

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  
December 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:** Luke Erpelding, Curtis Woten

**Voting Members in Attendance via Microsoft Teams:** Michele Bischof, Mindy Benson, Patrick Updike, Jeff Vandewater

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

**Non-Voting Present via Microsoft Teams:** Representative Mike Vondran

**Absent:** Michael Colby

**Guests:** Bart Blank, Nic Briseno, Dave Brittain, Daniel Brown, Chase Clark, Todd Cogdill, Rob Dehnert, Blake DeRouchey, Josh Duden, Dave Gordon, Heath Hove, Jeremy Johnson, Tom Lampe, Chris Maiers, Alex Mathias, Doug McCasland, Terry McClannahan, Al Paredes, Jacob Reineke, Scott Richardson, Hannah Short, Austin Taffae, 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. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

**Approval of Minutes:** Curtis Woten motioned to approve the November ISICSB Meeting Minutes. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

**SWIC Report:** SWIC Nichols reports the following:

- Announcement that will affect committee work slightly – DPS/State of Iowa is going through a process of reviewing the accessibility of the public facing documents on its website, including the ISICSB website; while the process is happening, they have asked that we do not post anymore new items (including PDFs, 30-day comment documents, or new versions of standards) – if you are not finding something on the website that should be there, email SWIC Nichols or Hollie and they will help you find what you need; meeting minutes and agendas will continue to be posted
- Tri-state comms exercise successfully held in Dubuque – discussions were focused on communication capabilities for WI, IL, IA as well as PACE planning
- iMED – REMCDP Update:
  - There has been a 6-month extension granted through 3/28/2026
  - Payments are set to resume
  - Been in contact with grant working group, DPS, DOT, and others to determine best steps forward to implement the initial plan
  - Direct questions to SWIC Nichols
- ISICSB annual report is in the final draft – due to legislature on Jan 1, 2026
- ECC Maiers reached out about submitting TA requests from October now that the government is back up and running – will keep the Board updated as to whether or not our requests are approved through CISA

**911 Council Report & E911 Program Manager:** E911 Program Manager Blake DeRouchey reports the following:

- Sent out updated ALI database guides to both Telcos and PSAPs – these are also stored in the Google shared site
- Sent out reminder to all of the non-shared services PSAPs and their CPE vendors to start working on the IP configuration for the data center moves
- SIP format and DTMF tones:
  - DTMF tones have not really worked with full functionality
  - Believe they have a fix in place for those tones
  - Moving forward, if you have a language translation service that requires DTMF tones, or during telematics crash call, you should be able to provide that input and it should work as expected without multiple attempts to connect with a live operator
- Chapter 10 administrative rules update:
  - Submitted for the notice of intended action phase – second of three steps
  - No changes from the first regulatory analysis phase
  - Public comments due January 13, 2026
  - Public hearing will be held as well
- Online learning management system extension approved through the end of the fiscal year

**User Group Committee (UGC):** The UGC met and there is one new user application up for approval.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding capturing adding users of ISICS via broadband.

**Finance Report:** The monthly net expenditures for November 2025 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$15,411.99. The remaining amount available is \$90,507.39.

**Governance Committee:** SWIC Nichols reports the Committee met and had a lengthy discussion on what a policy might look like for the ongoing broadband over LMR discussion.

**Operations Committee:** Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and completed the work on ISICS Standard 2.13.0 – Subscriber Radio Standards. The standard is ready for 30-day public comment when the process opens back up for posting to the website.

SWIC Nichols reports that after the last board meeting, it was brought to her attention that a change was previously made to the Management section of ISICS Standard 3.3.0 – Radio ID and Talkgroup Allocation. The change made states that all subsystem administrators complete biannual self-audits. The correct wording should state every two years instead of biannually. SWIC Nichols has made the change in the standard.

**Training & Outreach Committee:** SWIC Nichols reports the Committee met and discussed the following topics:

- Patching training video
- RIC training and outreach
- Topics for discussion at Supervisor's meetings (east, west, and central areas of the state)

**COMU Credentialing Subcommittee:** Deputy SWIC Walser reports the Subcommittee did not meet because there were no PTBs to review.

**Technology Committee:** Technology Chair Updike reports the Committee met and continued their in-depth discussion regarding RoIP and broadband PTT over LMR. SWIC Nichols will be presenting to the Finance Committee the cost for licensing 800 MHz scene of action channels.

Chair Updike also states that the Committee continues to work on talkgroups for 700 MHz conventional channels.

**FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee:** FirstNet Subcommittee Chair Benson reports the Committee met and AT&T gave a presentation on mission critical push-to-talk.

**Other Reports:**

## Information Sharing Board Members: None

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### ISICS System Administrator Report: Assistant System Administrator AI Paredes reports the following:

- Quarterly core patching is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. This will cause two different zone controller rollovers – one in the morning and the second one in the afternoon. Motorola sent out the meeting invites; contact AI if anyone needs the invite sent to them.
- Generator maintenance continues with 8 sites remaining this year.
- ISICS Numbers for November 2025:
  - Radios = 47,185 (up 27 from October 2025)
  - Talkgroups = 3,641 (down 1 from October 2025)
  - Push-to-Talks = 3,012,057 (down 237,199 from October 2025)

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### FirstNet Authority Update: FirstNet Authority (FNA) Representative Tom Lampe reports the following:

- FirstNet nationwide has hit 7.8 million users in over 30,000 public safety agencies with over 1,275 certified devices
- At next month's FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee meeting, Tom will discuss Iowa's coverage results from stakeholders – subcommittee will need to prioritize the top areas needing better coverage in the state for consideration on the reinvestment dollars for Iowa
- New app to replace push-to-talk app is call Fusion
- Currently testing coverage areas of interest and stakeholder coverage submissions as well as conducting surprise visits to AT&T stores across the state to question them regarding FirstNet, providing public safety solutions, etc.

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### AT&T Update: AT&T Representative Bart Blank reports that 16 small cells in Polk County were upgraded to Ericson equipment in the past month.

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### CISA Update:

CISA | CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT DECEMBER 2025

Chris Maiers  
December 11, 2025



### BRICKSTORM Backdoor Cyber Advisory

#### Notice:

- Multiple agencies assess People's Republic of China (PRC) state-sponsored cyber actors are using BRICKSTORM malware for long-term persistence on victim systems DNS-over-HTTPS (DoH).
- Victims/targets are typically government and information technology sector.

#### Response/Mitigation:

- Monitor edge network devices (routers, firewalls, etc.) & service accounts
- Report it to CISA if discovered.
- Upgrade VMware vSphere servers & harden environment.
- Segment network to limit remote desktop and limit privileges.
- Block unauthorized DoH providers and external DoH traffic.



Advisory linked at: <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/analysis-reports/ar25-338a>



Chris Maiers  
December 11, 2025

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## OT Cybersecurity: Integrating AI Securely

### Purpose:

- Demonstrate how operational technology (OT) owners and operators can help ensure the safety and security of AI systems in OT environments.

### Key Steps:

- Understand AI unique risks and potential impacts & the need to educate personnel on these risks.
- Consider AI use for the specific business case and manage OT data security risks, vendors, and the challenges of AI integration.
- Establish AI governance & assurance frameworks, integrate AI into existing security frameworks, continuously test and evaluate AI models, and consider regulatory compliance.
- Embed safety and security practices into AI and AI-enabled OT Systems via oversight for the safe operation and cybersecurity, transparency, and integrate AI into incident response plans.



Guide & Tool linked at: <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/principles-secure-integration-artificial-intelligence-operational-technology>



Chris Maiers  
December 11, 2025

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## Mitigating Risks From Bulletproof Hosting

### Advisory:

- Cybercriminal actors are increasingly using bulletproof hosting (BPH) infrastructure to support cyber operations.
  - Ransomware, data extortion, and denial of service (DoS) attacks.
- “Bulletproof” for cybercriminals because the hosting providers do not engage in good faith with legal processes or address victim complaints of malicious activity.
- Used in fast flux techniques, command and control, malware delivery, phishing, and hosting illicit content.

### Mitigation:

- Monitor network traffic and block malicious internet resources
- Work with ISPs for reporting, filtering, developing/updated malicious site lists.

Linked at: <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/bulletproof-defense-mitigating-risks-bulletproof-hosting-providers>



Chris Maiers  
December 11, 2025

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For more information:

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Chris Maiers  
December 11, 2025

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## Old Business: None

## New Business:

New User Applicant Participation Plan Approval: Jeff Vandewater made a motion to approve the following new user: IRS-Criminal Investigation – Level 2. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Appoint Members of ISICSB Standing Committees: Luke Erpelding made a motion to appoint all members who submitted a new committee membership application. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Chair Bischof thanked all committee members for their hard work, dedication, and time committed to all ISICSB committees and public safety communications in Iowa.

SWIC Nichols states that the Committee application form is still available, and anyone is welcome to apply at any time moving forward. The Board will review those applications in the same process.

## Public Comment: None

**Motion to Adjourn:** Curtis Woten motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 11:06 am.

YouTube link for the December 11, 2025, ISICSB Meeting: [https://youtu.be/CmZzy\\_oGOuI](https://youtu.be/CmZzy_oGOuI)