

October 2015

A message from the SPOC about FirstNet

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



What's Happening with FirstNet in Massachusetts?

Massachusetts to Participate in FirstNet Meeting in Denver: Members of the Public Safety Broadband Office will be attending a national FirstNet meeting on October 7 and 8 in Denver, CO. This meeting will include 150 attendees representing 52 states and territories. The agenda will cover updates on FirstNet's acquisition approach, a review of content for FirstNet's public notices, and planning for the coming year of activity to the national public safety broadband network implementation. There will also be a focus on the content of the State Plans, which will detail how the network is to be implemented in each state and territory.

Massachusetts Submits Data to FirstNet for RFP: On September 30, the Public Safety Broadband Office on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Massachusetts submitted the results of data collection requested by FirstNet in March of this year. This data collection included information on Massachusetts' ❶ coverage objectives, ❷ users and operations, ❸ capacity, and ❹ current service. A large portion of this information provided to FirstNet was a result of a survey conducted by the PSBO in August and September. Over 380 public safety entities responded to this Massachusetts FirstNet Planning Survey. This information will be used by FirstNet for planning the NPSBN and in soliciting a vendor to implement the network.

FirstNet Request for Proposals for Data Network: FirstNet continues to work to create a comprehensive request for proposals (RFP) 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.

Public Safety Working Groups: In coordination with the MFAB, the PSBO has convened several discipline-based working groups to support data collection and planning for the NSPBN in Massachusetts. These meetings were held at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency in Framingham in early September. Comments and feedback from these working groups were critical in tailoring Massachusetts' response to FirstNet's data collection requests from March.

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 40 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 FirstNet offices in 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 (EOPSS), who lead a panel discussion on the Boston Marathon as a way to illustrate some of Massachusetts's data capabilities and needs.

Massachusetts FirstNet Advisory Board (MFAB): The MFAB is a 17 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. The next meeting for the MFAB is planned for the end of October or beginning of November.