**MEETING MINUTES**

**Chairperson: Dan Campbell**

**Attendees-**

FDLE:

Jeff Dambly, Ashley Bullard, Monika Mora, Inspector Chad Hoffman, SMAS Pete Warren, Jon Roddenberry, ASAC Chad Brown

BOARD:

Dan Campbell, Karen Mazzola, Sheriff Walt McNeil, Chief Antonio Gilliam, David Brand, Brian Moore, Katherine Gomez, Julie Collins, Jasmine Armstrong, Hilary Sessions, John Pitta, Peggy Pitta

**Scribe-**

Monika Mora

**Agenda-**

**Welcome & Introduction-**

***William “Bill” Montford appoints Brian Moore, General Counsel as MEPICAB Rep.***

**Ashley Bullard (AB):** We have a new member, Brian Moore.

**Dan Campbell (DC):** Welcome.

***FDLE Inspector Chad Hoffman is new CART coordinator.***

**AB:** I would also like to introduce the new CART coordinator who is joining us today, Inspector Chad Hoffman.

**AB:** Just so everyone knows, we are having technical difficulties. The conference call line is not working. However, we have Hilary Sessions on the phone line with me right now.

***Amy Bogner and Darren Baxley have resigned from the 2021 Board.***

**AB:** Okay, all right, we're going to continue with the agenda. I just want to let everybody know that Amy Bogner and Darren Baxley have resigned from the 2021 Advisory Board. I want to thank them for their contribution over the years as they have been long-standing members of the MEPIC Advisory Board.

***Hilary- 35th Anniversary of Tiffany’s Disappearance.***

**AB:** Now, Hilary, since you're on the line we do want to recognize Tiffany’s disappearance? It is the 32th Anniversary since she's been missing. Would you like to say a couple words about Tiffany and missing kids?

**Hilary Sessions (HS):** Yeah, I just want to say a quick prayer for everyone’s missing family members. All of us will get an answer one way or the other. I say this in Jesus‘s name. Amen.

**AB:** Amen. Thank you very much, Hilary. We really appreciate that.

**New MEPIC logo**

**AB:** So getting into the new stuff, we do have a new MEPIC logo. If you open your agenda, you will see it at the top. It is blue with a hand and three people. Does everybody see the new MEPIC logo? Do you all like it? It’s on our paperwork; and our website is also in the process of being updated with the new MEPIC logo, so just be aware that it is out there now and we are promoting it.

**Peter Warren (PW):** Ashley, this is Warren. I'm hearing some feedback, I think coming from your end. When you spoke, the feedback came up… I'm assuming there might not be feedback right now. While I'm speaking, it sounds like it's probably coming from the other end, Ashley, from your end.

**AB:** I'll try to keep that in mind.

**Verify 12/20 Conference Call Meeting Minutes/Discussing a Return to In-Person Meetings**

**AB:** Have y'all had a chance to look at the conference call minutes for the December meeting?

**DC:** Ashley, I did have a chance to. I'm wondering when we are going to continue on with maybe some of those conversations that were started in December? Chief Gilliam brought up a good point about whether we can have our next in-person meeting in June, or if we hold off until September. I believe there was going to be some follow-up by FDLE looking at the possibility and so forth.

**AB:** We’re having a discussion about the Florida Missing Children’s Day being virtual, in-person, or both. We're not crunched on the timeline yet for the hotels, so we were going to address that in the next meeting to also see how the vaccinations and Covid numbers look in the March meeting. Is that okay with y'all?

**DC:** Julie, DOE was holding a conference in Orlando. Does that mean state agencies are looking to open up in person meetings?

**Julie Collins (JC):** It’s on a case by case basis. It depends on several factors, so it’s not across-the-board.

**DC:** Let’s bring it into the next conversation as we learn more.

**AB:** Whenever we have our next meeting in March, we will finalize it.

**DC:** Sounds good.

**AB:** Are there any questions about the conference call meeting minutes in December? Can we vote with our quorum or do people need time to review?

**AB:** Can you all hear me?

**Chief Andrew Gilliam (AG):** I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes.

**Peggy Pitta:** I second.

**MEPIC Newsletter**

***Issue 3 draft will be sent out via email at later date for verification (waiting on Don Ryce and Crimes Against Children).***

**AB:** The newsletter is in production. It’s will be sent out in a draft form via email in the next week or two. We’re waiting on the article from Crimes Against Children. We should receive it this week, or next week. For the next meeting in March will approve and finalize. Any questions?

**N/A:** No.

***2020 had 19 Amber Alerts, 33 Missing Child Alerts, 249 Silver Alerts. 4, 5 and 27 direct recoveries respectively.***

**AB:**Are there any questions about the spring newsletter at all?

**AB:** No? Sounds good. Here are some statistics that will be on the newsletter: in 2020, we had 19 Amber Alerts; we had 33 Missing Child Alerts; and we had 249 Silver Alerts. For the Amber Alerts, 4 were direct recovery. 5 of the Missing Children Alerts were direct recoveries and we had 27 direct recoveries for the Silver Alerts.

**ASAC Chad Brown (CB):** Hey, this is ASAC Brown. Can we have Pete or someone explain to the folks that are joining us for the first time what the difference is between a direct recovery versus a standard recovery?

**Pete Warren (PW):** Ok, this is Pete Warren at the Clearinghouse. The simplest way to explain it is that a direct recovery is a result of the Amber Alert itself. It’s based on wireless emergency alerts over TV, radios, road signs, partner agencies, and law enforcement throughout the state. In other words, the distribution channels lead to recovery. On the other hand, the Florida Highway Patrol or Department of Transportation seeing a suspect outside of us notifying them with the Amber Alert through the distribution channel is a standard recovery.

**Poster Contest Ends 2/15, Essay Contest Ends 3/5**

**AB:** The poster contest deadline is February 15. If you know anyone who might want to participate, please let them know.

**AB:** The essay contest ends on March 5th. Again, if you know anyone who would like to participate, let us know. Fifth graders are definitely encouraged to apply and please have all essays in by March 5. We do take essays over email, so they don’t have to mail them. Email them directly to me or to the FMCD inbox. However, posters are different. Those can only be accepted via mail because we need the original poster. Any questions about that or any comments?

**Karen Mazzola:** where can we find a link to advertise that for you all?

**AB:** It’s on our website. We’ve emailed schools in Florida that have active emails with the Department of Education. Any questions?

**AB:** Ifthere are no other questions about the essay contest or the poster contest, will just move right along.

**Challenge Coin**

**AB:** So we do have an update on a challenge coin. The challenge coin draft has been submitted and approved by the FDLE Command Staff. I can't show it to you now because of technical problems. I will email it to you. Y’all are welcome to take a look at it and see how you like it. On one side, we do have our MEPIC logo, and then on the other side we have our FMCD logo on it.

**AB:** Like I said, we will get you a copy of that sent, but I will show it to you via webcam. I can't share my screen right now so that's kind of what it's looking like right now. You can't tell but it's mostly blue on the side that has the FMCD side. It has a black inline a little bit that makes it stand out just a little bit more. Does anybody have any questions or comments about the challenge coin?

**DC:** It looks nice! Brian Moore posted the link, Karen.

**(Brian Moore sent link to contest via chat)**

**Catherine Gomez (CG):** May I ask a question? This is Catherine from DJJ. One of the things that we are doing in the near future is updating policies and procedures related to victims of human trafficking. So we are putting together information for our probation staff to make sure they understand all of the different pieces and processes that go along with missing children and youth. A youth maybe has absconded from supervision and is also reported as a missing person. Do we have any kind of handy-dandy brochures and flyers, or civil process protocol guide or something that I can look at and try to incorporate that information into some of our training materials for RPMs, so that we can break down the AMBER Alert process for them? Something really simple and easy, you know how this whole thing works, so we can have a one page form that is kind of a field guide or is basically something they can print out and have with them.

**CB:** Like a form to print out? A comprehensive guide? Ashley will send the shortened form we’ve been sending out to agencies.

**AB:** Got it.

**CG:** Awesome, thank you so much.

**If any of your contact information has been changed since 2019, please email me your current information**

**AB:** the last thing we were scheduled to talk about today is if your contact information has changed since 2019 you'll need to email me and update your contact information that's the only thing that we have left to talk about unless y'all wish to talk about something evening to bring up this meeting.

**Chief Andrew Gilliam (AG):** I have a question about Dan's earlier point. Referencing the old business in the discussion regarding in-person meetings, and I understand that you all will have your own discussions, but are you all discussing options like there are no in-person meetings, and it’ll only be about Florida Missing Children's Day?

**AB:** The day is a discussion now, but we want options for in-person and virtual, or both. The June meeting is a discussion. We are trying to facilitate it. It hasn’t been determined. It is in the works.

**CB:** What we want to do is talk about the factors that would determine whether or not we have the meeting, mainly vaccination availability and the Covid infection rates.

**AG:** Wejust want to make sure we have the opportunity to come back and have a conversation after your conversation.

**AB:** We will have that conversation going forward once we figure out the details, but we also polled the board at the end of 2020 and we have a general idea of what the board is expecting going forward for in-person meetings, so we are kind of weighing all of the options.

**DC:** Just wanted to make sure everyone knew that we didn’t end that conversation. We don’t want the conversation to disappear. Can I assume the topic will be brought back up?

**AB:** We need more direction. We are waiting on that. We polled the members for meetings. We are organizing that before moving forward.

**DC:** Can we get a synopsis of that poll taken in December?

**AB:** Most were OK with in-person, with social distancing. Others were OK if the vaccine was out. Some were not OK, no matter what, but that was on the low-end.

**CB:** Dan, would you like the poll sent out?

**DC:** It sounds like the poll was already sent out and I remember some communication on this, but I guess I’d like to see some of those results. I think it would be nice to put together some type of report and send it through email.

**AB:** I’ll email it to everyone.

**AB:** Anything else you would like to discuss about the June meeting?

**DB:** Not at this point.

**AB:** Hilary?

**HS:** Nope. Glad we made the meeting.

**AB:** Next week, the March meeting invite will be sent.

**AB:** We could call an end to the meeting. It’s up to you all.

**Adjournment**

**Brian Moore (BM):** The newbie moves to adjourn.

**DC:** The seminal graduate supports your move.

**AB:** If you want to check your contact info stay on the line, everyone else is welcome to go.