



First Responder Network Authority Weekly Update to the State and Territory Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – August 24, 2015

FirstNet News

- On August 19, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker named four leading experts on public safety, wireless broadband communications, and state and local government to serve three-year terms on the FirstNet Board. Secretary Pritzker reappointed two current Board members to another term: Kevin McGinnis, emergency medical services executive, Maine and Annise Parker, Mayor, City of Houston, Texas. In addition, the Secretary appointed two new members to the Board: Neil Cox, technology executive, Illinois and Edward Horowitz, venture capitalist/technology executive, New York. The new members replace Tim Bryan and Frank Plastina who did not seek reappointment to the Board. Statements from FirstNet Board members regarding the announcement are available at <http://firstnet.gov/news/statement-chair-swenson-board-member-appointments>.
- We encourage your participation in FirstNet's second Industry Day and public webinar this Thursday, August 27 beginning at 1:00 PM ET, which will address both recent developments and key next steps for the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) acquisition. Additional information regarding Industry Day is available at <http://firstnet.gov/content/industry-day-august-27-2015>. We will also hold a follow-up webinar on Friday, August 28 at 1:00 PM ET with SPOCs, PSAC members, Tribal Working Group members, and Federal Agency POCs to recap Industry Day and allow time for Q&A. A calendar invitation was distributed from FirstNet Outreach with additional information.
- Also this week, we will be holding the Indiana initial consultation meeting and participating in the National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD) Annual Conference and Technology Showcase, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Board Meeting and Annual Conference, and the National Tactical Officer Association (NTOA) Annual Conference.
- Last week, FirstNet Board members and staff participated in the APCO Annual Conference. This was APCO's largest conference in terms of audience, with almost 6,000 attendees. All FirstNet sessions, which focused on data collection, consultation, planning, and outreach, were well attended with excellent question and answer exchanges between FirstNet and stakeholders. We enjoyed listening to and participating in state and local partner sessions focused on their efforts for FirstNet

planning, data collection, and early builder developments. Staff also participated in the Federal Agency Point of Contact monthly teleconference and met with members of the New Mexico BTOP team

- To date, FirstNet has held 46 state consultation meetings involving more than 3,000 public safety representatives. Future consultations are confirmed for: Michigan (9/1), New Jersey (9/3), Alaska (9/9), Arizona (9/15), Virginia (9/30), CNMI (10/20), Guam (10/22), and Oklahoma (10/28). An updated schedule can be viewed on the [website tracker](#).

News from the PSAC, States and Territories

- As we near the September 30 deadline for initial data collection, we are asking states and territories to share lessons learned.
 - Arkansas shared that a major key to the success of their data collection effort has been the close relationships developed with first responders throughout the state and conducting FirstNet activities at a time and location compatible with their schedules. The Arkansas FirstNet team has met with volunteer firefighters during their evening meetings, for example, as well as observed public safety activities and events on weekends, even for those requiring a significant commute. Arkansas has found that it is critical to value the opinions of public safety and ask for their input rather than just give them a package of what the state thinks is needed. The Arkansas Geographic Information Office (AGIO) was instrumental in developing a web portal that combined information collected by the state with information collected by FirstNet so Arkansas stakeholders could review the proposed FirstNet coverage. So far, feedback from stakeholders has been robust, and the state is looking forward to submitting a comprehensive package on September 30. For more information about Arkansas's FirstNet outreach and data collections efforts, contact Kelly Gottsponer at Kelly.Gottsponer@arkansas.gov or visit the [Arkansas Public Safety Broadband Network website](#).
 - The Maryland FirstNet team determined that a coverage prioritization strategy is critical to analyze where broadband coverage is most needed in the state and to propose build-out phases. To gather data, two surveys were distributed to public safety agencies across the state. One survey was sent to each of the 24 Public Safety Answering Points to ask for fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical calls for service in 2014. The data is being aggregated to a grid and summed over a one year time period to establish trends and to avoid reference to any specific incidences. The other survey asks public safety agencies about users and operational areas, devices, and providers and procurement. The answers provided from both surveys, as well as additional data from several other sources, will be compiled and combined using a

weighted algorithm to establish an overall “Public Safety Broadband Need” value, which will be used to prioritize the broadband coverage needs and establish a proposed phased deployment plan in Maryland. The methodology and surveys are posted in the Progress section of FirstNet.Maryland.Gov. For additional information, contact Lori Stone at lori.stone@maryland.gov.

- FirstNet will continue to feature various state data collection efforts over the next several weeks. If you would like to highlight your state or territory’s effort, please email outreach@firstnet.gov.

Media Watch

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Traditional Media

FirstNet media coverage was extremely heavy this week in light of the CEO appointment, the APCO conference, the Special Board Meeting to approve the budget, and other Board member announcements.

Cox, Horowitz Named to FirstNet Board; McGinnis, Parker Reappointed

<http://rrmediagroup.com/News/NewsDetails/NewsID/13320>

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker named two new members to serve three-year terms on the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) board and reappointed two current board member

Fierce Mobile Government: FirstNet Names New CEO, Aims To Improve Agency Transparency, Reputation

<http://www.fiercemobilegovernment.com/story/firstnet-names-new-ceo-aims-improve-agency-transparency-reputation/2015-08-19>

The moves bring FirstNet's leadership structure more closely in line with the technology companies that it is supposed to emulate as it aims to build the nation's first high-speed wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

APCO PSC: FirstNet Early Builders Roundtable: Insights and Lessons Learned

<http://psc.apcointl.org/2015/08/19/firstnet-early-builders-roundtable-insights-and-lessons-learned/>

Five representatives of the public safety entities that have funding and spectrum lease agreements with FirstNet to build wireless networks for first responders and PSAP's gathered Tuesday afternoon to give APCO Conference attendees some insight into the ongoing building process and the lessons learned so far.

RCR Wireless News: FirstNet Approves \$126 Million Budget, Reorganizes Leadership

<http://www.rcrwireless.com/20150818/network-infrastructure/firstnet-approves-126-million-budget-tag6>

The board of the First Responders Network Authority has approved its budget, putting \$126 million in play for acquisition, consultation and spectrum relocation in the next fiscal year as the FirstNet national network moves closer to reality.

Urgent Communications: Harris County To Expand Public-safety LTE Network, Other Early Builders Prepare To Complete Projects

<http://urgentcomm.com/public-safety-broadbandfirstnet/harris-county-expand-public-safety-lte-network-other-early-builders->

Commissioners for Harris County, Texas, have approved \$5.8 million in local funds to expand the county's public-safety LTE network, while several other early-builder entities work to complete their broadband projects by the Sept. 30 deadline for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), representatives said during a panel at the APCO 2015 show.

Web and Social Media

Mirroring the heavy press coverage, FirstNet was an active subject over social media. Twitter increased significantly this week to 2,583 followers due to the announcements and FirstNet social media presence at APCO; LinkedIn has 900 users; YouTube has 152 subscribers; and Google+ has 50 users. Social media buzz topics included FirstNet budget, board appointments, leadership appointment and realignment, and APCO. All blog posts can be accessed through the FirstNet blog landing page at: www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog.