

OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2016

Ohio Department of Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43223

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee Chairman, Captain Kenneth Kocab, called to order the April 18, 2016 meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:00 a.m. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Lindy Davis, OSHP.

I. ROLL CALL - PRESENT

Department of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol	Captain Kenneth Kocab
Ohio Attorney General's Office, Missing Persons Unit	Brent Currence
Local/Regional AMBER Plan, Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert	Clark Donley
Community Member	Harry Trombitas
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association	Sheriff Ronald Myers
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police	Chief Clayton Harris
Ohio Emergency Management Agency	Ronald (Dave) Ford
State Emergency Communications Committee	Paul Jellison

ROLL CALL – ABSENT

Ohio Association of Broadcasters	Christine Merritt
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Special Agent Kristin Cadieux
Victim's Advocate	Maggie Maloy
Ohio Department of Transportation	Leslie Bricker

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio State Highway Patrol	Lindy Davis
BCI – CART	Larry McCoy
Ohio 911 Program Office	Rob Jackson
Ohio 911 Program Office	Nick Levin
Mid-Ohio AMBER Association	Tiffiney Hatem
Attorney General's Office	Julie Brigner

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED

II. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 26, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Captain Kocab asked the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee to review the minutes. Sheriff Myers made the motion to adopt the January 26, 2016 minutes, Chief Harris seconded. Motion carried by all.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of AMBER Alerts

Captain Kocab indicated there were two (2) AMBER alerts for the reporting period. He gave a brief overview of each and all children were recovered safely. He shared an additional alert did not meet state criteria.

Brent Currence provided additional information on the alert involving the four children. He shared they were taken to a domestic violence shelter. At the time, one of the Attorney General's employees was at the shelter conducting an audit. When the employee left he saw the AMBER alert and realized he had seen the children in the shelter, which then created a dilemma. Brent is attempting to arrange a meeting with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network to inquiry about adding them to the AMBER alert distribution list. Brent invited Captain Kocab to attend the meeting with him.

B. Review of Blue Alerts

Captain Kocab indicated there were no (0) Blue Alerts for the reporting period.

C. Review of Endangered Missing Child Alerts

Brent Currence indicated there were three (3) Endangered Missing Child Alerts for the reporting period. He gave a brief overview of each and all children were recovered safely.

D. Review of Endangered Missing Adult Alerts

There were twenty-eight (28) Endangered Missing Adult Alerts for the reporting period. Brent Currence gave a brief overview of a couple of the alerts and indicated all were recovered safely, with the exception of one (1) individual who was found deceased.

E. Airport Update

Captain Kocab shared Chief Harris, Sheriff Myers, and Kristin Cadieux were reaching out to airports in their areas reference their interest in participating in our pilot program. In Kristin's absence, Captain Kocab shared she reached out to the Dayton Airport and they are interested and willing to participate. They run the same digital display systems as Port Columbus and can stream a visual message on the bottom of their Flight Information Display boards. However, it is limited to 150 characters. They can also stream RSS feeds at the bottom of their courtesy phone displays. We will need to follow-up with their System Engineer on how to proceed.

Sheriff Myers shared he made contact with the Akron-Canton Airport and the CEO is interested in the program. He is awaiting a response following their scheduled manager's meeting.

Chief Harris shared he has a meeting next week with the CEO of the Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

Harry Trombitas inquired if we had any connection with COTA reference alert distribution. Captain Kocab indicated he was not aware of any. Brent Currence shared several Endangered Missing Adult alerts have involved individuals using public transit and he felt it would be beneficial to include them. Clark Donley will reach out to COTA to ask a few preliminary questions and determine if there is a statewide organization.

F. AMBER Website Update

Captain Kocab shared the Attorney General's Office updated their alert software and can now send a PDF poster. He is working with DPS IT to see if the poster can be added to the AMBER website. In addition, the AMBER website has been updated to correct broken links and the July 2015 meeting minutes were posted.

G. Training Update

Captain Kocab provided an update on the alert training completed since the last quarterly meeting. Training was provided to the Marion County Sheriff's Office, which consisted of two classes and encompassed approximately 65 individuals. Training is scheduled for the Southwest Emergency Dispatch Center in Strongsville on April 28.

Sheriff Myers indicated he would like to schedule AMBER training for his new dispatchers. He will follow-up with Lindy Davis.

H. Legal Update

Captain Kocab introduced Julie Brigner of the Attorney General's Office. He shared in the last committee meeting the front license plate was discussed and the question was posed reference committee members taking an official position on a piece of legislature. Captain Kocab reached out through DPS Legal and it was determined the Attorney General's Office is the legal counsel for the committee. He was put in contact with Julie Brigner and invited her to the meeting to provide an overview and answer any questions.

Julie Brigner shared that only the committee can speak on behalf of the committee. To take all members opinions into consideration, the committee would need to take a member vote on the subject (i.e. legislation). Majority vote will determine the committee's position. The committee can then vote to authorize a person to speak on their behalf. She indicated typically, the person designated is the chair, but the committee can designate whom they choose. If the committee is taking a position on legislation, particularly if it is contested, it is important to have one voice. If committee members are asked questions, they should defer to the designated committee spokesman. Committee members can share their personnel opinion or their employer's position, but need to be clear for whom they are speaking on behalf of.

Captain Kocab indicated that depending on the situation, committee member's roles, and how the committee voted, could impact who is voted to represent the committee.

Clark Donley shared his concern referenced himself and Christine Merritt, as they are both in broadcasting. He indicated they may be asked to take an opinion by their employers that is different from the committee's position. Julie Brigner reinforced the importance of being clear on whom you are speaking on behalf of.

Brent Currence shared in the past, the committee has been asked to testify on legislation and provide an opinion. Julie Brigner said the quarterly meeting schedule could pose an issue as the committee only meets four (4) times a year. She indicated it may be challenging to provide a timely response when the only way the committee can act is through a committee vote. Captain Kocab inquired if there was anything that prevented the committee from voting via e-

mail. Julie Brigner said the committee cannot vote via e-mail, phone, or video conference without specific authorization due to Ohio's public record laws.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2016 Ohio Alerts Conference

Captain Kocab shared the conference is scheduled for August 18 at the Columbus Police Academy and the Mid-States Regional meeting is scheduled for August 19 at the OSHP Training Academy. The "Save the Date" flyers have been approved and are pending distribution. Also, the conference flyer is in process and the planning committee is working to solidify the agenda. Once the flyer has been finalized it will contain links to the agenda, lodging options, and the AG's website to register.

B. 2016 Ohio State Fair Booth

Captain Kocab shared we were invited by Rob Jackson of the 9-1-1 Ohio Program Office to share a booth with them at the 2016 Ohio State Fair. Captain Kocab asked him to provide an update to the committee.

Rob Jackson indicated with the 9-1-1 and AMBER Alert closely linked, the 9-1-1 Ohio Program Office suggested a shared booth at the 2016 Ohio State Fair. He said his office would like to educate the public on the next generation 9-1-1, to include the tie in to AMBER Alert. With next generation 9-1-1, there will be the ability to text and eventually send pictures and videos. In the event of an AMBER alert, if the parent has a picture of the child on their phone they can text it directly to the 9-1-1 center. This in turn can immediately be sent to the first responders.

Rob Jackson shared that a collaborative effort between his office and AMBER Alert would not only educate the public, but help offset cost and assist with staffing of the booth. Originally, the 9-1-1 Ohio Program Office planned to cover the cost of the booth, because the AMBER Alert Advisory Committee's funding was going toward the 2016 Ohio Alerts Conference. However, due to an OBM rule and the way their law is written, his office cannot spend money on public education until the language is changed. As a result, he reached out to the Director and Assistant Director of Public Safety due to their connection to the AMBER Alert Advisory Committee through the Patrol and EMA and shared the situation and asked for space in their booth. They did not have any additional space, but offered to fund our booth. As result, the booth rental and equipment is being funded by the Department of Public Safety.

Rob Jackson shared the plan for the booth and provided a handout. The booth is 10 x 10 and located in the Market Place (#7011). The 9-1-1 Ohio Program Office will provide a laptop and the DPS Audio/Visual unit will combine the 9-1-1 and AMBER Alert PSA's and the AMBER Alert training video into one DVD that will run on a loop. The logistics will be handled through DPS Communications. The booth layout will be divided in half with each agency's logo(s) represented and print materials available for distribution. The handout distributed provided details and contained the booth schedule availability. Since it is not necessary for each agency to staff the booth the entire schedule, there will be a meeting in advance to familiarize those individuals working with all the materials. He also shared that ideally, parking will be available at the OSHP Training Academy and the passes would be kept in an envelope at the Academy's front desk. There will be four (4) twelve day passes and you would pick up your pass upon

arrival and return it after your shift is complete. Rob Jackson indicated this has not been confirmed yet. He suggested that Lindy Davis coordinate the booth scheduling for AMBER Alert and mentioned his office will take the responsibility in ensuring the booth is staffed.

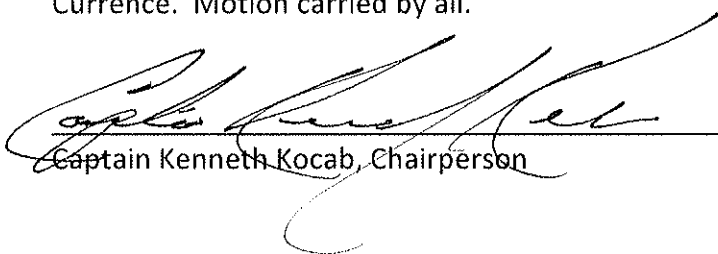
He also shared that September 14 is the Statewide 9-1-1 Symposium being held at the OSHP Training Academy Auditorium and requested the 9-1-1 Ohio Program Office link be added to the AMBER website.

C. National Missing Children's Day

Brent Currence shared that National Missing Children's Day is May 21 and a safety fair will be held at Reynoldsburg eSTEM Academy on Summit Road from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be fingerprinting, exhibits for kids, and family members can provide DNA for long term missing. Linda Maloy will be the guest speaker at the event and he invited the committee members to attend.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m. was made by Sheriff Myers, seconded by Brent Currence. Motion carried by all.



Captain Kenneth Kocab, Chairperson

8/1/2016
Date