FACT SHEET: Statewide Emergency Communications Board

Board Overview:

- The Statewide Emergency Communications Board provides leadership to set the vision, priorities, and technical roadmap for interoperable public safety communications, alerts, and warnings across the state.
- The Board's mission is to enable emergency responders and citizens to communicate easily and respond immediately in critical emergency situations by providing reliable, robust systems for interoperable communications across counties, state, federal and tribal regions.
  - The Board's vision is to accomplish the safety of Minnesota's emergency responders, citizens and visitors through state-of-the-art interoperable public safety communications systems.
- The Board's priorities are to:
  - Ensure advances in technology will be implemented to enhance the ability for all residents to call for help.
  - Provide confidence that responders in every corner of the state have the ability to communicate with each other during an emergency.
    - Enable all counties to effectively alert and warn residents and visitors of impending danger.

Board Responsibilities:

- Overall responsibility for the ARMER project plan (MSS. 403.36.1e and 403.36.2)
- Designated as the State Interoperability Executive Committee (MSS. 403.36.1g)
- Oversight of planning, implementation, and maintenance of the ARMER system (MSS. 403.37)
- Final authority over technical and operational standards for the ARMER system (MSS. 403.38)
- Responsibility for statewide coordination of 911 service (MSS. 403.382)
    - Responsibility for the coordination, implementation, maintenance and performance of core services related to 911 in the state of Minnesota in accordance with the approved plan.
    - Shall establish and enforce rules for performance, operational and system standards for operation of 911 services
- Plan and coordinate implementation of a statewide public safety broadband network including technical and operational standards, as well as other wireless communication technologies or networks for Public Safety Communications where regional or statewide planning is appropriate or requested (MSS. 403.382.8)
- Cooperate with and assist Regional Advisory Committees or Emergency Services Boards/Emergency Communications Boards to implement and maintain their regional plans. (MSS 403.40.1)
- Establish advisory groups for the purpose of advising on statewide interoperable public safety communications including: (MSS. 403.40.2)

  - Recommendations on apportionment of capital and operating costs.
  - Recommendations on performance and operational standards.
  - LMR Operations and Technical Committee to make recommendations on ARMER plan and operational issues of the technical aspects of backbone and interoperability infrastructure.
  - 911 Operations and Technical Committee to make recommendations on the 911 service plan and operational issues of technical aspects of implementation of Next Generation 911 service throughout the state.
- Allow opportunity for representation from a variety of statewide entities to represent all interests when making decisions or carrying out duties related to public safety communications in Minnesota.
- Provide funding with existing funds or advocate for legislative funding mechanisms and administer grant funding. Provide capital improvement planning for funding decisions.
- Advocacy for legislation affecting public safety communications.
- Create standards to provide structure and consistency for processes and recommendations for baseline capability and to ensure interoperability.
- Provide strategic planning and policy creation to ensure the goals, mission and vision of the Board are being met.

Board Membership:

- A current roster of SECB members can be found on the SECB webpage Statewide Emergency Communications Board

Meeting Schedule:

- The SECB typically meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Meeting dates and times can be found on the SECB Calendar webpage.

Meeting Agendas and Supporting Materials:

- SECB meeting agendas and supporting materials are posted on the SECB Meeting Materials webpage.

Board Goals Listed in the 2022-2024 Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP):

- The SECB identified the following capability targets as essential benchmarks for achieving the desired state of emergency communications interoperability:
  - The SECB will develop a statewide plan for encryption that promotes secure and interoperable land mobile radio communication for Minnesota's emergency responders.
  - The SECB will define a desired baseline of service for each of Minnesota's four core emergency communication systems (911, LMR, Wireless Broadband and IPAWS) and recommend actions and plans for all geographic areas of the state to provide uniform access and a minimum quality of service to Minnesota's residents, visitors and emergency responders.

- The SECB will promote initiatives to improve interoperability across each of Minnesota's four core emergency communication programs (911, LMR, Wireless Broadband and IPAWS) through robust, shared public safety applications as well as highly available and accessible shared data and mapping functionality.

- The SECB identified the following capability targets as essential benchmarks for achieving the desired state of interoperable emergency communications governance:
  - The SECB will continue to promote and enhance a robust governance structure with active involvement from stakeholders at the local, regional, state, tribal and federal levels.
  - The SECB will promote strong partnerships to support the current and ongoing needs of Minnesota's four core emergency communications systems.
- The SECB identified the following capability targets as essential benchmarks for achieving the desired state of interoperable emergency communications technology and operations.
  - 911
    - Provide recommendations regarding the development and deployment of a secure, shared public safety network that supports information and application sharing.
    - Advocate for certification and standardized training for PSAP staff and for positions classified and compensated to assure long-term career retention.
    - Ensure that core services, networks, data and apps are available, well known and supported through effective training and use of analytics.
    - Promote a resilient 911 network that readily adapts to rapidly changing technology.
  - 911/LMR
    - Make recommendations regarding the physical and cyber security measures necessary to protect the 911 and LMR systems.
  - Wireless Broadband
    - Advocate for cellular service that provides the coverage, reliability, quality of service and redundancy necessary to support public safety needs.
    - Advocate for robust interoperable mobile broadband communication capabilities for public safety partners when and where they are needed.
  - IPAWS
    - Provide warning and alerting originators with updated guidance and training/exercise opportunities to remain current with IPAWS operations.

- The SECB identified the following capability targets as essential benchmarks for achieving the desired state of interoperable emergency communications funding and sustainment:
  - The SECB will establish and implement a comprehensive funding plan that provides recommendations for the ongoing, stable and adequate support and maintenance of the four core emergency communications systems (911, LMR, Wireless Broadband and IPAWS).
  - The SECB will help decision makers at the local, regional, state, tribal and federal levels understand the importance of Minnesota's four core emergency communications systems (911, LMR, Wireless Broadband and IPAWS). The SECB will also support

investments in staffing, training, exercises and technological resources that ensure the safety of residents, visitors and emergency responders.

- The SECB will collaborate with stakeholders to develop a capital improvement plan for each of the four core emergency communications systems (911, LMR, Wireless Broadband. and IPAWS). The SECB will also make recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Safety regarding necessary maintenance and upgrades to support existing statewide interoperable emergency communication programs, systems and applications.
- The SECB will advocate for state and federal grant funding to build and sustain interoperable emergency communication capabilities across each of the four core emergency communications systems (911, LMR, Wireless Broadband, and IPAWS).

Approved: October 24, 2024