

Meeting Minutes

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board
June 12, 2025 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Dallas County Human Services Campus
25747 N Avenue
Adel, IA 50003

Luke Erpelding
Communications Center

Curtis Woten
EMS

Mindy Benson
Emergency Management

Michele Bischof
Fire Department

Vacant
Municipal Police Department

Jeff Vandewater
Sheriff's Office

Patrick Updike
Member At-Large

Legislative Members
Senator Jesse Green
Senator Matt Blake
Representative Mike Vondran
Representative, Vacant

Meeting called to order by Chair Bischof at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting was conducted via in-person and Microsoft Teams. The conference telephone line was opened for board members and public listening and comment.

Five voting board members were present via in-person and Microsoft Teams, establishing a quorum.

Voting Members Present In-Person: Luke Erpelding, Jeff Vandewater

Voting Members in Attendance via Microsoft Teams and Teams Conference Line: Mindy Benson, Michele Bischof, Patrick Updike

Non-Voting Present in Person: Administrative Assistant Hollie Davidson, SWIC Haley Nichols

Absent: Curtis Woten

Guests: Dave Brittain, Dan Brown, Brad Button, Blake DeRouchey, Zach Engstrom, Steve Gray, Heath Hove, Anna Hyatt, Jill Johansen, Tom Lampe, Chris Maiers, Doug McCasland, Terry McClannahan, Al Paredes, Jacob Reineke, Curtis "Wally" Walser

Welcoming Remarks: Chair Bischof welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Approval of Agenda: Luke Erpelding motioned to approve today's agenda. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of Minutes: Mindy Benson motioned to approve the May ISICSB Meeting Minutes. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

SWIC Report: SWIC Nichols reports the following:

- Outreach events:
 - Floyd County on May 28th – dispatch center training on patching and statusboard – live on system for approx. 5 months and is working very well for them
 - Lucas County training on June 1st – large group of fire and medical personnel – discussion on interop in a county with multiple communication methods and needs
 - Carroll County EMS/hospital communications functional exercise – very successful event
 - RIC 6 outreach event in Dubuque – hosted by Tom Lampe from FirstNet Authority – discussed coverage gaps in the area
- iMED grant funds remain paused
- COMT course held June 2-6 in Cedar Rapids
 - Class was taught by Deputy SWIC Walser and Col. Hedgepeth, who are currently the only two instructors in the state of Iowa – Nic Briseno also assisted
 - 10 students total
 - Well-supported by CISA
 - Received great feedback
- COML course planned for September

911 Council Report & E911 Program Manager: 911 Program Manager Blake DeRouchey reminded the group that the 911 Council meets right before the ISICSB meeting, and a recording of the meeting can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwAh7nFN6gMlvmDcTVbV-hw/videos>.

911 Program Manager DeRouchey reports the following:

- SF659 was signed by the Governor
- Both 911 data center facilities in the state are relocating and they are currently in the process of figuring out how they will be proceeding
- Training funds approved:
 - Print 911 children's activity books – 17,500 English and 3,000 Spanish
 - NENA CTO course for Dallas County
 - 6-month extension of the online learning management portal

User Group Committee (UGC): UGC Chair Vandewater reports the Committee did not meet because there were no new user applications.

Finance Report: The monthly net expenditures for May 2025 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$12,959.26. The remaining amount available is \$31,972.29.

Governance Committee: SWIC Nichols reports the Governance Committee is currently without a Chair; however, the Committee did meet and discussed that no public comments were received regarding ISICS Policy 2025-01.G.

Operations Committee: Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and discussed ISICS Standard 1.5.2 – Air Ambulance Emergency Landing Zone Coordination and ISICS Standard 3.8.0 – Emergency Button. Both standards are under New Business for approval to post for 30-day comment.

Training & Outreach Committee: SWIC Nichols reports the Training Committee met and discussed creating a training module for ISICS Standard 1.12.1 – Audible Alert Tones.

Technology Committee: SWIC Nichols reports the Technology Committee met and reviewed ISICS Standard 4.9.0 – Software Location. The standard defines the locations and responsibilities of the primary, archive software copies, and configuration backups for the ISICS platform. No substantive changes were necessary.

FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee: FirstNet Subcommittee Chair Benson reports the Committee met and discussed the upcoming coverage workshop to be held at DPS Headquarters on July 8, 2025 @ 9:00 am. Contact Chair Benson or Hollie Davidson if you would like an invite to the meeting.

Other Reports:

Information Sharing Board Members: None

ISICS System Administrator Report: Assistant System Administrator Al Paredes reports the following regarding ISICS maintenance:

- Des Moines metro area sites are scheduled for maintenance this month, with each site going offline for an expected 4-hour downtime from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on different days.
- Monthly Motorola patch for windows clients has been performed, as a reminder please don't forget to reboot the consoles to finish the patching process.
- Motorola will be performing the quarterly core patching on Monday, June 16th, in which services such as wave and smart-connect will be affected. On Tuesday, June 17th a zone controller roll over will be performed twice – the first at 12:40 pm and the second at 4:40 pm. This means that all sites in zones 1 and 2 will go into site trunking for a brief period. Dispatch sites will see red X's, and they should have their backup radios ready to go during the outage in case they are needed. Motorola will set up a conference call for those dispatch centers that would like to join for this event.
- ISICS Numbers for May 2025:
 - Radios = 46,111 (up 2,517 from April 2025)
 - Talkgroups = 3,620 (up 8 from April 2025)

- Push-to-Talks = 3,554,950 (up 471,770 from April 2025)
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FirstNet Authority Update: FirstNet Authority Representative Tom Lampe reports the following:

- Attended 5x5 in Seattle
 - Met with stakeholders in region 6
 - Reminder of coverage workshop on July 8, 2025, to discuss coverage gaps and give input as to where FirstNet/AT&T should spend the reinvestment funds
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AT&T Update: No report

CISA Update:

CISA Representative Chris Maiers presented a slide deck regarding the following:

- Artificial Intelligence in Emergency Communications
- Regional News of Note

The PowerPoint presentation can be located at
<https://dps.iowa.gov/media/2683/download?inline>

Contact Chris Maiers at Christopher.Maiers@cisa.dhs.gov with any questions.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Adopt ISICS Standard 3.15.0 – Regional CALL Audio: Jeff Vandewater made a motion to adopt ISICS Standard 3.15.0 – Regional CALL Audio. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adopt ISICS Policy 2025-01.G – Committee Structure and Leadership: Luke Erpelding made a motion to adopt ISICS Policy 2025-01.G – Committee Structure and Leadership. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day comment on ISICS Standard 1.5.2 – Air Ambulance Emergency Landing Zone Coordination: Jeff Vandewater made a motion to approve posting ISICS Standard 1.5.2 – Air Ambulance Emergency Landing Zone Coordination for 30-day public comment. Luke Erpelding seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day comment on ISICS Standard 3.8.0 – Emergency Button: Jeff Vandewater made a motion to approve posting ISICS Standard 3.8.0 – Emergency Button for 30-day public comment. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of Col. Rob Hedgepeth's COMT instructor travel expenses: Col. Hedgepeth assisted with teaching the recent COMT class in Cedar Rapids. The ISICS Finance Committee and Steering Committee have approved funding for covering Col. Hedgepeth's lodging and meal expenses throughout the week he was there teaching. The expense total was just under \$700.

Mindy Benson made a motion to approve covering Col. Hedgepeth's COMT instructor travel expenses. Luke Erpelding seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Adjourn: Mindy Benson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.

YouTube link for the June 12, 2025, ISICSB Meeting: <https://youtu.be/3qdLOtfkGoQ>