



2015 NCSWIC Strategic Priorities

Summary of Accomplishments

Throughout 2015, the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) collaborated with SAFECOM and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) to advance current and future initiatives affecting public safety emergency communications. NCSWIC supported the progress of strategic priorities through its Governance Committee, Training & Exercises (T&E) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) Committee, Funding and Sustainment Committee, and Technology Policy Committee. Similar to previous years, NCSWIC and SAFECOM collaborated jointly on Funding and Sustainment and Technology Policy, while NCSWIC members focused independently on issues related to T&E and SOPs and Governance. This document provides a summary of 2015 NCSWIC Committees as well as key initiatives, products, and activities (see Table 1). Many NCSWIC committee products, such as webinar presentations, white papers, and fact sheets, are available on the [NCSWIC website](#) or you may contact the [NCSWIC Inbox](#) to obtain electronic copies.

2015 COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Governance Committee – The Governance Committee focused on emergency communications governance, as it relates to the internal governance of the NCSWIC as well playing a key role in the development of guidance for States establishing statewide governing bodies. This included management of and modifications to key organizational documents, such as the *NCSWIC Charter* and *NCSWIC Strategic Plan*. As recommended in the *2014 National Emergency Communications Plan* (NECP), the Committee developed guidance to assist States in updating statewide governance structures and processes to address the evolving public safety communications operating environment, reviewed NCSWIC initiatives, and identified best practices and lessons learned. Members of the Governance Committee also participated in the following working group:

- *Governance Guide Working Group*: Tasked with developing the *2015 Emergency Communications Governance Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Officials* (a joint initiative with NCSWIC).

T&E and SOPs Committee – The T&E and SOPs Committee focused on streamlining processes and identifying standard operating procedures related to public safety communications at all levels of government relevant to the SWIC community. The Committee will continue to coordinate closely with OEC on service offerings in 2016.

Funding and Sustainment – The Funding and Sustainment Committee concentrated on identifying innovative ways to fund emergency communications systems and activities (i.e., training, personnel, etc.) pertinent to stakeholders at the state, territorial, tribal, and local levels. The group also prepared and disseminated information on appropriations and new funding sources to the public safety community at all levels of government. The Funding and Sustainment Committee is a joint collaborative effort with SAFECOM.

Technology Policy Committee – The Technology Policy Committee promoted the use of technologies, resources, and processes related to emergency communications and interoperability in coordination with SAFECOM. Specifically, the Technology Policy Committee continued to support land mobile radio (LMR) systems, promoted broadband technology and deployment, and worked with Federal partners to further various technologies within the emergency communications ecosystem (e.g., Next Generation 9-1-1, alerts and warnings, cybersecurity). The Technology Policy Committee is a joint collaborative effort with SAFECOM.



Emergency Communications
Governance Guide for State,
Local, Tribal, and Territorial
Officials

September 2015



Table 1. 2015 NCSWIC Committee Accomplishments

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Governance	<p>Chair: Bob Symons (<i>January 2015-current</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintained NCSWIC’s internal governance structure ✓ Developed the SWIC Orientation Package, including the SWIC Fact Sheet and Position Description Guide ✓ Developed and published the <i>NCSWIC Strategic Plan</i> ✓ Developed and published the <i>2014 NCSWIC Annual Report</i> ✓ Developed and published the <i>2014 NCSWIC Strategic Priorities Close-out Fact Sheet</i> ✓ Developed and published the <i>NCSWIC-SAFECOM Quarterly Newsletter</i> ✓ Developed and published the <i>NCSWIC Monthly Bulletin</i> ✓ Developed and published the Introduction to NCSWIC presentation ✓ Developed and published the <i>Emergency Communications Governance Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Officials</i>
T&E and SOPs	<p>Co-Chairs: Michael Varney (<i>January 2015-October 2015</i>) and Nick Brown (<i>January 2015-October 2015</i>); Jessica Stolz (<i>November 2015-current</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hosted an educational webinar on Georgia’s May 2015 mobile communication vehicle functional exercise ✓ Provided input on service offerings in coordination with SAFECOM and DHS OEC’s Technical Assistance (TA) Branch
Funding and Sustainment	<p>Co-Chairs: Mark Grubb and Victoria Garcia (<i>January 2015-current</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developed and published <i>Funding Mechanisms for Public Safety Communications Systems</i> ✓ Developed and published the <i>SAFECOM Guidance for Purchasing Broadband Equipment</i> ✓ Developed and published <i>Improving Grant Management</i> ✓ Hosted a webinar on Best Practices in Request for Proposal (RFP) Development ✓ Hosted a webinar focused on Georgia’s special local tax used to fund state communications upgrades ✓ Provided input into the <i>SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants</i>
Technology Policy	<p>Chair: George Molnar (<i>January 2015-August 2015</i>); Craig Allen (<i>November 2015-current</i>) Vice Chair: Steve Staffier (<i>November 2015-current</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developed and published a primer on cybersecurity for the public safety community, including additional resource links ✓ Updated <i>The T-Band Giveback: Implications for the Public Safety Community</i>, a fact sheet on T-Band migration ✓ Drafted a T-Band Executive Briefing, including high-level talking points ✓ Provided input to the <i>Guidelines for Encryption and Land Mobile Radio Systems, Best Practices for Encryption and Project 25 (P25) Public Safety Land Mobile Radio Systems, and Public Safety Interoperability Implications of non-P25 Radio Technologies</i> ✓ Provided input to the Incident Management Information Sharing Capability Maturity Model ✓ Provided input on the implementation of the <i>NECP</i> ✓ Hosted an in-person meeting in Boulder, Colorado, in August 2015

2015 AND BEYOND

On November 3-4, 2015, DHS OEC and members of SAFECOM and NCSWIC convened at a joint meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, to discuss pressing strategic priorities for 2015 and 2016. These priorities included T-Band migration, governance and sustainment of interoperability at the state level, maintaining and upgrading land mobile radio systems, and building a national Communications Unit program. Committees from 2015 will continue to drive the priorities and work products developed and published by the NCSWIC in 2016.

For questions regarding NCSWIC or its committees, please contact the [NCSWIC Inbox](#).