Luke Erpelding
Communications Center

Curtis Woten
EMS

Vacant
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
October 8, 2026 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: Michele Bischof, Michael Colby, Luke Erpelding, Patrick Updike, Curtis Woten

Voting Members in Attendance via Microsoft Teams: Jeff Vandewater

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

Non-Voting Present via Microsoft Teams: None

Absent: None

Guests: Nic Briseno, Dave Brittain, Dan Brown, Chase Clark, Blake DeRouchey, Josh Duden, Chris George, Dave Gordon, Heath Hove, Tom Lampe, Chris Maiers, Makayla McDonald, Cara O'Donnell, Al Paredes, Jacob Reineke, Scott Richardson, Paul Shriner, Travis Solem, Curtis "Wally" Walser

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Luke Erpelding motioned to approve the September ISICSB Meeting Minutes. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

SWIC Report: SWIC Nichols reports the following:

- FEMA plans to conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 1320 hours central time
- Traveled to Hot Springs, Arkansas to participate in the Central States Exercise
    - 31 states represented
    - 350 participants
    - 11 SWIC's
    - Iowa was represented by Story County
- Participated in the Wisconsin PACE planning workshop
    - Interop communications across borders are included in their EOC planning
    - A lot of good takeaways that could be implemented in Iowa
- 800 MHz scene of action channels have moved to the next step and sent to the Regional Planning Committee which meets later today
- iMED Update:
    - Period of performance was completed on September 29th – will submit the final report to CISA by October 30th
        - original award was $1,859,953
        - made purchases adding up to $1,845,596.87
        - ending balance $14,356.13
    - Project spearheaded collaboration with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa stakeholders to update the legacy EMS Communications Plan and create ISICS talkgroups and Standard Operating Procedure for EMS to hospital communications
    - Uplifted a total of 232 ambulances with radios capable of utilizing the new ISICS talkgroups
    - Provided a WAVE server to EMS communications
    - Providing 10 new talk paths, 38 dispatch licenses, and 44 mobile licenses for WAVE for a 3-year period through April 2029
    - Will continue to provide training and outreach efforts to end-users for emerging technologies
    - Thank you to those who have supported and assisted with this project over the last 3 years
- INTD course in Carroll County will be held during the week of December 7th – registration will be available soon
- COML course for Region 7 in Kansas City, Kansas - spots open for a couple of Iowa students especially if they have teaching aspirations
- COML course approved for Iowa has been put on hold until Federal instructors for the new curriculum are found
    - Iowa's current 3 COML instructors will need to take the new curriculum
    - Region 7 SWIC's have agreed to a shard COML course between the states, giving seats to each state for current instructors to learn the new curriculum and receive their new COML certificates

- Reminder – Sub-System Administrators meeting for Level 3 and 4 users will be held at DPS Oran Pape Building on October 14th

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

- New hire for the 911 Program will be starting in November
- Thank you to DPS for help in deploying the disaster recovery vehicle when the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office flooded
- Will be speaking at the NENA conference on October 26th
- Iowa Utilities Commission will be considering an agenda item today allowing customers to express any concerns regarding Lumen and the retirement of their copper wireline infrastructure – Blake has no concerns as it relates to issues with 911
- 911 Council approved two training requests – one is for the fall NENA conference, and the other is for a Center Manager Certification Program (contact Chris Collins if interested)

User Group Committee (UGC): UGC Chair Vandewater reports the Committee met and reviewed ISICS Standard 2.1.0 – Variance and Waivers. No substantial changes were made to the standard.

Finance Report: Chair Bischof reports the Finance Committee met and reviewed the financials for September. There is a line item for Intra-State Transfers in the amount of $447.82. SWIC Nichols spoke with the Finance Department, and this amount will come off the report next month.

The monthly net expenditures for September 2026 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were $28,824.26. The remaining amount available is $93,341.63.

Governance Committee: Governance Committee Chair Colby reports the Committee has completed reviewing all its assigned policies for this year.

The Committee reviewed the SCIP in preparation for the workshop scheduled after today's Board meeting.

Operations Committee: Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and discussed Policy 2021-02.O – Requiring frequency coordination by vendors or agencies deploying mobile LTE broadband vehicles. The Committee received feedback from the Technology Committee, and all have agreed that the policy should be retired. The policy is up for 30-day comment approval under today's New Business.

The Committee finalized the medical visor cards which are up for approval under today's New Business.

The Committee also reviewed its SCIP goals in preparation for the workshop scheduled after today's Board meeting.

Training & Outreach Committee: Training and Outreach Committee Chair Woten states the Committee continues to work on the onboarding process.

COMU Credentialing Subcommittee: Deputy SWIC Walser reports the Subcommittee reviewed and approved one COML task book.

Technology Committee: Technology Chair Updike reports the Committee met twice and reviewed Policy 2021-02.O. The Committee determined the policy is redundant and therefore should be retired. The policy is up for 30-day comment approval under today's New Business.

The Committee also reviewed Policy 2015-04.T. It was determined that this policy is also redundant and therefore should be retired.

FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee: SWIC Nichols reports the FirstNet Subcommittee meeting is next week on October 13th. During this meeting, the group will look at the submissions and finalize sites for the coverage workshop to present to the Board at the November meeting. The subcommittee will need to come up with eight sites to push forward for FirstNet/AT&T to look at to reinvest funds.

The November 11th FirstNet Subcommittee meeting will be held in person, and there will be a presentation by Rescue 42.

Other Reports:

Information Sharing Board Members: None.

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

- The Springbrook site sustained lightning damage on September 17th which affected the Eltek DC power equipment and all MW links at the site. This put Springbrook into a site trunking condition which lasted until the MW links were restored on the afternoon of the 18th. The site still needs two MW rack cards and three Eltek rectifiers to be fully restored; however, the site has been fully operational since September 18th.
- Motorola has recently been investigating reports of intermittent audio distortion in the Western suburbs of the Des Moines metro area (Clive and Waukee). They are looking into channel interference involving specific sites although there is nothing definitive as to a cause.
- Annual RF maintenance continues with less than 50 sites remaining for 2026. The next batch of sites will be scheduled soon. Updates and maintenance notices to follow.
- There is an upcoming ISICS Astro upgrade webinar on Friday, October 9th @ 8:00am. Invites have already been sent out by Kaelyn Vanous with Motorola.
- ISICS Numbers for September 2026:
    - Radios = 50,180 (up 162 from August 2026)
    - Talkgroups = 3,791 (up 124 from August 2026)
    - Push-to-Talks = 3,134,159 (down 159,979 from August 2026)

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

- Met with Haley this week to review coverage submissions – need eight sites submitted by December
- Satellite continues to develop – beta testing for satellite coverage should begin next quarter

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AT&T Update: AT&T Representative Cara O'Donnell reports that Iowa is one of the five states approved to participate in the satellite beta testing.

CISA Update: CISA Representative Chris Maiers showed the following slide deck:

CISA | CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT OCTOBER 2026

Chris Maiers
October 8, 2026
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Prioritizing Security Updates Based on Risk

What is happening?:

- Binding Operational Directive issued for Federal Agencies.

Overview:

- Introduces new remediation timelines for vulnerabilities based on four criteria:
  - **Asset Exposure:** Is the vulnerability asset publicly exposed?
  - **Known Exploited Vulnerabilities (KEV) Catalog Status:** Is the vulnerability, as identified by a CVE ID, on CISA's Known Exploited Vulnerabilities Catalog?
  - **Exploit Automation:** Is an adversary able to automate all the steps necessary to exploit the vulnerability?
  - **Technical Control:** Does an adversary gain partial control or total control of the vulnerable asset after exploitation of the vulnerability?



BOD 26-04: https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/directives/bod-26-04-prioritizing-security-updates-based-risk

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October 8, 2026
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Vulnerability Response Timeline

	Publicly Exposed?†	In the KEV?*	Automatable by Adversary?*	Technical Impact*	Agency Timeline (Calendar Days) for Remediation
1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Total control	*3 days & forensic triage*
2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partial control	*3 days*
3	Yes	Yes	No	Total control	*3 days & forensic triage*
4	Yes	Yes	No	Partial control	*14 days*
5	Yes	No	Yes	Total control	*3 days*
6	Yes	No	Yes	Partial control	*14 days*
7	Yes	No	No	Total control	*14 days*
8	Yes	No	No	Partial control	*60 days*
9	No	Yes	Yes	Total control	*3 days & forensic triage*
10	No	Yes	Yes	Partial control	*14 days*
11	No	Yes	No	Total control	*14 days*
12	No	Yes	No	Partial control	*14 days*
13	No	No	Yes	Total control	*60 days*
14	No	No	Yes	Partial control	*60 days*
15	No	No	No	Total control	*Fix on system upgrade*
16	No	No	No	Partial control	*Fix on system upgrade*

BOD 26-04: https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/directives/bod-26-04-prioritizing-security-updates-based-risk

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BOD 26-04 Working Session Available

What's Covered?:

- Scoping and sensing virtual meetings to review asset inventory, dependencies, necessary functionality of equipment.
- Defining edge network devices and associated exposures.
- Review of inventories and how they align with remediation table from BOD 26-04.

Deliverables:

- Report of asset findings and key components and correlation to remediation table.
- Suggested additional follow-up work for stakeholders to tighten security and mitigate vulnerabilities.



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October 8, 2026
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SHARES Communications Exercise 2026

Overview:

- October 30, 2026 from 1000-1200 & 1300-1500 local time..
- All SHARES are able to participate.
- Scenario is a widespread and prolonged attack on the power grid.

What is SHARES?:

- SHAred RESources (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) Radio Program
- Voluntary network of government, industry, and disaster response agency HF radio stations used for emergency communications.
- Used for transmitting emergency messages when normal communications systems are destroyed or unavailable, and by providing HF radio channels for interoperability.

SHARES: https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/programs/shared-resources-shares-high-frequency-hf-radio-program/shares-faqs

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October 8, 2026
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Regional News of Note

Technical Assistance News:

- Accepting TA Requests
- Illinois
  - Requests being processed.
- Iowa
  - Requests being processed.
- Missouri
  - Requests being processed.
- Kansas
  - Governance document for Interoperability Advisory Committee
- Nebraska
  - NSTR



Chris Maiers
October 8, 2026
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For more information:

Chris Maiers
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202-701-3235

Old Business: None

New Business:

Adopt Standard 1.5.0 – ISICS Regional and Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups: SWIC Nichols states there were no public comments on the 30-day posting, and the new name for the standard will be ISICS Statewide, Regional, and Subregional Interoperability Talkgroups.

Michael Colby motioned to adopt ISICS Standard 1.5.0. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day comment on ISICS Policy 2021-02.O – Requiring frequency coordination by vendors or agencies deploying mobile LTE broadband vehicles: SWIC Nichols states this policy has been reviewed by a couple of committees who determined that the policy should be retired.

Curtis Woten motioned to approve posting ISICS Policy 2021-02.O for 30-day public comment. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day comment on ISICS Policy 2015-04.T – Endorsing use of AES P25 encryption standards: SWIC Nichols states it has been determined by the Technology Committee that this policy is redundant and should be retired.

Luke Erpelding motioned to approve posting ISICS Policy 2015-4.T for 30-day public comment. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approve medical visor cards: SWIC Nichols states this visor card will be beneficial for those that are taking part in EMS to hospital communications. There are three sides to the card – the backside of one has the names of the hospital, and the backside of another has the city where the hospital is located. These will be distributed to stakeholders as well as posted on the website.

Curtis Woten motioned to approve the medical visor cards. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approve funds in the amount of $200 for SWIC Nichols to attend the APCO NENA Conference: Michael Colby motioned to approve the funds for SWIC Nichols to attend the APCO NENA conference. Luke Erpelding seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approve TA request for Interoperable communications with Illinois: SWIC Nichols states she is working with ECC Maiers to develop a 3-part TA request for cross-border interoperability with Illinois – Communications Assessment, Strategic Communications Migration Plan to assist with developing a medium to long-term plan to bolster interstate interoperability, and

Standard Operating Procedures/Standard Operating Guidelines/Communications Plan Review and Development. The request is for approval to move forward with this request as it is developed with collaboration between the states and CISA.

Curtis Woten motioned to approve the TA request. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

COMU Credentials: SWIC Nichols presented a COMT and INTD certificate to Nic Briseno and a COML certificate to Makayla McDonald.

Public Comment: None

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

YouTube link for the October 8, 2026, ISICSB Meeting: https://youtu.be/cNsIBEsyugU