



Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)
Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC)
Advisory Board

Virtual Meeting
Thursday, February 12th, 2026
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM (EST)

Mission Statement: Together with the citizens of Florida, we promote the safety of children and other vulnerable populations through public and private collaborations.

Meeting Minutes
Chairperson: Karen Mazzola

Welcome

Meeting begins at 1:04 PM.

Roll Call

Advisory Board Members: Chairperson Karen Mazzola, Mr. Dan Campbell, Mr. Bill Corfield, Ms. Stephanie White, Major Mark Hensley, Ms. Jessica Janasiewicz, Sheriff Walt McNeil, Mr. Brian Moore, Mr. John Pitta, Mrs. Peggy Pitta, Mr. John Robertson, Ms. Hilary Sessions, Ms. Brandi Manley, Dr. Kim Spence, Chief Darry Lloyd, Mr. Mike Vasilinda, Mr. Mark Young, Ms. Julie Collins, Dr. Katherine Gomez, Ms. Logan McGee, Ms. Aislinn Brookshire, Mr. Demarco Johnson, Captain Peter Bergstresser

FDLE Members: Director Melissa Bujeda, ASAC John McClellan, ASA Aida Limongi, Ms. Rose Garrison, Mr. Demarco Johnson, GSOM Mehgen Peoples, Ms. Makenna Nix, Mr. Abdel Cortez, Ms. Megan McDonald

Organizations and Individuals Represented: Florida PTA, Target Corporation, Florida Public Safety Institute, St. Petersburg Police Department, Florida Association of School Administrators, Florida Association of District Superintendents, Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Governor's Legal Office, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at UCF, State Attorney 8th Circuit, Mike Vasilinda Productions, The Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction, Florida Department of Education, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Impacted Missing Families, Retired Law Enforcement

Previous Meeting Minutes

- Chairperson Mazzola requests a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes.
- Dr Spence motions accordingly and Mr. Moore seconds the motion.
- The Board votes in favor and the motion carries.

Newsletter

- Chairperson Mazzola explains that FDLE has received only two articles for the next two newsletters: one on Pathways to Freedom and an article from Chairperson Mazzola on incidences of child exploitation.
- Articles for the spring newsletter are due by March 6th.

- Dr. Gomez will write an article on DJJ trainings she is involved in.
- Chairperson Mazzola will look into getting an article from someone who presented on the dangers of specific apps and websites.
- Sheriff McNeil will look into getting an article from “Survive and Thrive” on recent work they have done.
- Chairperson Mazzola requests any further article ideas, particularly for the summer newsletter.
- Mr. Robertson suggests an article on summer water safety, particularly with regard to autistic children and being aware of risk factors in the neighborhood area.
- Dr. Spence explains that she has new statistics on water fatalities, which may be good to add to an article.
- Chairperson Mazzola mentions bills currently awaiting voting that would expand the swimming lesson voucher program to include children up to seven years old, and to educate parents in drowning prevention. She will look into those bills for a possible article.
- Chief Hensley suggests asking emergency dispatch workers for an article and will look into this through contacts he has. He suggests a PSA.
- Chairperson Mazzola suggests an article on the Spectrum Alert. GSOM Peoples confirms that FDLE is planning an article for the summer newsletter on this.
- GSOM Peoples suggests the June in-person meeting as a tentative deadline for summer newsletter articles.

Appointment and Reappointment Letters

- Ms. Nix confirms that appointment/reappointment letters have been sent out, and members should expect to see them soon if they have not received them already.

Election Discussion

- Chairperson Mazzola announces that she will be retiring as chair after this meeting.
- She explains that Chief Darry Lloyd and Major Mark Hensley have volunteered to sit as chair and vice-chair respectively.
- There are currently no other members running for those positions.
- She invites Chief Lloyd to explain some of his background in missing persons issues. Chief Lloyd briefly explains his professional background.
- Chairperson Mazzola requests any other nominations from the Board; there are none.
- Chairperson Mazzola requests a motion to accept Major Lloyd as chairperson. Mr. Robertson motions accordingly and Mr. Young seconds the motion.
- The Board votes in favor and the motion carries. The decision will take effect at the close of the current meeting.
- Chairperson Mazzola invites Major Hensley to explain his background in missing persons issues. He briefly describes his professional background.
- Chairperson Mazzola requests any other nominations from the Board; there are none.
- She requests a motion to accept Major Hensley to the position of vice-chair. Ms. White motions accordingly and Mr. Vasilinda seconds the motion.

- The Board votes in favor and the motion carries. The decision will take effect at the close of the current meeting.

FMCD Update

- Ms. Nix confirms that the 2026 Florida Missing Children's Day will take place at the Tallahassee Automobile Museum due to budget constraints, size, and other issues making the Capitol courtyard not useable.
- She explains that the contests for poster, essay, and national anthem are live. Chairperson Mazzola encourages members to share and distribute information for the contests.
- FMCD award nominations open March 2026. There were non-substantive grammatical changes to the nomination forms; the updated forms have been sent to Board members for review.
- Chairperson Mazzola suggests that they don't require a vote and asks for objections.
- There are none, and the Board allows the changes.

Strategic Plan Update

- Chairperson Mazzola explains that the meeting agenda has the Board's strategic plan projects written out in it.
- She asks for any input on changing or updating project goals. There is none.

CART Update

SAS Limongi provides the CART update.

Other Business

- Chairperson Mazzola requests any further business before the meeting adjourns. GSOM Peoples thanks Chairperson Mazzola and Chief Lloyd for serving the Board in their positions, and Chief Lloyd and Major Hensley for stepping up to fill those positions.
- She requests members send in any news or issues to her to see how FDLE might facilitate the Board's ability to address them. She explains that FDLE hosts all of the alert trainings on its website and recommends members take them.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourns at 1:46 PM.