

## STATE OF VERMONT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

### Regular Meeting No. 27 – Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

#### **11:15 AM - Call to Order**

Co-Chair Neal brought the meeting to order and conducted roll call for Task Force members. She reminded the attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

The following were in attendance:

#### **Task Force Members Present**

Barbara Neal, E911 Director, Co-Chair  
Jennifer Morrison, Public Safety Commissioner, Co-Chair  
Paul White, Regional Dispatch Working Group, Vice-Chair  
James ‘Jim’ Mack, Shelburne Dispatch  
Ron Kumetz, VSFA  
Michael Wright, CEO of Calnex Ambulance

#### **Others Present**

Cally Audet, Task Force Clerk  
Kim Cheney  
Rance Duffy, Mission Critical Partners  
Dominick Arcuri, Televate  
Steve Badgio, Mission Critical Partners  
Stephen Whitaker  
Rick Burke, Televate  
Phil Sisk, Mission Critical Partners  
Senator Irene Wrenner

#### **Approval of Agenda**

No changes were made to the agenda.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

- 05/22/2024 – Regular Meeting No. 26

*Motion: At 11:20 AM, Ron Kumetz moved that the Task Force approve the minutes as written; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Co-Chair Morrison. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **Public Comment**

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor to public comment.

Kim Cheney addressed members of the Televate project management team regarding email correspondence about agency questionnaire, stating that he would like to understand the various political subdivisions, rather than the individual agencies receiving the questionnaire. He shared that this information is important to compute a per capita cost for dispatch as he believes this would be the key to success in this project.

Stephen Whitaker provided the following comments:

- Concerned that prior concerns are not being addressed or discussed by the Task Force.
- Questioned what the Task Force is doing to ensure concept integration of self-funded or otherwise funding projects are in line with MCP project development. Recommend MCP establish internal processes for Task Force consideration.
- Not discussing omission of LTE solutions, and where they play into the design.
- Interim preparedness for weather and other hazards are not planned for current resiliency.
- Concerned at the pace at which this project is moving
- Would like to have the opportunity to speak after Televate's assessment of Congressionally Direct Spending review.

Co-Chair Neal shared that public comment would take place during the public comment period; additional notes can be shared at the next meeting.

## **Project Updates - Televate**

Dom Arcuri from the Televate project management team provided the following project updates:

- The last few weeks have been focused on the data collection questionnaire
- The team has completed the questionnaire and was sent out to all dispatch centers in the state last week; also believe that the questionnaire was sent to dispatch centers outside of the state.
- MCP planning to begin calls with dispatch centers to review questionnaire and answer questions.
- Plan to receive completed questionnaires by the end of the month, June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The project schedule was updated based on the current position.
- The final plan is required by the end of January, and the schedule does still reflect those dates.

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor to questions - no questions.

## **Congressionally Directed Spending Plan Review Update - Televate**

Dom Arcuri from the Televate project management team provided the following updates on the review of the Congressionally Directed Spending Plan:

- Background:

- VT DPS received funding of \$9M through DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) in December 2022.
- The original budget and project periods extended through calendar year 2024 but were extended through 2025.
- Revisions to the originally approved programs have been developed and proposed to DOV in March 2024 but have not yet been approved.
- Provided overview of proposed projects (as of March 2024). The project groups identified by Televate during their review were:
  - Administrative (Projects 12, 13, and 14)
    - These projects appear reasonable and necessary
    - Independent review of grant proposals has been performed
    - PM task is under contract
  - Reliability (Projects 1A, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8)
    - Appear reasonable and necessary to improve site and network reliability.
    - These projects can be considered foundational
    - Improvements will benefit:
      - VSP
      - Agencies that use the VSP network as primary system
      - Agencies that use the VSP network for backup or when primary system is unavailable
    - Recommendations – ensure proper procedures are in place for non-VSP agencies to use the VSP network; and explore opportunities for other agencies to co-locate on sites and/or share backhaul.
  - Dispatch (Projects 9A, 9B, and 11)
    - Projects 9A and 9B address a dispatch issue in the two VSP PSAPs
      - Entails updating existing consoles, replacing outdated internal phone system and streamlining dispatcher processes
      - Does not affect the handoff from E9-1-1 to dispatch
      - This change should benefit other PSAPs/Dispatch Centers
      - Recommendation: MCP should document this project, DPS's approach, and its potential applicability statewide
    - Project 11 address network security
      - This project addresses security concerns associated with connecting the RTS MPLS network with other data networks
      - This project is necessary and reasonable
      - Similar projects will likely be necessary at other PSAPs/Dispatch Centers, especially for: regional dispatch capability, and dispatch backup/redundancy with multiple dispatch centers

- Recommendation: MCP should document this project, DPS's approach, and its potential applicability statewide.
- P25 Upgrade (Projects 1B, 3, 7, 10A and 10B)
  - Migration to P25, coverage and clarity improvements are all valid and beneficial
  - The improvement will benefit:
    - VSP
    - Agencies that use the VSP network as primary system
    - Agencies that use the VSP network for backup or when primary system is unavailable
    - Agencies that leverage radio sites being upgraded
  - Must have P25 capable radios to take advantage of benefits – confirm capability
  - Ongoing maintenance costs need to be captured and budgeted
  - Recommendation: DPS retain P25 engineering expertise to assist with the design and implementation of the upgrade.
- Additional Questions/Comments:
  - Any additional modifications to the proposed grant activities must be carefully navigated – could negatively impact the implementation schedule and the grant funding.

Co-Chair shared that the presentation could be sent to Mr. Whitaker following the meeting after the Task Force members received a copy.

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor for questions and comments by the Task Force Members

Ron Kumetz shared that the State of Vermont equipment is currently P25 capable, however they ran into coverage issues when they transitioned to digital. He also inquired if the idea moving forward would be to migrate other public safety users to P25.

Dom Arcuri shared that typically do recommend that transition, however it is also dependent on the users' needs, their existing network and what would be required to update them.

Rick Burke also shared that they typically recommend all upgrades be P25 capable, as federal grant funded projects required this. Radio networks serving public safety jurisdictions throughout the state are different and have varying levels of needs to transition.

Mr. Kumetz raised concerns regarding the local budget's ability to sustain the equipment originally purchased with federal grant dollars.

Ron Kumetz and Co-Chair Morrison exited the meeting at 11:53 AM

Michael Wright expressed concerns that with this project benefitting VSP without consideration of EMS, and reminded folks that the Task Force and project management teams should be mindful of the needs EMS

agencies across the state to ensure their ability to effectively communicate with their law enforcement partners. This should be a system improvement across the board and not just a system to meet VSP needs.

Dom Arcuri shared that he agrees, this is a concern they have discussed to date. Rick Burke shared that the intent should be to enhance interoperability for all jurisdictions. This process creates a need for policies to capture these potential network issues and that the system does not break required chains.

Co-Chair Neal polled the members on their desired next steps.

Paul White was comfortable with what he heard but was not clear on what he would propose for next steps.

Co-Chair Neal recommends the Commissioner pass along these notes provided during Televate's presentation to all parties of her team who may need to be aware of them and continue to update the Task Force as their project progresses.

Rick Burke shared that the Televate team will pass along these notes to MCP so they can capture these notes or concepts in their plans as well moving forward.

Co-Chair Neal reiterated the importance of Televate passing along the notes and concerns regarding comments made by Michael Wright about EMS needs. Often times these systems are made with the needs of law enforcement in mind, however, need to ensure this new system is capturing all jurisdictions

Paul White addressed one of Mr. Whitaker's points discussed during public comment regarding local or regional agencies currently moving forward with individual projects that might interrupt the path forward for a statewide communications plan. He shared that at this point in the process he does not believe the Task Force has the authority to develop operational policies or technical standards. For agencies that we are aware are moving forward without the Task Force, should there be targeted outreach to these agencies to ensure they are aware of the process at hand, and that the projects are jiving.

Discussion took place regarding implementation of interim operating standards and policies.

Jim Mack shared that the Task Force could provide recommendations to agencies working on their own projects but does not believe we have the authority to enforce said agencies stopping any work.

Rick Burke shared they should compile a list of agencies making known upgrades who might not be on the list to receive the recently released dispatch questionnaire.

Dom Arcuri agreed that targeted outreach is a good idea, and Televate could take a look at these project to assess if these projects would disrupt possible systems in the future.

### **New Business**

No new business.

**Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment**

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15 AM.

*Motion: There being no further business, Jim Mack made a motion to adjourn; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul White. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:12 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cally Audet

Cally Audet, Clerk

06/07/24

Date

DRAFT