

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020

1:00 PM TO 2:30 PM

CONFERENCE CALL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Cheryl Greathouse, Chairperson
Billy Hancock, Vice Chairperson
William Wright, Secretary
Amy Oneacre
Greg Whitaker
Ted Wynn
Peter Olson
Michael Wall
Kevin Curtin
Steve Nichols

Board Members Absent:

Maj. Robert Balkcom
Alex Lee
Steve Horton
Billy Grogan

The Georgia Emergency Communications Authority held the board meeting on December 9, 2020 via conference call. A List of Attendees, an Agenda, and the Meeting Presentation are attached hereto and made official parts of these minutes as Attachments #1, #2, and #3. Cheryl Greathouse the Chairperson of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

All board members are present except Major Robert Balkcom with the Georgia Department of Public Safety, Chairman Alex Lee with Lanier County, Mayor Steve Horton with the City of Covington, and Chief Billy Grogan with the City of Dunwoody.

Chairperson Greathouse welcomed everyone to the conference call. Michael Nix asked for a moment of silence for Peggy Glaze who passed away recently.

Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes:

Michael Nix presented the minutes of the September 15, 2020 meeting for discussion and approval. Chairperson Greathouse asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes; Ted Wynn made a motion to approve the minutes. Sheriff Billy Hancock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Update

Michael Nix provided updates on the FY2021 911 fee amounts and GECA funds. The NG911 Readiness Assessment was conducted by Mission Critical Partners and Nicola Tidey presented

their findings. The State of Georgia is currently in a foundational stage for NG911. There will be a NG911 Education Workshop next week on December 15, 2020 to provide an update for public safety communications leaders. Natalie Lee with the Geospatial Information Office (GIO) provided a progress report for the GIS component of NG911. GPSTC staff is continuing to develop training for the 911 Directors Academy. Also, finalizing contracts for curriculum development of three NG911 online courses. GECA staff has met with four major providers regarding their solutions for NG911 planning. Also, staff has had discussions with Alabama, California, and North Carolina about their GIS solutions. Michael provided a COVID-19 and GECA update. GECA has been working closely with the Georgia Department of Public Health to ensure that 911 personnel are included in the Phase 1B vaccine guidance. Michael Nix provided an update on the Strategic Plan.

See Attachment #3 for full presentation.

Board Presentations

Chairperson Cheryl Greathouse opened up the floor for board presentations. There were no board presentations for this meeting.

Old Business

Chairperson Cheryl Greathouse opened up the floor for old business. There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Chairperson Cheryl Greathouse opened the floor for new business.

Board Officer Elections

Michael Nix opened up the floor for nominations for Chairperson. Cheryl Greathouse made a motion to nominate Sheriff Billy Hancock, Ted Wynn seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously. Michael Nix opened up the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. William Wright made a motion to nominate Alex Lee, Greg Whitaker seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously. Michael Nix opened up the floor for nomination for Secretary. Greg Whitaker made a motion to nominate William Wright, and Ted Wynn seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff Billy Hancock, Chairperson
Alex Lee, Vice Chairperson
William Wright, Secretary

Legislation Discussion

Michael Nix opened up the floor to have a 911 legislation discussion for the 2021 Session.

Public Comment:

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened up the floor for public comment. There were no public comments made.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Michael Nix called for a motion to adjourn. Chairperson Billy Hancock made a motion and Ted Wynn seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:36 PM.

These minutes are hereby approved and adopted this the 24th day of March 2021.

Billy Hancock
Chairperson

William Wright
Secretary

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda
3. Meeting Presentation

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William Wright, Secretary
Amy Oneacre
Greg Whitaker
Ted Wynn
Peter Olson
Michael Wall
Kevin Curtin
Steve Nichols

9-1-1 Advisory Panel:

Daniel Dunlap, Augusta-Richmond County
Tamika Kendrick, NENA
Lynn Smith, APCO
Barry Woodward, City of Decatur

GECA Staff Members:

Jonathan Jones
Bess Larson
Michael Nix
Amy Ramsey
Ashley Seay
Tammy Smith
Pamela Waters
Skylar Whitaker

GEORGIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

BRIAN P. KEMP
GOVERNOR



MICHAEL NIX
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Board of Directors of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

1:00-2:30 p.m.

Conference Call

Call Information:

gema.webex.com

Meeting Number (Access Code): 178 379 2537

Meeting Password: GECA2020!

-or-

1-855-282-6330

Meeting Number (Access Code) 178 379 2537

Meeting Agenda*

- I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks—Chairperson Cheryl Greathouse
- II. Roll Call—Secretary William Wright
- III. Approval of September 15th Minutes—Chairperson Cheryl Greathouse
- IV. Executive Director's Update—Michael Nix
- V. Board Presentations
- VI. Old Business
 - A. None
- VII. New Business
 - A. Board Officer Elections
 - B. Legislation Discussion

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjourn

*Meeting Agenda is subject to change



Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

December 9, 2020
Board Meeting



Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

New GECA Board Members

Major Robert Balkcom, Georgia State Patrol
Mayor Steve Horton, City of Covington



FY21 v FY20 911 Fee Amounts

Month	Non-Prepaid	Prepaid	Total
Jul-19	\$ 15,592,036.35	\$ 3,397,584.47	\$ 18,989,620.82
Aug-19	\$ 14,969,355.77	\$ 3,557,439.36	\$ 18,526,795.13
Sep-19	\$ 14,626,447.29	\$ 3,428,979.12	\$ 18,055,426.41
	\$ 45,187,839.41	\$ 10,384,002.95	\$ 55,571,842.36
20-Jul	\$ 15,956,795.23	\$ 3,841,143.03	\$ 19,797,938.26
20-Aug	\$ 14,982,912.90	\$ 3,737,011.16	\$ 18,719,924.06
20-Sep	\$ 15,526,469.06	\$ 3,756,743.54	\$ 19,283,212.60
	\$ 46,466,177.19	\$ 11,334,897.73	\$ 57,801,074.92

+ \$2,229,232.56 Q1 of FY21 over Q2 FY20



FY21 v FY20 GECA funds

Month	Non-Prepaid	Prepaid	Total
Jul-19	\$155,920.81	\$33,975.84	\$189,896.65
Aug-19	\$149,693.69	\$35,574.39	\$185,268.08
Sep-19	\$146,264.84	\$34,289.79	\$180,554.63
	\$451,879.34	\$103,840.02	\$555,719.36
Jul-20	\$159,568.36	\$38,411.43	\$197,979.79
Aug-20	\$149,829.56	\$37,370.11	\$187,199.67
Sep-20	\$155,264.93	\$37,567.44	\$192,832.37
	\$464,662.85	\$113,348.98	\$578,011.83

+ \$22,292.47 Q1 of FY21 over Q2 FY20

Category	FY 2021 Budget	YTD Expenditures (as of Nov. 30)	% Spent YTD (as of Nov. 30)
Personnel	\$813,701.18	\$211,519.20	26%
IT and Equipment	\$50,000.00	\$20,235.44	40%
Motor Vehicles	\$27,765.00	\$0	0%
Regular Operating	\$133,400.00	\$20,855.35	16%
Telecomms	\$81,500.00	\$6,437.21	8%
Contracts	\$134,000.00	\$32,792.39	24%
Grant Match Requirements	\$126,412.85	\$108,754.42	86%*
Total	\$1,366,779.03	\$400,594.01	29%



Next Generation 911 Readiness Assessment

December 9, 2020

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History and Background

Georgia Emergency Communications Authority (GECA) hired MCP to understand the State's readiness to transition to NG911. MCP will:

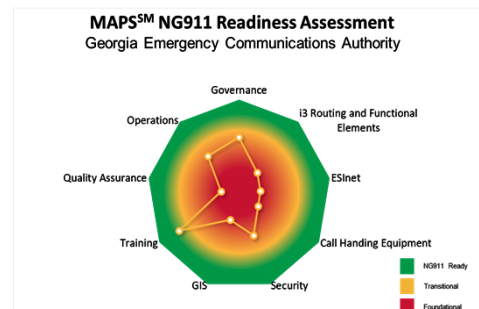
- Produce an overall readiness gap analysis for NG911 deployment
- Deliver Model for Advancing Public Safety (MAPS)SM assessment findings
- Create an executable plan for procurement for ESInet and NGCS



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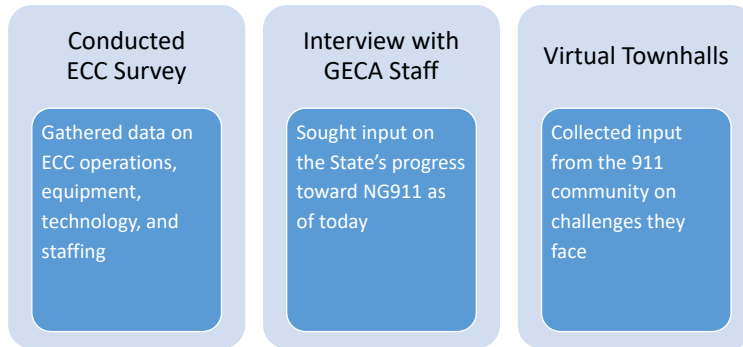
What is a MAPS assessment?

- A detailed capability assessment across multiple functional areas to assess a state's readiness for NG911
- Interviews using customized questions
- A report identifying gaps and detailed recommendations to close gaps
- Establishes a metric to measure progress against
- Identifies short-term opportunities to focus on while building a long-term vision



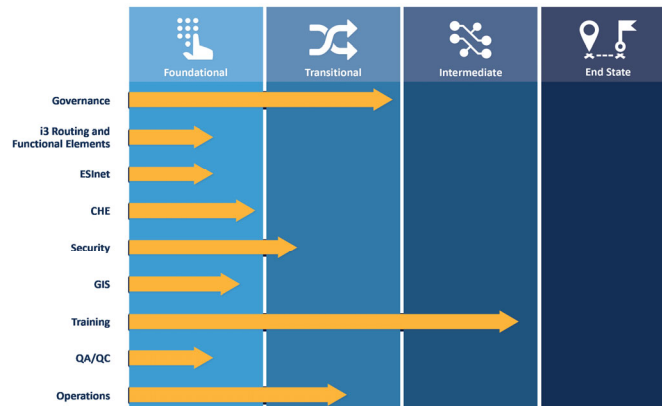
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Conducting NG911 Readiness Assessment in Georgia



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What we found...



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Challenges and Implications

- Funding
 - The current fee collected barely covers legacy 911 costs/operations
- Technology and Cybersecurity
 - Diverse technology and equipment in use; will require more effort to piece together in NG environment
 - PSAPs vulnerable to cybersecurity attacks
- Planning and Communications
 - ECC community identified this as a challenge
- Political, Statutory, and Regulatory Implications
 - Legislation will need to be updated to include a new funding model
- Training
 - Georgia has a very robust training program but lacks local training personnel
- GIS
 - No statewide standards exist

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Next Steps

- Write the technical requirements for ESInet and NGCS request for proposal
- Address funding legislation
- Develop a cooperative procurement vehicle for PSAPs to be able to purchase CHE equipment compatible with the ESInet and NGCS solution
- Identify members for an RFP review committee

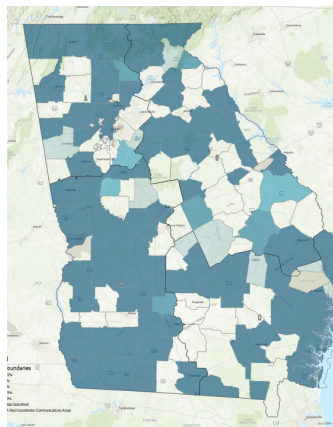


NG911 Education

- “GECA, in conjunction with Mission Critical Partners (MCP), will be hosting an interactive virtual town hall session to provide an update for public safety communications leaders on the progress of the state's Next Generation 911 (NG911) project, and **to gather feedback on the Request for Proposal (RFP) requirements, so that our NG911 solution meets your needs.**”
- December 15th 9:30-11:30 a.m. and will be recorded for those not able to attend.
- Based on the results from the NG911 workshop with the GECA Board on November 13th.
- Email with agenda and registration link will be sent after today's Board meeting.

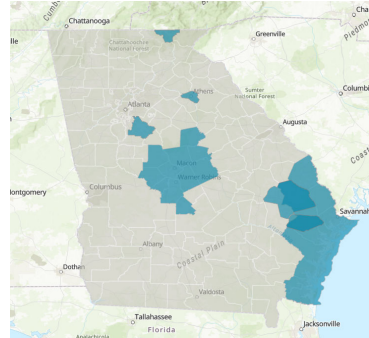
GIO Progress Report: Grant Task #2

- Survey Has Closed
 - Currently at approx. 60% participation
 - Summary Findings in January/February 2021
- Evaluating agnostic tools to establish a Baseline Assessment of GIS Data (determine actual vs perceived "Readiness")
- Researching Best Practices
 - Meetings with other States
 - Meetings with SI Providers
- Infrastructure Strategy Underway
 - Preparing for Architecture Scoping Workshop
 - Storage and Security to protect data as it is received, reviewed, and aggregated
 - Report in January/February 2021



Working Group

- A joint **Working Group** for GECA and GeoTAC (Georgia's Geospatial Technical Advisory Committee)
- Composed of BOTH **9-1-1** and **GIS** leaders who advise, provide oversight, and assist in the creation of standards and procedures for our State, directly reporting to the Georgia 911 Authority Board
- Meeting Monthly
 - Survey Response review
 - Address Standard and Guidelines Development



Members

- Marty Roberts (Towns County 911)
- Hunter Key (Coastal Regional Commission)
- Kelly Barnard (Bulloch, Candler, Evans 911)
- Michelle Grembowski (Middle Georgia Regional Commission)
- Amanda Maddox (Henry County 911)
- Joseph D'Angelo (Athens-Clarke County)
- Ben Collins (Fort Stewart 911)
- Natalie Lee (GIO)

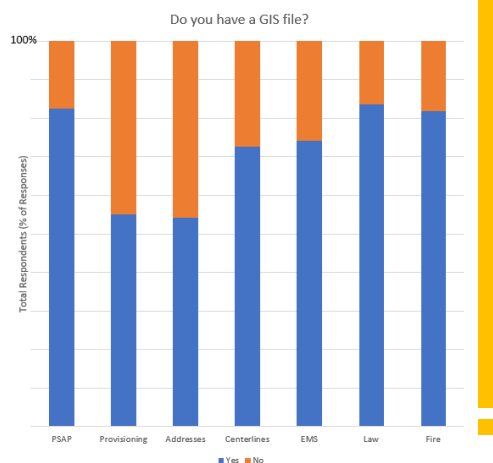
Preliminary Observations

We are not starting with nothing! But we have a long way to go in many areas to be ready for an ESInet deployment.

Initial Insights (we are still cleaning):

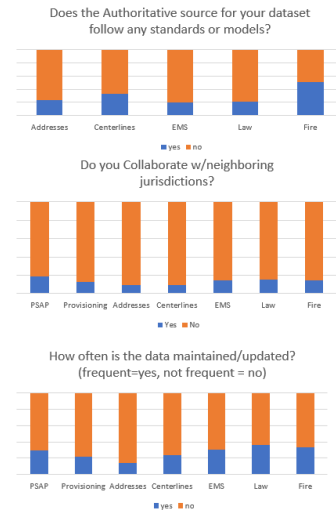
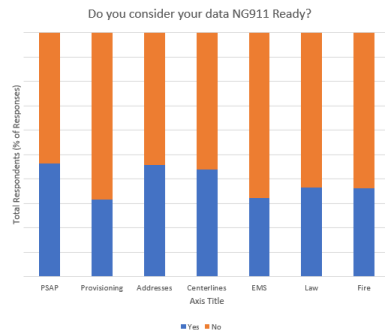
- Confirmation of education need and desire
- Disconnect between communities (lack of coordination)
- Need for development/adoption and implementation of standards at the state level

We are using a 100% stacked column chart to show the overall % of respondents who answer positively or negatively.



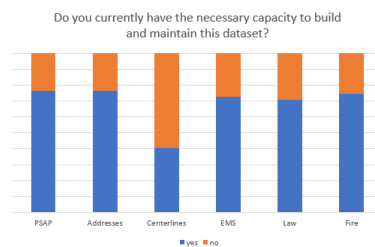
Bad Questionable News: Perception vs. Reality

When we asked communities about their readiness, a large portion indicated that they were "Ready." This would be encouraging, except that the answers to other readiness questions indicated gaps in content and necessary workflows

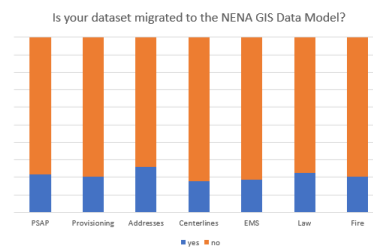


The Good News

PSAPs reported that they had the capacity to create and maintain the data



Some PSAPs are migrating to the NENA Model already, so we have friends to help lead the way





Task #3: NG911 Training

- GPSTC staff is continuing to develop the 911 Directors Academy curriculum.
- Aiming for a pilot course of the 911 Directors Academy in Q1 of 2021.
- Finalizing contracts for curriculum development of three online courses
 - Introduction to NG911
 - Cybersecurity: Protecting 911 Inside and Out
 - Emotional Wellness in a NG911 Environment
- Scheduling courses for 2021 that will be presented regionally with no registration fees for 911 centers.
 - CTO and Supervision first



NG911 Planning

- GECA staff has met with four of the major ESInet/NGCS providers for preliminary discussions regarding their solutions.
 - AT&T
 - Comtech
 - INdigital
 - Motorola
- GECA staff has also had discussions with other states regarding their NG911 and GIS solutions.
 - Alabama
 - California
 - North Carolina



COVID-19 and GECA

- 187 daily reports to 911 centers with COVID-positive address information since mid-April.
- Working with DPH to ensure that 911 personnel are included in Phase 1b vaccine guidance for vaccine distribution due to their support of field responders as well as the close proximity in a 911 center and challenges faced trying to social distance.



Strategic Plan Update: 911

- Basic to Enhanced
 - Georgia has 3 counties without E-911.
 - Field staff continues to make progress in each of these counties.
 - At least 1 will become Enhanced in 2021.
- Telephone CPR (T-CPR)
 - GECA Board adopted T-CPR Taskforce recommendations in March.
 - Amy Ramsey is going to be staff lead on this project and is currently identifying and evaluating existing commercial T-CPR protocols.



Strategic Plan Update: 911

- Partnership with Office of Public Safety Support (OPSS)
 - Pamela Waters is staff lead for this project and will be working with the OPSS staff in determining how 911 personnel are include in this project and how to get 911 personnel credentialed as an OPSS-certified peer counselor.



Strategic Plan Update: Interoperability

- Promote the use of tactical channels/NIFOG/GAFOG
 - Currently updating the GAFOG and creating an e-FOG for easier accessibility
- Increase private sector relationships
 - Continue to meet frequently with two largest public safety radio system providers in the state (Motorola/Harris)
- Conduct Mobile Communications Vehicle exercises
 - Conducted Area 6 (NW Georgia) MCV exercise in November



Strategic Plan Update: ESF-2

- Communications Unit (COMU)
 - COMU Working Group has approved a draft, updated COMU plan and will be presented to the ESF-2 committee and then GECA Board for approval and adoption.
- Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce (TERT)
 - 90 active members from 45 agencies
 - (#1 in the country!!)
 - 3 members from Baldwin County, Georgia responded to Baldwin County, Alabama for Hurricane Sally in October.



Strategic Plan Update: Alerts and Warning

- Emergency Alert System (EAS)
 - GECA staff maintains relationships with the Georgia Association of Broadcasters and assists GEMA/HS staff with the required weekly and monthly tests of the EAS.
- Integrated Public Alerts and Warnings (IPAWS)
 - The State Warning Officer continues to assist counties with their IPAWS plans and applications.
 - GECA is processing 2-3 applications per month.




Strategic Plan Update: Public Safety Broadband

- Monitor FirstNet activities
 - Receive weekly updates from FirstNet/AT&T regarding new towers that have come online with Band 14 (public safety only spectrum) coverage
 - Roughly 40 towers per quarter are being added across the state
- Mission critical push-to-talk (MCPTT)
 - GECA Field Staff have demoed 3 types of radios with LTE components and will continue to work



Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

Officer Elections



Georgia Emergency
Communications Authority

Legislation Discussion

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Challenges and Implications

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2021 911 Legislation

- Funding
 - Increase 911 charge?
 - Find alternate funding streams?
 - Budget appropriations?
- Governance
 - Legislation needs to ensure that GECA has the abilities to provide meaningful oversight of the NG911 implementation.
- Training
 - What is the appropriate amount of continuing education hours for 911 personnel?



2021 911 Legislation

- Looking at the possibility of including communications officers in the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit (POAB) Fund
- Retirement bills must be introduced in the first year of a biennium (odd numbered years)
- After session, an actuary will be completed to determine the amount needed to continue the funds solvency if communications officers are added.



We need support!!

- Working to identify potential supporters of NG911 legislation...
 - ACCG
 - GMA
 - Sheriffs' Association
 - Chiefs of Police Association
 - Fire Chiefs Association
 - Firefighters Association
 - EMS Association
 - Emergency Management Association
 - Georgia APCO
 - Georgia NENA
 - Georgia 911 Directors Association



Next Steps...

- GECA Board Work Session to discuss draft legislation for NG911 and POAB in early January.
- Called GECA Board Meeting for formal support of the legislation.
- Continued RFP discussions with MCP and Department of Administrative Services.