



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

911 COMMUNICATIONS

Room 413 North (the G.A.R. Room)
State Capitol

October 25, 2012
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[The following is a summary of the October 25, 2012 meeting of the Special Committee on 911 Communications. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc>.]

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Ballweg called the committee to order. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Joan Ballweg, Chair; Sen. Robert Jauch, Vice Chair; Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink; and Public Members Jim Backus, Thomas Bychinski, Tracey Froiland, Paul Geiszler, Keith Kesler, Brian Landers, Pam McInnis, Todd Nehls, Jeff Ranous, Vicki Sanfelipo, Richard Tuma, and Bradley Welp.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Terry Moulton; and Public Member James Jermain.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Larry Konopacki, Senior Staff Attorney; and Chad Brown, Staff Attorney.

APPEARANCES: Dr. Steven Zils, Out-of-Hospital Medical Director, Aurora Medical Center; Patrick Fucik, Director, Western Region - Sprint State Government Affairs, and Michael McDermott, Midwest Executive Director of Public Policy, Verizon Wireless; and John Murray, Executive Director, Office of Justice Assistance (OJA).

Approval of the Minutes of the Special Committee's September 27, 2012 Meeting

Mr. Nehls moved, seconded by Mr. Landers, that the minutes of the Special Committee's September 27, 2012 meeting be approved. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Presentations by Invited Speakers

Dr. Steven Zils, Out-of-Hospital Medical Director, Aurora Medical Center

Dr. Steven Zils made a presentation to the committee about Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD). He described the advantages of implementing EMD at a public safety answering point (PSAP), such as more appropriate response measures, reduced response times, identification of unsafe situations, and helping bystanders to administer initial lifesaving measures. He also dispelled what he has identified as misconceptions about EMD and talked about the public's expectations with respect to the information that they will receive from their PSAP telecommunicators.

After Dr. Zils' presentation, members discussed their experiences with EMD.

Patrick Fucik, Director, Western Region - Sprint State Government Affairs, and Michael McDermott, Midwest Executive Director of Public Policy, Verizon Wireless

Mr. Fucik and Mr. McDermott provided the committee with some history of wireless telecommunications service and wireless 911 services. They recommended that the committee propose a 911 funding system paid for by a surcharge on all types of telecommunications technologies that is overseen by a board. Mr. Fucik and Mr. McDermott noted that fees of this type are generally used for PSAP operational costs and are not used for general overhead and cost or equipment for emergency services. They also noted that central collection of this type of fee, at the state level, would be preferable and that it would be preferable to have a public referendum vote to approve the imposition of a new fee. Mr. Fucik and Mr. McDermott also provided information about transitioning to a "next generation" 911 system.

John Murray, Executive Director, OJA

Mr. Murray, accompanied by Sheriff Matt Joski from Kewaunee County and Jim Westover from OJA, provided the committee with a report on the history and functions of OJA, with particular attention paid to the Interoperability Council and its Interoperable Communications Standards Group. He described the methods used by OJA to communicate with and collect information from PSAPs, and shared the results of a PSAP survey conducted by OJA related to training.

Discussion of Committee Assignment

The committee first discussed issues presented in Memo No. 1 that were not discussed at the previous committee meeting, including harassing 911 calls, automatic alarm and automatic alerting devices, multi-line telephone systems (MLTS), and subscriber records. Staff will draft proposals related to MLTS and subscriber records for the next committee meeting.

The committee then discussed Memo No. 2 on various PSAP costs and, in doing so, revisited its discussion from its previous meeting on PSAP telecommunicator training, PSAP telecommunications costs, and costs of PSAP equipment and operations.

To finish the meeting, Chair Ballweg explained that the committee staff would be preparing a draft version of the committee's recommendations for the committee's next meeting. She asked that each member provide their final thoughts on the work of the committee prior to this bill drafting project. Members each shared their thoughts and recommendations for what the committee should do, including

suggestions related to funding for PSAPs, training of telecommunicators, technological considerations, oversight of the 911 system at the state level, planning for the future, and incentives for PSAPs to improve.

Plans for Future Meetings

The committee did not set a date for its next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

LAK:jb;ksm