

**OHIO AMBER ALERT STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 16, 2009**

Ohio AMBER Alert Chairman, Mark Patchen, called to order the July 16, 2009, meeting of the AMBER Alert Steering Committee at approximately 1:35 p.m. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Lana Joiner.

I. ROLL CALL - PRESENT

Governor's Designee, Ohio Emergency Mgmt. Agency – EMA	Mark A. Patchen, Chairman
Dept. of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol – OSHP	S/Lt. Rob Jackson
Ohio Association of Broadcasters – OAB	Executive VP Christine Merritt
Federal Bureau of Investigation – FBI	Agent Harry W. Trombitas
Attorney General's Office, Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse	Brent Currence, Director
Victims Advocate	Linda E. Maloy
State Emergency Communications Committee – SECC	Wayne Fick
Local or Regional AMBER Plan	Michael R. Rankin, Esq.
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police – OACP	Chief Clayton Harris

ROLL CALL – ABSENT

Ohio Department of Transportation – ODOT	Alan Phillips
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association – BSSA	Sheriff Ronny J. Shawber Crawford County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio Emergency Management Agency – EMA (Public Affairs)	Kelli Blackwell
Ohio State Highway Patrol – OSHP	Lydia Wagner
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	Zack Scott
Sunny95 Radio/Mid-Ohio AMBER	Clark Donley
Sunny95 Radio/Mid-Ohio AMBER	Tiffiney Hatem

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED.

II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 16, 2009, MINUTES (ADOPTED)

The Committee dispensed with reading of the April 16, 2009, Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee Meeting minutes. Chairman Patchen asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes. A typo correction was made. S/Lt. Rob Jackson made a motion to adopt the minutes, Chief Clayton Harris seconded. Motion carried by all.

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III. OLD BUSINESS

A. ID R Kids

Mr. Mike Rankin briefed the committee on ID R Kids program and stated that all kids in Ohio should have an identification photo card. WE need to convince the school districts to use state IDs for the school IDs. A pilot program needs to be setup. This will be a long-term project and will be coordinated with the Ohio Board of Education. Laptops and cameras can be taken to schools and setup, overseen by Deputy Registrars, who are agents of the state. As kids grow older, parents will be responsible for the updating of the ID photos, which will cost \$8.50 per update. Pamphlets will be distributed at all 88 Ohio county fairs to promote the project. Mr. Brent Currence informed the committee that now would be the best time to approach Ohio schools with the program. To move forward with ideas on the promotion of the program, a sub-committee was formed to discuss a business plan. The sub-committee consists of S/Lt. Rob Jackson, Brent Currence, Mike Rankin and Christine Merritt. Mr. Rankin will head the sub-committee.

Mr. Rankin informed the Committee that it was announced in a press release that the Secretary of State and US Senate candidate Jennifer Brunner has hired him effective August 3, 2009, to be her first assistant. Mr. Rankin will be acting Secretary of State when Ms. Brunner is out of the office. Mr. Rankin will continue to be a member of the AMBER Steering Committee.

B. Clarification of Alert Titles

Chairman Patchen informed the committee that a copy of the meeting minutes from July 12, 2007, are included in the packets, whereas the committee looked a various logos and settled on the title of "Missing Child Alert." Hopefully this will help clear up the confusion of the program title. Mr. Brent Currence stated that the software uses Endangered Missing Child Alert. Hopefully a change from "Endangered Missing Child Alert" to "Missing Child Alert" can be performed with the expected new software upgrade.

C. Media Webinar

Ms. Christine Merritt briefed the committee on the webinar that was put on for radio and TV to provide them with a refresher course about the AMBER Alert program, Endangered Missing Child Alert and Missing Adult Alert. This webinar was done approximately three weeks ago. The presenters were Chairman Patchen, Ms. Merritt, Mr. Currence, S/Lt. Jackson and Clark Donley. Fifty participants were logged into the webinar. Topics covered were differences in the alert programs, the criteria and how media should use the Alerts. Stations were encouraged to register to receive alerts, which quite a few have already done.

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D. Attorney General's "National Crime Victims Week" Kick-off Rally, April 26

Mr. Brent Currence informed the committee that the rally went quite well. The poster winners were given their awards all at one time. The rally was held at the Supreme Court building with quite a few people in attendance. This was a very good experience for the kids and a good way to recognize them. In the future, would prefer going to the individual schools for the poster winner presentations. This would give the children recognition in front of their peers, which is more effective.

E. Review of AMBER Alerts

The Steering Committee reviewed the two AMBER Alerts issued since the last meeting, one from Lucas and one from Clark Counties. Both the Alerts resulted in successful recoveries. No changes or corrections to the Alert summaries were recommended.

F. Review of Missing Adult Alerts

The Steering Committee reviewed the 33 Missing Adult Alerts issued since the last meeting. One female was found deceased in a wooded area. The family is concerned that this was possible homicide because the family did not know why she would have been there. One male has been missing since February 2009. One male was found to be incarcerated in the Ross County jail for trying to smuggle drugs. All other missing adults involved in an alert were found safely.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Harry Trombitas informed the committee that at the Dublin, Ohio, fire works display, a representative from the Farmers Insurance Company was promoting 500 child abduction kits with literature.

There has been another AMBER Alert mobile text message scam circulating and has been forwarded and forwarded from the midwest to the east coast. Chairman Patchen informed Public Affairs that if they know of any such scams to generate a press release clarifying the false alert.

Chairman Patchen met with e-Tech Ohio to discuss the use of digital TV and data cast in the dissemination of Emergency Alert System (EAS) alerts. The State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) will meet later this year on finalizing a new EAS backbone.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Past voted upon Resolutions were circulated to committee members for signature.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on Thursday, October 15, 2009, at 1:30 p.m., Room 204, at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, 2588 West Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43235-2712.

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VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at approximately 2:55 p.m. was made by S/Lt. Rob Jackson, seconded by Mr. Harry Trombitas. Motion carried by all.

DATE

**MARK A. PATCHEN, CHAIRMAN
AMBER ALERT STEERING COMMITTEE**