

OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Live In-Person Meeting
2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235
January 16, 2025**

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee member, Brent Currence, called to order the January 16, 2025 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
Community Member
Ohio State Highway Patrol
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
State Emergency Communications Committee
Ohio Department of Aging
Victim's Advocate

Brent Currence
Harry Trombitas
Captain Ron Raines
Brian Castner
Paul Jellison
Erin Pettegrew
Kathryn (Ryn) Farmer

IN ATTENDANCE (via Bridge Call)

Ohio Department of Aging

Erin Pettegrew

ROLL CALL – ABSENT

Ohio Department of Transportation

Leslie Prater

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio State Highway Patrol
Ohio State Highway Patrol

Jacqueline (Jackie) Bonner
Staff Lieutenant Melanie
Provenzano

Ohio State Highway Patrol
Ohio Association of Broadcasters
Ohio DODD
CECOMS
Ohio DAS

Jared Reagh
Chad Budreau
Russell Blank
Jacquelynn (Jackie) Costa
Angie Canepa

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (via Bridge Call)

FBI Ret.
Marion County Sheriff's Office
Warren County Sheriff's Office
Portage County Sheriff's Office

Sandra Berchtold
Lydia Frey
Steve Harrison
Katie Royer

II. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 10, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Brent Currence asked the Ohio Amber Alert Advisory Committee to review the minutes from the October 10, 2024 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Harry Trombitas, Ryn Farmer seconded. Motion carried by all. Minutes approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of AMBER Alerts:

Captain Ron Raines gave a recap of the 2024 alerts: there were sixteen (16) alert activations in 2024. Thirteen (13) were activated by OSHP Watch Desk, three (3) were activated by the Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System (CECOMS). Five (5) of the total activations were issued in the fourth quarter. Four (4) alerts were activated by the OSHP Watch Desk, one (1) was activated by CECOMS. Capt. Raines reported on the four (4) OSHP activations and gave a brief summary of each incident.

1. October 15, 2024 – requested by Fairfield County Sheriff's Office
2. November 8, 2024 – requested by Columbus Police Department
3. November 11, 2024 – requested by Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
4. December 17, 2024 – requested by Cincinnati Police Department

Capt. Raines reported that the OSHP Watch Desk Commanders proactively recommended the AMBER Alert activation to both Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office investigating officer. Both agencies originally requested assistance from other entities by way of a BOLO in LEADS or support from OSHP Aviation when the OSHP Watch Desk became aware of the situations and proactively determined that AMBER Alerts should be considered.

In discussing the November 11, 2024 activation involving Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO), members of the committee applauded the combined efforts of multiple agencies and the public for contributing to the safe recovery of the child.

Jackie Costa reported on the one (1) CECOMS activation and gave a brief summary of the incident.

1. October 10, 2024 – requested by Cleveland Police Department

Jackie Costa informed the committee of software issues that occurred during the activation process. Due to these issues causing a delay in the activation, Jackie Costa plans to update CECOMS' policy to utilize the OSHP Watch Desk and NCMEC as a secondary option for distributing IPAWS and WEA messaging. Paul Jellison advised Jackie Costa and Captain Raines that IPAWS Lab could be utilized as a secondary option in the case of a program or software malfunction.

Review of Blue Alerts:

There were no Blue Alerts activated during the fourth quarter.

B. Review of Endangered/Missing Child Alerts:

Brent Currence gave a recap of the 2024 alerts: there were seventeen (17) Endangered/Missing Child Alerts issued for the year. Eight (8) alerts occurred in the fourth quarter, seven (7) resulted in a safe recovery.

1. October 9, 2024 – requested by Franklin County Sheriff's Office.
2. November 1, 2024 – requested by Gahanna Police Department.
3. November 3, 2024 – requested by Forest Park Police Department.
4. November 7, 2024 – requested by Gahanna Police Department.

5. November 13, 2024 – requested by Gahanna Police Department.
6. November 21, 2024 – requested by West Chester Police Department.
7. November 21, 2024 – requested by Bethel Police Department.
8. November 25, 2024 – requested by Heath Police Department.

Brent Currence gave a brief summary on each incident and gave details on the search and recovery efforts made during the November 21, 2024 incident that was requested by West Chester Police Department. The incident resulted in the drowning of a non-verbal autistic child. Mr. Currence reported that there have been numerous Endangered/Missing Child alerts involving children with autism.

C. Review of Endangered/Missing Adult Alerts:

Brent Currence reported that the 2024 yearly statistics for Endangered/Missing Adult Alerts were not available at this time. He reported that the Endangered/Missing Adult alerts are the most issued Ohio alert and have the highest statistics of an unsuccessful safe recovery.

Erin Pettegrew discussed the options of offering resources and additional information to families of individuals who have been diagnosed with Dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The committee discussed adding a presentation on this subject for the next AMBER Alert Symposium.

D. Alerts Training Update:

Captain Raines reported there were nine (9) training sessions conducted in 2024 with a total of one hundred and seventy-seven (177) individuals who received the training. Two (2) of the total training sessions were conducted in the fourth quarter.

1. November 14, 2024 – Hosted by Pickaway County EMA, Circleville, Ohio. Twelve (12) individuals were in attendance.
2. December 11, 2024 – Hosted by Columbiana County EMA, Lisbon, Ohio. Twenty-seven (27) individuals were in attendance.

Compared to the twelve (12) training sessions and three hundred and eighty (380) individuals who received the training in 2023, the CPT credit hours for the 2024 training sessions did not have an effect on increasing interest for the training. However, 2023 conducted a course at the OSHP Academy with one hundred thirty-five (135) attendees, while the OSHP Academy did not host a training session in 2024. There is a desire to hold sessions at the OSHP Academy yearly as a way to provide training to the central Ohio region. The Ohio Alerts Training will not be awarded CPT credit in 2025, as it does not qualify under the new OPOTC required training categories.

The 2025 Ohio Alerts training is in the process of being scheduled. Two (2) training sessions have been confirmed, six (6) additional training sessions are being proposed. Captain Raines discussed conducting a training in the Cleveland area that will provide an additional topic on CECOMS' regional plan with Jackie Costa.

E. Security Threat Group (STG) Conference Display:

Jackie Bonner reported on the Ohio Alerts display table at the multi-agency STG conference on November 18, 2024. Attendees showed interest in the information and NCMEC materials we provided. CJS, a state partner, requested Capt. Raines to provide a presentation on Ohio Alerts at their spring conference. They also requested for us to have the display table there.

F. Governor Appointments:

Captain Raines gave an update on his communication efforts regarding renewing committee member appointments and appointment applications with the Ohio Department of Public Safety Director's Office. At this time, the Governor's Office has not contacted any committee members with instructions on submitting paperwork. All current members' appointments expire on February 6, 2025.

G. 2024 Alerts Symposium Review:

Ryn Farmer reported she received back seventy (70) surveys on the Symposium. The total number of attendees at the Symposium was one hundred and thirty-six (136). Ms. Farmer read survey comments for each topic. The vast majority gave satisfactory ratings and comments on the Symposium and its presentation topics. The committee agreed that the Symposium was a huge success and credited the topic presenters for doing such a good job.

The 2025 Alerts Symposium subcommittee will be established at the next committee meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. New EAS Code Subcommittee:

Capt. Raines informed the committee of a new Missing Persons Workgroup that was established by the Governor's Office. He suspects the Governor's Office may have a high interest in utilizing the new Missing Adult EAS code. The committee discussed the criteria of each of the current Ohio alerts, and the different scenarios for which certain alerts would be issued. Furthermore, they discussed the benefits of having the new EAS code, as well as the risk it may pose on desensitizing the public. A subcommittee was established to further discuss and research the utilization of the new code. The subcommittee consists of Capt. Raines, S/Lt. Provenzano, Paul Jellison, Brian Castner, and Chad Budreau.

B. Governor's Missing Persons Workgroup:

Captain Raines went into further detail explaining the purpose of the new Governor's Missing Persons Workgroup that involves multiple agencies. He informed the committee of his role with the workgroup and that he has been tasked with presenting a PowerPoint presentation at the workgroup's February 6, in-person meeting, informing them of the different alerts' criteria and the process of issuing each alert. Some committee members may still be contacted for appointment to the workgroup.

C. Ohio Alerts Plan Revision:

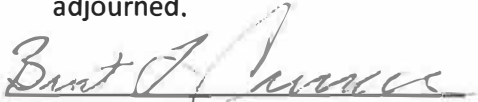
Capt. Raines discussed with the committee on their thoughts to revise the Ohio Alerts Plan. The Ohio Alerts Plan has not been revised since 2017 and includes verbiage that is inaccurate. The committee agreed that a revision is necessary and Paul Jellison motioned for a sub-committee to be established. Brian Castner seconds, motion approved. The subcommittee consists of Brent Currence, Capt. Raines, S/Lt. Provenzano, Jackie Costa, Brian Castner, and Ryn Farmer.

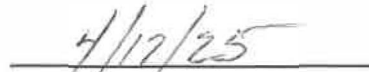
D. New Business from Committee Members:

There was no new business from the committee members.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Harry Trombitas and seconded by Ryn Farmer. Meeting adjourned.


Brent Currence, Chairperson


Date