



DATE: September 12, 2023

TIME: 10:02 – 12:02pm

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)
 - Anthony Maise (DPSCS)
 - Bobby Ritchie (Allegany County)
 - Brian Wood (MDEM)
 - Chris Parker (DNR)
 - Curtis McIntire (US Postal Inspection Service)
 - Daniel Duggan (Garrett County)
 - Dave Tyler (Talbot County)
 - David Larsen (MDOT)
 - Dave Green (Carroll County)
 - Delawrence Smith (DHS/SSC)
 - Donnae Reedy (MTA Police)
 - Eric Currence (Morgan County, WV)
 - Errol Dutton (Johns Hopkins PD)
 - Harold Taylor (Howard County)
 - Irvin Church (DHS/SSC)
 - James Hamilton (Worcester County)
 - Jeff Brister (US Postal Inspection Service)
 - Jeremy Scheinker (MDEM)
 - Jerry Calabrese (MD Judiciary)
 - Jesse Argueta (US Postal Inspection Service)
 - John Butts (DNR/NRP)
 - Jon Garvin (Johns Hopkins PD)
 - Justin Orendorf (Garrett County)
 - Keith Nusbaum (US Postal Inspection Service)
 - Kim Vogts (MDH)

- Matt Meekins (Dorchester County)
 - Megan Roderick (Maryland Hospital Association)
 - Mike Himmer (MDTA)
 - Paul Duray (MDH)
 - Phil Kasten (Johns Hopkins PD)
 - Phil Via (Allegany County)
 - Robert Larimer (Dorchester County)
 - Rick Esenwine (Adams County, PA)
 - Randall Cunningham (Harford County)
 - Steve Smith (Garrett County)
 - Steven Baker (Garrett College)
 - Shannon Cotton (Towson)
 - Shawnta Privette (UMB PD)
 - Steve Hurlock (Caroline County)
 - Tim Perry (Wicomico County)
 - Tony Clare (Queen Anne’s County)
 - Tony Plutschak (Caroline County)
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- **Board Support Staff**
 - Brandon Renehan (DoIT/Chairman)
 - Norm Farley (DoIT)
 - Jennifer Zambito (DoIT)
 - Brandon Renehan (DoIT)
 - Cindy Cole (DoIT)
 - Justin Ellingwood (DoIT)
 - Pat King (DoIT)
 - Curt Andrich (DoIT)

Call to Order – 10:02 am

Review Minutes from 6/15/2022– Brandon Renehan

Proposed Motion: The System Managers Committee approves the minutes from the June 15, 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

Proposed New Primary User:

MD Judiciary – Represented by Jerry Calabrese

This agency was approved as an Interop User in June 2022, they provide security to Supreme Court of Maryland, judges, visitors, employees, and the public visiting Judiciary buildings. Responsibilities include security at Courts of Appeal Building and other assigned Annapolis Complex posts. They plan to issue a radio to each Special Police Officer; they currently have a radio deployed at each post. This includes 21 Special Police Officers and 27 TDMA radios. They are already interoperable with Anne Arundel County and Annapolis Police. MD Judiciary has requested the creation of 2 talkgroups.

MD FiRST Capacity Impact: Minor – with few users and 2 talkgroups.

Proposed Motion: The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve MD Judiciary's application to become a Primary User on MD FiRST.

Motion – Tony Maise (DPPCS)

Second – Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

Proposed New Limited Primary User:

Worcester County, MD – Represented by James Hamilton

Worcester was approved as an Interop User in 2019. The request is for no more than 8 talkgroups to be part of Worcester County's communications PACE planning for use as an alternate system in the event of the County-Owned system being rendered unavailable. In-kind, Worcester County also offers use of its system as well as the creation of talkgroups for MD FiRST primary agencies with an area of operation within Worcester County for the purposes of alternate communications.

MD FiRST Capacity Impact: Minor – Talkgroups will be inactive unless the Worcester system is rendered unavailable.

Proposed Motion: The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve Worcester County's application to become a Limited-Primary User on MD FiRST.

Motion – Dave Tyler (Talbot County)

Second – Phil Via (Allegany County)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

US Department of Health and Human Services (US HHS) – Represented by Adam Karsin

US HHS was approved as interop user during June 15, 2023 RCB meeting. The request is to have 5 talkgroups for internal HHS groups: Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Office of the Inspector General's Protection Operations Branch, Division of Continuity and Special Operations and Response. They would have no more than 100 subscribers, all Motorola APX TDMA radios. Their internal DHHS system would remain on MD FiRST as Primary

users, for use during special events or in areas with no primary coverage. The usage will be primarily special operations/tactical medical units and supporting entities such as logistics, command, and communications. USHHS users communicate with law enforcement and public health and medical units as-needed during events. MD FiRST Capacity Impact: Minor, depending on the location and usage.

Discussion: Various conversations regarding US HHS's proposed usage, why the MD Interop Talkgroups would not suffice for what they are trying to accomplish.

ACTION: It was decided by the voting committee members to create a small committee to evaluate the US HHS usage and need for Interop or Limited Primary. The evaluation team will include Dave Tyler, Pat King, Brandon, Renehan, Tony Clare, and others that volunteer.

Proposed Motion: Table the request for Limited Primary until the 4Q System Managers Committee meeting to allow for a subcommittee to evaluate the usage by US HHS

Motion – Dave Tyler (Talbot County)

Second – Phil Via (Allegany County)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Garrett College – Represented by Steven Baker, Security Coordinator

Garrett college is requesting 1 talkgroup as part of their developing communications plan for campus security to be interoperable with local first responders. They currently have no radios and are in the process of procuring ~6 TDMA radios, with the possibility of more in the future. The 1 talkgroup will be used for daily operations primarily with campus security. They plan to create interop agreements with Garrett County Public Safety agencies.

MD FiRST Capacity Impact: Minor – Just one talkgroup with a small number of users. The Garrett Cell currently has plenty of capacity.

Proposed Motion: The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve Garrett College Facilities and Security's application to become a Limited-Primary User on MD FiRST.

Motion – Phil Via (Allegany County)

Second – Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Proposed New Interop User:

Morgan County, WV – Represented by Eric Currence

Morgan County WV borders Allegany and Washington Counties and would like interoperability with both counties as well as the National Park Service. They currently have ~30 TDMA capable radios and plan a slow expansion of radios. They are currently in the process of signing an MOU with Allegany County.
MD FiRST Capacity Impact: Negligible – the Interoperability will only be on existing talkgroups.

Proposed Motion: The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve Morgan County, WV's application to become an Interoperability User on MD FiRST.

Motion – Tony Clare (Queen Anne's County)

Second – Phil Via (Allegany County)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

US Postal Inspection Service – Represented by Keith Nusbaum and Curtis McIntire

This is the Law enforcement branch of the US Postal Service which supports and protects the US Postal Service, employees, infrastructure, and customers by enforcing laws that defend the nation's mail system. They are requesting interoperability to provide mutual aid for partner agencies and increase communications and coordination with state and local law enforcement agencies. They have an MOU with MWCOG and anticipate adding agreements with other law enforcement agencies. Currently they have ~70 users/radios, all are TDMA capable.
MD FiRST Capacity Impact: Negligible – Interoperable use only on existing talkgroups.

Proposed Motion: The System Managers' Committee recommends the Radio Control Board approve the U.S. Postal Inspection Service's application to become an Interoperability User on MD FiRST.

Motion – Tony Maise (DPSCS)

Second – John Butts (DNR)

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea - All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

Maryland Hospital Association – Megan Roderick

MHA has a Hospital Preparedness Program, they are a non-county or state organization, and requesting Interoperable usage for four (4) Motorola APX 6000s (with TDMA) used to enhance emergency preparedness and response capabilities in each region of MD Healthcare Coalitions (Reg I&II - Western MD, Region III - Central MD and Baltimore City, Delmarva Regional Mutual Aid Group (Eastern Shore), Region V - Southern MD including Prince George's and Montgomery Counties). MHA provides a redundant form of communication for MDH. MD FiRST would provide communication with MDH, local health departments in the event of primary communication failure and to conduct drills with local health departments, acute-care facilities, and state agencies.
Capacity – Negligible

Discussion – Norm Farley – MD Health care coalition coordinators are the actual radio users. Dave Tyler – Suggested that MDH or MIEMSS could sponsor MHA as a MD FiRST user. MDH/Paul Duray will sponsor MHA, MDH will generate a talkgroup sharing agreement with MHA.

Proposed Motion: It is recommended that MHA become a sponsored user under MDH

Motion – Tony Maise (DPSCS)

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 – Jen Zambito

Jen presented an update on the MD FiRST Project, Coverage Improvement Programs.

System Performance/Operations Status Update – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented the Operations Status update and provided an update on Critical Connect and Smart Connect pilot program. A reminder was provided by James Hamilton/Worcester County for new construction or substantial renovations the international building code and NFPA fire code (both adopted in MD) require proper radio coverage. Achieving this coverage is the responsibility of the building owner.

Open Discussion/Good of the Order

Nominations were taken for vice-chair position. Murray Hunt/DNR was nominated for Vice Chair in absentia.

Moved – John Butts (DNR)

Second – Dave Tyler (Talbot County)

The vote was taken, passed unanimously.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

James Hamilton/Worcester County – Any users that interop with Worcester County, a cut-over to a new frequency which includes a new band-plan is scheduled for late January 2024. Please contact James if you need instructions on how to make programming adjustments. This winter Worcester may have to make all law enforcement radios go to full encryption.

Charley Bryson provided a reminder about the FCC Region 20 meeting scheduled for October 25 in Crownsville. There will be a review of updates to the 800MHz plan and several vendors will be present to provide info on evolving PTT over LTE technologies.

Closing/Adjournment

Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene November 29, 2023

Moved – Tony Clare (Queen Anne’s County)

Second – Phil Via (Allegany County)

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Chairman System Manager Committee APPROVAL:
(Signature & Date)



4/9/2024

Director of Board APPROVAL:
(Signature & Date)

Norman Farley

04/09/2024

Signed Minutes - RCB System Managers Committee - Sept 12 2023

Final Audit Report

2024-04-09

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