

OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Live In-Person Meeting
2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235
October 10, 2024

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee member, Brent Currence, called to order the October 10, 2024 meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:06 am. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Jackie Bonner.

I. ROLL CALL - PRESENT

IN-PERSON

Ohio AG's Office/Ohio Missing Persons' Clearinghouse	Brent Currence
Ohio Association of Broadcasters	Christine Merritt
Community Member	Harry Trombitas
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police	Chief Clayton Harris
Ohio Department of Transportation	Leslie Prater
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Captain Ron Raines
Ohio Emergency Management Agency	Brian Castner
Buckeye State Sheriffs Association	Sheriff Jim Crawford
State Emergency Communications Committee	Paul Jellison
Ohio Department of Aging	Erin Pettegrew

IN ATTENDANCE (via Bridge Call)

Local/Regional AMBER Plan	Clark Donley
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ROLL CALL – ABSENT

Victim's Advocate	Kathryn (Ryn) Farmer
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OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio State Highway Patrol	Jacqueline (Jackie) Bonner
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Pam Walker
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Jeff Grayson
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Jared Reagh
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Jonah Young
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Samantha Scherger
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Julie Akers
Ohio EMA	Jeff Greene
Ohio DODD	Russell Blank
WBNS 10tv News	Tyler Hoffman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (via Bridge Call)

Ohio DOT	Jeff O'Neal
Ohio DNR	Doug Young
Marion County Sheriff's Office	Lydia Frey
CECOMS	Jackie Costa

II. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 18, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Brent Currence asked the Ohio Amber Alert Advisory Committee to review the minutes from the July 18, 2024 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Christine Merritt, Sheriff Jim Crawford seconded. Motion carried by all. Minutes approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of AMBER Alerts:

Captain Ron Raines advised there were two (2) AMBER Alert activations in the third quarter of 2024. Both were activated by the OSHP Watch Desk. Capt. Raines reported on these two (2) requests and gave a brief summary of each incident.

1. July 19, 2024 – requested by Columbus Police Department (activation requested during the CrowdStrike outage)
2. September 13, 2024 – requested by Newark Police Department

Capt. Raines reported on the delayed activation during the July 19, 2024 CrowdStrike incident.

The CrowdStrike outage caused the majority of applications to be inaccessible during the activation request which resulted the process of activating an AMBER Alert to be delayed. The OSHP Watch Desk worked with its partnered agencies to successfully notify the public and other law enforcement agencies of the alert. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) sent out the WEA message. The OSHP Communications Center sent out the EAS. The OHLEG messaging system and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) sign boards were unable to be accessed as they were affected by the CrowdStrike outage. The activation in total took two and a half hours to activate.

B. Review of Blue Alerts:

There were no Blue Alerts activated during the third quarter.

C. Review of Endangered/Missing Child Alerts:

Brent Currence reported that there were two (2) Endangered/Missing Child Alerts this quarter and all were found safe.

1. September 18, 2024 – requested by Columbus Police Department.
2. October 7, 2024 – requested by Fairfield County Sheriff's Office.

Brent Currence gave a brief summary on each incident. Questions arose as to why the September 18, 2024 incident was not an AMBER Alert. Brent stated that at the time the alert was requested, there was not enough information in the investigation to meet the criteria of an AMBER Alert.

D. Review of Endangered/Missing Adult Alerts:

Brent Currence reported that the statistics for Endangered/Missing Adult Alerts for this quarter were not available at this time. These statistics will be included in the next quarterly meeting.

E. Alerts Training Update:

Captain Raines stated there were three (3) training sessions completed in the third quarter. One (1) session was requested by the Noble County Sheriff's Office and two (2) sessions were proactive training sessions scheduled at the beginning of 2024.

1. August 14, 2024 – Took place at the Noble County Sheriff's Office. Eighteen (18) individuals were in attendance.
2. August 21, 2024 – Proactive scheduled training session that took place at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro, Ohio. Fourteen (14) individuals were in attendance.
3. September 12, 2024 – Proactive scheduled training session that took place at Stark State College in Canton, Ohio. Thirty-one (31) individuals were in attendance.

Two (2) training sessions are scheduled for the remainder of the year. These sessions were requested by Pickaway County Sheriff's Office and Columbiana County EMA. One (1) training session has been scheduled for June 18, 2025 by the request of Stark County Sheriff's Office.

F. Alerts Video Revision Subcommittee Update:

Jeff Grayson reported that there has been a tremendous amount of positive responses regarding the alert training videos from external and internal sources. Thanks and appreciations were given to all parties involved throughout the production process. The four (4) composite alert training videos are complete and ready for the 2024 Ohio Alerts Symposium that will take place on October 17, 2024. Thomas Stiver, a videographer with Ohio Department of Public Safety Communications, is currently finishing the editing of the sixteen (16) short training video clips to be used for uploading on the AMBER Alert website. He is also working on creating a composite video that encompasses all four (4) training videos in one. Those versions are expected to be complete and sent to Jackie Bonner within a week time frame.

Jackie Bonner, OSHP IT, and OSHP Public Affairs Unit (PAU) will coordinate a media release regarding the availability of the alert training videos on the AMBER Alert website.

G. 2024 Alerts Symposium Review:

Clark Donley reported that the Symposium was recently granted seven (7) general Continuing Professional Training (CPT) hours by the Ohio Police Training Commission (OPOTC). He thanked the members of the Alerts Symposium Sub-Committee who played a role in obtaining topic presenters and those who helped with the application process in obtaining CPT credit from OPOTC.

The Symposium's agenda was edited to make time for showing the new alert training videos. Clark stated that the QR Code and link to the evaluation has been created and reiterated the significance of evaluations and how they are used to help create the symposiums in the following years. The sub-committee is planned to meet following the adjournment of the quarterly meeting to finalize the logistics and finer details that will take place on the day of the Symposium.

H. Security Threat Group (STG) Conference Display:

Capt. Raines informed the committee that the multi-agency STG conference is scheduled for November 18, 2024. The Ohio Alerts display table with NCMEC approved education material was set up for the committee to view. This display table will be used for the STG conference.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Service Announcement for Leaving Children in Running Vehicles:

Capt. Raines informed the committee of all stranger abducting AMBER alerts in Ohio were caused by children being left in unlocked, running vehicles. Capt. Raines presented the idea to the committee to work with OSHP PAU to put out a public advisory notice to remind the public not to leave their children alone in vehicles. Chief Clayton Harris made a motion of approval, Paul Jellison second. Motion approved.

B. 2025 Committee's Quarterly Meeting Dates:

The committee discussed possible dates for the 2025 AMBER Alert Advisory Committee's quarterly meetings. It was agreed upon to have the meetings conducted on the third Thursday from the beginning of every quarter.

C. 2025 Committee Appointment Renewals:

Capt. Raines informed the committee of the process of renewing their Governor Appointments and asked each member of their intent to remain on the committee. Christine Merritt (Ohio Association of Broadcasters), Clark Donley (Local/Regional AMBER Plan), Chief Clayton Harris (Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police), and Sheriff Jim Crawford (Buckeye State Sheriffs Association) chose to not seek reappointment. Various members of the committee gave their gratitude and appreciation to those who were not seeking reappointment for their years of hard work, dedication, and knowledge that they shared.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Buckeye State Sheriffs Association will present their own replacement committee member recommendations to the Governor's Office. The Committee members agree that Jackie Costa with Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System (CECOMS) will be the replacement nominee for Clark Donley. All replacement nominees will be presented to the Governor's Office for approval as Governor Appointed Committee Members to the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee.

D. New Business from Committee Members:

Paul Jellison informed the committee that the FCC created a new EAS code for missing/endangered persons for individuals aged 17-65 years old and is expected to be implemented in September of 2025. Christine further explained that the new code is not a mandatory code, but all equipment manufacturers will be required to have the new code available.

The committee discussed the scenario of activating EAS for every missing/endangered adult. The committee was in favor of the activation for abducted cases, but voiced some concerns about the possibility of desensitizing the public with issuing an alert for every case. A sub-committee will be established at the first quarterly meeting in 2025.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Jellison and seconded by Christine Merritt. Meeting adjourned.


Brent Currence, Chairperson

1/16/25
Date