

# **OHIO AMBER ALERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Live In-Person Meeting  
2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43235  
October 19, 2023**

Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee member, Brent Currence, called to order the October 19, 2023, meeting of the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee at approximately 10:05 am. The first order of business was the roll call taken by Captain Ron Raines.

## **I. ROLL CALL - PRESENT**

### **IN-PERSON**

Ohio Attorney General's Office/Ohio Missing Persons'  
Clearinghouse

Ohio Association of Broadcasters

Local/Regional AMBER Plan

Victim's Advocate

Buckeye State Sheriffs Association

State Emergency Communications Committee

Ohio Department of Transportation

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Brent Currence

Christine Merritt

Clark Donley

Kathryn (Ryn) Farmer

Sheriff Jim Crawford

Paul Jellison

Leslie Prater

Captain Ron Raines

### **ROLL CALL – ABSENT**

Community Member

Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

Ohio Emergency Management Agency

Harry Trombitas

Chief Clayton Harris

Brian Castner

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Marion County Sheriff's Office

Ohio State Highway Patrol Legal Dept.

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Federal Bureau of Investigation

S/Lieutenant Kristin Wickman

AP4 Pam Walker

Lydia Frey

Samantha Scherger

Jeff Grayson

Matt Stegner

Sandra Burchtold

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (via Bridge Call)**

Ohio Department of Aging

CECOMS

Erin Pettegrew

Jackie Costa

## **II. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 20, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

Brent Currence asked the Ohio Amber Alert Advisory Committee to review the minutes from the July 20, 2023 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Christine Merritt. Sheriff Crawford seconded. Motion carried by all.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Review of AMBER Alerts:

Staff Lieutenant Kristin Wickman advised there were four (4) Amber Alert activations during the second quarter:

1. 7/14/23 – activated by Worthington PD. Father abducted 3 mo. old male following a domestic incident in which he threatened to kill the mother and child. After several hours the child was recovered safely by Columbus PD.
2. 8/17/23 – activated by Cleveland PD. CECOMS was unable to complete the activation before the child being dropped off by the Grandfather at Cleveland PD.
3. 8/30/23 – activated by Cleveland PD. A 2yo and a 4 yo abducted by the mother. Children were found safe at the Metro Health Medical Center in Cleveland. Mother was arrested and children were taken by Protective Services.
4. 10/15/23 – activated by Akron PD. Child was taken by father after a domestic violence situation. After searching door-to-door in a nearby apartment complex the suspect was found. The SRT team was able to negotiate release of the child. Later, the suspect was taken into custody and charged with kidnapping, abduction and felony domestic violence.

S/Lt. Wickman gave a full description of each alert. Each activation had an After Action Review (AAR) to define the problems, such as better communication on the activations.

B. Review of Blue Alerts:

Brent Currence advised there were no Blue Alerts for this quarter.

C. Review of Endangered/Missing Child Alerts:

For third quarter, 2023, there were four (4) Endangered/Missing Child Alerts as indicated by Brent Currence:

1. A 12 year old female with mental health issues was reported missing. The child was recovered safely.
2. 9/23/23 – A 16 year old female was reported missing from an online relationship with a man from Kentucky. Child was recovered safe in Kentucky with the online male.
3. 9/25/23 –
4. 10/14/23 – A 14 year old autistic male was reported missing. Child was found safe.

D. Review of Endangered/Missing Adult Alerts:

Mr. Currence also advised there were thirty-six (36) Endangered/Missing Adult Alerts this quarter. Thirty-four (34) were found safe, one (1) was deceased and one (1) is still missing.

Clark Donley asked if the reporting agencies were following the criteria for these alerts. They should try to give agencies alternatives to issuing an alert.

E. Alerts Training Update:

Captain Raines advised there were six (6) Regional Training Sessions in the third quarter, bringing the total for the year to eleven (11). These events trained 365 people to date. There is one more training scheduled for November 9, 2023. Jackie is planning to talk about CECOMMS at this next training. Captain Raines advised the logistics for these trainings is a little daunting and needs someone to “host” rather than trying to find locations.

F. 2023 Alerts Conference Review:

Clark Donley advised there were 104 attendees for this year's conference. The OSHP Training Academy was a perfect venue for the conference. Not many evaluations were received. Attentative date is being looked at for August, 2024.

G. Governor's Appointment Update:

The appointment of Erin Pettegrew is the only appointment still pending as per Captain Raines.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

*The Safer Ohio Repository Committee (SORC) update:*

Per Capt. Raines, leadership is still attempting to expand rights to manipulating the website. Some rights have been granted, such as loading meeting notes and training.

The Alerts Video Revision Subcommittee consists of Brent Currence, Clark Donley, Paul Jellison and Jeff Grayson. It is suggested to record "shorts" that can be put together. Will have to have approved scripts.

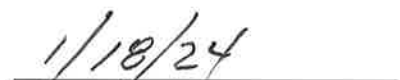
Approval was granted by the committee to begin utilizing the 360 character message in WEA instead of just the 90 character message. The URL could be used with 360.

REMINDER: Committee members can only miss one (1) meeting per year. Some members appear to be unable to fulfill this obligation. Raines made a motion for the Chairman to send an email to remind all committee members of this obligation. Motion made by Chris Merrick. Motion was seconded by Paul Jellison. Motion passed.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Brent Currence and seconded by Sheriff Crawford. Meeting was adjourned.

  
Brent Currence, Chairperson

  
Date