



MEPIC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tallahassee, Florida

21 June 2018

9:00 PM – 3:00 PM

The Missing and Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board Awareness was called to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. on June 21st by chairperson Jamie Meeks.

In Attendance

- **Board Members**

- Bob Bedford
- Dan Campbell
- Julie Collins
- Bill Corfield
- Captain Tim Enos
- Walt McNeil
- Jamie Meeks, Chairperson
- John Pitta
- Peggy Pitta
- Barbara Renczkowski
- Hilary Sessions, Vice-Chairperson
- Kim Spence
- Stephanie White

- **AD Hoc Board Members**

- Julie Collins
- Christina Harris
- Kristin Litteral
- Elena Simonsen
- Captain Thomas Pikul

- **FDLE/MEPIC Members**

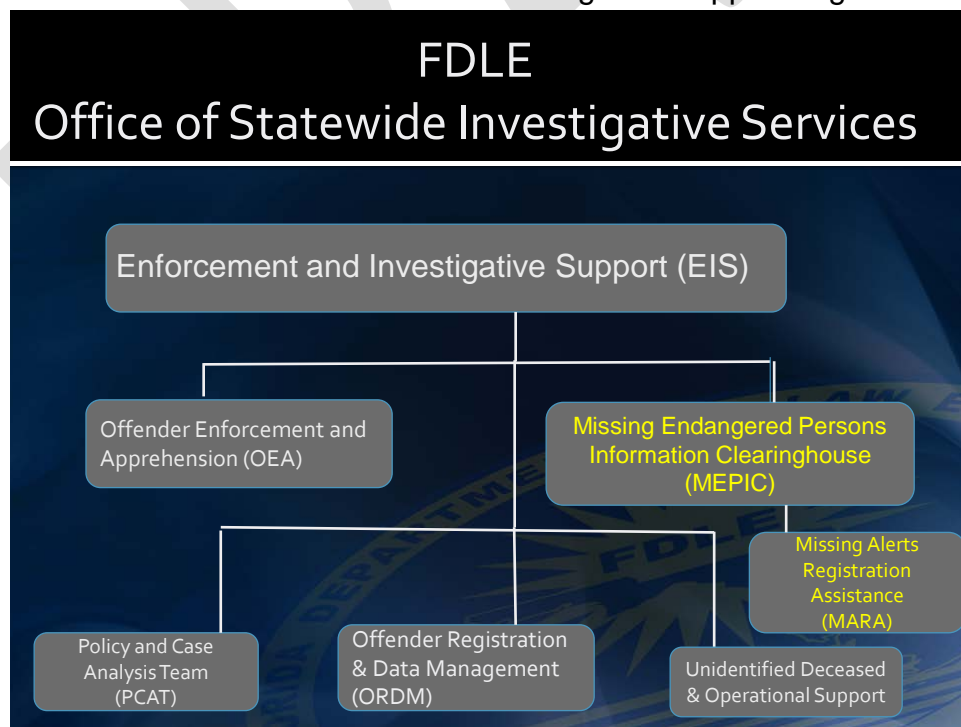
- Zach Berlinghoff
- Mary Coffee
- Jeff Dambly
- Brendie Hawkins
- Gwen Johnson
- Brett Lycett
- Lyndsey Pitts
- Erin Rounds
- Craig Schroeder
- Chris Williams

Introduction

- **Jamie Meeks (JM):** Welcome and introduction of members.
- **JM:** For our out of town guests, your travel reimbursement forms can be found in the left side of your folder.
- **JM:** Also, if you are having lunch delivered today, please get your money to Ms. Erin Rounds as soon as possible.

MEPIC Alert Presentation

- **JM:** Let's get started, I will introduce FDLE's Lyndsey Pitts to give us a presentation on MEPIC's AMBER and Missing Children' Alerts.
- **Lyndsey Pitts (LP):** Today I'm going to discuss the AMBER Alerts and Missing Child Alerts.
- **LP:** We have a new unit called Missing Alerts and Registration Assistants (MARA).
 - **LP:** Before MARA our analysts were staffed on call at work on off hours.
 - **LP:** MARA is staffed in the evening, so now we have a full staff working through the night.
- **LP:** Here is the Enforcement and Investigative Support Organizational Chart



- **LP:** MEPIC has at least one analyst for each region and we have three analysts working in Miami-Dade.
 - **LP:** Jessica Kauffman is one of our analysts who works international cases.
- **LP:** A little background on the history of Amber Alerts:
 - **LP:** The AMBER Alert was named after Amber Hagerman, a 9-year-old who was abducted and murdered in Arlington, TX in 1996
 - **LP:** AMBER Alert was established in 2000.
- **LP:** Here are some nationwide statistics on Missing Children:
 - **LP:** Approximately 650,000 missing persons cases are reported annually.
 - **LP:** Nearly 90% of missing children have simply misunderstood directions, miscommunicated their plans, are lost, or have runaway.
 - **LP:** 9% are kidnapped by a family member in a custody dispute.
 - **LP:** 3% are abducted by non-family members, usually in the commission of another crime.
 - **LP:** Only about 100 (less than 1%) children are kidnapped each year in stranger abductions.
- **LP:** To qualify as an AMBER, a child must be under 18, there must be signs of danger, must be a description of the child and a photograph and the activation must be recommended by the local agency.
 - **Julie Collins (JC):** Does that apply to adults with severe disabilities or would that be a missing adult.
 - **LP:** That would be a missing adult alert, there's also a qualifier for that to be a silver alert.
- **LP:** There have been 220 AMBER alerts and 65 direct recoveries since 2003.
- **LP:** And there have been 397 missing child alerts and 49 direct recoveries.
- **LP:** We are now using road signs and lottery terminals for missing child alerts.
- **LP:** A missing child alert is issued in cases without evidence of abduction but can be upgraded to an AMBER if evidence of abduction is discovered later.
- **LP:** For an AMBER or Missing Child alert to be activated, local law enforcement calls MEPIC to request the activation.
 - **LP:** A MEPIC analyst will connect the on-call EIS Inspector, regional on-call Special Agent Supervisor, and the requesting agency onto a conference call.
 - **LP:** The EIS Inspector and Special Agent Supervisor will make the determination on whether or not the situation meets criteria.
 - **LP:** If the alert is approved, the MEPIC team will be activated.
- **LP:** If the criteria for an AMBER or Missing Child alert is not met, FDLE will still provide assistance and will open a missing persons case.
- **LP:** MEPIC Stats from 2015-2018:

- **LP:** Activated 31 AMBER alerts and 147 Missing Child Alerts
 - **LP:** Nine of those AMBERs were stranger abductions, 14 were parental abductions and 8 were abducted by [people known to the child.
- **LP:** And of the 147 MCA Alert stats from 2015-2018:
 - **LP:** Nine were autistic, 11 were unknown disappearances, 7 were medical, 11 were in the company of people known to the child, 41 were parental abductions, 28 were runaways, 16 were runaway/medical condition, and 24 were suicidal runaways.
- **LP:** Next I'm going to present some situations and I'd like you all to tell me if it is an AMBER, Missing Child Alert, or Denial Scenarios.
 - **LP:** The first one: a six year old male was reported missing after he left his residence by running out of the back door at around 8:15 PM in a high crime neighborhood. He has a history of running away, however, unlike other times, he wasn't located near his home. A neighborhood canvas created no leads. What would we do?
 - **BOARD:** Missing Child Alert
 - **LP:** Correct
 - **Antonio Gilliam (AG):** Could an elapse of time evolve into an AMBER alert; even if the facts haven't changed but a week has gone by, would it be upgraded to an AMBER.
 - **LP:** No, there would have to be some sort of witness or investigative lead that proves that an abduction occurred.
 - **Mary Coffee (MC):** And if we had no vehicle or license tag or any description, we would have no info to light up road signs or things for folks to be listening for.
- **LP:** I want to present this case as well: a few months ago we issued an AMBER alert, which is still active, when an unidentified female was pulled into a vehicle screaming, witnessed by four credible witnesses.
 - **LP:** I wanted to show this to show that we don't have to have an identity; we had four credible witnesses and a composite.
 - **MC:** Lyndsey will you give them a rundown of this case.
 - **LP:** When the call came in the Titusville PD told us that a child and a mother witnessed an abduction, they saw a vehicle drive up, a girl scream, and they saw the girl being pulled into the vehicle. The PD also later talked to two other witnesses in the neighborhood.
- **LP:** When an alert is activated there are various analytical resources available including: public assistance cards, greyhound bus stations, KOA campgrounds, sex offender databases, blacklisting and historical searches from DOT, and license plate readers.

- **Bill Corfield (BC):** What is blacklisting
 - **LP:** We can contact DOT who will tell us if a matching vehicle description violated at a toll booth.
- **JC:** Missing child alerts will be issued for runaway kids, correct?
 - **LP:** Yes
 - **JC:** What about homeless kids that are kicked out of their house.
 - **LP:** Yes, but local law enforcement would have to open the case and request us for an alert.
- **Peggy Pitta (PP):** Have you gone to places to educate them on runaways?
 - **LP:** I haven't but I think local law enforcement do those kind of presentations..
- **Jamie Meeks (JM):** What I would I'd like to do is to ask Sheriff McNeil to have someone from Leon County Sheriff's Office to present at our next board meeting to show what a missing child or Amber alert looks like on a local level and what local agencies would do in these alert situations.
 - **Walt McNeil (WM):** We can definitely do that.
- **WM:** The question about homeless shelters, I can tell most of those cases happen at the local levels, where we'll go to those locations to investigate, use informants, to see if we can locate the child.
 - **JC:** Well what I was envisioning is a kid who gets kicked out of their house and drives to Miami, what would the situation be there?
 - **WM:** We'd do the same thing.
- **LP:** Any other questions about the process of the alerts.
- **JM:** I want to thank you for coming in today.
- **LP:** One other thing I want to mention is that for our last few alerts we've been using Everbridge, the mailing service that we are using now.
 - **LP:** If you're not already signed up I can show you the text message now.

Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Presentation

- **JM:** Next I'd like to introduce Brett Lycett to begin our CART presentation.
- **Brett Lycett (BL):** For this presentation I've asked Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Pensacola region, Chris Williams, to come in and talk to you
 - **BL:** Chris' team just got certified and is a nationally certified CART team, and FDLE now has six of the seven Florida CART teams.
- **Chris Williams (CW):** I'm with FDLE out of Pensacola. A bit of my background, I spent five years at the Sheriff's office in Santa Rosa. I came to FDLE and worked

gangs, drugs, surveillance. I was involved with CART but never involved in the intricacies. About a year and a half ago I was promoted and put in charge of the Pensacola CART team.

- **CW:** The certification process helped us understand the individual responsibilities of the Child Abduction response.
- **CW:** During our certification exercise, Fox Valley came down and made this video, which they use as a PR video to get more teams certified across the state and the country.
- **CW:** SHOWS VIDEO
- **John Pitta (JP):** So you're saying all of the CART teams are not certified.
 - **CW:** Less than 10 percent of the teams in the nation.
- **JP:** What about Florida.
 - **BL:** Six of the seven FDLE regions are certified and one local municipality.
- **JP:** So all FDLE team are certified?
 - **BL:** All but one,
 - **JP:** And what is the reason.
 - **BL:** It's a process, out hope is to get the certification process started at the beginning of 2017.
- **JP:** How long does it take to get certified.
 - **BL:** It's a two day event.
- **BC:** How much engagement happens with private sector partners? I ask because there was engagement with us (TARGET) when Jack Massey was down there.
 - **BL:** From my perspective, there is as much involvement as we need to be, but that might be up to individual agencies.
 - **CW:** From our practice it was rural so there wasn't much private sector partners.
 - **CW:** But with the Naomi Jones case there was a lot of private sector partners, housing and feeding us while we worked on that.
- **JP:** Let's go back to the rural county; let's say we activate CART in Jefferson County, the team comes in how many members are doing what?
 - **CW:** That depends, CART is scalable. Take the Naomi Jones case, it started small because there were already a lot of resources available and as it progressed the CART response got bigger as more resources were needed.
 - **JP:** So looking at the Jefferson County example; would the CART team stay in Jefferson County, would they go somewhere. Let's say the CART response grows large in a small county, what would you do?
 - **CW:** For housing we can put them in a hotel and have them commute, I'm not worried about the housing being on top of the scene.

- **CW:** In regards to the CART command post, it needs to be near the scene but it doesn't have to be on top of it.
 - **CW:** We had a call-out where we put the CART Command post in the community center, it wasn't where the abduction occurred but we have enough resources.
 - **CW:** After the Naomi Jones case, we started pre-identifying command post locations for various counties, similar to the way we do mutual aid responses for hurricanes. To me having a good place to work is more important than actual proximity to the scene.
 - **Hilary Sessions (HS):** I know that when Jessica Lunsford was abducted, they had the command post right there, and the air conditioner from the command post and several other components dulled the scent.
 - **CW:** I agree, that's a good example of being too close to the scene and stepping on our own feet.
 - **HS:** In my daughter's case, we didn't have a CART team and we had to bus in the military. And no one wanted to help because they thought she was just out with her boyfriend.
 - **CW:** We ran into the same problem with the Naomi Jones case.
- **CW:** So I want to talk about the Naomi Jones case which changed the way I think and approach CART.
 - **CW:** I'm going to give some details on the case but there's some I have to omit because it's an active death penalty case.
 - **CW:** May 31st of last year, Naomi Jones mom had been at work and Naomi Jones was taking care of her younger siblings. The mom reported her 12 year old daughter was missing and had possibly run away. Until we got the phone call that her body had been found, this was a runaway case.
 - **CW:** That's the reason the case got off to a slow start; that's unfortunately the way a lot of cases start because you don't get a lot of witnesses for a stranger abduction.
 - **CW:** Naomi was last seen after lunch near her apartment.
 - **CW:** Her mom said she might be a runaway,
 - **CW:** Investigators found out her cell phone and two younger siblings were left at the apartment.
 - **CW:** Her cell phone being left behind was a huge red flag as she was very attached to her cell phone.
 - **CW:** A scent specific search was conducted, but they got the wrong pillow case which led to the wrong location.
 - **CW:** When the Sheriff's office started looking around her apartment they concluded it might not be a runaway and that's when CART got the call.
 - **CW:** MEPIC was contacted and Missing Child Alert was issued.

- **BL:** Chris can you tell them why you all were contacted?
 - **CW:** It was for the purpose of the MEPIC alert, that goes through us and that's how we got involved.
- **CW:** IN route we notified the bureau. We coordinated an initial search of the immediate area with Sheriff's personnel.
 - **CW:** That night we did an immediate area search of sex offenders.
 - **CW:** We had folks knocking on doors until two or three in the mornings during the initial canvas.
- **BL:** Did you bring more CART members out?
 - **CW:** No, we did not have a true CART activation until several days later and I will explain that in a bit.
- **CW:** What we did that night was very small compared to how wide the net was by the end of the search.
- **CW:** We started doing leads tracking immediately.
- **CW:** The next day we pulled a command bus from the emergency ops center and set it up in the parking lot of the church we were operating out. The initial night we set up in their choir practice room.
- **CW:** The biggest lift for this entire case was the neighborhood canvas, it was very time consuming and we didn't first recognize how large of a task it was. We were doing twice a day briefs and it was just not getting done because the apartment complex didn't have a master roster because they were all individual owned.
- **CW:** This case remained an Escambia county case as they did not need us to take over they just needed additional resources.
- **JP:** Did you utilize Project Alert, it's a national center that will support you if you have faulty equipment or anything.
 - **CW:** NCMEC recommended that; we didn't need it at that point but we got close.
 - **JP:** The good thing about them is they are there for just support.
- **CW:** All of our analysts and lead investigators were working inside our command bus reviewing leads.
- **CW:** We used google earth to map our canvassing activity and we overlaid it with Class Kids searching grids and patterns.
- **CW:** Investigation briefings were done twice a day with representatives from every agency involved; it's easy for the left hand not to know what the right hand is doing so these twice a day briefings made sure everyone got the same information.
- **CW:** The sheriff's office deployed 53 members and was the lead investigation team. They handled all of the tips and computerized them

and sent them to the command post. They ran surveillance teams. We had computer crimes members from them and one of their calligraphers.

- **CW:** The FBI gave us 45 people from all over the country; we had their CART team, their Cellular Analysis Survey Team, their Behavioral Analyst and more.
- **CW:** FDLE deployed 46 people, basically our whole office plus people from Tampa and Tallahassee. We had all of our CIAs working, our electronic surveillance support team, our aviation unit was there, we had our DNA folks working on the weekends, our Criminal profiling unit, our computer crimes team, and of course we had our MEPIC folks at headquarters performing additional reports on sex offenders in the area.
- **CW:** The CART team was deployed on the 4th and the 5th. By the evening of the third we were leaning on the Sheriff's office to call out the CART team.
- **CW:** On the 4th we got 35 additional investigators whose only job was to do the neighborhood canvass. They finished that and more, making the net even bigger.
- **CW:** On the 5th we did a roadblock canvas and we extended the sex offender canvas from a one mile radius to a 2 mile radius; we contacted sex offenders in the area who lived and worked there. Every sex offender in the area had a knuckle swab and had a home search.
- **WM:** Which days did you canvas the house next door.
 - **CW:** That was done the night of, before we were actually called on the scene.
 - **CW:** We ended up finding him when we went back to the beginning and started recanvassing our area.
 - **CW:** We actually had investigators that spoke to the suspect the night of or the morning before.
 - **CW:** We had a lot of unanswered questions initially about him that weren't enough to make him a suspect but we never ruled him out.
- **CW:** The case had 357 leads; we developed several persons of interest including the mom, dad, the upstairs neighbor (where the dog went by mistake), there was someone who lived behind her who failed a polygraph three times.
 - **CW:** We had a lot of folks we were looking at.
 - **CW:** Over 40 search warrants were activated,
- **JP:** Do you have a state attorney at the command post?
 - **CW:** Absolutely.
- **JP:** So you had to do a search warrant telephonically?
 - **CW:** No in our area we go to the judge's house.

- **Brendie Hawkins (BH):** You can't do that electronically?
- **CW:** Not in our area.
- **CW:** We staffed the investigation 24/7 from inception until June 5th.
- **CW:** We did 273 neighborhood canvass interviews and 89 sex offender interview of people who lived and worked in the two mile radius.
- **CW:** We chose to a road block canvas on a weekday in the exact same time frame she went missing.
- **CW:** We did dozens of interviews and thousands of flyers were issued at the roadblock canvas; the suspect actually drove through the canvas and had a flyer on his dash when he was arrested.
- **CW:** The road block took about three to four hours.
- **CW:** We had over 500 volunteers that came and helped.
 - **BL:** Going back to one of your questions, that is actually a standard — qualifying volunteer—that Fox Valley requires for certification.
 - **JP:** About ten years ago we were doing in investigation in Tuscaloosa, AL and volunteers became a huge problem because there were just too many and they were walking over evidence.
 - **CW:** ClassKids does it right getting volunteers. They video record all volunteers coming; they make you swipe your license that checks it against the sex offender database, making sure no volunteers that don't need to be there. They put volunteers through a training. Class Kids won't assign the volunteers to do anything without us knowing about it. They keep volunteers helpful on the outskirts, but are sure to give them meaningful.
- **CW:** 104 professional rescuers (Who are volunteers but are fully trained) were working the case.
- **CW:** Naomi Jones was recovered just outside the 4 mile mark, which is statically odd.
- **CW:** We searched all of the waterways in the radius.
- **CW:** The media was very important in this case; we didn't meet the criteria for an AMBER alert; but we got the same response from the public and media as if it were an AMBER Alert.
- **CW:** Eventually brought the suspect in for questioning; he was very cocky. He was a registered sex offender for a rape case in 1998.
- **CW:** He had an alibi for the time through his phone records. We had obtained his records and the alibi didn't fully check out but it was close enough that he was never dismissed as a suspect.
- **CW:** Naomi was killed before her mother even started looking for her.
- **CW:** 39% of child abductions are acquaintances and that was the case here,

- **CW:** In 74% of the cases, the suspects name is known in the first week, we knew in the first days.
- **CW:** The fisherman who found Naomi Jones knew what they found when they found her and it was because of the media attention.
- **BC:** IS Crime Stoppers embedded in the command post.
 - **CW:** No, but they reported the tips to Escambia intel and it came to us from there.
- **CW:** 298 people were involved in the operation, working five days non-stop. In hindsight we know she was dead shortly after being abducted.
- **CW:** I'd like to open up for questions.
 - **PP:** You said it might have been considered a runaway with a boyfriend, how did that come in?
 - **CW:** I can't say much but it was a tangled web; she did have a 16 year old boyfriend. We had to put a bunch of people through lie detectors.
 - **AG:** What can local law enforcement do to help you all?
 - **CW:** The biggest thing is early notification; the quicker we can get on board the quicker we can try to help solve it with a positive outcome.
 - **CW:** With local law enforcement, there is sometimes a reluctance to let CART come in. SO I would say the other thing is accepting CART resources quickly. Which the Escambia sheriff never said no.
- **CW:** If I were to do this case again, I would have called even more resources on our first day.
- **HS:** I am so pleased that you are talking about jurisdictional boundaries, because back in 1989 the Sheriffs and police departments wouldn't talk; so CART has made a big difference in how people receive the law enforcement overall effort.
 - **BL:** I also want to say, is that one of the things we try to say is that if you are the lead investigator of a case, we do not want you to also be the CART coordinator. It is too difficult to do the investigation and command resources. On this case it seems like you kind of did both.
 - **CW:** We made a mistake; we had one of our person on the team commanding part of the investigation and managing resources to the sheriff's office and that was a mistake. So now we have two separate people doing these full time jobs.
 - **BL:** And sometimes if you have a small FDLE contingency it kind of mixes itself but we try to keep the investigative side and the CART resource side of it separate.
 - **CW:** Yes, CART is just there to provide support to the investigative team.
- **JP:** Where did Class Kids start?

- **HS:** It started in Miami. Our Agency gave them two computers. Floy Turner of FDLE was there and saw that and helped begin the CART teams in Florida.
- **PP:** Who is the they who certify the CART teams?
 - **CW:** It's Fox Valley Amber Alert and Technical Training by the DOJ.
 - **Craig Schroeder (CS):** And just as a reminder, we do have Fox Valley people on the Board. Jesi Leon-Baron is our normal person on the Board and last time we had Gus Paidousis here.
 - **CW:** Yes and they are actually the ones that assisted in our certification.
- **Kim Spence (KS):** You mentioned in this case that a lot of the kids are dead before the call even goes in. Is that statistic the same nationwide? What percentages of kids are deceased early in the investigation?
 - **CW:** I did have it up there but I don't remember exactly.
 - **Gwen Johnson (GJ):** I think it's like 75%
 - **JM:** And that's nationwide.
 - **CW:** Yes.
 - **MC:** I think it's that 75% of the kids found deceased were dead before law enforcement started looking; not 75% of all missing children.
 - **BC:** With those statistics, does it seem necessary to revisit the level of intensity of the response at the beginning?
 - **MC:** The level of intensity is already fairly high; for example, every time we issue an alert the governor's office receives complaint calls that we are interrupting complaint calls.
- **JM:** Well I'd like to thank Chris Williams for coming in and speaking with us today.

Awareness & Prevention Committee

- **JM:** Let's get into the committee meetings and first up is Barbara with the Awareness and Prevention Committee.
- **Barbara Renczkowski (BR):** First let's look at the subject matter expert list.
 - **BR:** So this list we have right now our just names that have been submitted, correct?
 - **CS:** Yes.
 - **BR:** Do we know what the next step is in creating this list?
 - **Dan Campbell (DC):** I think we wanted to bring the list to the Board.

- **JC:** I would suggest for dependency and youthful offender court going to the office of state courts of the supreme court.
- **Kristin Litteral (KL):** And for dependency court we have the head of legal services which is the head of the legal end for DCF.
- **KL:** Also, Jonathan Showstern would be good for dependency court; he is a judge in Leon county.
- **DC:** Can I ask that that process start now and we start now and we start contacting people to see if they are willing?
- **BC:** And I think it would be good if the notices were sent out officially by FDLE not by individual board members.
- **BR:** I know the other thing we have been working on is the curriculum review sheet. It has been changed a bit, please look at it now and make sure we like it and if we have any
 - **CS:** Just as a reminder; we have incorporated Judd Butler's notes on these since our last reminder and unless we want to change anything else, this is our final draft going into a testing phase.
- **KL:** For the review sheet, on the bottom, wouldn't it be beneficial to average it so we can say a score range; it might be a better way to say this is a good.
 - **KL:** I think an average would be better and would require minimal changing?
 - **CS:** So are we wanting to do the curriculum test before we change the average?
 - **KL:** I think we can do both and test it.
- **KS:** SO are we ready to adopt this?
 - **BR:** I'm not sure if we should until we have had to test it.
 - **BH:** I think we should test it individually and bring forward our thoughts at the September meeting.
 - **KS:** I think we should have several people using it for the purpose of fidelity; I think we have a large group look at.
 - **KS:** I think we pick two curriculums and have 10 to 12 people on the Board review it using that.
 - **BH:** That's great and we can do that; I just want to remind you all that the September meeting will be shorter, so are we going to make this review the meat of our September meeting.
 - **JM:** I think it's fine if we wait until November.
 - **BH:** Well we can make that minor tweak to the form and we can start working on that in the conference calls.
 - **JC:** Can I just say that I think we need to have a curriculum standard. So if it's a three or above it passes and the final column can be a yes/no question that it meets our standards.

- **JC:** So maybe the final column can be a pass/fail; so if you had a three or above and you are a yes for the evidence-based you pass.
- **JC:** If people like that I can tweak the form and bring it tomorrow.
- **BH:** I think if Julie can make these tweaks and bring it tomorrow we can move forward.
- **BR:** Those are the two big items for the committee meetings.
- **BR:** I also think we might need to look into revamping our Strategic Plan because it runs only through 2018.
- **CS:** This committee has been doing that to specific goals, but it has also been brought up that the whole Strategic Plan needs to be reviewed.
- **DC:** Another thing is that I think this would be a good thing to bring up to FOAA, but I think families that have loved ones on billboards should be notified. I was driving down the road and saw Wendy's billboard and it caught me off guard.
 - **HS:** There is a list, but I don't think it gets pushed to the family.
 - **BH:** Angie isn't here today but will be here tomorrow, so maybe we can ask her tomorrow.
 - **CS:** Also, the digital billboards come from MEPIC so we can probably get some family notifications when those go out.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Response & Recovery Committee

- **JM:** Next up is the Response and Recovery committee and I will throw it over to Bill Corfield.
- **BC:** One thing I want is a list of all the committee group members, so we can see who is on what committee.
 - **CS:** We can do that.
- **BC:** One thing we have been wanting to do is break out our committee into focused sub-committees where a few people can tackle some major issues.
- **BC:** So I want to identify one or two things under each off the strategic plan initiatives.
- **BC:** Another thing we need to consider is strategic vs. tactical; with our strategic plan we talk about it a lot and put up this vision of what we want but we need to see what we can put into play that is tactical that we can contribute.
- **BC:** That being said, we talked about some training opportunities.
- **BC:** We have also talked about kind of re-writing some of the Academy curriculum.
 - **BC:** The other reality is that there won't be a lot of added curriculum.

- **BC:** So our opportunity is to revisit/rewrite what already exists, or do we start looking at different opportunities for training.
- **BC:** I think it would be good to, maybe once a quarter, leverage the FSA and FPCA to see if there was a training topic.
- **BC:** So I'd like to find training opportunities or ways to provide CART with resources that we may have available.
- **Stephanie White (SW):** Do you know if at the FDLE Commission meeting, is there a forum to push forward things to agencies?
 - **BH:** Jeff may know more, he has worked with the Commission. But I think we may need to work with Judd Butler about any training or curriculum.
 - **BC:** Are you talking about training separate from actual academy training?
 - **SW:** Yes.
- **AG:** To touch on two things, the academy material is up to date; I only identified four points that could be reflected. Also, each local agency is often tasked with determining what the academy is teaching and making sure their policies are up to date with the state.
 - **AG:** There are some things I identified that could be included.
 - **CS:** Yes, you sent those to me and I actually printed them out and can hand them to everyone now.
 - **AG:** I think the curriculum is up to date but we may just need to add a few items.
 - **BC:** And I think maybe we can leverage Brett for feedback asking for things he sees gaps in that impeded the investigation that we can identify.
 - **KL:** So in reference to one of the point on the handout, DCF has had some problems with kids running away and people not checking to see if the child is in DCF custody. I don't know if it is possible to mention to specifically looking for custody information; if people are just skimming for a warrant they may not see that information in the custodial field.
 - **AG:** I think that's good, in addition to checking warrants we should ask that they look for custodial information.
 - **PP:** If we have things we want to add what can we do?
 - **CS:** You can send those to me.
- **BC:** Just so you know I did talk to someone at FOAA who is willing to talk to us about drones at the September meeting.
 - **BC:** One thing I did ask him about was the legal perspective of operating drones both in the public and private sector.
 - **BC:** The other thing he talked to me about was Project Lifesaver which was for at-risk populations who would wear an ankle band or bracelet or whatever it may be. We learned that there have been counties in Alabama who have been granted drone usage for these cases.

- **BC:** There's some technology out there, which if it is grant funded, would be a great options.
- **BC:** Also, I think it's worth looking into if there is grant funding specifically for missing persons information.
- **JP:** Years ago in South Carolina, we were able to get satellite imaging that coincided with the investigation.
 - **BC:** SO in that particular cases it gives an aerial real-time snapshot?
 - **JP:** Yes.
 - **BC:** That was through DOD?
 - **JP:** I don't remember.
- **Jeff Dambly (JD):** I would be happy to talk to you all about state drone laws. That's something I deal with on a daily basis. At FDLE we have been going back and forth on our agencies own drone policies.
 - **JD:** So I'd be happy to fill you guys in on that.
 - **BC:** Will you be present for the September 10th meeting?
 - **JD:** Yes.
 - **BC:** I think that would be great if you update us on that perspective.
 - **JD:** The federal laws deal with drone usage while our state laws deal with what you can do with the camera on a drone, which raises a lot of implications about what can be done with drone use.
 - **JD:** I can see what local agencies are doing.
 - **JM:** We may want to wait if we're worried about the public hearing this stuff.
 - **BH:** Is it law enforcement specific?
 - **JD:** NO this is all public record so that wouldn't be an issue.
 - **AG:** As long as you can reasonably articulate imminent danger as it relates to the missing person you are able to utilize a drone. I think the question is private citizen vs. law enforcement officer, and LEOs commanding private citizens to use drones.
 - **BC:** The questions is: why wouldn't the CART team have a drone unit that is available as a resource. If we're putting ourselves out there as the premier resource for these situations, it would be awful nice to have that.
 - **SW:** I don't know what the agency has anymore, but does the LCSO have drones?
 - **WM:** We use helicopters.
 - **SW:** Let's say Pensacola search and rescue has an ATV team working with a private citizen operating a drone doing operations with a drone, can FDLE's CART team use them?
 - **AG:** I think you can if there is imminent danger.

- **JD:** Going back to the situation we talked about in a prior meeting, if you have an event that everyone is really invested in and you want to have a successful resolution and you have citizens offering assistance with drone technology, do you have to provide training so they know what is appropriate or are they going to use that drone to go in everyone's back yard even if they have no reason to. Would they take steps outside normal LEO response.
- **JD:** So the question should be: is there a program to vet out those citizen resources.
- **AG:** I think it becomes if the citizen says "I want to use my drone" we can't necessarily say no. But if they want to give us a drone that's even better. I think the problem is when the LEO is saying "let me use your drone".
- **HS:** So if the drone falls and hits someone, who is responsible?
 - **AG:** I guess that would depend on who is operating it.
- **WM:** There are also prohibitions as related to statutes, that there is a line of sight requirement that we have to be able to see it to control it.

Communication & Technology Committee

- **JM:** Craig, please update us on the Communication and Technology
- **CS:** Tim Enos has let me know that he can no longer serve as co-chair of the Communication and Technology Committee, so as of now I am currently accepting any volunteer nominations for that co-chair.
- **CS:** One thing this committee has been looking into is whether a live stream can be created for Facebook or Twitter, that can be shared by the various agencies represented here.
 - **CS:** I've asked our Media center and they just aren't sure if they have the resources.
 - **Tim Enos (TE):** It doesn't necessarily have to be professional, with the technology present I could video it with my phone and it's just as good as a professional camera and live stream that.
 - **TE:** And there could be an FMCD page or the FDLE page that could post if and everyone who follows them could be alerted when it goes live.
 - **BH:** Just so you know, the Foundation itself does have a Facebook page.
 - **MC:** What I think we can do is bring this up to our PIO and see what they say; we are invested in broadcasting the event it would just come down to the mechanics of actually doing it.
- **CS:** Next on the agenda: this committee has mentioned creating PSA that can be shared by the various pages represented by the Board members, that gives brief information on the importance of AMBER and things like that.

- **CS:** What I can do is contact Mike Vasilinda to see if he would be willing and able to do this.
- **CS:** And I think what we originally wanted to focus on was the importance of AMBERs, correct?
- **JC:** There is some fatigue with alerts.
- **TE:** I think one message would be to make sure people don't turn their alerts off.
- **CS:** As Barbara mentioned, I believe there are a few items on the Communication and Technology Strategic Plan that can be updated or revised.
 - **CS:** For instance: one of them is finding a data sharing service to be used amongst Board members, and as we've learned, Sunshine Laws won't allow that.
 - **BH:** And also, the Strategic Plan will expire at the end of this year.
 - **BH:** It may be beneficial to focus a large part of the November meeting on upgrading this strategic plan.
- **CS:** That's all I have on the Communication and Technology committee update.
- **JM:** Okay, well if no one has anything else I think we can adjourn.

Adjourned



MEPIC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tallahassee, Florida

22 June 2018

9:00 PM – 1:00 PM

The Missing and Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board Awareness was called to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. on June 22nd by chairperson Jamie Meeks.

In Attendance

- **Board Members**

- Bob Bedford
- David Brand
- Dan Campbell
- Julie Collins
- Captain Tim Enos
- Angie Herron
- Walt McNeil
- Jamie Meeks, Chairperson
- John Pitta
- Peggy Pitta
- Barbara Renczkowski
- Hilary Sessions, Vice-Chairperson
- Kim Spence
- Stephanie White

- **AD Hoc Board Members**

- Julie Collins
- Christina Harris
- Kristin Litteral
- Elena Simonsen
- Captain Thomas Pikul

- **FDLE/MEPIC Members**

- Zach Berlinghoff
- Mary Coffee
- Jeff Dambly
- Mike Duffey
- Brendie Hawkins
- Gwen Johnson
- Lyndsey Pitts
- Erin Rounds
- Craig Schroeder

FMCD Awards

- **Jamie Meeks (JM):** Everyone has their ballot in their folder; reminder that Ad-hoc members cannot vote. Please turn ballots in to Brendie and Craig.
- **Craig Schroeder (CS):** I also want to remind everyone that the Board is asked to present nominations to the Commissioner for the John and Revé Walsh, Evelyn Williams and Commissioner's Award.
 - **CS:** We received nominations for the Evelyn Williams and John and Revé Walsh Award but none for the Commissioner's Award.
 - **Hilary Sessions (HS):** Could we nominate Don Ryce, and posthumously Claudine Ryce, for the Commissioner's Award?
 - **CS:** Yes.
 - **Stephanie White (SW):** And it's for the Jimmy Ryce Center, correct?
 - **HS:** Yes.
 - **CS:** So just for posterity, the nomination would be "Don and Claudine Ryce of the Jimmy Ryce Center"
- **Brendie Hawkins (BH):** Tally votes for FMCD Awards.
- **CS:** Also, just to point out: we did not have a School Bus Operator award this year.
- **CS:** I know we decided on Don for the Commissioner's Award, but of the other nominations brought forward, do we want to discuss recommending one of those folks for either the John and Reve Walsh or Evelyn Williams Award.
 - **JM:** There's only one person brought forth for the Evelyn Williams award—Dr. Alexis Brimberry—so do we want to nominate that person?
 - **BOARD:** Yes.
 - **CS:** Okay well we have two nominations for John and Reve Walsh Award do we want to discuss those?
 - **HS:** Discusses Al Danna award nomination.
 - **Dan Campbell (DC):** Dan Campbell discusses nomination for Joy Mahler.
 - **DC:** And the thing that stood out to me is the John and Reve Walsh weren't law enforcement but still made great strides, like Joy Mahler.
 - **JM:** I'm stuck between the two, I know Al Danna and he's done a lot in his career. But I like Dan's nomination as well.
 - **Mary Coffee (MC):** I think, and we can confirm, that Al Danna has been recognized before at Missing Children's Day.
 - **JM:** I think we need to decide on who we want to decide on, I'm leaning towards Joy.

- **Tim Enos (TE):** I also know Joy from Sarasota and she does great work there.
- **Barbara Renczkowski (BR):** I'm leaning towards Joy as well.
- **JM:** I think our recommendation is Joy Mahler, all in favor?
- **JM:** Anyone against?
- **JM:** Okay we recommend Joy Mahler for the John and Reve Walsh?
- **JM:** And all those in favor for Dr. Alexis Brimberry.
- **BH:** We've got the voting results back and I can announce them now:
 - **Citizen of the Year:** Maria Malgorzata Mroz, Bradenton, FL
 - **Local Law Enforcement Officer of the Year:** Agent Mike Spadafora, Brevard County Sheriff's Office
 - **State/Federal Law Enforcement Officer of the Year:** Trooper Matthew Finley, Florida Highway Patrol
 - **Combatting Human Trafficking Award:** Detective Bernadette Maher, Miami Beach Police Department
 - **Team/Task Force of the Year:** Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, Brevard County Sheriff's Office—Lieutenant Rob Vitaliano, Agent Mike Spadafora, Agent Aja Stake, Agent Alex Sorokin
 - **K9 Trailing Team of the Year:** Deputy John Locklin and K9 Panzer, Seminole County Sheriff's Office
- **JM:** Call for 15 minute break

ICAC Presentation

- **JM:** Introduce Mike Duffey
- **Mike Duffey (MD):** I'm with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) unit, a program that began in 1998.
- **MD:** The OJJDP sought federal allocations and started five task forces around the United States, including one in Broward.
- **MD:** The program began to grow until each state had an ICAC.
- **MD:** Each state began to get local or state funding for ICAC units. A few states received funding through attorney general grants.
- **MD:** As the years went on, every state had one and some states needed more. California has 4, Texas has 4, Florida has 3, and some other states have 2. New York has 2, including one just for New York City.
- **MD:** Agencies partner with ICAC through MOUs and the task force recipient will receive training through OJJDP.

- **MD:** On average, the three ICAC task forces (Broward SO, Gainesville PD, and three agencies are currently vying for the third open task force) receive 600-700 monthly tips coming from NCMEC.
 - **HS:** And that's just Florida?
 - **MD:** Yes, just Florida.
- **MD:** Most of the agencies who are just task force partners don't do ICAC full-time.
- **MD:** Once the task force is awarded the task force finds and trains partners.
- **MD:** There only have been two instances where federal funding was removed from an ICAC task force, both for using funds not as they were intended.
- **MD:** We have 61 federally funded task forces based on populations and tips.
- **MD:** A big sticking point is holding ICAC agencies accountable for the cyber tips they received.
 - **MD:** Seattle PD received that with an affiliate who never worked those leads and a child was abused and Seattle was ultimately sued for neglecting those Cyber tips.
- **MD:** The ICAC hosts a national conference in Atlanta, which just happened last month. There is no cost to attend the conference.
 - **MD:** Ten years ago, Florida began having conferences to train more people for less dollars spent.
 - **MD:** And for the past three years we have joined with CART and Sex Offender Registration to present at the conference.
 - **MD:** Currently we have people from 12 states registered.
 - **MD:** In the past we have had Patty Wetterling speak and we also had a case study on the Jared Fogle case.
 - **MD:** The Seattle task force is also hosting an ICAC conference partnered with Microsoft.
- **MD:** The ICAC page itself has a lot of apps about current technology and it also has a great deal of resources that can be used.
- **MD:** The ICAC also has resources on cyber bullying and a cyber bullying. We use this site for the general public to receive information.
- **MD:** We also get a lot of phone tips from the public who saw something on the internet they want to report. That's great but the internet is global and isn't limited just to Florida. So we upload those tips to NCMEC to try and get a global perspective on those tips.
- **MD:** There is a current argument right now about whether or not NCMEC is a law enforcement agency; right now it is stated that they are NOT a law enforcement agency.
- **MD:** ICAC uses a secure portal to receive and transmit cyber tips from agency to agency.

- **MD:** If we use a cyber tips and discover the cyber tip is, say in Orlando, we would reach out to the local agency.
- **MD:** The ICAC site also has a list of all ICAC task forces for the entire United States.
- **MD:** ICAC receive training on investigative, cybertips, undercover, and P2P file sharing programs.
- **MD:** We all use NJTCJ, which provides training for us in law enforcement.
- **MD:** ICAC and local Florida agencies perform stings often. We perform about one a month. We still get results and always will. It's gone down a bit (used to be 50, now it's about 10 per operation).
 - **MD:** We had a federal and state trial last month that I sat on; the defense for one was that it was a fantasy and that they were never going to act on it. The other defense was that he didn't understand what he was doing.
- **SW:** Do you have a lot of success in file sharing cases?
 - **MD:** We do, If I put up a map of peer to peer targets you would see how bust it is.
- **HS:** Have all of the people in ICAC gone to TLO?
 - **MD:** Most of them, yes.
- **Antonio Gilliam (AG):** You mentioned sting operations went from 50 to 10, is there a fear that funding may decrease?
 - **MD:** No because what we see is cybertips increasing as more social media companies go IPO and are handing over more cyber tips.
- **MD:** Any other questions?
- **JM:** Okay well thank you so much.

Committee and EIS Updates

- **JM:** Barbara, do we have anything else we need to do on the SME list?
 - **BR:** Not right now
- **JM:** What about the curriculum review sheet,.
 - **BR:** We will begin testing it on curriculums.
 - **Julie Collins (JC):** And I just want to see if anyone has any issues or changes to the new review sheet. Also, I thought we would just say if it is a pass or a fail.
- **JM:** Antonio I know you have talked about drones but do we have anything else knowing that they will come talk to us?
 - **AG:** Nothing new now.
- **JM:** Mary what about the LPR updates.

- **MC:** It's the same status. Both issues can remain on the table but FDLE is not in a position to take any action.
- **JM:** Craig can you give us an update on the conference?
- **CS:** Yes, as Mike mentioned, it will be in Orlando in December. The ICAC and CART portions of the conference have already opened and we hope to open registration for the sex offender portion in July.
- **JM:** Craig, can you give the Foundation report on Ken's behalf.
 - **CS:** Certainly. Fundraising with the new foundation has been going well and as of June 5th, the Foundation has a balance of \$22,600.46 and has collected \$2000 more in donations, and cleared \$200 worth of expenses, for a current balance of \$24,400.46.
 - **CS:** The budget for FMCD is \$25,000 so the Foundation has already almost raised enough for this year's ceremony.
- **JM:** If no one has anything else, we can adjourn.

Adjourn
