

June 2015

A message from the SPOC about FirstNet

*Curtis M. Wood , FirstNet Single Point of Contact and
EOPSS Undersecretary for Forensic Science and Technology*



On behalf of the Massachusetts Public Safety Broadband Office (PSBO), thank you for your ongoing interest and support of the work we are collectively doing to support FirstNet in its plan to develop a National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). I wanted to take a moment to provide you with a brief update on some of the major activities that have occurred over the past few month.

FirstNet Initial Consultation: In March, Massachusetts became the 17th state to have its initial consultation with FirstNet. During the meeting, FirstNet provided an update on their progress and plans to date and we shared information about Massachusetts specific broadband data needs. Over 45 people from the Massachusetts public safety community participated, including representatives from law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical, emergency management, transportation, local/state government, and more. Several representatives of Maine and Vermont also attended.

Our sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in the full day session, including a very special thanks to Superintendent Peter Clifford, Boston Fire Department; Deputy Superintendent John Daley, Boston Police Department; Chief James Hooley, Boston EMS; Major Dermot Quinn, Commonwealth Fusion Center; and Undersecretary Kurt Schwartz, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security who lead a panel discussion on the Boston Marathon as a way to illustrate some of Massachusetts's data capabilities and needs.

Data Collection: Recently, FirstNet gave Massachusetts the go ahead to begin activities on the data collection phase of the project. As a reminder, Massachusetts received funding under the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) to work with FirstNet on the implementation of the public safety data network in Massachusetts. The grant includes two phases. Phase 1 focused on education and outreach. Phase 2 will focus on data collection, including information on Massachusetts'

① coverage objectives, ② users and operations, ③ capacity, and ④ current service.

This is a major milestone in the project. Information about our capacities and needs is due to FirstNet in September. A representative from our Public Safety Broadband Office may be contacting your agency soon with a **request to complete a user survey** that builds upon the survey many of you completed this past winter. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey. Your input is critical to ensuring that new public safety data network is designed to meets our needs.

FirstNet Vendor RFR: FirstNet continues to work to create a comprehensive request for responses (RFR) for one or more vendors to develop the National Public Safety Broadband Network. FirstNet approved the release of several draft documents for public comment and is currently planning to release the comprehensive RFR by December 2015. Information provided by states as part of the data

collection phase will be used in the development of the RFR. We expect to learn more about the RFR over the next several months. The envisioned timeline for the network to be available is not yet known.

Massachusetts FirstNet Advisory Board (MFAB): The MFAB is a 18 member advisory board that includes leaders representing different areas in the Massachusetts public safety community. The MFAB had its second meeting in May and continues to play a critical role in shaping how the National Public Safety Broadband Network will be implemented in Massachusetts. Over the summer, we plan to form several discipline-based working groups to support data collection and planning for the NSPBN in Massachusetts.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Public Safety Broadband Office at psbo@state.ma.us or visit our website at www.mass.gov/psbo.

Sincerely,

Curtis M. Wood

Undersecretary for Forensic Science & Technology

Secretariat Chief Information Officer