**MEPIC Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tallahassee, Florida**

**28 February 2020, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**



The Missing and Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board Awareness was called to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. on February 28th, 2020 by chairperson Dan Campbell.

* **Board Members**
  + Dan Campbell
  + Bill Corfield
  + Chief Antonio Gilliam
  + Karen Mazzola
  + John Pitta
  + Peggy Pitta
  + John Robertson
  + Mike Vasilinda
* **Ad Hoc Board Members**
  + Cpt. Peter Bergstresser
  + Jasmine Armstrong
  + Julie Collins
  + Lt. Derrick Rahming
  + Travis Paulk
  + Larry Smalls
* **FDLE Members**
  + Jay Best
  + Chad Brown
  + Mary Coffee
  + Jeff Dambly
  + Brendie Hawkins
  + Rob Moon
  + Mike Phillips
  + Jon Roddenberry
  + Craig Schroeder

Minutes

* **Dan Campbell (DC)**: Call meeting to order
* **DC**: I would first like to introduce Special Agent in Charge Mike Phillips and Assistant Special Agent in Charge Chad Brown
  + **Chad Brown (CB)**: I’d like to introduce myself to you all…
  + **Mike Phillips (MP)**: I met a lot of you last year at Missing Children’s Day but would like to re-introduce myself as I have now taken over for Donna who retired in January.
* **DC**: Next, since there are a lot of new faces, I’d like us to go around the table and introduce ourselves and give a brief history of what brought us to the Advisory Board.
  + **Craig Schroeder (CS)**: Let me point out that we will not have a quorum today, so we won’t be able to vote on anything, but we can schedule a quick conference call later for anything that needs to be voted on.
  + **CS**: Also, I’d like to let everyone know that Jamie Meeks let me know a couple of weeks ago that he will be stepping down from the Board. He wanted me to pass on how thankful he was to be a part of the Board and thanks everyone who has worked so hard.
* **DC**: I know we can’t vote to accept the previous meeting minutes, but let’s take a few minutes to review them anyways.
* **DC**: Let’s hit the first item on the agenda which is the review of RadKids using the curriculum review sheets.
* **DC**: RadKIds is a program that teaches kids self-defense, we had several members review the curriculum, but only one of them—Peggy—could make today’s meeting. Peggy can you tell us what you found while reviewing their curriculum?
  + **Peggy Pitta (PP)**: I did review the curriculum and I think it’s good but I do have a few concerns. Are we selecting one program over another. I want to know how many other programs are out there.
  + **CS**: If I can clarify, the Board is not *recommending* any one curriculum. We have created a set of standards using the curriculum review sheet and this process is not to determine if we would recommend it is; the curriculum review sheet is designed to say whether or not any one curriculum would meet the Board’s standards.
  + **John Pitta (JP)**: So RadKids was selected for this?
    - **Mary Coffee (MC)**: Well it was brought to us for review by a Board member, so it was just first in line.
  + **JP**: Do we have other curriculums to review?
    - **CS**: I think we had some suggested to us, I can review my archived email to see what those were.
  + **Bill Corfield (BC)**: Do we have anyone on the Board affiliated with RadKids?
    - **Brendie Hawkins (BH)**: Yes, Floy Turner is a trainer and Hilary has been involved with them for years.
  + **BC**: Do you think it would be possible to have someone outside of the Board use the curriculum review sheet we created to assess this material, so there is no perception of bias of the Board in assessing curriculum.
    - **BH**: Maybe Julie can help us find someone. Or Dr. Armstrong, maybe you can help us find someone with human trafficking experience.
  + **PP**: Don’t get me wrong, I think the curriculum is great, but do we think it’s safe to be making suggestions for for-profit companies.
    - **Karen Mazzola (KM)**: I just looked it up, RadKids is a registered 501(c)3
  + **Jeff Dambly (JD)**: I think the best way to look at it is not as an endorsement as much as it is similar to an FDA approval. If the service or product meets the criteria, it gets the FDLE/MEPICAB stamp of approval. So it’s not to say any one product is better or worse. We can include language on the website to note that this isn’t an endorsement, but just meets the threshold of our standards.
    - **JP**: That does clear it up some for me. I know a lot of these programs have different angles. So I’m sure there are different categories for different areas of safety.
  + **MC**: And as a reminder, this is basically the beta test. We could also make a determination that we are not going to post any of our findings until we have reviewed three or five or any number of curriculums that you all are comfortable with.
  + **DC**: I’m curious Peggy, what did you score it.
    - **PP**: I wanted to make sure I have the right sheet.
    - **CS**: You do, these are the most up to date.
    - **PP**: Well I think it scored well.
    - **DC**: I think it’s a testament at least to our curriculum review sheet that you were able to use it easily.
    - **PP**: I just don’t want to set up a situation where we are ranking the curriculums based on who scored the highest.
      * **CS**: Well we wouldn’t be ranking them; we would just be saying it met the standards or it didn’t, so we wouldn’t be ranking them. The curriculums would just appear as a list.
    - **BH**: But keep in mind, everything the Board does is subject to public record.
  + **DC**: My next questions would be, how are we finding these curriculums? Is the Board looking for them?
    - **JP**: Can we contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and see what they recommend and use some of the curriculums they have?
    - **Antonio Gilliam (AG)**: How do we determine which ones we evaluate and which ones we don’t? If someone comes to us and says you evaluated them but not us, is there an issue there?
    - **JP**: Aren’t you going to fall into that question no matter what? That’s why I think if we go to the National Center we can get an idea of things that are widely used?
    - **BH**: Would you like create a mechanism where someone can apply to ask the Board to review?
    - **JP**: I don’t think we want to get into that. I think it’s better to go to the experts and see what they have to say about what programs are out there.
* **DC**: Next on the agenda is state-wide conferences. Does anyone know of any conferences where we can get a table at or where members of the Board can present?
  + **Julie Collins (JC)**: Maybe the Board or FDLE can come up with a canned PowerPoint presentation, that way if someone from the Board is going to present at a conference anyways, we can have this PowerPoint to present to attendees about what MEPICAB is.
    - **BH**: I have a brand new member on our team who is a research and training specialist, if you guys want to give her the materials we can have her put together a generic PowerPoint that any Board member can use.
  + **KM**: Travis, can you let us know if we can get into the DCF summit in September.
    - **Travis Paulk (TP)**: Yes, I can check.
  + **DC**: Do we think maybe we can reach out to various chambers of commerce to see what is coming to their communities.
  + **JP**: Is there a common denominator we can reach out to that shares similar interests and would know of various conferences and events?
    - **JC**: I’m sure. There is a lobbying group for just about everything.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

* **DC**: Next on the agenda is the PSAs. Craig and Mike, can you give us an update on creating new PSAs.
  + **CS**: So, as some of you may know, Jim Previtera who used to sit on this Board is the Vice-President of the Foundation and also head of security for the Tampa Bay Rays. Jim had the idea to ask a Rays player to appear in a PSA for us. He mentioned having maybe Chief Gilliam appear alongside him and they each deliver a two-hander about a given subject.
  + **CS**: We’d like to do that before the Rays event we are doing this year. If we can’t do that, we may need to think of another PSA we can run until then. Or we can use last year’s.
  + **CS**: For those that don’t know about the Tropicana event; last year we had a Missing Children’s Day event at Tropicana Field where we had our award winners there, and our essay and poster contest winners threw out the first pitch.
  + **JP**: Is this a fundraising opportunity?
    - **BH**: Not for us, because we can’t raise money, but we have talked about having the Foundation set up there. The idea would be we could, using the new website, have Foundation members there to accept donations on the new site.
    - **JP**: And maybe we can get the Rays to help contribute some funds.
      * **BH**: They do donate every year.
  + **Mike Vasilinda (MV)**: One idea I have been playing with is having the player kind of walk out of his house and see an alert and responding to it.
  + **AG**: Our first PSA was about turning your notifications on so we can make another one about what you do next.
  + **MC**: One of the things that has always gotten to me is that we have very specific criteria for each of our alerts in Florida, it often happens that a parent is involved with the abduction. People hear “parental abductions” and think it’s not as important, but that’s not the case. If it’s an AMBER Alert there is an element of danger. There was one recently where the public may have thought it was just a custody battle, but it was a very serious situation. So doing something that can thwart these myths, would be a very beneficial PSA.
    - **MV**: I think that’s a great idea too.
    - **JC**: Also, with AMBER alerts you are empowering everyone with a cell phone to help out. The randomness of who helps find the kid is very powerful.
    - **MC**: And if you’re in Lee County and get an alert from Leon there is a reason for that.
    - **MV**: I can start working on some other ideas in case the Rays fall through.
    - **MV**: And it strikes me that we get a lot of robo-calls in Florida and we don’t want people to just think of an Amber alert as another robo-call.
  + **DC**: What are some other ideas for PSAs?
    - **John Robertson (JR)**: Maybe one profiling people out doing work on the streets to keep kids safe.
    - **MV**: Maybe we can do one that highlights a cold case, capitalize on the true crime genre craze. Maybe spotlight one of our families from FMCD and their case.
    - **PP**: Maybe a “Where Are They Now?” style PSA on previous essay or poster winners.
    - **BH**: Maybe we can put something in there about the PSAs and direct them to a bunch of our PSAs once we’ve built out a library of them.
* **DC**: Craig can you give us an update on the Facebook page.
  + **CS**: Yes. There isn’t a lot to update you on. If you look in your folders you will see a draft of rules and protocols for posting to the Facebook page.
  + **CS**: At this point, we need to submit the Facebook page and the protocls to FDLE’s Public Information Officer for final approval.
  + **JD**: So what the Board needs to do is create the guidelines for who will be posting things on the page. So if the group wants to regularly “like” things related to the Missing Children’s Daye event, you all can agree to “like” those types of things on the Facebook page. That’s the general idea. As long as you all discuss it here, it can be an administrative process of you all sending something to Angie—or whomever the Board determines will be maintain it—to post.
  + **CS**: So trying to establish a timeline, let’s say we get our PIO approval between now and June and by June we can set up those processes and have the Facebook page active and ready to use by the end of the second quarter Advisory Board meeting.
* **DC**: Our next section of the agenda is the post FMCD training, Chief Gilliam and Bill, can you all update us on this.
  + **AG**: We’re trying to spread the word on what we do. Another idea was to have a training after the Missing Children’s Day.
  + **AG**: We’ve been working on getting SMEs to present, in what fields would they present, and would the training be directed towards law enforcement or non-law enforcement, or both.
  + **AG**: Also, we were looking into hotel options, Craig do you have an update on that?
  + **CS**: Yes, we have a block of rooms reserved at the DoubleTree for $115 a night. Normally we reserve a block of rooms on FMCD weekend, with 10 rooms on Saturday night, 60 on Sunday night, and then 10 on Monday. For the training, I have asked them to change that block to 10 on Saturday, 80 on Sunday, and 20 on Monday. Do we think that’s good or should we ask for more.
    - * **AG**: I think that’s fine.
  + **AG**: We need to figure out how we are going to publicize this training. I figure we could push it out through FSA, FPCA, and the other organizations we have connections to.
  + **AG**: Also, did we decide if it is going to be a single LEO track or multiple tracks for LE and one for the public.
    - **CS**: I think we decided on two tracks, one for law enforcement and one for the general public.
  + **JR**: I’ve talked to Capital City Youth Services (CCYS) who will offer both a civilian and an LE track.
  + **BH**: We also have Kim Spence who is going to present on autism and is trying to see if Lori Smith, who presented to the Board on social media a few years ago, is available.
  + **AG**: We have a list of other subjects we wanted to cover on the form in your folders.
  + **BH**: What about having Tim Enos do a school safety presentation?
    - **JC**: I can also help with that.
    - **JR**: He presented for us and was great.
  + **AG**: So the logistics question is do we want to do it from 1 to 5?
  + **AG**: So I think we can do 4 50 minutes sessions for both LE and general public sessions.
  + **JR**: I think we should also get someone from NCMEC from
  + **AG**: So let’s say get your ideas to confirm the date, I have a bio, and what they will present on. And only send to Craig if they are locked in. And once we have a complete picture you can send it out to the group.
  + **BH**: Mike, do you think the Florida Channel would have an interest in covering the non-sworn training.
    - **MV**: I think so, I think they’d be happy to do it.
  + **JR**: So CCYS is committed, but to prepare something for a law enforcement panel can be talk to you and make sure the information they would present would be relevant.
    - **AG**: You can put him in touch with me.
  + **KM**: Would there be a fee?
    - **JD**: No we couldn’t do that.
  + **AG**: How do we get people to show up? Like how could we encourage FHP to attend.
    - **DR**: It’s just a matter of being able to travel.
  + **CS**: Also, most of our attendees are LEOs so we can really focus on letting those attendees know.
  + **BC**: CART teams are coordinated by FDLE right?
    - **Jay Best (JB):** Yeah, just send it to me and I can get that information out.
    - **BH**: Same for Mike Duffey and ICAC.
  + **JP**: Does FSA or FPCA have a way to push out notifications for trainings?
    - **CS**: Yeah, I can work with them.
    - **BH**: And if we can get that FB page up that would be a good way to push the information out there.
  + **JC**: For the civilian side, is there someone who can present on risk factors for kids?
    - **JR**: We collect a lot of data like that.
    - **KM**: Maybe on the civilian side we can talk about parenting tips, maybe from DCF.
    - **TP**: It’s very possible, we’re a massive agency.
  + **JC**: We could put links to the videos on the website and then web resources for those who can’t make it.
  + **MV**: Which rooms do we have
    - **CS**: 212 Knott and 102 House building.
  + **KM**: Another idea for the civilian is Zach Gibson with the office of the Governor. He is the director of the office of adoption, I can reach out to him.
  + **DR**: Could we stream those sessions on FB live.
    - **BH**: We can, we streamed it on Facebook last year.
  + **CS**: That’s not the Florida Channel feed though. I’d like to have it where we can make the Florida Channel stream available.
* **DC**: Next on the agenda is the EIS Update, so I’ll let Jon Roddenberry update us on MEPIC.
  + **Jon Roddenberry (JRo)**: We display road sign on AMBER Alerts for 24 hours. So we can push out more information
  + **JRo**: We’ve also started working with Everbridge to push out Ambers and Missing Child Alerts.
  + **MV**: Do they push that out to social media.
    - **JRo**: No, we use those for our wireless emergencies, like on your phone.
  + **JRo**: We updated criteria for AMBER and MCAs. We’ve started using enhanced missing child alerts. So, for example, for kids with autism spectrum disorders, a lot of those kids would just wander off and that couldn’t fit into an AMBER Alert, where there was no abduction but there is still a danger present. So, we created the enhanced MCA which pushes WEA alerts to a specific geographic area.
  + **BC**: Does that include actual information to LEOs responding noting that they are on the autism spectrum.?
  + **JRo**: Yes
  + **JR**: In 2019, we issued 13 AMBERs, 24 MCAs. So far in 2020 we’ve had 3 AMBERs and 4 MCAs.
    - **DC**: Do we have stats on recoveries?
      * **CS**: I have them.
  + **JRo**: What he means by direct recoveries is that someone saw the road sign or the WEA and spotted the individual.
  + **DC**: So the directs measure the impact of the alert, as reported?
    - **JRo**: Yes.
* **DC**: Next is an update on CART from Jay Best.
  + **JB**: Our Tampa CART team just got certified in November, they did a full-size exercise and everything went flawless.
  + **JB**: Our MOU with states agencies and MAA with local agencies is set to expire at the end of the year so we are pushing out to all of our teams to go to their agencies and resign those for the next five years. It’s a mutual aid agreement agreeing to the roles and responsibilities of CART.
  + **JB**: We also got Tallahassee PD to sign it just this week for the first time in 7 years. SO now we are at 100% compliance for agencies in North Florida.
  + **JB**: We have CART teams coming up on March23 in Tampa, March 25 in Titusville, and Fort Meyers, Miami and Pensacola are looking at some time in March as well.
  + **AG**: Where is the March 23rd?
    - **JB**: At TBROC.
  + **JB**: I’m presenting about CART at the CJIS Symposium in July.
* **DC**: Next up is the sex offender update from Rob Moon.
  + **Rob Moon (RM)**: A few updates we have been working on is trying to get the AMBER Alert flyers and other alerts moved onto the cloud so when there is a WEA, we will have a clickable link that will take a user to the flyer. We can’t do that on FDLE’s server because those messages go out to the state and that would crash FDLE’s servers. The technology is there, but the security is a bit of a concern.
  + **RM**: We’ve also been working on a single-entry form for the MEPIC system, right now you have to log on to the FDLE system to see the entry form information. The single-entry form would allow the analyst to enter all information at once without having to jump around to multiple pages. We are working hard now to update that.
  + **RM**: For the last three years we have been working on re-writing the sex offender system. Last year we implemented a new registry across the state. One of the things we released was the public mobile app. It is out there in the iStore and Google Play store. There are multiple apps in there.
  + **RM**: The sex offender mobile app lets you search by name, address, and there is a near me function that brings up a map of registered sex offenders near where your phone is.
  + **RM**: What I really want to show you guys today is pretty new and isn’t available quite yet; that is the law enforcement mobile application. It is strictly for LEOs to go out and update our registry with real time information that they are gathering in the field.
  + **RM**: We are working on getting some trainings together for the app and then get some user agreements and MOUs in place. We are shooting for April or May right now to get that out there.
  + **RM**: You have to have a login and a user of the system, so you’d have to be an LEO sworn or analyst with agency approval.

**Rob gives demo on app**

* **DC**: Next on the agenda is Craig with an update on FMCD for EIS.
  + **CS**: We are starting to get the ball rolling on this year’s FMCD, which is planned for September 14th.
  + **CS**: The essay and poster contests are currently underway and will conclude this month.
* **DC**: Does anyone have anything else?
  + **JC**: I just wanted to update everyone that there was a student elopement bill that came around for the second time and didn’t go anywhere.
* **BH**: Speaking of legislative stuff, FDLE requested a statute change that has a House and Senate sponsor, that will allow the Foundation to expand its mission. This expansion of the statute will allow the Foundation to have a secondary mission of collecting funds to develop criteria for LEOs in the state to obtain a grant in relation to missing person cases. What they are trying to address is gaps in smaller agencies that have specific needs related to missing persons cases. Hopefully that will pass in the next two weeks.
* **DC**: Thanks to everyone for taking the time to come up here
* **DC**: Can we have a motion to adjourn.
* **JR**: Motion
* **JP**: Second.
* **DC**: Adjourned.

ADJOURNED