

OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Live In-Person Meeting
1970 W. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43223
April 21, 2022

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee member, Brent Currence, called to order the April 21, 2022 meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:10 am. The first order of business was the roll call taken by S/Lt. Raines, OSHP.

I. ROLL CALL - PRESENT

IN-PERSON

Ohio Attorney General's Office	Brent Currence
Ohio Association of Broadcasters	Christine Merritt
Local/Regional AMBER Plan, Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert Community Member	Clark Donley
Victim's Advocate	Harry Trombitas
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association	Kathryn (Ryn) Farmer
Ohio Emergency Management	Sheriff Ronald Myers
Ohio Department of Transportation	Brian Castner
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Leslie Prater
	Captain Matt Warren

ROLL CALL – ABSENT

Federal Bureau of Investigation	Special Agency Kristin Beggs
Ohio Association of Police Chiefs	Chief Clayton Harris
State Emergency Communications Committee	Paul Jellison
Ohio Department of Aging (vacant)	Teresa Teeple (RETIRED)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio State Highway Patrol	Staff Lieutenant Ron Raines
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Pam Walker
Ohio State Highway Patrol Dispatch Manager	Matt Stegner
Ohio EMA	Michael Swaney
Ohio EMA	Brian Castner
SECC	Greg Savoldi
Harrison County Sheriff's Office	Shianne Nameth
Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office	Rob Jackson

II. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 20, 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. Harry Trombitas seconded. Motion carried by all.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of AMBER Alerts:

Staff Lieutenant (S/Lt.) Ron Raines advised there was only one (1) AMBER Alert for the first quarter from April 5, 2022. The North Royalton Police Dept. issue an alert for a 12 yo girl taken by her 24 yo step-brother/boyfriend. After reviewing the information, the Watch Desk decided that it didn't meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert, but would fall into the category of missing/endangered child. We then referred them to BCI since it was not reported until 24 hrs after victim was taken. They called the Watch Desk again since BCI had advised them to issue the Alert since additional information had become available. Problems with the WEA (explained below). Contacted Michael Swaney and Brian Castner of the failure.

Brian Castner explained there were two WEA transmission attempts (processed properly to iPAWS in Washington DC). It was found that the iPAWS server was being transitioned to a virtual server, and file was too large for virtual server to handle. So it dumped the WEA message and processed the EAS message independently. Monroe Electronics and iPAWS technical staff are working together to resolve this issue. This is the first time this issue has happened because they just went to the virtual server. They have an interim fix, before we go back to sending iPAWS messages with EAS and WEA, they will have to prove they have worked all the bugs out.

To avoid this issue from happening again, we will work with NCMEC to send out WEA messages on our behalf until this is resolved.

Staff Lieutenant Raines introduced Captain Matt Warren to the Committee.

B. Review of Blue Alerts:

There were no Blue Alerts during the fourth quarter.

C. Review of Endangered Missing Child Alerts:

Mr. Currence indicated there was one (1) Endangered Child Alert for the first quarter of 2022 from the Cincinnati area. The individuals were a male and female teenagers that had discussed suicide over social media and there was obvious concern for their safety. They were found the next day in Michigan safe.

D. Review of Endangered Missing Adult Alerts:

Mr. Currence advised they are still getting a lot of alerts, but not all are meeting the qualifications.

E. Alerts Training update:

S/Lt. Raines indicated there were no Alerts Trainings held in the first quarter of 2022.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

iPAWS activation review. Text-to-speech audio technology is just not there. The capabilities do not meet our standards.

Dispatchers are not comfortable with the iPAWS interface. The SOPs don't always match what's on the screen. Leaves them no confidence in the system. The NCMEC sending the WEA message may provide some resolutions to issues with iPAWS.

Discussion was held regarding 2022 Conference. Asking for volunteers to be on the Conference Committee and a possible date for conference in October. The question of live vs virtual was discussed.

Rob Jackson: Required 2 hrs training for all 911 dispatchers and linked them to the Ohio Alerts training on your website. Please don't take videos down.

Also, DPS has offered us a table at the state fair and we are welcome to share it with the AMBER Alert again this year.

Clark made a motion to share the table and Christine seconded it. Motion passed.

V. COMMENTS

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sheriff Myers and seconded by S/Lt. Raines. Motion passed.



Brent Currence, Chairperson

7/21/2022

Date