



DATE: June 15, 2023

TIME: 10:01 – 11:26 am

LOCATION: 100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

MD FIRST System Managers Committee

Quarterly Public Meeting

▪ **Members in Attendance**

- Adam Karsin (U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services)
- Andrew Cummins (MNRP)
- Anjanette McBride (MTA)
- Major Anthony Maise (DPSCS)
- Brad Russum (Kent County)
- Dave Tyler (Talbot County)
- David Christner (DNR/NRP)
- David Larsen (MDOT)
- Dave Sharpless (MDTA)
- Dave Green (Carroll County)
- Delawrence Smith (DHS/SSC)
- Donnae Reedy (MTA Police)
- Erroll Dutton (JHPD)
- Irvin Church (DHS/SSC)
- Jeremy Scheinker (MDEM)
- Justin Hoyer (Adams County, PA)
- Justin Orendorf (Garrett County)
- Kim Vogts (MDH)
- Matt Meekins (Dorchester County)
- Michael Harrod (Howard County)
- Mike Himmer (MDTA)
- Murray Hunt (DNR/MPA)
- Paul Duray (MDH)
- Phil Kasten (JHPD)
- Phil Via (Allegany County)
- Richard Jaramillo (MD Judiciary)

- Scott Keener (York County, PA)
 - Steve Smith (Garrett County)
 - Shawnta Privette (UMD @ Baltimore)
 - Seth Rhoades (Harford County)
 - Tim Perry (Wicomico County)
 - Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)
- **Board Support Staff**
 - Norm Farley (DoIT)
 - Jennifer Zambito (DoIT)
 - Brandon Renehan (DoIT)
 - Justin Ellingwood (DoIT)
 - Pat King (DoIT)
 - Curt Andrich (DoIT)
 - Charley Bryson (DoIT)

Call to Order – 10:01 am

Review Minutes from 3/2/2022– Brandon Renehan

Proposed Motion: The System Managers Committee approves the minutes from the March 2, 2023, meeting.

Moved – Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

Second – Phil Via (Allegany County)

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Proposed New Interop User:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

Representing U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, specifically the Administration for Strategic Preparedness, was Adam Karsin responsible for OS/ASPR/COOP. This is a Special Operations and Tactical Medical Division which directly supports many State and Local jurisdictions in Maryland during daily operations. They work closely with MD Department of Health with a primary facility in Frederick, MD. They operate ~30 TDMA capable radios and request interoperability with MD law enforcement and public health medical units as needed during events. They are comprised of mostly states users with some federal users. They plan to request Limited Primary in the future. An MOU has been signed with COG.

Proposed Motion: System Managers Committee suggests approval of USDHHS application to become a Communications Interoperability User on Maryland FIRST.

Motion – Tony Maiese (DPSCS)

Second – Tony Clare (Queen Anne’s County)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Proposed New Limited Primary User:

Proposed New Limited Primary Users:

~~Johns Hopkins Police Dept (JHPD)~~

Representing Johns Hopkins Police Department was Errol Dutton and Phillip Kasten. JHPD is newly formed, the jurisdiction is within the boundaries of Baltimore City, concurrent with Baltimore Police Department (BPD) on 3 university campuses (Homewood campus, Peabody campus, East Baltimore Hospital campus). The request is for 8 talkgroups, anticipating 5 dispatch consoles and ~105 TDMA capable radios with 100 officers operating on 3 shifts. The on campus (CSOs) Campus Security Officers operate on a different system and will not be using MD FIRST. The planned usage is for interoperability with Baltimore City in the event of an emergency, crime prevention and joint activities.

Proposed Motion: System Managers Committee suggests approval of JHPD application to become a Communications Limited Primary User on Maryland FIRST.

Motion – Seth Rhoades (Harford County)

Second – Phil Via (Allegany County)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Project Status Update & Coverage Improvement – Curt Andrich

Curt presented: Phase 5 went live as scheduled on April 19, 2023. Reliability testing is underway and is to be completed June 29, 2023. The Air-to-Ground system was accepted on 5-24-2023. T1 to Ethernet Conversion (Phase 1-4) design was approved 4-11-2023. The FY21 -FY25 coverage improvement plan was covered.

Operations Status Update – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented, MD FIRST is now over 3 million PPTs and over 100,000 users. Most of the busies in May were in Howard County. Howard County capacity is being monitored, it’s an area that has a lot of use, and it may be necessary to add some channels in the future.

The active/recent maintenance activities were reviewed. An update on cellular interference was covered, Motorola suggested using the following practices until the issue is resolved:

- Prioritize channels far away from potential interfering bands*
- Maintain separation between cell phones, cameras, other devices using LTE / 4G
- Isolate mobile radio cables from LTE/4G devices
- Keep LTE/4G devices away from metal structures that can reflect energy toward radio antennas.
- Ensure radio site switching is optimum to maintain strongest possible desired signal levels.

The Critical Connect and Smart Connect pilot program status was presented and the new tactical BDAs were on site for all users to learn about the capabilities and availability to all MD FIRST users.

Open Discussion/Good of the Order

The Maryland Command Rally is Friday October 6 in Howard County at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center. You can register using this link <https://mdcommandrally.com/>

Nate Durman has taken a position with Motorola, the Vice Chair for this committee is currently vacant, please contact Brandon to volunteer or make a recommendation.

Please share ideas and suggestions of topics you would like to have covered during these meetings.

Baltimore City is making changes with their encryption, more information will be gathered and presented to this committee in the future.

Please be sure to report all or any coverage issues to MD FIRST so it can be investigated and considered in the coverage improvement program.

Closing/Adjournment

Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene September 12, 2023

Moved – Phil Via (Allegany County)

Second – Tony Clare (Queen Anne’s County)

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

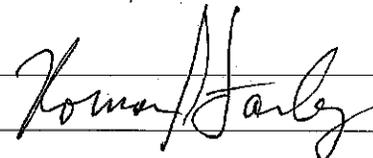
Abstain – 0

Chairman System Manager Committee APPROVAL:
(Signature & Date)



9/12/2023

Director of Board APPROVAL:
(Signature & Date)



9/12/2023