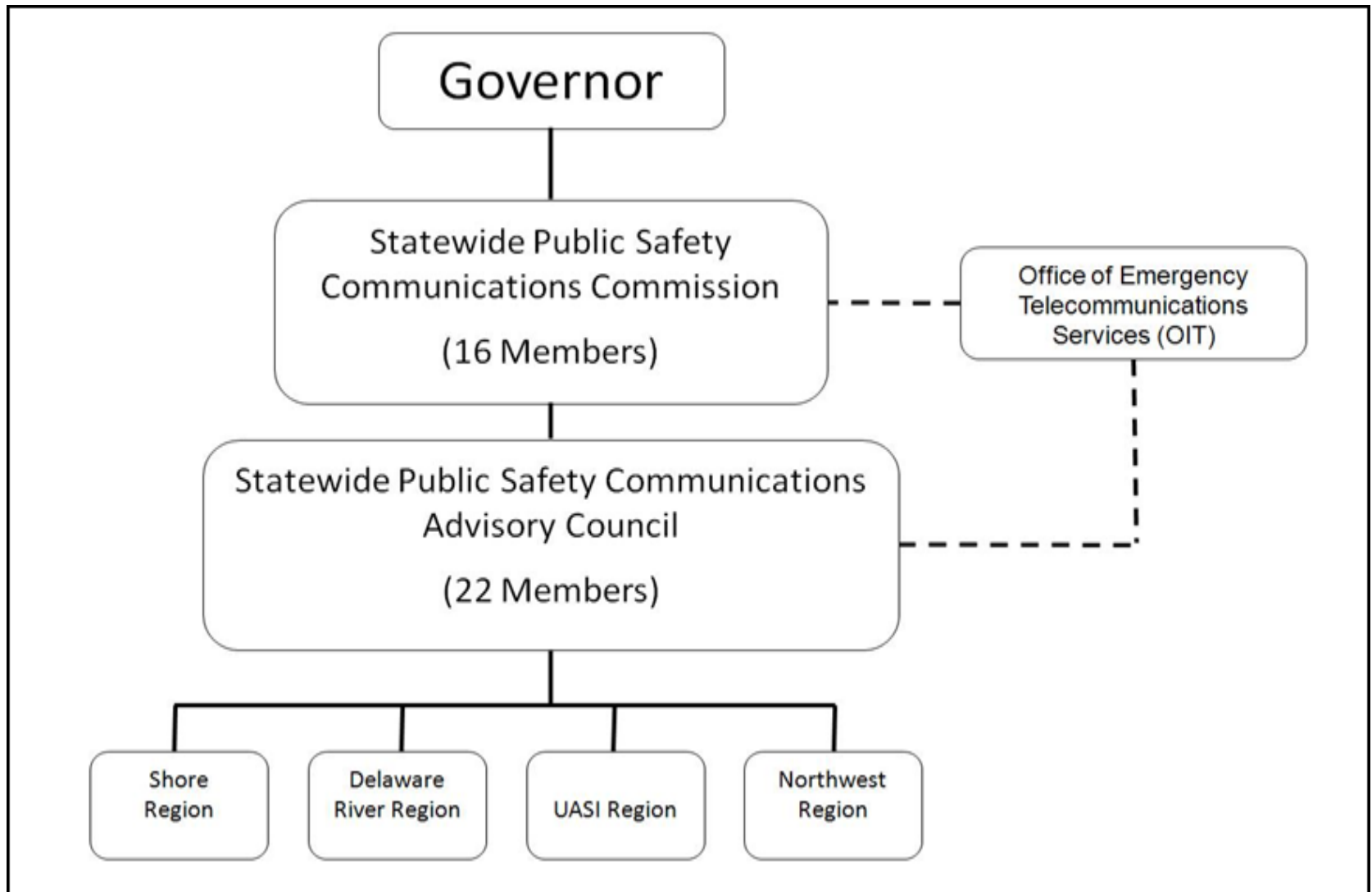# State of New Jersey
COMU Accreditation Program

NJ⬡IT
New Jersey Office of Information Technology

Background

- In 2012 The former 9-1-1 Commission and the State Interoperable Working Group were combined to create the New Jersey Public Safety Communications Commission (16 Members).

- Also created was the NJSPSCC Advisory Council (22 members).

- John Miller, formerly of the Atlantic County Office of Emergency Preparedness was appointed by Gov. Chris Christie, with full Senate confirmation, as a charter member of the NJSPSCC in 2012 to represent the Shore Homeland Security Region.

Statewide Public Safety Communications Commission

- Members include:

    - the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information Technology or his/her designee; (Co-Chair);
    - the Director of the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness or his/her designee; (Co-Chair);
    - the Superintendent of State Police or his/her designee;
    - the Commissioner of Department of Health and Senior Services or his/her designee;
    - the State Treasurer or his/her designee; and
    - the New Jersey State Fire Marshal or his/her designee.
    - a representative of the Northeast/UASI Homeland Security Region;
    - a representative of the Delaware River Homeland Security Region;
    - a representative of the Shore Homeland Security Region;
    - a representative of the Northwest Homeland Security Region;
    - a representative from the State Agency Communications Working Group and;
    - a representative from the Statewide Public Safety Communications Advisory Council;
    - two members of the Senate from different political parties, appointed by the President of the Senate; and;
    - two members of the General Assembly from different political parties, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

SPSCC Advisory Council
(22 Members)

- Members include:
  - Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information Technology;
  - Deputy Director of the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, Preparedness Division;
  - Bureau Chief, New Jersey State Police Communications within the Office of Emergency Management;
  - Director, Department of Health and Senior Services, Health Infrastructure Preparedness and Emergency Response;
  - President, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities;
  - New Jersey State Fire Marshal;
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region II;
  - Northeast/UASI Homeland Security Region Communications Working Group;
  - Northwest Homeland Security Region Communications Working Group;
  - Shore Homeland Security Region Communications Working Group;
  - Delaware River Homeland Security Region Communications Working Group;
  - State Agency Communications Working Group;
  - National Emergency Number Association, New Jersey Chapter;
  - Association of Public-Safety Communications Professionals;
  - New Jersey Chiefs of Police Association;
  - New Jersey Fire Chiefs Association;
  - New Jersey State First Aid Council;
  - Sheriffs Association of New Jersey;
  - Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Medical Services Council;
  - Association of Public-Safety Communications Professionals Public Safety Frequency Coordinator;
  - New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Task Force, communications branch; and
  - New Jersey Urban Search and Rescue Team, communications branch

Background

- John then joined the State Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services in 2015.

- He was appointed as the SWIC as of January 1, 2016.

- During his tenure on the commission he became the Chair of the COMU working group tasked with developing a statewide COMU program.

- A committee of practioners from the communications community was formed to develop the program.

COMU Working Group Activities

- In 2014 the committee drafted a plan using best practices from many states and jurisdictions.
- The proper term for state recognition was discussed in great detail.
  - Certified
  - Qualified
  - Recognized
  - Accredited
- After some legal review the term Accredited was ultimately decided on as the proper terminology.

COMU Working Group Activities

- The program started out to recognize the COML community but we soon realized the need to recognize the other COMU positions as well.

- The policy was written to originally include COML and COMT with the ability to add additional positions in the future hence the term COMU Accreditation Program.

- In October 2014 the NJ Statewide Public Safety Communications Commission adopted and approved the policy.

COML / COMT Requirements

- Working knowledge of Communications Systems.

- Working knowledge of TICP / FOG's.

- ICS 100, 200, 300, 700, and 800 at a minimum.

- ICS 400, and 802 are recommended.

- Completion of an OEC approved COML / COMT class.

- Required to have department head / supervisor approval to apply for Accreditation.

COML / COMT Accreditation Process

- Submit completed application.

- Submit ICS 205 forms created by the applicant to meet operational needs in actual or planned events.

- Submit ICS 201 forms with the individual listed as performing the job function being applied for.

- Have the COMU Working Group review the application for approval.

- Complete a COMMEX Exercise in the job function being applied for that includes both operations and skills stations.

COML / COMT Accreditation Process

- Have task book completed and signed by their authorizing agency.

- Return a copy of signed task book to the office of the SWIC.

- SWIC can then approve State Accreditation for a period of two years.

- SWIC will also update CASM to show state recognition.

- Candidate upon successful completion of the process will be given CASM read-only access.

COML / COMT Renewal Process

- Must obtain 36 continuing education credits over the two year period.
  - Must show activity in 3 of 4 quarters of each year.
- Credits must be obtained in each of 6 categories:
  - Job duties as it relates to communications system (4 Hours).
  - Establish communications systems to meet incident operational needs (2 Hours).
  - Workshops and Seminars (6 Hours).
  - Exercises (6 Hours).
  - Communications / ICS related training (4 Hours).
  - Communications presentations / training (2 Hours).

COML / COMT Renewal Process

- CEU Minimums are for 24 or the 36 required credits.
  - Emphasis was placed on training and education while allowing for credits of their normal job functions.
  - CEU's can be applied to both COML and COMT if they hold both accreditations and they must meet the operational requirements for both positions.

- Complete the renewal application with documentation to support their CEU's.

- Have the department head / supervisor sign off on the application.

COML / COMT Renewal Process

- If all the requirements are met the SWIC can renew the accreditation for a two year period.

- Then the process begins again.

Contact Information

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