

Luke Erpelding
Communications Center

Curtis Woten
EMS

Mindy Benson
Emergency Management

Michele Bischof
Fire Department

Michael Colby
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 Eric Gjerde

Meeting Minutes

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board
September 11, 2025 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

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.

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

Voting Members Present In-Person: Curtis Woten

Voting Members in Attendance via Microsoft Teams: Michele Bischof, Mindy Benson, Michael Colby, Luke Erpelding, Patrick Updike, Jeff Vandewater

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

Non-Voting Present via Microsoft Teams: Representative Mike Vondran

Absent: None

Guests: Dave Brittain, Daniel Brown, Rob Dehnert, Blake DeRouchey, James Dinsch, Josh Duden, Dave Gordon, Steve Gray, Heath Hove, Tom Lampe, Chris Maiers, Doug McCasland, Terry McClannahan, Al Paredes, Scott Richardson, Hannah Short, Austin Taffae

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Mindy Benson motioned to approve the August ISICSB Meeting Minutes. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

SWIC Report: SWIC Nichols reports the following:

- COML course is scheduled for Sept. 22nd – 25th in Council Bluffs
 - 19 are currently registered
 - Course will be taught by a CISA instructor who will also be observing Iowa COMLs working toward their COML Instructor credentials – the hope is the course will create new COMLs for the state and at least one new COML instructor
- NCSWIC community has been holding regular virtual meetings to include CISA Assistant Director and other federal partners
- New application called TAK (Team Awareness Kit) created by Department of Defense
 - Information can be found at TAK.gov
 - Similar to having MACH capabilities on your phone
 - Contact SWIC Nichols for more information
- iMED - REMCDP update:
 - Funding has not been released and the process to return unpaid equipment has started
 - With the help of CISA, a 6-month grant extension has been approved – grant now extends through March of 2026
- Committee member re-applications are due by November. If you are not currently on a committee but would like to join one, please complete the Committee Membership Application form located at <https://form.jotform.com/222193764111046>.

911 Council Report & E911 Program Manager: E911 Program Manager Blake DeRouche reports that the data centers are in the process of being moved. An email was sent to all PSAPs and call handling centers to inform them of an upcoming informational technical webinar that will be held on September 23rd and 25th. Contact 911@iowa.gov if you did not receive the email and would like to attend.

User Group Committee (UGC): UGC Chair Vandewater reports the UGC met and reviewed two applications that are up for approval under New Business.

The Committee also reviewed ISICS Standard 3.3.0 which is up for 30-day public comment approval under New Business.

Finance Report: The monthly net expenditures for August 2025 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$15,678.45. The remaining amount available is \$141,511.68.

Governance Committee: Governance Committee Chair Colby reports there was no meeting due to the Labor Day holiday.

Operations Committee: Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and reviewed ISICS Standard 2.12.4 – Defining an Encryption Key Compromise. A few unsubstantial changes were made, and the standard was placed back in rotation for review in 3 years.

Training & Outreach Committee: Chair Woten reports the Committee met and began working on the new user onboarding process.

Technology Committee: Technology Committee Chair Updike reports the Committee met and reviewed ISICS Standard 1.7.0 which is up for 30-day public comment approval under New Business.

The Committee also discussed the 11 frequencies in 800MHz SOA and what to name them. The Committee is proposing to put both analog and P25 Emission Designators on the frequencies. Chair Updike will keep the Board updated as this progresses.

FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee: FirstNet Subcommittee Chair Benson reports the Committee met and was given a presentation by Intrepid Networks which is a mobile situational awareness platform for day-to-day emergency operations. More presentations such as this are planned for future meetings.

Other Reports:

Information Sharing Board Members: None.

ISICS System Administrator Report: Assistant System Administrator Scott Richardson reports the following:

- Annual RF maintenance continues with 5 more ISICS sites planned for maintenance starting later this month – 24 of the state-owned ISICS sites completed with more to follow
- The ISICS core related microwave issues that caused intermittent console connection drops in July has remained stable after the bandwidth remedy was implemented – no further console connection issues have occurred.
- In late August, some generator propane work was done at various ISICS sites which then identified several minor propane leaks – the leaks have now been resolved
- The lightning strike damage that affected the Brooklyn site has been repaired with the replacement of microwave outdoor units; however, the site is awaiting a tower light beacon replacement.
- The Adair South replacement tower has been constructed and is awaiting microwave dish installation with completion targeted for mid-October.
- Quarterly ISICS core security patching will occur on September 15th and 16th with zone controller rollovers set for the 16th at 12:30 pm and 4:30 pm. The zone controller rolls will produce a brief drop in connectivity for core-connected consoles and a brief site trunking event for the RF sites.
- ISICS Numbers for August 2025:
 - Radios = 46,633 (down 95 from July 2025)

- Talkgroups = 3,637 (up 4 from July 2025)
 - Push-to-Talks = 3,443,140 (down 1,461,941 from July 2025)
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FirstNet Authority Update: FirstNet Authority Representative Tom Lampe reports he has received several more coverage surveys since last month's meeting. The coverage workshops continue across the country, and there will likely be another round of these workshops.

Tom also discussed some of the new technology and applications that are being used in the public safety field.

AT&T Update: No report.

CISA Update:

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

- Software Acquisition Guide for Government
- Operational Technology (OT) Cybersecurity: Inventory Guidance
- Technical Assistance (TA) Request Period
- Regional News of Note

The PowerPoint presentation can be located at <https://dps.iowa.gov/media/2822/download?inline>

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

Old Business: None

New Business:

Approve New Users: Jeff Vandewater made a motion to approve the following new users: Cedar County Radio Governance Board – Level 1 and MercyOne Genesis DeWitt Ambulance (update) – Level 2. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day Comment on ISICS Standard 1.7.0 – Minimum Programming Requirement: Michael Colby made a motion to approve posting ISICS Standard 1.7.0 – Minimum Programming Requirements for 30-day public comment. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day Comment on ISICS Standard 3.3.0 – Radio ID and Talkgroup Allocation: Luke Erpelding made a motion to approve posting ISICS Standard 3.6.0 – Radio ID and Talkgroup Allocation for 30-day public comment. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Public Comment: SWIC Nichols welcomed ISICSB's newest Legislative Representative, Eric Gjerde, who joined the meeting in person.

Motion to Adjourn: Michael Colby motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.

YouTube link for the September 11, 2025, ISICSB Meeting: <https://youtu.be/Btnvr9fILHY>

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