

OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Live In-Person Meeting
2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235
April 16, 2026

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee member, Brent Currence, called to order the April 16, 2026 meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:02 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
Ohio State Highway Patrol
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
State Emergency Communications Committee
Ohio Department of Aging
Ohio Association of Broadcasters
Local/Regional AMBER Plan
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association
Community Member
Ohio Department of Transportation

Brent Currence
Christopher Kinn
Brian Castner
Paul Jellison
Erin Pettegrew
Chad Budreau
Jacquelynn (Jacque) Costa
Chief Matt Delp
Sheriff Jeff Balzer
Harry Trombitas
Leslie Prater

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Victim's Advocate

Kathryn (Ryn) Wolfe Farmer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Staff Lieutenant Melanie
Provenzano

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Jacqueline (Jackie) Bonner

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Arin Smith

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Adrienne Sheffer

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Amanda Harper

Ohio DODD

Russell Blank

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Brian Morgan

Ohio EMA

Jeff Greene

Ohio 911

Patrick Brandt

Cuyahoga County EMA

Kevin Friis

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (via Bridge Call)

Marion County Sheriff's Office

Lydia Frey

Ohio DAS

Angie Canepa

Newburgh Heights Police Department

Chief John Majoy

II. APPROVAL OF THE January 15, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Brent Currence asked the Ohio Amber Alert Advisory Committee to review the minutes from the January 15, 2026 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Jacque Costa, Chad Budreau seconded. Motion carried by all. Minutes approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of AMBER Alerts:

There were no alerts issued by the Ohio State Highway Patrol in the first quarter of 2026. One (1) alert was activated by the Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System (CECOMS). Jacque Costa gave a brief summary of the incident.

1. February 9, 2026 – requested by Warrensville Police Department

B. Review of Blue Alerts:

There were no Blue Alerts in the first quarter of 2026.

C. Review of Endangered/Missing Child Alerts:

There were ten (10) Endangered/Missing Adult Alerts in the first quarter of 2026. Brent Currence gave a brief summary of each incident. All individuals were recovered safely.

1. February 5, 2026 – requested by Blendon Township Police Department
2. February 20, 2026 – requested by Colerain Township Police Department
3. March 3, 2026 – requested by Galion Police Department
4. March 14, 2026 – requested by Columbus Police Department
5. March 17, 2026 – requested by Westerville Police Department
6. March 21, 2026 – requested by Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
7. March 28, 2026 – requested by Portage County Sheriff's Office
8. March 30, 2026 – requested by Middletown Police Department
9. March 30, 2026 – requested by Pike County Sheriff's Office
10. April 1, 2026 – requested by Licking County Sheriff's Office

Brent Currence notified the Committee of the increase of online child enticement through Roblox, Discord, and Only Fans.

D. Review of Endangered/Missing Adult Alerts:

Brent Currence informed the Committee there were forty-one (41) Endangered/Missing Adult Alerts issued in the first quarter of 2026. Forty (40) individuals have been recovered safe, one (1) is still missing.

E. Alerts Training Update:

Staff Lieutenant Melanie Provenzano informed the Committee there have been five (5) Ohio Regional Alerts Trainings in the first quarter of 2026. Four (4) trainings were scheduled and three (3) were conducted at Perkins Township Police Department. One (1) training was canceled due to low interest. One (1) training was conducted at Macedonia Police Department. A total of forty-nine (49) individuals attended the training courses this year. There are six (6) additional training courses scheduled to take place throughout the State in the remainder of the year.

Jacque Costa informed the Committee that she plans to conduct more training in the CECOMS region.

F. 2026 AMBER Alert Symposium:

Brent Currence informed the Committee that the 2026 AMBER Alert Symposium is scheduled for August 20, 2026. It will be located in the ODOT Auditorium at the Ohio Department of Transportation Headquarters in Columbus, OH. The Symposium's agenda has been confirmed. He informed the Committee that they have had a lot of dispatchers attend in the previous years and are hoping to increase attendance from investigators and additional sworn personnel.

G. New MEP Code – Subcommittee Update:

Paul Jellison informed the Committee there are no new updates or information regarding the new MEP code and suggested the decommission of the subcommittee.

Brian Castner informed the Committee that they have a set criterion that the requesting counties must contain in their plans and procedures in order to gain approval. Five (5) Ohio Counties, and one (1) municipality have completed their plans.

H. Ohio Alerts Plan Revision:

Brent Currence informed the Committee that Ohio BCI is still reviewing the section pertaining to Ohio BCI alerts.

I. HB 359 Update:

There are no updates for the Committee on HB 359. Captain Kinn informed the Committee of several pending laws introducing new alerts in Ohio. The majority of the proposed new alerts all have very similar criteria to the AMBER Alerts and Endangered Missing Child Alerts. OSP and BCI are working with their legislature liaisons to inform the legislature of the similarity between the proposed new alerts and the current alerts that are in place.

J. CECOMS Regional Expansion of IPAWS:

Jacque Costa informed the Committee of CECOMS' desire to have the ability to issue IPAWS for AMBER Alerts that originate in their region to outside counties. A motion was made for approval of this capability. The motion was tabled and Brian Castner made a motion to form a subcommittee to further discuss details. Paul Jellison second the motion and a subcommittee was established. Sherrif Balzer will chair the committee. The subcommittee will include members within OSHP, CECOMS, ODOT, Brent Currence, Paul Jellison, and additional State County Sheriffs.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Alerts Flowchart:

Captain Kinn informed the committee that OSP and BCI will work together to create a flowchart for law enforcement agencies that will help them view which steps to take when activating each alert. Upon completion of the flowchart, OSP and BCI will work with State partners to distribute the material to law enforcement agencies.

B. HB 677:

Sheriff Balzer informed the Committee of HB 677 to which refers to codifying the Endangered/Missing Child Alert. Brent Currence advised the Committee that BCI is unable to issue the EAS and proposed some changes to the language to allow local agencies to issue the EAS with geofencing. A motion was made to the Committee by Captain Kinn to support HB 677 with modifications to the language of issuing the EAS. Jacque Costa seconded the motion. Motion approved.

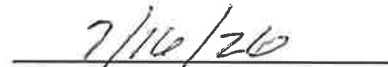
C. New Business from Committee Members:

Brent Currence formally welcomed Captain Christopher Kinn to the Committee. Captain Kinn formally received his appointment as of February 27, 2026.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Harry Trombitas and seconded by Paul Jellison. Meeting was adjourned.


Brent Currence, Chairperson


Date