-year implementation and long-term interoperability plan and funding solution. Rather than individual interests each approaching the legislature for funding, the ISICSB promotes establishing a coordinated multi-year interoperability funding solution to address narrowbanding, building a statewide interoperable network, supporting PSAPs, and overall interoperability within the state of Iowa, which would promote coordination, solution uniformity, and greater efficiency in public safety communications initiatives. Interoperability solutions should begin with communications at the time of the initial 911 call for service through the PSAP through the communications among on-scene first responders to conclusion of the call or incident. Several members of the ISICSB and SWIC participated in the 911 Task Force of 2012 and look forward to working with the E911 Council again in 2013 on potential interoperability solutions.
- 11. *Identify, promote, and provide incentives for appropriate collaborations and partnerships among government entities, agencies, businesses, organizations, and associations, both public and private, relating to communications interoperability.***

  - In 2011, the ISICSB issued an RFI (Request for Information) to identify and explore appropriate interoperability collaborations, both public and private. Reviews of proposals were conducted in early 2012, resulting in the SWIC submitting a proposal to the 2012 Legislature to create a system-of-systems communication network by leveraging existing government and private networks. This proposal, as noted previously, was not funded.
  - The ISICSB is developing a plan for 2013 to be able to partially reimburse some of the costs to public safety agencies who participate in the use of CASM and develop a county-wide TICP, as well as programming the national interoperable channels into their radios. This initiative would be funded from the remaining federal interoperability grant obtained by the ISICSB.
- 12. *Provide incentives to support maintenance and expansion of regional efforts to promote implementation of the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.***

  - As noted in #9, the ISICSB has established Regional Interoperability Committees (RICs) in order to expand their regional efforts and promote statewide interoperability regionally. The Outreach Committee held additional regional outreach workshops in 2012, and scheduled ISICSB meetings which were held in all six of Iowa's homeland security regions (April in Region 4, June in Region 5, August in Region 3, and October in Region 2, besides the usual home Region 1 location in West Des Moines.)
  - The Outreach Workshops of 2012 focused on promoting county and regional interoperability through the use of the CASM tool and TICP development.

**13. In performing its duties, consult with representatives of private businesses, organizations, and associations on technical matters relating to data, video, and communications interoperability; technological developments in private industry; and potential collaboration and partnership opportunities.**

- The SWIC regularly consults and collaborates with industry, organizations, associations, and the Federal Government, including the FCC and NTIA. The SWIC is a member of the APCO International's Broadband Committee, and Vice-Chair of the Early Builders Advisory Council, a subcommittee to FirstNet's Public Safety Advisory Committee.
- As the points-of-contact for Iowa's public safety broadband initiative, the SWIC and ISICSB are consulting with subject-matter experts on its Broadband Committee, as noted above.
- The ISICSB worked with a national private industry company, Alcatel-Lucent, and its Iowa partner, RACOM, to contact an LTE demonstration project during the Iowa State Fair, and will again conduct an LTE technology demonstration in February, 2013 with Harris Radio and their local partner, RACOM. In connection with this project, the SWIC and ISICSB Vice-Chair have consulted with Iowa companies MechDyne (software application developer) and Athena TX (EMS user equipment developer and manufacturer.)

**14. Submit a report by January 1, annually, to the members of the general assembly regarding communications interoperability efforts, activities, and effectiveness at the local and regional level, and shall include a status report regarding the development of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system, and funding requirements relating thereto.**

- This report complies with this requirement.
- Additionally, the SWIC prepared and submitted the ISICSB's 2012 SCIP (Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan) to the Department of Homeland Security/Office of Emergency Communications outlining the ISICSB's interoperability vision and strategic plan. It can be accessed at: <http://www.isicsb.iowa.gov/index.html>