



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

One Ashburton Place, Room 2133  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Tel: (617) 727-7775  
TTY Tel: (617) 727-6618  
Fax: (617) 727-4764  
[www.mass.gov/eopss](http://www.mass.gov/eopss)

**Maura Healey**  
Governor

**Kim Driscoll**  
Lt. Governor

**TERRENCE M. REIDY**  
Secretary

## **SIEC Executive Management Committee (EMC)**

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)

50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757

Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 1:30pm

### **MINUTES**

**Voting SIEC EMC members present:** *Richard Fiske (SWIC-EOPSS), Alexander Rock (ASWIC-EOPSS, Policy & Programs Committee), David Spinosa (Northeast), Greg Lynskey (Central), Chris Carlton (Central Alternate), Scott Wilder (UASI)*

**Others present:** *Mike Saltzman (EOTSS CoMIRS), Joe Griffin (BAPERN), Kathryn Latimer (EOPSS OGR), Sarah Malloy (EOPSS OGR), Melissa Nazzaro (CISA ECC Reg1), Chad Snow (AT&T FirstNet), Jacob Pyra (State 911), Cory Swift (MCSA), David Clemons (DFS)*

Mr. Fiske chaired the meeting on behalf of Secretary Reidy and called the meeting to order at 1:32pm. Roll call was held.

#### **1. Acceptance of Minutes/Notes**

**a)** June 6, 2025, Minutes. Motion to approve by Chris Carlton, seconded by David Spinosa, Motion carried.

#### **b) PJ-ICIPs and PJ-ICPS Amendments:**

- *HSGP24-515 – BAPERN SW District Expansion – Southeast – Mr. Griffin spoke on the subject for the Southeast Council. The Bristol County Chiefs Association has asked to join BAPERN. This agency works with Plymouth County and Norfolk County. The old Bristol County Intercity frequency was identified as an available resource and will be licensed to BAPERN. This grant will allow for an expansion of this frequency and to add Area Wide 3 & 4 to the newly expanded sites as well. The grant will cover the cost of the equipment with BAPERN picking up the cost for installation in due time. This expansion will increase BAPERN membership from 180 to around 203 member agencies. No other comments or questions from the Committee. Motion to approve by Greg Lynskey, seconded by Scott Wilder, Motion carried.*

**c)** Discussion on any other current projects that have been reviewed previously and need action or have pending concerns- N/A

- d) Discussion on any newly submitted projects that require distribution and review prior to action that were not anticipated or included here- N/A

## 2. Reports

### a. Standing Committees

- i. **Data Committee-** N/A
- ii. **RF Committee-** N/A
- iii. **Policy / Programs-** *Nothing to report.*

### b. Councils

- i. **UASI-Metro Boston-** *Scott Wilder addressed the committee. Nothing new to report, committee meetings will be starting again this month. As everyone knows, Boston PD has encrypted communications. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
- ii. **Northeast-** *David Spinosa addressed the committee. Northeast has been on break since beginning of summer. A meeting is planned for next week. Since then, work has been done to acquire grant-funded equipment in a timelier manner to be used with end of grant funding timelines. No other comments or questions from the committee.*
- iii. **Southeast-** *N/A*
- iv. **Central-** *Greg Lynskey addressed the Committee, Equipment for the Fire District 7 channel replacement has started to come in. Buildout of this channel will begin in the next month or two. The project to move both District 7 & 8 PSAPs to CoMIRS talk groups is well under way. District 7 is 2/3 of the way complete and is on track to be completed by the end of the year. Upon completion of this project the Districts low band radio systems will be decommissioned. The other major project in the works is the Worcester City College Interoperability System. This project is currently in the specification development stage before moving to procurement. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
- v. **Western-** *N/A*

### c. State/Federal/Other Agencies

- i. **SWIC:** *Mr. Fiske addressed the Committee. -Encryption has been a hot topic lately all over the Commonwealth. EOPSS, this office, and others have held talks with Boston Police over the summer since SIEC met in June regarding encryption and things that will occur as a result of that. The shift to encryption by these agencies hinders operability which also creates barriers to interoperability. Interoperability can be operability and vice versa. Interoperability is not something you do on a special day or at a special event. Interoperability involves everyday information sharing and situational awareness between partner agencies in real time capability “interoperability without intervention” as top level. Because of the availability of technology now to encrypt, most agencies are choosing to make the decision for their own reasons and motivations to completely encrypt. This falls completely within the agencies purview with no dispute. That being said this committee is tasked with improving and expanding interoperability on all levels, including in real time, for everyone across the Commonwealth. A balance needs to be found on how to leverage compliant encryption standards without losing the day-to-day interoperability that already exists. How do we continue the real time information sharing capabilities that exist today that may not exist tomorrow should*

*we fully strap encryption on our operational channels. Options need to be explored to come up with guidance. Policy and Programs Committee will be looking into this subject as we move on.*

- Summer 2026 will be very busy for all members of this diverse group as well as many members of the state and local government of the Commonwealth, with World Cup in July and Tall Ships at the same time. This is in addition to the Boston Marathon as well as fourth of July celebrations not only in Boston, but all around the Commonwealth. Looking back on last year there were over 25 requests for interoperability support and resources ranging from radio caches to patches and interoperable assets. 25 events is a lot to coordinate and set up in a state as small as Massachusetts with a very small team of people. Having said this, July is going to be an extremely busy month and we are all going to have to start thinking outside the box and start sharing people and resources. Anyone interested in assisting with these events please reach out. We have many working groups and sub committees as parts of these events.*
- Since we last met Starlink has become a procurable service through state contract. This is a huge win for the Commonwealth. Anyone with questions please reach out and I will point you towards the right procurement personnel and who is eligible to purchase this service.*
- The latest update to the MIFOG has been released this spring. Recently, funding has been secured to print a limited number of copies. Special thanks to Kathryn Latimer and OGR for identifying the funding to complete this task. Those that have responded to the to the messaging to request a copy for your agency will receive the first of a limited number of copies. If more copies are needed please let Alex Rock or I know so we can fine another round of funding.*
- Within the last month the Massachusetts Tactical Channel Plan has been updated. A change log is available for those who request it. There have been a number of updates to the plan on this revision.*
- There will be a FirstNet coverage workshop on September 12<sup>th</sup>, this meeting is by invite only. This is only the first of many meetings to come. We need input from public safety users to steer the funding towards areas that may be an area of concern for coverage and capacity. More to come on this.*
- There is potential for a COM-T class with the assistance of CISA-ECD the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, this will be a 5-day course for COM-T. We are in the process of identifying a location to hold this event. This has been a struggle to overcome as November is a busy month for the state venues and we don't have a budget to rent a venue. This COM-T class holds spots for 16 candidates and invitations are extended to all Region 1. If you know of anyone who is interested in attending the COM-T class please reach out. There will be a cutoff date to reach the needed attendance mark for this class.*
- Statewide radio is continuing to march. The one thing to flag for this group on behalf of TSS is the need to upgrade older subscriber units that are currently on the CoMIRS radio system. If you would like to keep these older units in service on the system, once the upgrades are complete, specifically the APX AN version Motorola radios. A limited time program has been secured through Motorola to get the necessary software upgrades such as P25 type 2 trunking, OTAP, OTAR and Subscriber Authentication. Please solicit this to agencies you know that operate on CoMIRS and would like to keep these APX AN series radios in service. Any questions reach out to [comirs@mass.gov](mailto:comirs@mass.gov)*
- Greg Lynsky asked a question regarding the update of the EFOG and when or if that would be occurring. Mr. Fiske replied, CISA no longer retains the contractor to modify or change the Efog site. CISA has the latest Efog document, but the document is not in a situation to be uploaded. Conversations are ongoing to attempt to address this issue.*

*No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

- ii. **State 911 Report:** *Jake Pyra addressed the committee. Nothing to report.*
  
- iii. **FirstNet:** *Chad Snow addressed the committee. Nothing major to report but thank you to everyone who took the time to provide coverage feedback. No comments or questions from the Committee.*
  
- iv. **Statewide Radio:** *Mike Saltzman addressed the committee. We are chugging along building the system, between tower remediation, microwave reroutes, antenna installation, new microwave installation, new shelter installations, MOUs and MOAs, even leases. This has been a tremendously comprehensive project and is taking a lot of time. We are still on track for the middle of 2026 for cutover. Considerations will have to be made for cutover knowing how busy we all will be in 2026. One of the mitigating factors will be having the analog system up with the exception of Wester Mass. Also like you covered earlier, radios will need to be read into Radio Management, sent into Motorola, and determined what features will be needed. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
  
- v. **System Owners:**
  - BAPERN:** *Joe Griffin addressed the Committee, In addition to the work being done in the southwest district, work will be done on the Central TAC and Central District. Equipment has been received through UASI and BAPERN will be providing the funding for the labor piece to initiate this. Also, we are hopeful to start something with the North District with NERAC. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
  - WMLEC:** *N/A*
  
- vi. **Federal Partners:** *Melissa Nazzaro addressed the committee. The Efog app update currently has no status as to when it will be released. The GETS/WPS priority representative Bruce Belt, who has been working with us for the last couple of years in region 1 and region 2, has retired. Instead of keeping the priority representative program, this was one of the services that was cut with contract changes earlier in 2025. For the moment, anything that needs to be routed for GETS/WPS will go directly into the service center without a local representative. Also, The COM-T class will be happening the week of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. I can also confirm we will be holding a COM-L class in Portsmouth, NH at one of the Portsmouth fire stations. Information will be coming out in a flyer by the end of the day today or tomorrow. This class will run the week of November 17<sup>th</sup>, Monday through Thursday. This class is a regional offering with a capacity of 30 personnel. This class like the COM-T in Massachusetts is being offered to all Region 1. If anyone is interested, please reach out. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

**Unfinished Business:**

- a. Copper
- b. Non-HSGP grant-funded interoperability projects.
- c. Cybersecurity
- d. Continuing updates to interoperable best practices throughout the Commonwealth

**Announcements:**

*None*

Next meeting in October, TBD.

*Motion to adjourn was made at 2:19pm by Alex Rock, seconded by Greg Lynskey.  
Carried and adjourned at 2:20pm.*