

Attendees:

- Terry Hall
- Michelle Gowdy
- Gabe Elias
- Sam Burnette
- Bill DeCoste
- Dorothy Spears-Dean
- Tom Nolan
- Vanessa Bohr (remote participant)
- Rae Fleming
- Rebecca Cyr
- Daisy Banta
- Dana Schrad

I. Opening Remarks & Welcomes

- Terry (SIEC Chair) opened the meeting at 10:01 AM.
- A motion was made to allow Vanessa (VALGITE) to participate remotely, and all voted yes.
- The purpose and goal of the subcommittee meeting were reviewed.
- Gabe (SWIC) reviewed the high-level aspects of the bill and the questions that needed to be answered.
- Daisy Banta (OEMS) reviewed data pulled from the SAFECOM Nationwide Survey (2023, SNS).
- Terry discussed the data results, expressing concern that some local users answering the survey questions were not local experts.

II. Discussion on House Bill Implications

- The house bill primarily relates Land Mobile Radio (LMR), though encompasses wider public safety communications infrastructure.
- It can be broadened to include other categories from the reviewed survey, such as networking, infrastructure, cyber, and fiber.

III. Current State of Public Safety Infrastructure in Virginia

- **Defining Problems – These are inconsistent across localities/agencies – Many have gaps but others do not**
 - Varies/inconsistent across localities.
 - Varying degrees of funding and underfunding.
 - Inconsistently funded.
 - Lack of long-term sustainment plan.
 - Interoperability varies across regions.

Commonwealth of Virginia Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)

HB1820 Subcommittee Meeting

August 20, 2025 – 10:00 AM at the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services

- LMR, public safety broadband, and cellular should be considered for further build-out.
- Satellite communications.
- Do we need to offer an incentive?
- SIEC meeting notes on this.
 - **Standardization:** Recognize state and national standards.
 - What does that mean?
 - **Interagency Communications/Interoperability:** No silos.
 - Standards.
 - "No silos" means capable of communicating with other systems.
 - **Regional Shared Systems.**

IV. Updates Needed for Redundancy and Resiliency During Emergencies?

- Yes, updates are needed.
 - Recent events highlighted interoperability needs.
 - Importance of secondary and tertiary systems.
 - Lack of backup communications led to failures nationwide.
 - Interdependence.
 - Lack of system resiliency / disruption.

V. Cost of Implementing Necessary Updates

- Millions of dollars.
- 911 report.
- STARS.
- Lifecycle costs.
- Vendor costs.
- Level and type of upgrades.
- Funding source/who to contact – Some agencies/localities may not know who to ask or how
- SUA's.
- Bonding capacity for locality.
- Fiscal Stress Test.
- VSP discussion on STARS:
 - A county recently had an initial \$2.1M buy-in for equipment for LE, FD/EMS, and 911.
 - \$1,700 per subscriber annually.
 - Several requests are now pending.
 - There is a need, but the specific areas of need must be identified.
 - How to use data from STARS for this?
 - How does STARS select counties? Who benefits?
- VDEM/NGS discussion:

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- Grant guidelines are in guideline documents.
- From the 911 perspective, the grant committee reviews grants and makes recommendations to the 911 Services Board, which then votes.
- The SIEC would need to be the group to review.
- The FCC has stated it is reasonable to connect callers with first responders and is now looking at 911 infrastructure to support resiliency.
- This conversation should occur during adjustments/recalculations.
- Discussion on Communications Sales and Use Tax: The last study estimated \$20 million could be collected from taxing prepaid cards, which would be a start for this program.
- Discussion of EMS regulations requiring certain radio channels in ambulances but no corresponding regulation requiring those be available in hospitals to receive the communication

VI. Funding Mechanisms Available to Support Infrastructure

- Federal grants.
- State general fund.
- State grants (none currently for infrastructure).
- VDEM/911.

VII. Recommendations of Key Stakeholders

- Some recommendations are in the 911 report.
- CDS.
- SAFECOM and other reports.

VIII. Next Steps

- Compile talking points.
- Write the document.
- Socialize the document.
- Bring it back to this subcommittee.
- Virtual SIEC.
- RPACS.

IX. Roundtable

- Nothing to report.

X. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM.