MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Date: May 17th, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
SC Educational Television / Attendees via Zoom

Subject: Minutes of the South Carolina 911 Advisory Committee Meeting

Attendees: *Committee Members* – Neil Baxley – PSAP Rep. Beaufort County, Mitch Fulmore – PSAP Rep. Florence County, Rick Blackwell – PSAP Rep. Greenville County, Melony Burgess – Wireless Rep. FTC, Jack Maguire – Consumer Rep., Misty Wise – SC 811 (RFA Appointment), David Morrison – RFA SC 911 Program Manager, Adam DeMars – GIS Expert/RFA, Ken Roper – Pickens County (SC Association of Counties). *Staff* – Paul Athey – RFA Division Director, Michael Ball – RFA SC NG911 Program Manager, and Amy Simpson – E911 Program Coordinator.

Note: Guests were invited to attend virtually. An email invitation was sent to the PSAP Distribution list, posted on the RFA website, and in the Rembert Dennis Building. Meeting information and log-in instructions were posted online.

I.   Chairman Blackwell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Roll call was taken for the record; nine committee members were in attendance.

II.   Chairman Blackwell presented the March 15, 2022 meeting minutes and asked if any members had edits or questions. Jack Maguire motioned to approve the minutes; Neil Baxley seconded the motion and all members voted aye. Chairman Blackwell declared the minutes approved as written. *(see minutes)*

III.   Introduction of New Committee Member
- David Morrison welcomed new Committee member, Melony Burgess – FTC Diversified Services, CMRS Provider, appointed by the Governor's Office.

IV.   ESInet Implementation Update
- Michael Ball provided an update, and the following items were presented:
    - Group 2 migration dates were pushed back slightly due to a small network anomaly observed by RFA staff. This prompted the recommendation for a brief pause in the project so that any issues could be addressed before moving forward. AT&T has requested another brief project pause in July 2022, which is the end of their fiscal year.
    - Group 3 tentative migration dates will begin August 17, 2022, starting with Colleton County Sheriff's Backup PSAP.
    - Planned 2022 PSAP migration dates for the remainder of the calendar year and a map view of the Network Status Dashboard.

V.   Dorchester Request to Join Coastal ESInet*
     *The Coastal ESInet includes PSAPs from Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Georgetown, Horry, Goose Creek, Hanahan, and Summerville.
- Tristan Proctor - Deputy Director of Emergency Management for Dorchester County, Cora Tanton - Director of Consolidated Dispatch, and Brett Lantz - Commutations Engineer, addressed the committee seeking their recommendation that Dorchester County be permitted to join the Coastal ESInet.
  o Mr. Proctor spoke on behalf of Dorchester County's request and stated the following:
    ▪ Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties are referred to as the "Tri-County Area", they work together as partners and provide mutual aid daily.
    ▪ After several months of evaluating the State and Coastal ESInet options, they concluded the best solution for them would be to join the Coastal ESInet with the state paying associated costs at the current 80% reimbursement rate.

Mr. Morrison cautioned that preliminary findings show that such a decision has the potential to significantly impact the fund balance and would likely result in a reduction of the reimbursement rate across the entire state earlier than had previously been projected.

Adam DeMars motioned to table the request made by Dorchester County until after hearing the Fiscal Update agenda item to make a better-informed decision. Misty Wise seconded the motion. Chairman Blackwell asked if there was any further discussion from the committee. Hearing none, he declared the motion passed.

VI. Fiscal Update
- Paul Athey presented the committee with the fiscal update and provided the following information:
- Revisions were made to the fiscal model at the committee's request:
    ▪ Removed costs for statewide outage notification system.
    ▪ Added costs for Goose Creek, Hanahan, and Summerville to join the Coastal ESInet with reimbursements at the current rate of 80%.
    ▪ Based on these revisions, the projected fund balance begins to hover below the target line over four consecutive years indicating changes will need to be considered.
  o Strategic Plan Discussion
    ▪ The plan developed by L.R. Kimball in 2015 provided three options for NG911 implementation:
      1. Statewide ESInet with core services.
      2. Statewide network backbone connected with regional ESInets.
        ▪ This option was contingent upon the State being able to raise the statutory cap to a level that would cover

costs for regionalization. The State was unsuccessful in their attempt to increase the cap through the legislative process.

3. Regional ESInets only.
   - Pricing for regional ESInet total costs represents an 81% increase in costs over a 5-year period compared to the State's negotiated contract pricing.
   - This option will require a reduction in the reimbursement rate down to 60% if ESInets are covered at 100% of cost, or a reduction down to 65% if ESInets are covered at 80%.

- Cost comparison analysis of the Coastal ESInet vs the State ESInet over a 5-year period was conducted. The financial impacts of adding Dorchester County to the Coastal ESInet are:
  - Costs at 80% reimbursement increase during the 5-year contract period. The current cost reimbursement structure represents a 45% increase in costs compared to the State pricing.
  - The projected fund balance will fall further below the target line which will have to be addressed through increasing the fee and/or reducing the reimbursement percentage across the state sooner.
  - In addition to the financial impact, committee members discussed other potential complications and long-term effects:
  - [increase indent here] Dorchester County was asked to participate/join the Coastal Cooperative ESInet initiative during the initial planning stages and they declined.
  - [increase indent here] Sets a precedence for other PSAPs to ask to join the Coastal ESInet or form their own regional ESInet and request the state reimburse associated costs at the current reimbursement rate.

- Misty Wise motioned the committee to make the recommendation in favor of allowing Dorchester County to join the Coastal ESInet. Mitch Fulmore seconded the motion. Chairman Blackwell requested a roll call vote of the committee members to the motion. The roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:
  - David Morrison – No
  - Neil Baxley – Abstain
  - Melony Burgess – No
  - Mitch Fulmore – Yes
  - Adam DeMars – No
  - Misty Wise – Yes
  - Ken Roper – No
  - Jack Maguire – No
  - Rick Blackwell – Yes

Chairman Blackwell declared the motion failed by a vote of 5 – 3 against.

- o Mr. Athey concluded his fiscal update summarizing the strategic plan and recommended actions developed by L.R. Kimball in 2015. Recommended actions from the strategic plan achieved to date include:
    - Develop a funding model to assess current and future resources.
    - Update legislation to accommodate the transition to NG911.
    - Initiate an RFP at the State level and procure a vendor for the statewide backbone.
    - Facilitate collection and standardization of GIS datasets into a statewide database.
    - Acquire statewide aerial imagery program to support public safety needs on an ongoing basis.
    - Establish a training committee for setting minimum telecommunicator training standards.

VII.   Future ESInet Reimbursements
- David Morrison led a discussion on future ESInet reimbursements stating the following:
    - South Carolina currently has 10 – 12 local PSAPs throughout the state who've entered contracts with different vendors to provide local ESInet services. These contracts are in various stages of term periods and were entered into prior to the statewide contract with Comtech. They are currently being reimbursed for their ESInet costs at 80%.
    - The PSAPs have inquired if they will continue to receive reimbursement for their individual ESInet services, and at what percentage, should they choose to extend contracts with their current vendor rather than transition over to the state ESInet which is paid upfront 100% by the state.
    - The 911 Advisory Committee needs to decide on this issue prior to these contract end dates for budgetary purposes.
  - o Michael Ball explained that in comparison, vendors essentially provide the same core ESInet IP network capability; however the statewide ESInet contract with Comtech provides PSAPs the option for a Solacom hosted CPE solution.

Members discussed the information presented and asked questions regarding interoperability, mutual aid agreements between counties, and the ability to negotiate pricing flexibility among vendors and the potential for significant cost savings across the state which will lessen the financial impact felt in more rural parts of the state with smaller PSAPs where there's a difference in tax base versus the coast. The committee ultimately decided to table the discussion for a future meeting to allow the members time to ponder the best course of direction to take moving forward.

VIII.   Election of New Vice Chair
  - Chairman Blackwell opened the discussion asking if the committee members had any discussion or motions to nominate a vice chair.

Mr. Morrison stated that committee member Terrance Ford was unable to attend today's meeting due to a prior commitment. Additionally, a replacement for Ben Spearman's seat has been named and is awaiting appointment by the Governor's office. Adam DeMars motioned to table the agenda item until the next meeting so that all committee members could be present. Ken Roper seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion was tabled.

IX.   Last Routing Option (LRO)
  - LRO is a single phone number in the Next Generation Core Services (NGCS) that all PSAPs will utilize if all other alternate routing options fail. It is a requirement of NGCS programming and cannot be assigned to multiple phone numbers.
    o Michael Ball provided a presentation outlining several talking points for the committee to consider during their LRO discussion.

Mr. Ball's presentation generated discussion consisting of several possible scenarios and options. The committee decided to form an LRO subcommittee or work group to explore the issues Mr. Ball presented as well as PSAP partnerships, disaster recovery plans, best practices/guidelines, and technical tools available should an outage or major catastrophe occur. Michael Ball agreed to guide the workgroup from a technical standpoint along with Mitch Fulmore and Misty Wise's participation. Mr. Ball suggested the group be comprised of members of the PSAP community since they're the ones faced with the liability and are most familiar/knowledgeable with 911 center operations.

X.   Event Outage Notification
  - David Morrison began the discussion stating that RFA was tasked to come up with a notification system that would alert all PSAPs throughout the state should an outage occur in South Carolina.
  - RFA reached out to several vendors and received quotes that varied in features and price range which were presented to the committee in a past meeting; however, no decision has been made.
    o Items to consider include:
      ▪ RFA and PSAPs who are on the statewide ESInet network can see an outage in real time should one occur. PSAPs using another network who are not on the statewide ESInet system cannot and vice versa.
      ▪ RFA is not equipped, nor should they be responsible for outage notification across the state since it would require 24/7 – 365 operations.

Chairman Blackwell stated that he felt strongly that if an outage were to occur, regardless of what network a PSAP is on, the state should be notified. Melony Burgess suggested that PSAPs who aren't connected to the statewide system contact their network service providers and provide them

with an email address at the state level for outage notification purposes only. Once the state receives an outage notification, they will notify the rest of the PSAP community. There was no further discussion on the matter.

XI.   Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)
- NG9-1-1 Interoperability Oversight Commission (NIOC) Steve McMurrer, 9-1-1 Systems Administrator, Fairfax County Virginia, Jeff Wittek, Chief of Staff, Motorola Solutions along with Chairman Blackwell provided a presentation that consisted of a background of the NIOC, why the NIOC was created and who they represent, what PCA and PKI is and the purpose it serves.

The presentation generated further discussion between committee members. Chairman Blackwell thanked their time and information.

XII.   Other Items / Discussion
- Chairman Blackwell stated this agenda item was intended for committee members only; hearing none, he asked if there were members of the PSAP community in attendance that had any information they'd like to share with the committee. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

XIII. Adjournment
Jack Maguire motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ken Roper seconded the motion and all members voted aye to adjourn the meeting at 3:30pm.

Public Notice of this meeting was posted at: http://rfa.sc.gov and at the Rembert Dennis Building.

These minutes were approved on ___7/19/22___.

Amy Simpson _____