

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Public Safety Interoperability Communications Committee
MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2009
DOIT, 101 East River Drive, East Hartford, CT 06108

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1306 hours by Co-Chair Michael Varney. The following individuals were in attendance: Stephan Brown (DOT/Bradley), George Carbonnel (East Hartford), David Coyle (CSP), Robert DiBella (Glastonbury), Sandra Baker (DEMHS), John Gustafson (DEMHS), William J. Hackett (DEMHS), Jeffrey Merwin (Region 1), Jeff Otto (Region 4), Gregg Prevost (Region 2), Joe Salmeri (DPS), Dan Soule (LCD), Matt Valleau (CAP/DPS), Nick Varanelli (DEP), Michael Varney (DOIT), Keith Victor (Region 3), Kris Wohlgemugh (DOIT), S, Frank Kiernan (Meriden), Joseph Soto (CT EMS Advisory Board), Peter Matos (DEMHS), and Tom Botti (DEP)

Public Comment: None

Review of Minutes:

Motion to accept meeting notes of November 17, 2009 - first by Jeff Otto, seconded by Keith Victor; motion unanimously approved.

PSIC Grant Update:

Mike Varney reported that an official notice has been received for the grant extension. There is an option to extend 2nd year. Intent is to complete projects on schedule. A meeting to update Commissioners was held on 12/14/09. DEMHS and DPS projects were presented. Items discussed at the meeting included the P25 Switch; Collect System, and E911 Interoperability Communications. John Gustafson gave a presentation on the Shoreline Security Grant and Paul Zito gave a presentation on the UASI Project. UASI received 2.8 million to buy subscriber units to operate system.

IJ2 – Report given by John Gustafson – Same as last meeting. Jeff Otto asked for a timetable when specs will be available; John Gustafson answered when a contractor is selected. Mike Varney indicated that a meeting will be necessary. Peter Matos, DEMHS, stated that there has been progress in formalizing a budget for IJ2 and IJ3. Projects should not move forward until reviewed and approved by NEPA. All federal grants must be reviewed thru NEPA. Entire grant is moving forward.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. Technical Workgroup – No Report
- b. Training & Exercise Workgroup – No Report
- c. 700 MHz Planning Workgroup – Meeting canceled. Plan finished.
- d. 4.9 GHz Workgroup – Mike Varney will request an update from Jerry Zarwanski. The issue was discussed at Region 19 meeting.

Report of Interoperability Usage and incidents during previous months:

During the month of November there were no ITAC activations; 3 ITAC tests were conducted. The Town of Greenwich had a major bus accident with injured patients. An incident command post was set up and worked well.

Old Business:

- a. Transit Security Grant – PC-1s processed. Portable radios were issued. 68 radios pending. Motorola to channel radios. All new equipment will be 700/800 MHz capable. Talk group for transit are portable 700 MHz cable and trunk capable.
- b. Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) – 2010 grant guidance went out. There are concerns about the lack of draw down activity and the loss of grant source. Regions need to create a product and use funds for items in SCIP that are not hardware oriented. Funds can be used for training purposes & SOPs. Info will go out to regions to inform of January 15th deadline.
- c. CSPERN System – All but 25 radios have been allocated. 80% of the radios have been deployed and only 150 have been installed. Basic installations are at no costs if done by the contract radio vendor. Any additional install items requested must be paid for by departments.
- d. STOCS Deployment – Proposed Phase 3 allocations have been distributed for review by regional ESF 2 groups and DEMHS Regional Coordinators.

Regional Reports:

Region 1 (Jeff Merwin) – Region is planning a mass casualty drill for Sept/Oct 2010 to include ESF 8, EMS and hospitals.

Region 2 (Gregg Prevost) – Held a TIC Plan seminar. Draft plan expected in January.

Region 3 (Keith Victor) – An IEGP meeting is scheduled for 12/20/09. Region 3 training program with police is going well. 4 communities are expecting STOC boxes. Hartford's new system (HART-TAC) is making progress. The system will be used so that other departments coming into Hartford can communicate inbound only on 800MHz.

Region 4 (Jeff Otto) – The Region made a vendor selection for the Interoperability System. Funds must be committed by December 31st. Preparing to submit IECG Plan. Next meeting is scheduled for January 8th. TIC Plan currently on hold.

Region 5 (Jim Farkas) – No report.

New Business:

a. Report on National SWIC Workshop

Mike Varney provided an update on the workshop. 49 of 56 States/Territories were in attendance. PSIC update & grant guidance was provided. A letter will go out in the spring on sustainment of grant funds. He also gave a brief overview of IECGP technical request and review process.

b. NECP Goals

1. By the end of 2010, 90% of UASI areas must prove capable of providing interoperability. All urban areas in the country must submit 3 events for real life by June 30th. A pass/fail report will be provided after review. Capital Region submission is complete. Chief McCarthy is working on completing that region's submission.
2. By the next year 2011, all non-UASI must be deemed interoperable. Criteria will be up to the State to define how it will be measured. At January 12th meeting it will be discussed how this will be done.

Mike Varney met with NY regarding cross state interference issues. NY is the lead for grant proposals. The States involved are NY, PA, MA and VT and CT. John Gustafson noted that CT also set up a display on STOCS Box Program. Presentation was well received by the feds and peers.

Correspondence/Grant Reviews:

None

Interoperability Grant Approvals:

Region 1 UASI Project

Next Meeting: February 16, 2010 at 1:00 p.m., Location TBD

A full day SCIP workshop will be held in lieu of January 19th Public Safety Interoperability Committee Meeting. OEC will align SCIP with NECP; will provide measure for non-urban areas; NECP mapping with regard to SCIP Plan; and discuss education and outreach programs. An announcement will be sent to committee members.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.