Note: FDLE experienced power outages throughout the meeting.

**Virtual Meeting**

**April 5th, 2023 @ 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)**

**Missing Endangered Persons Clearinghouse (MEPIC) Advisory Board (MEPICAB)**

**FDLE Attendees:**

Ashley Bullard, ASAC Chad Brown, Kandace Zachary, Zachary Childs, Emily Bello, Alyssa Beck, Alexis Snell, Megan Bohnenberger, Phil Lindley, Renee Strickland, Brendie Hawkins, Amaris Stillbower, Quentin Harris

**Board Member Attendees:**

Chairperson Dan Campbell, Sheriff Walt McNeil, John Pitta, Peggy Pitta, John Robertson, Bill Corfield, Terri Lynn, Mark Young, Director Gary Howze, Lt. Jim Buford, Captain Peter Bergstresser, Jessica Janasiewicz, Stephanie White, Christina Harris, Major Mark Hensley, Karen Mazzola, Chief Darry Lloyd, AUSA Frank Williams, Mike Vasilinda, Major Tracy Clark, Julie Collins, and Roxie Brookshire

**Other Attendees:** Christina Harris from the Office of the Attorney General

**Organizations/Individuals Represented:**

Affected missing child families, former law enforcement, St. Petersburg Police Department, Florida Police Chiefs Association, Florida Association of School Administrators, Florida PTA State Office, Leon County Sheriff’s Office, Florida Governor’s Legal Office, former media, Tallahassee Police Department, the Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction, Northern District of Florida’s United States Attorney’s Office, Florida’s Office of the Attorney General Ashley Moody, Florida Highway Patrol, Office of State Attorney 8th Circuit, Florida Public Safety Institute, Target Corporation, Florida Department of Education, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Frank Williams moves to approve previous meeting minutes. Mark Young seconds; motion passed.

**Agenda Items**

MEPIC Advisory Board Nominations for June 2023 – June 2025 Term

* Chair and Vice-Chair
* The Board agrees that nominations can be voted on via SurveyMonkey, and vote will be binding if enough members vote to reach quorum. If quorum is not reached, the Board will vote at the June in-person meeting.
* Nominations may be made during the meeting or emailed to Ashley Bullard.
* Suggestion to provide a very short summary of each member nominated after their interest is confirmed. Ashley Bullard will accept these.

**MEPICAB Logo**

* The Board chooses the right-hand logo to focus on, but cannot vote at this time.
* Question of whether the silhouettes are needed.
* SMAS Hawkins asks if the silhouettes should be removed and the top half of the right-hand logo used.
* Suggestion to remake the silhouettes blue and white and to darken the background slightly.

**Spring Newsletter**

Current Articles:

* Chairperson Campbell has an article to submit, and has submitted one already.
* FDLE has written one; per Ashley Bullard, we need two more.
* We have no backup articles currently.
* Board members are encouraged to submit any articles they may be writing to Ashley by Friday, April 7th. Any articles submitted later will be saved for the next newsletter.

Future Articles:

* For articles written by members about their own organizations, it is suggested to submit them to your own organization for review prior to submission to Ashley.
* FDLE is currently working to develop a write-up of recently recovered missing persons for the newsletter.
* Terri Lynn volunteers to write an article remembering Claudine Ryce for the Summer Newsletter; the deadline for this is the June in-person meeting.
* Suggestion by Ashley to submit photos of work done by members on missing persons issues, and if needed, FDLE can provide the article.
  + Members should also give permission to use photos that they send.
* Julie asks if school safety topics may be relevant to the newsletter; Fortify Florida hotline, parent reunification procedures in the case of an incident at the school, etc.

Other Newsletter Topics

* The 5 Missing Persons Myths flyers are still passed out at safety events, and the information is still new and shocking to people; should the Board continue putting them in the newsletter?
  + Suggestion to add the myths to the newsletter annually.
* The first myth on the list is that there is no waiting period to report someone missing; MEPIC analyst Amaris Stillabower explains that this myth isn’t only in the media, but also in police departments. MEPIC analysts provide the statute number clarifying this to concerned members of the public on a weekly basis, sending them back to the PD with the number so that they will accept the report.
  + Question of whether this issue is large enough to warrant its own article; FDLE can do this and include anecdotes from MEPIC analysts.
  + The Jimmy Ryce Foundation would push out such an article.
  + Ashley will provide the statute number to Board members by email.

**FDLE Public Safety Event Update**

13th Annual Missing Adult’s Day, Jacksonville FL. 2/24/2023

* The ceremony is designed similarly to the FMCD ceremony, with no awards portion.
* Three of the people recognized at the ceremony are in the MEPIC database.
* This is a local event, covering a few surrounding counties, and included several members of law enforcement who gave speeches.
* Question of whether FDLE will work with them on their event in the future; this seems unlikely as the Florida Channel does not have the space available to combine them.
* Instead, it may be possible to foster interest in this sort of event statewide, and to develop a separate statewide event.

Other Events

* Tallahassee Safety Fair at Southwood, March 10th
  + Hosted by Capitol police
  + Target audience was Tallahassee state workers; not many attendees, but a lot of interaction.
  + Attendees were very interested in the Autism flyer.
* Scent Evidence K9 Summit, March 14th
  + Successful networking between FDLE and other agencies and organizations.
* FDLE has been invited to attend National Night Out in St. Pete.

**Other Board Business**

SMAS Hawkins is currently finding out if FDLE can put on another Rays Baseball Florida Missing Children’s Day event in the Tampa Bay Stadium; last event was in 2019.

Reminder from Chairperson Campbell for members to submit local events to FDLE so that we may attend if possible, and put them on our safety event calendar on the FMCDF website for public awareness.

Ashley requests that any changes to Board members’ contact information be sent to her by Friday, April 14th, prior to sending appointment letters. She also explains that for representatives of members, the member will receive the letter, which will mention the representative.

Ashley will send out the date of the June in-person meeting by email. The meeting will be at Staybridge.

A possible topic for the Summer Newsletter is the rebuilding of the MEPIC database to improve functionality and streamline the process of sending out alerts.

**FMCD**

Venue Change

* The Capitol is undergoing a large-scale renovation, to include the Capitol Courtyard and the Capitol Building.
* FDLE is working with our chain of command, and when decisions are made by our Commissioner, a call will be scheduled with the Advisory Board and the FMCD Foundation Board to discuss our course of action.

Nominations for 2023 FMCD due by Friday, May 19th.

* Ashley requests that members please distribute nomination information to their organizations.
* This year, the information has been distributed to bus drivers, FSA, FPCA, and more.
* About five nominations have already come in for some law enforcement awards.

Julie should receive essay contest update later this afternoon.

**MEPIC Direct Recovery Update**

**Adjournment; meeting ended at 12:15 PM.** (approximate)