



Polk County Joint 911 Service Board

Metro Interoperability Committee Meeting August 2026 Minutes

Meeting Date/Time:

Thursday, August 27, 2026
10:30

Location:

Polk County EMA
1907 Carpenter Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50314

Virtual Option:

[Webex Meeting Link](#)

Meeting Password: sDxePEa8M98

In-Person Attendance Preferred

I. Roll Call & Introductions – * indicates virtual attendee

A. Members

	Des Moines PD	Polk County SO	Westcom
Frontline Dispatcher	☐ Vacant	☐ Vacant	☐ Vacant
PSAP Leadership	☐ Brad Button	☒ Nick Brockman	☒ Rob Dehnert
Operational FD End User	☒ Devon Sadler *	☒ Rob Chiappano *	☐ Tomme Tysdal
Operational LE End User	☐ Dave Ness	☒ Mark Mohr	☒ Pete Roth
Operational EMS User	☐ Dan Gilliatt	☐ Lance Routson	☒ Mark McCulloch *
Technical Advisor	☐ Alex Begel	☐ Chris Brodeur	☒ Austin Taffae *
Member-at-Large	☐ Dani Lisk	☒ Brandon Bracelin	☐ Craig Leu

B. Additional Technical Experts & Advisors

☐ Haley Nichols, Iowa DPS	☐ Curtis Pion, PCSO	☐ Mike Patras, DMPD
☐ Chad Roberts, Iowa DPS	☐ Kevin Schneider, PCSO	☒ Hannah Short, UnityPoint
☐ Joshua Duden, Iowa DPS	☐ Troy Cory, Ankeny FD	☐ Mark DeRee, UnityPoint
☐ Matt Lehman, WDM Fire	☐ Dave Lockard, DMPD	☐ Brian Albright, ISF

C. EMA Staff

☐ AJ Mumm	☐ Cameron Stufflebeam	☐ Laura Kacer
☒ Dutch Geisinger	☐ Brett McIntyre	☒ Lynn Tazzioli

II. Approved Agenda & Previous Meeting Minutes – [July 23, 2026](#)

III. Old Business

A. ICS-205

1. USA Triathlon

- No movement on this communications plan yet.

2. 2027 Air Show

- No movement on this communications plan yet. 911 Coordinator did receive the after action review from the Sioux Falls air show to start basing ours off of.



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B. Metro Repeater Project

1. Meetings are still paused. Budget constraints across the board have made this much less feasible. This will be removed from the agenda moving forward until we believe we have funding for a project like this.

C. Expanding Encryption at the Subregional Level

1. The ISICS Board received the formal request. The request is moving forward to review in the User Group Committee. The Board requested further documentation to show the need and a plan for who the talkgroups are for. Lockard is working on putting this together. Dehnert advised some of these topics have been brought to the ISICS Board before and referenced a letter written from PLEXA to the ISICS Board proposing a solution to add protections to sensitive law enforcement communication on ISICS. A copy of this letter has been included with these minutes. Discussion continued and centered around whether we believe this pilot project should be limited to the subregional level or also include regional. The proposal as written requests no change to the current setup, an addition of 9 encrypted public safety tactical talkgroups. Five of the talkgroups would be law enforcement only, and the other four would include all other public safety groups. The group also discussed preferences for control of the talkgroups, but did not come to a consensus.

IV. Program/Project Updates & Reports

A. CAD Improvement Project

1. The Authority Working Group

- a. The Authority Working Group has been dissolved. The subcommittees remain intact and will now report to the Emergency Management Commission. The EM Commission will create an exploratory workgroup of individuals who can talk through some of the details needed to get a 28E put together.

b. Operations Subcommittee

- i. This group is still working through trying to get Octave connected to the Hub. The CAD-to-CAD project testing will resume once this is reconnected. Testing scheduled for tomorrow is still in limbo pending the outcome of communication with CentralSquare today. The Closest Unit Response workgroup is meeting again next Thursday.

c. Technical Subcommittee

- i. Final report was delivered.



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d. Policy & Budget Subcommittee

- i. Updated budget was delivered. No further steps required until exploratory group has completed their mission.

B. Alert Iowa

1. The next city decommissioning reminder Smart911 message is queued to go out automatically on August 28 at 10:00. The lists are no longer available to sign up for on the portal. The reminder encourages recipients to sign up for the Public Safety Opt-In list to continue receiving messages.

C. ISICS

1. Technology is moving forward with licensing 800MHz scene of action channels. It has been submitted to the Regional Planning Committee. It will then go to APCO for coordination.

V. Interoperability Incidents & Opportunities

- A. R1TAC15 has been reserved for the Best Warrior Competition (Ruck March) at Camp Dodge on September 20 from 0600-1800 for interoperable communication between Camp Dodge and Johnston PD.
- B. The airport triennial exercise is coming up in April 2027 that will likely have channels reserved. This is a month before the airshow in May 2027.
- C. The drowning incident on the Des Moines River utilized units from Polk County and Des Moines fire. Interoperability reportedly went well.

VI. Upcoming Training Opportunities

- A. [ICS 300](#) – September 23-25, 2026, Polk County EOC
- B. Iowa APCO/NENA Conference – October 26-27, Hilton Garden Inn West Des Moines
- C. [ICS 400](#) – November 4-5, 2026, Polk County EOC
- D. [HSEM PSAP Leadership Training](#) – November 18, 2026, JFHQ

VII. Open Discussion

- A. The ground breaking ceremony for the Polk County communications tower is Friday, September 4 at 0930.



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- B. Work on the West Mixmaster has started and is scheduled to continue through 2029 or 2030. The University ramp to 80/35 southbound will close in April and remain closed through the end of construction. Hickman will close next spring; the ramps will remain open.

VIII. 2026 Meetings

Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 10:30

Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 10:30

Thursday, November 26, 2026 at 10:30*

Thursday, December 24, 2026 at 10:30*

IX. Adjourn – meeting was adjourned at 11:16.

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Tazzioli", written over a horizontal line.

Lynn Tazzioli, 911 Coordinator

August 31, 2026

From: [Rob Dehnert](#)
To: [Lynn Tazzioli](#)
Cc: [Lockard, W. David](#); [Patras, Michael J.](#); johannah.short@unitypoint.org
Subject: Fw: [EXT] ISICS Board Request - IPCA / ISSDA - LE Only ISICS Channel
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 16:29:06
Attachments: [pdlogo_61cd820b-4b3b-472f-b916-5956432705dd.png](#)
[facebook_32x32_b6b9fa1e-0f1a-4618-8b41-52d470932959.png](#)

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Lynn,

Below is the email that I referenced at today Metro Interop Meeting. Will you please include in the minutes?

THANKS!

Rob

Rob Dehnert, Assistant Chief-Logistics
City of West Des Moines EMS
Westcom Emergency Communications
[515-273-0762](tel:515-273-0762) Office
[515-333-7034](tel:515-333-7034) Mobile
rob.dehnert@wdm.iowa.gov

From: Chad McCluskey <emccluskey@waukee.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:01
To: Bischof, Michele L. <mlbischof@dmgov.org>
Cc: Tom.Peterson@dallascountyiowa.gov <tom.peterson@dallascountyiowa.gov>; Rob Dehnert <Rob.Dehnert@wdm.iowa.gov>
Subject: [EXT] ISICS Board Request - IPCA / ISSDA - LE Only ISICS Channel

Michele,

As the Chair of the ISICS Board, could you carry this message forward, please? In the alternative, if there is another method to move this request forward if you can give me guidance on that process I am happy to follow the process.

ISICS Board,

The Iowa Police Chiefs Association (IPCA) and the Iowa Sheriff's and Deputies Association (ISSDA) respectfully urges the ISICS Board to establish clear policies regarding the ISICS template to ensure the availability of law enforcement-only talkgroups.

Recent legislative proposals have sought to expand ISICS access, and we understand that once a user is granted access to the system, they receive the full template—including encrypted talkgroups. This has raised serious concerns within the law enforcement community. Currently, every ISICS-capable radio in the state, regardless of the user's role—such as volunteer fire departments, public works, or street crews—appears to have access to the same channels. The absence of dedicated law enforcement-only talkgroups creates a significant operational vulnerability.

In situations requiring restricted law enforcement communications—whether for sub-regional or regional operations—there is no existing mechanism, as we understand it, within ISICS to ensure secure coordination exclusively among law enforcement agencies. If our understanding of ISICS policies is incorrect, we welcome clarification and guidance on how these security concerns are being addressed.

After discussions within Region 1, we believe a practical solution would be to modify the encryption key for ISICS sub-regional/regional Channel 9, designating it as a law enforcement-only talkgroup. This approach would eliminate the need to reprogram every individual radio while allowing law enforcement agencies to communicate securely, preventing unauthorized access by non-law enforcement entities.

This is just one possible solution, and we trust the ISICS Board may have alternative approaches to achieve the same objective. However, we strongly believe that a dedicated law enforcement-only communication option is essential to maintain operational security and effectiveness within the ISICS system.

We appreciate the Board's consideration of this critical matter and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Chad McCluskey, Vice-President
Iowa Police Chiefs Association



Chad McCluskey, MBA, CPM, FBINA Session 279 | Police Chief
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