

**OHIO AMBER ALERT STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2009**

Ohio AMBER Alert Chairman, Mark Patchen, called to order the October 15, 2009, meeting of the AMBER Alert Steering Committee at approximately 1:30 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
State Emergency Communications Committee – SECC	Wayne Fick
Ohio Department of Transportation – ODOT	Alan Phillips
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association – BSSA	Sheriff Ronny J. Shawber Crawford County

ROLL CALL – ABSENT

Victims Advocate	Linda E. Maloy
Local or Regional AMBER Plan	Michael R. Rankin, Esq.
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police – OACP	Chief Clayton Harris

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio State Highway Patrol – OSHP	Lydia Wagner
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	Zack Scott
Sunny95 Radio/Mid-Ohio AMBER	Clark Donley
Coshocton Sheriff's Office	James Crawford
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police – OACP	Jeff Hill
Pickerington Police Department	Ralph Portier
Westerville Police Department	Del Robeson
Sharon Twp. Police Department	Dan Schwind
U.S. Marshals Service	Nikki Ralston
Clayton Police Department	Jeff Garrison

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED.

I. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of AMBER Alerts

The Steering Committee reviewed the three AMBER Alerts issued since the last meeting, one from Morrow, one from Montgomery and one from Wood Counties. S/Lt. Rob Jackson briefed the Committee on the three Alerts. The first one was a bi-polar mother and had threatened to kill herself and the child. The second Alert, the child had cerebral

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palsy and had not taken medication for over a day, and the father was a recovering drug addict and goes on binges. On the third alert, the father threatened to kill the mother and the family and stated that if he could not have his daughter then no one can. On the third one, the father heard the Alert and turned himself in to authorities. All three Alerts met the AMBER criterion and resulted in successful recoveries. No changes or corrections to the Alert summaries were recommended.

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

Review of the minutes was held until after review of AMBER Alerts.

The Committee dispensed with reading of the July 16, 2009, Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee Meeting minutes. Chairman Patchen asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes. Being none, Mr. Brent Currence made a motion to adopt the minutes, Mr. Wayne Fick seconded. Motion carried by all.

III. OLD BUSINESS (continued)

B. National Conference Input

Attendees representing the Steering Committee will be Ms. Christine Merritt and S/Lt. Rob Jackson. Mr. Brent Currence was to attend but informed the Committee that Ms. Vicki Germann will be attending the National conference in his stead. S/Lt. Rob Jackson stated that a topic of discussion at the National conference will be the Missing Child Alerts. They will also discuss Missing Adult Alerts, Silver Alerts, etc., from different states. We hope to gain some insight on what other states are doing in the area of Missing Adult Alerts.

C. Review of Missing Adult Alerts

The Steering Committee reviewed the 35 Missing Adult Alerts issued since the last meeting. Mr. Brent Currence would like to see the Missing Adult Alerts have more restrictive criterion. Criterion is too broad, what qualifies as mental illness is in question. There have been 95 Missing Adult Alerts issued since January 2009, an average of 10 to 15 calls per week are being received. These calls have to be screened to determine if they are actually and Adult Alerts. Mr. Currence stated that the Missing Adult Alert system is in overuse! Some of the Alerts issued are running 5 or 6 days without an update. Information gained from the National conference may assist the Committee on determining a direction of improving the Ohio Missing Adult program.

D. Cincinnati AMBER Notification

S/Lt. Rob Jackson briefed the Committee to the fact that Cincinnati tri-state area has a lot of local AMBER Alerts and notification to the state is not always made. S/Lt. Jackson met with Cincinnati police department officials and they will use the AMBER Alert (AA) code in NCIC so that in future the Columbus Communications Center (CCC) will get notifications of AMBER Alerts in that area of the state. The training DVD will also be mailed to them and in-service training will take place in the spring to assure those involved in an Alert are familiar with the tools available for aiding in the recovery of a child.

E. ID R Kids Sub-Committee Report

S/Lt. Rob Jackson informed the Committee that he has come up with a draft business plan and has sent it out for review and approval. He is waiting on a reply from the BMV contact. Hopefully he will have the business plan by the first of 2010 and start to get it into the schools. Everything is moving along as scheduled.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Statewide Training Conference

Mr. Brent Currence asked the Committee if we are going to have a statewide training conference this year. The Committee agreed to have a conference. S/Lt. Rob Jackson proposed having the conference in a more climate friendly month and to look for a more favorable venue. Maybe could be hosted at the Columbus Police Academy. It was agreed to move the conference to April or May 2010 at a location that would accommodate the high number of attendees. The training committee will begin work on the conference agenda, location and date.

B. Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS)

Chairman Patchen updated the Committee on the status of the Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS). Under IPAWS, notifiers would no longer trigger sirens, Emergency Alert System (EAS) and other alert systems independently. There would be a consolidated approach through software to activate systems based on the incident and area covered. A Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) would be used in system activation. The EAS structure would change. Messages would flow over the internet as well as wireless systems such as datacast and weather radio.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., Room 204, at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, 2588 West Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43235-2712.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at approximately 2:30 p.m. was made by Ms. Christine Merritt, seconded by Mr. Wayne Fick. Motion carried by all.

DATE

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