

OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TEAMS Live Event Meeting
April 20, 2021

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee member, Brent Currence, called to order the April 20, 2021 meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:11 a.m. The first order of business was the roll call taken by S/Lt. Raines, OSHP.

I. ROLL CALL - PRESENT

Ohio Attorney General's Office	Brent Currence
Ohio Association of Broadcasters	Christine Merritt
Community Member	Harry Trombitas
Local/Regional AMBER Plan, Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert	Clark Donley
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association	Sheriff Ronald Myers
Federal Bureau of Investigations	Special Agent Kristin Beggs
Ohio Emergency Management	Brian Castner
State Emergency Communications Committee	Paul Jellison
Ohio Department of Transportation	Leslie Prater
Ohio Department of Aging	Teresa Teeple
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Captain Matthew Warren

ROLL CALL – ABSENT

Victim's Advocate	Kathryn (Ryn) Farmer
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police	Chief Clayton Harris

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio State Highway Patrol	Staff Lieutenant Ron Raines
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Lieutenant Merrill Thompson
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Stacy Capehart
Ohio Department of Public Safety	Joseph Kirk
Marion County Sheriff Office	Lydia Frey
911 Dispatcher	Rob Jackson
Lake Township Police Department	Ron Craig

II. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 19, 2021, MEETING MINUTES

Brent Currence asked the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee to review the minutes. Sheriff Ronald Myers made the motion to adopt. Christine Merritt seconded. Motion carried by all.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of AMBER Alerts

Staff Lieutenant (S/Lt.) Raines indicated there were two (2) Amber Alerts for the first quarter and two (2) for the second quarter. He gave a brief overview of each.

Mr. Donley asked about the second Amber Alert in Franklin County on February 23rd and wanted to know why he didn't get the email until the next day. After action report shows it was canceled at 4:26 a.m., but the email came at 8:25 a.m. the next day.

Lydia Frey stated that the Dispatcher closed the alert in OLEG but never dispatched it out. The next day they asked if they should send out the alert still, and it was agreed to send out the email. Mr. Donley stated that it is best to send out the email for people that do not have overnight staff.

S/Lt. Raines indicated for the second Amber Alert during the second quarter, and the wire alert wasn't activated. Advised the week before the IP address was changed during upgrades. The IP address was changed back to old IP address, and further testing will be completed. Brian Castner stated he did receive the call regarding the wireless emergency alert issue of the IP address, and it was an oversight from the vendor. The EAS message did go out over the radio and television.

Lieutenant Thompson gave a brief update on the Amber Alert from last night, April 1, 2021. Lt. Thompson stated that this was an amber alert that the kid was found before the activation was sent out. The child was located before the iPod was sent.

S/Lt. Raines asks the Board how they want to count if the Amber Alert is asked to be issued, but the child is located before completed? Mr. Currence stated that if the alert is entered into OLEG, the Amber Alert should be counted for the quarter. Mr. Currence stated he believes OLEG notifies them.

B. Review of Blue Alerts

No Blue Alerts to review.

C. Review of Endangered Missing Child Alerts

Mr. Currence indicated there was one endangered child alert for the first quarter of 2021.

D. Review of Endangered Missing Adult Alerts

Mr. Currence indicated there had been thirty-six (36) endangered missing adult alerts for the year. He gave a brief overview of the reason for the missing adult alerts. In two of the alerts, the adult was found deceased. He stated they encounter several adult women under 65 who have been abducted and do not qualify for endangering missing adult alerts. He feels this is something that should be looked at and be implanted into law.

Ms. Teeple asked who is doing the abduction. Mr. Currence stated that one was the ex/spouse and one was a stranger.

If we make it into law, it will need to make like the endangered missing adult alert and would be a nice tool to have out there. Ms. Merrit asked if other states are adjusting and set laws to handle this. Mr. Currence stated it varies from state to state. Some states have it in legislation, and other states make it separate. He stated he would need to change it in law in Ohio. Mr. Jellison asked if under age 65 is that just for someone with special needs? Mr. Currence advised

that is correct. Mr. Donely would worry about this tool, and there could be an increase in usage. Mr. Currence stated each case would need to be reviewed and verified that it is an abduction. Ms. Merritt asked, what would the request be for an endangered missing adult or an amber alert? Mr. Currence stated it would be an endangered missing adult.

Ms. Teeple asked, what are the ages of the past cases? Mr. Currence stated that the age was between 20-30 because of an ex-spouse or break-up issue. Mr. Harris asked, are you looking into which direction we are looking? Mr. Currence stated we are looking to remove the age restriction. If we can't get it out to the Board or agencies, it is harder to get help looking for the person. Adding to the criteria to notify the public would help everyone. Ms. Merritt liked Chief Harris's idea to look into how to go forward. Would you like us to look into other states to see how they are handling this? Mr. Currence stated other states only have two alerts, unlike Ohio four. Chief Harris stated the endangered missing person alert would cover all ages. He stated, years ago, we tabled to use one alert, but a member in the past liked having the separate alerts. He asked the members if they want him to do research or put a group together. Ms. Teeple stated she would be interested in learning more and see how to go forward. Mr. Currence will look into all this and do more research to see how other states handle this. He is part of a 13 state group and gets the information. Ms. Teeple wonders if there would be any value in reaching out to the Domestic Violence group to see if they have any information.

E. Alerts Training update:

S/Lt. Raines stated no training in the 1st quarter. He is working with Summit County 911 dispatcher center to get training for late June. Mr. Currence asked if we can do advertise the training. S/Lt. Raines stated that Summit Co. had a link on the amber alert site. Ms. Frey stated that a LEADS message could be sent out and maybe the LEADS newsletter.

Mr. Donley stated they head a meeting on March 10th and asked if we could make a motion to hold the Thursday, August 12th, and Friday, August 13th. The conference could be two days by having it as a hyper sitting. Talked about recording session before the conference and they can review before or other times. We could have a live session and would have Q&A with presenters. Ms. Merritt wasn't sure if we wanted two full days. He stated that Mr. Trombitas and Ms. Merritt might be correct that it shouldn't be two days, but we could have things completed before the conference and available for attendees. Mr. Merritt thought the expectation would not be an in-person gathering. Mr. Currence stated that day two was to meet with the other states. If we are doing this virtual, we would not need it since COVID. Mr. Donley doesn't know which date would be best for the presenter. Ms. Teeple stated she doesn't feel that Friday would be a great day. Ms. Merritt stated that she also feels a virtual conference for a full day behind a computer could be a lot. Maybe make it two half days would be better. The FBI presentation could take four hours. The trauma session could be an hour to an hour and a half. There is also an autism section that would take the first day. Ms. Beggs stated that she had asked the FBI and still waiting on some information. Ms. Merritt, do we need the full committee to approve the dates or confirm the setup going with a hyper over two days. Mr. Trombitas made the motion to approve, and Mr. Jellison seconds the motion.

Ms. Teeple asked who the ad is for this conference? Mr. Currence stated it is more for law enforcement and asked if she holds her conference. She stated she does, and they will talk

about this later. Ms. Merritt feels like Ms. Teeple's suggestion for the endangered missing alert and having a conference to help get the information out would be great. She will look about having who could host and location.

Mr. Donley asked if we could do a Save the Date notice. Ms. Merritt, it would be great to send this out, but she feels we should have more details before it is sent out. Mr. Castner said he just had a conference and had some sessions were sent out previously before the conference, and the day of the conference would have Q&A for the topic. That could trim it down. Ms. Beggs, you would want to check with the presenters on the date and times.

Mr. Currence stated that reappoint paperwork needs to be completed. S/Lt. Raines wanted to state it is essential that you complete the paperwork. He asked Chief Harris, Mr. Jellison, and Ms. Prater. They have the paperwork and getting it together, and sending it in. Captain Warren needs to send his paperwork.

Comment from Ron Cram is there some time alert with people that have a disability. Mr. Currence stated yes, both alerts would cover it. Under 65, the law is restricted/specific.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Brent stated that Sheriff Myers had concerns about pushing the meetings back a week. S/Lt. Raines stated he would like it not to be the 1st week of the month. He would be okay with the 2nd or 4th week of the month. Ms. Teeple stated that she would be okay with the 2nd week would be best for her because sometimes the 4th week would have conflict. We will go forward with the 2nd Tuesday of the month. S/Lt. Raines will send out new appointments for the 2nd Tuesday for all appointments.

Sheriff Myers stated asked about the front license plate and still working on trying to get it back in place. The senate is the issue.

Mr. Caster stated that a former member Dave Ford is retiring on May 4, 2021.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m. was made by Sheriff Myers and seconded by Paul Jellison.



Brent Current, Chairperson

July 13, 2021

Date