



MEPIC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tallahassee, Florida
22 November 2019, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

The Missing and Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board (MEPICAB) Awareness was called to order at approximately 11:30 a.m. on November 22nd, 2019 by chairperson Dan Campbell.

In Attendance

- **Board Members**

- Bob Bedford
- David Brand
- Dan Campbell
- Bill Corfield
- Tim Enos
- Chief Antonio Gilliam
- Jessica Janasiewicz
- Tiffany Martin
- Karen Mazzola
- John Pitta
- Peggy Pitta
- John Robertson
- Hilary Sessions
- Rachel Tulus
- Stephanie White
- Floy Turner
- Mike Vasilinda

- **Ad Hoc Board Members**

- Julie Collins
- Erica Geiger
- Katherine Gomez
- Kristen Litteral

- **FDLE Members**

- Jeff Dambly
- Brendie Hawkins
- Seth Montgomery
- Mike Phillips
- Erin Rounds
- Craig Schroeder
- Pete Warren
- Donna Uzzell

- **FMCD Foundation Members**

- Charlotte Jerrett
- Pam Marsh
- Ken Tucker
- Forrest Van Camp

Minutes

- **Dan Campbell (DC):** Welcome and introduction.
- **DC:** Go around the room and introduce ourselves.
- **DC:** Before we start eating, I'd like to ask Donna Uzzell to speak to the Board for a minute.
 - **Donna Uzzell (DU):** Farewell message to the Board.
- **DC:** We will take a brief break to serve lunch, in the meantime please review the minutes to the last meeting so we can vote to accept them.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

- **DC:** Now that everyone has read the last meeting minutes, I'd like to request a motion to accept the minutes.
 - **Stephanie White (SW):** W will make a motion to formally accept the previous meeting minutes.
 - **Bob Bedford (BB):** Seconded.
 - **DC:** Motion passes.
- **Brendie Hawkins (BH):** Before we get started, I just want to make a quick announcement about travel: as you all know, Erin usually does our travel, but she has accepted a job in the Jacksonville Regional Operations Center, so it will be me doing everyone's travel. So please bear with us if it takes a little longer than normal. Announcement about travel.
- **DC:** So first, I'd like us to discuss today's ceremony and talk about how we think it went and what, if anything, could be improved.
 - **AG:** I think today went really well, I think it was better than any of the previous ceremonies that I have been to.
 - **Bill Corfield (BC):** The weather was really nice and it made me wonder why we normally do it in September?
 - **BH:** It's actually in statute that we do it on the second Monday in September and the reason is because a number of kids in Florida went missing in the first two week or so of September.
 - **BH:** I know in the years to come, as construction on the capitol continues, we will at some point be unable to actually do the ceremony here, so it might be good to start thinking of new areas we can hold the ceremony, like at the Civic Center.
 - **BH:** The civic center is only one block away form where we are now.
 - **Seth Montgomery (SM):** Cascades Park would also be a nice location. But for my opinion, I like having the ceremony at the Capitol, so I think we

should keep it here for as long as we can and if we have to revisit other options, we can.

- **Ken Tucker (KT):** I just wanted to also say what the Foundation is working on now. We are still working on raising money.
 - **KT:** But we are also looking to change the statutory language around the Foundation to allow for an expanded role. As it is now, the statute only allows for monies raised to be used in direct relation to Florida Missing Children's Day. We are working to change the legislation so we can use any extra funds raised and provide them to agencies—in some kind of a grant process—to work on missing persons cases.
- **DC:** Next on the agenda is the MEPIC Newsletter, Craig do you have any updates for us on the newsletter?
 - **CS:** We want to have a target publication date January 2020.
 - **CS:** As a reminder, here is the list of articles/columns that we decided we would put in the newsletter at the last meeting:
 - What is MEPICAB?
 - Member Spotlight on Don Ryce
 - Kim Spence is going to do a column about Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - Stephanie is going to do one on the importance of scent evidence K9s.
 - Dan is going to do one on the family perspective.
 - And we are going to have a section dedicated to today's Missing Children's Day ceremony.
 - **CS:** Do we have anyone who wants to write the member spotlight column on Don Ryce?
 - **DC:** I bet Donna would want to do that.
 - **CS:** That's a great idea, I can ask her.
 - **John Robertson (JR):** I can also help write a member spotlight.
 - **CS:** Well let's shoot for having all articles turned in to me by the end of December and Angie and I will begin working on compiling the first draft.
 - **DC:** So are we thinking four pages or two?
 - **CS:** I think two pages.
 - **BH:** And we can use a lot of images from FMCD as well.
- **DC:** Steve Daley from RadKids is here and has already handed out the curriculum review sheet to our members who will be reviewing it. When do we want those members to have their analysis ready?
 - **CS:** The first quarter AB meeting which will be either at the end of January or the beginning of February, so I'd ask them to please have their review completed by then so they can report back.

- **DC:** Next on the agenda are the Advisory Board PSAs.
 - **CS:** Before we start discussing the next PSA, I want to remind everyone that our PSA is still available to share on your various Facebook pages.
 - **CS:** Also, a neat update: the Ray splayed our last PSA at the event we did in August and then continued to play it twice a game for the remainder of the seasons.
 - **Mike Vasilinda (MV):** I can make these PSAs really quickly, so I'm just looking for new ideas.
 - **DC:** DO you all remember what some of our ideas were.
 - **CS:** I can go back through the notes and check.
 - **CS:** I know one was a family perspective PSA.
 - **BH:** And I believe Kim Spence also mentioned doing one about autism.
 - **Seth Montgomery (SM):** Good timing on that because we have just started a new alert for missing kids with autism. We just issued that first alert a few weeks ago.
 - **MV:** Well I've got some ideas that I can be working on.
 - **DC:** And if you all have any other ideas, please e-mail them to Craig
- **Pete Warren (PW):** Updates the Board on WEA changes.
- **DC:** Next on the agenda is the MEPIC Advisory Board's ongoing effort to get involved in statewide conferences.
 - **CS:** We have a table at the upcoming ICAC conference in a few weeks, we just need people to man it.
 - **Karen Mazzola (KM):** I can come for a few hours one of the days.
 - **CS:** Okay, great! And myself and Brendie will also be there to operate the table for some of the time.
 - **CS:** If anyone else in the Orlando area is willing and able to assist, please e-mail me and let me know.
 - **KM:** I am keeping a spreadsheet of conferences; I'd like to get more info on the events that FSA and FPCA put on.
 - **Katherine Gomez (KG):** I know of a conference coming up in Orlando.
 - **Julie Collins (JC):** What about FASRO? DO they have anything coming up?
 - **Tim Enos:** I can ask my folks at FASRO and see if they know of anything upcoming.
- **DC:** Next on the agenda is the post FMCD training.
 - **AG:** I know we talked about doing this for next year, but are we putting the cart before the horse, should we focus on getting the PSA and newsletter out first?

- **AG:** That way we can determine how much interest we garner.
 - **BC:** We're going to have to figure out what we are prioritizing.
 - **JR:** I think it's a matter of scale. I don't know if we want to scrap the plan entirely but maybe make it a smaller scale evnt.
- **BH:** We use several extra rooms here on the premises for our rain plan, maybe instead of doing a post FMCD Board meeting we use those rooms for some smaller scale sessions like John is talking about.
- **BC:** Would we want to do LEO only or open it up to everyone.
- **BH:** We could maybe to both: have a track only for law enforcement and have another for the general public.
 - **BC:** So we could run two rooms simultaneously and maybe do three sessions each?
- **DC:** Who is our audience for this?
 - **CS:** I think it would be both law enforcement and the general public.
- **AG:** Maybe when we send out the meeting notices we can also mention that we're having training sessions. So hopefully all the SOs and chiefs are seeing that. And ask how many folks would be interested in attending.
- **AG:** That's just the sworn side; the civilian side I think there's a lot of agencies we can leverage to get that information out.
- **BH:** We can also push that info out through the schools.
- **SM:** In my mind, I think it's good for having LEO at a training; but I think it might be hard to get the public out on a Monday afternoon. Maybe we can do something else on a weekend date.
- **JR:** It's an issue of scale again
 - **BH:** Craig, if you can send out to all of our members on who would be interested in assisting with training.
- **KM:** Since it will be here, will there be a fee for registration?
 - **CS:** I don't think so.
- **DC:** Okay, Craig can you give us an EIS update.
 - **CS:** Only major update I have is the mobile app that Rob Moon's group is working on.
 - **PW:** Also, just to let everyone on the Board know, Gwen Johnson has retired and Donna is retiring at the end of January so both the people that were around since the beginning of the clearinghouse will be gone soon. I am the manager of the clearinghouse and we are currently in the process of hiring Gwen's replacement.
- **DC:** Does anyone have anything else?
 - **AG:** Just a piece of news, of the seven regions the Tampa area is the only one not certified. They just had their certification.
- **DC:** Any other items?

- **DC:** Thanks so much to everyone.

Adjourned

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