

# OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 26, 2016

Ohio Department of Transportation  
1980 West Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43223

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee Chairman, Captain Kenneth Kocab, called to order the July 26, 2016 meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:12 a.m. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Lindy Davis, OSHP.

## I. ROLL CALL - PRESENT

Department of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol	Captain Kenneth Kocab
Ohio Attorney General's Office, Missing Persons Unit	Brent Currence
Ohio Association of Broadcasters	Christine Merritt
Local/Regional AMBER Plan, Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert	Clark Donley
Community Member	Harry Trombitas
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Special Agent Kristin Cadieux
Victim's Advocate	Maggie Maloy
Ohio Emergency Management Agency	Ronald (Dave) Ford

## ROLL CALL – ABSENT

Buckeye State Sheriff's Association	Sheriff Ronald Myers
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police	Chief Clayton Harris
Ohio Department of Transportation	Leslie Bricker
State Emergency Communications Committee	Paul Jellison

## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ohio State Highway Patrol	Lindy Davis
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Staff Lieutenant Craig Cvetan
Ohio 911 Program Office	Rob Jackson
Ohio 911 Program Office	Nick Levin
Ohio 911 Program Office	Melissa Wullinger

## A QUORUM WAS DECLARED

## II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 18, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Captain Kocab asked the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee to review the minutes. Clark Donley made the motion to adopt the April 18, 2016 minutes, Christine Merritt seconded. Motion carried by all.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Review of AMBER Alerts

Captain Kocab indicated there was one (1) AMBER alert for the reporting period. He gave a brief overview of the alert. The children were recovered safe.

Clark Donley asked if the alert was sent out to the media. Captain Kocab indicated all aspects of the alert activation were completed, to include EAS. Clark Donley also asked what OH ALTERM meant and Captain Kocab indicated it means all LEADS terminals.

Christine Merritt said there is sometimes a lag time between the EAS activation and when the e-mail notification is sent out. She inquired if there is a process in place to send an e-mail notification of an alert cancellation when EAS has been activated, but the e-mail notification has not been sent (when an alert is cancelled during the lag time). Brent Currence shared due to the software setup, the alert must be issued in order to send the cancellation. Clark Donley said the only way the broadcasters receive the alert cancellation is by e-mail and if a station interrupts programming to broadcast an alert and the alert cancellation is not received, they do not know what to do. He suggested finding a way of notifying broadcasters of the cancellation in these cases.

Captain Kocab inquired on the trigger point for the e-mail notification. Brent Currence said the e-mail has to be manually created in the software and sent. He believes EAS is activated first, the website is manually updated, and then the e-mail is sent. This process ensures the alert information is available on the website before the e-mail notification goes out. Christine Merritt suggested posting the cancellation to the website. Brent Currence asked if the website had the capability to post a cancellation message and shared the alert poster would contain the cancellation information. Captain Kocab indicated once the alert is cancelled the information is dropped from the website. He will check to see if a cancellation e-mail can be sent and if the cancellation information/poster can be added to the website for a period of 24 hours.

#### B. Review of Blue Alerts

Captain Kocab indicated there was one (1) Blue Alert for the reporting period. He gave a brief overview of the alert. The suspect was apprehended.

#### C. Review of Endangered Missing Child Alerts

Brent Currence indicated there were three (3) Endangered Missing Child Alerts for the reporting period. He gave a brief overview of each. All children were recovered safe.

#### D. Review of Endangered Missing Adult Alerts

There were thirty-seven (37) Endangered Missing Adult Alerts for the reporting period. Brent Currence provided a brief overview of one of the alerts. All adults were recovered safely, with the exception of one (1) individual who was found deceased.

#### E. Airport Update

Kristin Cadieux shared the Dayton Airport is willing to assist and is awaiting our follow-up with Pam Hixon. Captain Kocab said he would follow-up.

Clark Donley shared he made contact with an individual from the Ohio Public Transit Association. That individual acknowledged his e-mail by indicating she would ask her membership. He has sent two additional e-mails and has not received a response to date. He inquired if he should pursue individual transit authorities. Brent Currence shared he felt it was important, especially for the Endangered Missing Adults Alerts, since many of them are on foot and known to use public transportation. Clark Donley also felt the Endangered Missing Child Alerts, particularly runaways, would benefit as well. Clark Donley asked about reaching out to COTA. Brent Currence indicated at minimum they have radio contact with their drivers. If we could notify their points of contact during an alert, they in turn could distribute the information to the drivers. Christine Merritt suggested we reach out to COTA and explain what we are trying to accomplish to see if they would be interested in working with us. If they are, ask for their input on how to implement this idea statewide. Clark Donley will follow-up with COTA.

F. AMBER Website Update

Captain Kocab shared the AMBER website has been updated with the 2016 Ohio Alerts Conference save the date and flyer, the 2016 National Missing Children's Day and Poster Contest winner information, and added a link to the Ohio 9-1-1 Program.

G. Training Update

Captain Kocab provided an update on the alert training completed since the last quarterly meeting. Training was provided to the Harrison County Sheriff's Office on May 9 by DM Lydia Frey. Training is scheduled for the Bexley Police Department on September 29 with Brent Currence and DM Lydia Frey. Possible pending training for the Southwest Emergency Dispatch Center in Strongsville in the fall. This training was originally scheduled and then cancelled due to Captain Kocab's absence. We will be reaching out to them to follow-up.

Captain Kocab introduced his new Staff Lieutenant, Craig Cvetan. In the future, he will be assisting with the AMBER training.

H. 2016 Ohio Alerts Conference

Lindy Davis updated the committee on the conference details. She shared she sent out the conference flyer to the committee via e-mail, which included links to registration, the agenda, and lodging options. The conference is scheduled for August 18 at the Columbus Police Academy with Mustard Seed providing the conference breakfast and boxed lunch. She indicated they are still planning the dinner for the out-of-state attendees on the evening of the conference. She said all conference presenters have been confirmed, as well as, the award recipient Stephen Adams. Mr. Adams will be receiving a proclamation from the Governor and award similar to the one given to Rob Jackson. Lindy Davis shared, to date, there are 112 individuals registered. She also reminded committee member interested in attending to please register.

Harry Trombitas inquired if Christine Merritt had made contact with the Columbus Police Foundation reference their donation of \$1,000. Christine indicated she had and they would be invoicing them. She shared the sponsors for the conference are the Columbus Police Foundation, Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, Mid-Ohio AMBER Plan, and the Ohio Association of Broadcasters (OAB). Lindy Davis indicated the only other expense would be an

additional night accommodation for presenter Al Danna due to his flight schedule. Brent Currence shared that he paid for the hotel on his credit card. Christine Merritt requested he submit the reimbursement to the OAB and they would reimburse him direct since they were collecting the sponsorship monies.

Lindy Davis inquired with Christine Merritt about the status of the location for the out-of-state dinner. Christine Merritt shared she reserved the room facing the patio at Tony's Italian Restaurant on High Street. Lindy Davis will provide the final counts to Christine for the out-of-state dinner and the conference breakfast and lunch.

Kristin Cadieux shared an idea for the 2017 Ohio Alerts Conference. She recently attended case study training that was very beneficial and interactive given by the FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit. The case studies showed the assessment and profiling process the unit goes through for local departments. This could be helpful for conference attendees to see what they do and how they do it through a case. She said it is a different way of looking at a case and the cases themselves were very interesting. Kristen Cadieux will follow-up to see if the FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit would be willing to provide the training.

I. 2016 Ohio State Fair Booth

Rob Jackson of the Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office provided an update on the status of the shared booth in the Bricker Building. He also indicated the individuals scheduled to work the booth will be gathering immediately following the AMBER Alert Advisory meeting to discuss in more detail.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Ohio AMBER Alert Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Captain Kocab asked the committee for feedback reference changing the quarterly meeting schedule to twice a year. He shared that during the last meeting, Julie Brigner from the Attorney General's Office indicated it might be challenging to provide timely responses when the only way the committee can act is through a committee vote. Captain Kocab expressed his concern reference meeting the Boards and Commissions attendance standards if only meeting twice a year. Harry Trombitas asked if committee members could teleconference the meeting. Rob Jackson indicated he checked into this when he was chair of the committee. He said all public boards, unless written in the ORC must meet in person. After some discussion, the committee decided to retain the quarterly schedule.

With Captain Kocab's recent extended leave, he asked Rob Jackson if he came across the need for a vice chair when he was the chair of the committee. Rob Jackson indicated he had not and suggested Captain Kocab follow-up with the Attorney General's Office. Captain Kocab inquired with Brent Currence if Major Davis had reached out to him during his absence. Brent Currence indicated he had and that he offered to assist, if needed. Captain Kocab will reach out to Julie Brigner to explore the option of a vice-chair.

B. AMBER Alert WEA

Captain Kocab shared the information provided by Rob Jackson reference the FCC looking to amend current rules to allow phone numbers to be included in the AMBER Alert WEA

messages through NCMEC. Brent Currence inquired about the expansion of the characters. Rob Jackson was not aware, but indicated he would follow-up with his contacts at the FCC.

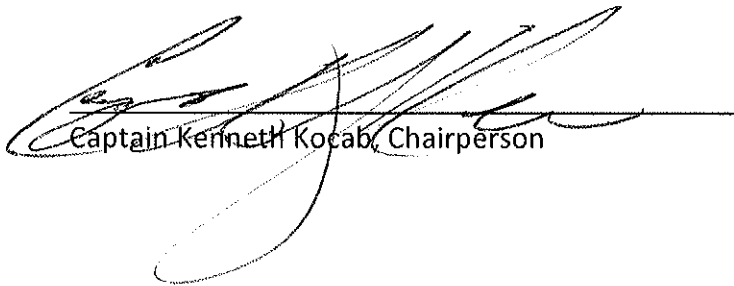
C. Ohio AMBER Plan

Captain Kocab shared Yesnia Leon-Baron from Fox Valley Technical College requested a copy of our current AMBER Plan. Each year the AMBER Alert Training & Technical Assistance Program and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children conduct an annual review to identify any changes, innovations, and the status of AMBER plans across the United States. He indicated our plan was originally created under Rob Jackson, but not taken out of draft. Captain Kocab asked the committee for their feedback and approval so the plan can be finalized and forwarded to Fox Valley Technical College as requested.

Christine Merritt suggested the cover page be changed to reflect all four alerts and include all the alert logos. Clark Donley recommended changing the language under the "Activation Authority" for AMBER Alert from "can" to "should". Brent Currence indicated the AMBER Alert information is listed step-by-step and asked if the other alerts should follow the same format. Rob Jackson shared the intent was for all the alerts to following the same format and they were put in as place holders due to the time restraints at the time. Brent Currence requested an electronic copy of the draft AMBER Plan from Lindy Davis. Once the plan has been updated, it will be distributed to the committee members for review. The committee will vote to approve in the next meeting.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m. was made by Harry Trombitas, seconded by Brent Currence. Motion carried by all.

  
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Captain Kenneth Kocab, Chairperson

10.28.2016  
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Date