

**Virtual Meeting**

**February 8th, 2024 @ 1:00 PM to 2:01 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

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

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

**FDLE Attendees:**

SAS Grant Geyer, SMAS Ashley Bullard, SMAS Kandace Zachary, SMAS Christina Hagenbeck, Reneé Strickland, Mehgen Peoples, Quentin Harris, Natalie Bielby, Alexea Morris, Kelly Ibarra

**Board Member Attendees:**

Chairperson Karen Mazzola, Vice Chairperson Darry Lloyd, Bill Corfield, Janet Hartman, John Pitta, Peggy Pitta, Hilary Sessions, Kim Spence, Mark Young, Terri Lynn, Fran Carlin-Rogers, David Brand, Major Jerry Hensley, Jessica Janasiewicz, Brandi Smith, Major Tracy Clark, Travis Paulk, Kristin Morgan

**Organizations and Individuals Represented:**

Impacted missing families, former law enforcement, Target Corporation, Florida Public Safety Institute, St. Petersburg Police Department, Florida Association of School Administrators, Florida PTA, Florida Governor’s Legal Office, The Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction, Department of Children and Families, Florida Sheriff’s Association, Office of the State Attorney 8th Circuit, UCF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, Tallahassee Police Department

**Call Meeting to Order at 1:01pm**

**Welcome and Roll Call**

The new chair Karen Mazzola and vice chair Darry Lloyd introduction

Roll Call was conducted by FDLE. Quorum was not initially obtained. Quorum was obtained later in meeting and voting outlined in meetings was conducted.

**Approval for 11/16/2023 Meeting Minutes**

Darry Lloyd motions to approve previous meeting minutes; seconded by Terri Lynn and passed at 1:27 PM, with no opposed.

Members discussed the board member status and generally how appointments are held through an individual or through an organization.

**Dates for the Next Virtual meeting and in Person Meeting**

* **Virtual Meeting Dates:** these dates below will be based on reviewing and discussion the strategic plan
  + **Thursday, March 28th**
  + **Thursday, May 9th**
* **In Person Meeting Dates:** these dates below will be voted on in a survey monkey
  + **Friday, June 7, 2024**

**OR**

* + **Friday, June 14, 2024**

**June 7th was preferred date per surveymonkey for those that could not attend both dates equally**

**Upcoming Dates:**

**Board members were instructed to message the below information and dates to their organizations**

* **Poster Contest, due February 12**
* **Essay Contest, due March 7**
* **National Anthem Contest, due May 1**
* **Florida Missing Children’s Day Awards, nomination forms due May 17th**

Information on contests and information can be located at [Contests & Links | FMCDF.org](https://www.fmcdf.org/important-links) or [MEPIC :: FMCD Contests (state.fl.us)](https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/mcicsearch/FMCDContest.asp).

**2024 Spring/Summer Newsletter**

Newsletter needs articles, Jimmy Ryce Center’s article is the only one submitted by Board. Additionally, Terri Lynn will be providing a photo of Ms. Ryce with the bloodhounds for the article she submitted previously.

Chair Mazzola asks that members submit articles for the newsletter moving forward and that three newsletters will be produced a year (Spring, Summer, Fall). The Board was averaging around 3 newsletters and not 4. The deadline to submit articles for the Spring newsletter was set for March 1st, 2024, and the articles should be about 200 to 300 words. Two board members may have possible articles.

Dr. Spence is willing to do an article as there was possible legislative changes regarding autism. Due to this, advised that the Summer newsletter would be best to wait for the status of the bills to be confirmed.

**Family Survey Questions**

Members discussed the family survey, and how we should improve the response feedback from the families. The Board was advised that we receive verbal feedback from the families and attendees at the ceremony and not many responses to the survey.

The majority of verbal responses for 2023 included that they liked the location, they want the structure of the ceremony to stay the same, and general positive responses regarding the event.

Chair Mazzola would like a briefing about the responses to the ceremony provided to the board the meeting after Florida Missing Children’s Day.

**Future Conferences & Safety Fair Events**

* National Child Protection Task Force conference in March (pending)
* Take your child to work day in April
* Capitol Police safety event for individuals with disabilities
* Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA), June 7-12
* Florida Association of Schools Resource Officers (FASRO) conference, July 15-19
* Florida PTA Leadership Convention, July 18-21
* Florida Sheriff’s Association, July 21-24

Chair Mazzola asked if Board members can attend.

**The Foundation currently does not have enough funding to hold the 2024 ceremony and is seeking alternative fundraising opportunities.**

**Strategic Plan**

Chair Mazzola instructed members to review the strategic plan and provide comments for the next plan. Members must submit any changes or adjustments and any additional projects to create, continue or remove to FDLE by an email by March 15th. If members did not have any recommended changes, they are to submit an email stating they have reviewed the strategic plan and have no suggested changes.

**FDLE Update**

FDLE’s Enforcement and Investigative Support Bureau submitted legislative bills regarding sexual offender/predators and Purple Alerts. They are being tracked by FDLE and if they pass, FDLE will provide an update regarding the changes. Board members will be provided links to the proposed changes via email if they want to see the proposed changes and track the bills.

MEPIC supervisor Zachary provided alert statistics and an information on a January direct recovery.

FDLE advised Board on the CJIS memo and DNA Lab project.

SAS Grant indicated there is a statewide CART coordinator meeting at the end of the month at FDLE.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Kim Spence; Mark Young seconds the motion and meeting adjourns at 2:01 PM.

**Note:** The recorder powered off during the meeting and there is not a recording of this meeting.