**OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**TEAMS Live Event Meeting**

**January 19, 2021**

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee member, Brent Currence, called to order the January 19, 2021 meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:02 a.m. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Lydia Frey, OSHP.

1. **ROLL CALL - PRESENT**

Ohio Attorney General’s OfficeBrent Currence

Ohio Association of Broadcasters Christine Merritt

Local/Regional AMBER Plan, Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert Clark Donley

Community Member Harry Trombitas

Federal Bureau of Investigations Special Agent Kristin Beggs

Victim’s Advocate Kathryn (Ryn) Farmer

Buckeye State Sheriff’s Association Sheriff Ronald Myers

Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police Chief Clayton Harris

Ohio Emergency Management Brian Castner

State Emergency Communications Committee Paul Jellison (NA)

Ohio Department of Transportation Leslie Prater

Ohio Department of Aging Teresa Teeple

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ohio State Highway Patrol Staff Lieutenant Ron Raines

Ohio State Highway Patrol Dispatch Manager Lydia Frey

Ohio State Highway Patrol Pam Walker

**II. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 21, 2020, MEETING MINUTES**

Brent Currence asked the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee to review the minutes. Harry Trombitas made the motion to adopt. Kathryn Farmer seconded. Motion carried by all.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Review of AMBER Alerts

There were seven (2) AMBER Alerts for the reporting period and (7) for all of 2020. Harry Trombitas asked if there were any delays in getting the AMBER Alerts out. S/Lt. Raines advised there were no issues or delays from the agencies. Harry also asked if there were issues with agencies calling us back to cancel the Alert after the child had been located. Staff Lieutenant Raines advised there had only been a couple of instances during 2020 where the Watch Desk Commander had to call the agency back for an update and delays in cancellations were minimal. Not an ongoing/frequent issue.

1. Review of Blue Alerts

No Blue Alerts to review.

1. Review of Endangered Missing Child Alerts

There were a total of nine (9) endangered child alerts for the year and two for the 4th quarter of 2020. One was issued for a 4 year-old boy who was autistic and non-verbal. Grandparents where watching and their property backs up to the Scioto River. Unfortunately, he was found a few days later in the river. Looking into doing some additional training.

On December 23rd an alert was issued for a missing 4 year-old female taken by her mother. Mother had lost custody of her other children and on that day, lost custody of the 4 year-old female. The guy that picked the woman and her daughter up saw the alert on the news and called local law enforcement and turned her in. This was a situation where the alert actually helped in the recovery of the child.

Discussion regarding training was held for law enforcement and the media on autism. Agreement to create a sub-committee with Harry Trombitas, Brent Currence, Clark Donley and Kathryn Farmer. Clark is going to reach out to his daughter on this topic. Try to do something sooner than later. Maybe online training. These cases are hard to deal with and has an impact on everyone involved. Brent volunteered to reach out to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to get additional information on autism. Autism is found most commonly with the children. Brent is going to try and chair the committee.

1. Review of Endangered Missing Adult Alerts

For the year 2020, approximately 130 and 150 alerts for missing adults were issued. All were found safe, with the exception of December. There were two (2) that were found deceased. Both suffered from dementia and one was on foot. One was in Mansfield and the other individual was from Wood County. Discussing was held with the Ohio Department of Aging on the alerts and becoming more involved.

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1. Alerts Training update:

Lydia Frey advised that the last training was held at Pickerington Police Department. Approximately ten (10) in attendance. Two Watch Desk Commanders were in attendance since they are the ones that do the activations and make the decisions on issuing the alerts. It went very well. They had a request for an AMBER Alert that did not meet the criteria and the Watch Desk Commander involved in their request was at the training. The training went very well.

S/Lt. Raines advised there were actually two (2) alerts this year where the Judge had issued paperwork that said the child was in “imminent” danger. It doesn’t specifically say what that “imminent” danger was. After researching, it was found they were not in danger at all.

Also there were actually seven (7) training dates for the entire year, with nine (9) sessions. 24 agencies were represented with 121 individuals in attendance. Attendees found it was very helpful for all law enforcement.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

* A 2021 Ohio Alerts Conference is being considered through virtual training. Christine Merritt suggested scheduling some virtual sessions with live panel discussions and it would give us a chance to have some people attend that couldn’t come to Columbus. Wouldn’t have to be a whole day, but rather webinars on different days. This would allow individuals to receive the training that are not able to come to Columbus due to cost and travel issues. It would also allow us to deal with some of the oncoming issues we see from agencies. Christine Merritt offered her platform of Zoom or GoTo for others to participate in a live format. Clark Donley asked about archiving the information so others could view it throughout the year. Kathryn Farmer suggested doing a live session with a panel, as well as a recorded session. The training would not have to be an entire day. Brent Currence is doing to chair the conference for this year. Will do some research through his office on how they conducted the training earlier this year. Recorded sessions could be posted on the AMBER Alert website.
* The committee had a discussion on Ohio’s front license plate. Legislative meetings are ongoing, but still pending. Sheriff Myers will find out the status.
* Lydia Frey advised she was retiring and taking a position with the Marion County Sheriff’s Office. She would like to become a member of the committee as a Communications member and have a voice for the dispatchers. Chief Harris made a Motion to approve a Communications member. Seconded by Clark Donley.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. was made by Christine Merritt and seconded by Clark Donley.



**April 20, 2021**

Brent Current, Chairperson Date