**OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Live In-Person Meeting**

**1970 W. Broad Street**

**Columbus, Ohio 43223**

**October 20, 2022**

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee member, Harry Trombitas, called to order the October 20, 2022, meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:00 am. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Brent Currence.

1. **ROLL CALL - PRESENT**

**IN-PERSON**

Ohio Attorney General’s OfficeBrent Currence

Ohio Association of Broadcasters Christine Merritt

Local/Regional AMBER Plan, Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert Clark Donley (via conf. call)

Community Member Harry Trombitas

Victim’s Advocate Kathryn (Ryn) Farmer

Buckeye State Sheriff’s Association Sheriff Ronald Myers

State Emergency Communications Committee Paul Jellison

Ohio Department of Transportation Leslie Prater

Ohio Department of Aging Erin Pettegrew

**ROLL CALL – ABSENT**

Ohio Association of Police Chiefs Chief Clayton Harris

Federal Bureau of Investigation Vacant

Ohio State Highway Patrol Vacant

Ohio Emergency Management Agency Brian Castner

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ohio State Highway Patrol Captain Ron Raines

Ohio State Highway Patrol Pam Walker

Ohio State Highway Patrol Dispatch Manager Matt Stegner

Marion County Sheriff’s Office Captain Lydia Frey

**II. APPROVAL OF THE July 21, 2022, MEETING MINUTES**

Brent Currence asked the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee to review the minutes. Motion was made to accept by Sheriff Ronald Myers. Kathryn Farmer seconded. Motion carried by all.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Review of AMBER Alerts:

Captain Raines advised there were two (2) Amber Alerts issued during this quarter. He went over each one in detail. He also explained how the activation works for Ms. Pettegrew’s benefit. Captain Raines advised that LUMEN line was unable to activate/deactivate due to a password reset technical problem through the company. Also, WEA continued to generate long after the alert was cancelled.

Ms. Pettegrew asked what the term “pink slipped” meant. Ms. Merritt explained that law enforcement essentially are forcing them to be admitted to a mental health hospital.

1. Review of Blue Alerts:

There were no Blue Alerts during the second quarter.

Ms. Pettegrew asked, “Going back to the Amber Alerts, the WEA interruption is there any update there?” Capt. Raines explained that during a previous meeting there was an incident that the messages didn’t activate the EAS & WEA properly through the iPAWS system. iPAWS was upgrading their system to a cloud. When the activation went through, it was too much information for the cloud to activate both, so it issued through EAS and not WEA. As it worked out, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is able to activate the WEA for us until the iPAWS system is working properly.

1. Review of Endangered Missing Child Alerts:

There were two (2) Endangered Missing Child Alerts this quarter. Mr. Currence explained each one in detail. He then brought up a question presented to him by his agents, “What’s the difference between an *online* assailant versus one off the street? Why not an AMBER Alert instead of the Missing Endangered Child Alert?” A lengthy discussion was held regarding abduction vs. enticement. It’s a situational decision and tough to clarify.

1. Review of Endangered Missing Adult Alerts:

Brent Currence advised there were 36 Endangered Missing Adult Alerts issued for the last quarter. There were zero deaths and eight (8) of the recoveries came from the public and/or family.

1. Alerts Training update:

There were no trainings conducted during the third quarter. A training is scheduled for November 18, 2022, at the Portage County S.O. with both morning and afternoon sessions. Also discussed the options of in-person vs. virtual training.

1. 2022 Alerts Conference:

Brent felt the conference went well and congratulated the committee. Had a lot of positive feedback for the speakers and content.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Captain Raines advised that all current Governor Appointments to the Committee will expire on the same day in February, 2023. For those who wish to remain on the committee, there is no need to fill out another application. Sheriff Myers advised that he will not be seeking appointment for 2023 and that Jim Crawford is likely to step up. Ryn Farmer suggested a possible appointment from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities may be a good addition. Captain Raines advised he will be taking the place of Captain Matt Warren of OSHP.

A motion to approve adding new members was made by Ryn Farmer and was seconded by Christine Merritt. Motion passed.

The Committee is looking into possibly combining next year’s AMBER Alert Conference with CECOMM’s conference.

A motion was made by Paul Jellison to give committee members an option if they are unable to attend meetings in person to have a call in option available. Ryn Farmer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

It was discussed to keep the Committee meeting dates on the 3rd Thursday of January, April, July, and October, 2023 at 10:00 am, but return the meetings to the EMA offices. All agreed to move the location to the EMA location.

**V. COMMENTS**

None.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sheriff Myers and seconded by Harry Trombias. Motion passed.

 1/19/2023

Brent Currence, Chairperson Date