

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



**In-Person Meeting**

**Monday, September 8, 2025**

**12:00 PM – 1:00 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 starts at 12:00 PM.

**Roll Call**

**Advisory Board Members:** Chairperson Karen Mazzola, Chief Darry Lloyd, Mr. Dan Campbell, Mr. John Pitta, Ms. Peggy Pitta, Mr. Bill Corfield, Mr. Mark Young, Ms. Janet Hartman, Ms. Stephanie White, Dr. Kim Spence, Dr. Katherine Gomez, Major David Bernhardt, Captain Peter Bergstresser, Mr. Travis Paultk, Ms. Kristin Morgan, Ms. Jullie Collins, Ms. Brandi Manley, Sheriff Walt McNeil, Major Jerry "Mark" Hensley, Mr. John Robertson, Ms. Jessica Janasiewicz, Ms. Hilary Sessions, Mr. Brian Moore

**FDLE Attendees:** Commissioner Mark Glass, Deputy Commissioner Mike Phillips, Director Melissa Bujeda, Assistant Special Agent in Charge John McClellan, Deputy Public Information Director Brent Edson, Special Agent Supervisor Luke Johnson, Rose Garrison, Mehgen Peoples, Makenna Nix, Kylie Frantello, Megan McDonald

**Organizations and Individuals Represented:** Florida PTA, State Attorney 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit, Target Corporation, Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction, Tallahassee State College Florida Public Safety Institute, University of Central Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD), Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Department of Education, Governor's Legal Office, Leon County Sheriff's Office, St. Petersburg Police Department, Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Florida Association of School Administrators, Florida Association of District School Superintendents, Impacted Missing Families, Private Citizens

**FMCD After-Action**

**Opinions:**

- Mr. Campbell notes that some family members were overwhelmed during the ceremony and were unable to do the survey asking for family feedback, and suggests including the survey in an email. GSOM Peoples explains that she does follow up with the families by email 2-3 weeks after the ceremony and will include this.

- Mr. Pitta asks if there is a cost difference with using the Tallahassee Automobile Museum versus using the Florida Capitol. GSOM Peoples explains that there is a significant difference in cost and in ability to accommodate guests safely.
  - GSOM Peoples adds that attendance this year totaled over 400 people, which is not possible at the Capitol due to constraints on seating and parking.
  - Mr. Campbell notes that priorities seem to be air conditioning and other accessibility concerns, as well as political significance. He suggests that while it may not be feasible to be at the Capitol, further effort should be put into gaining attendance from state dignitaries.
  - Commissioner Glass says that he will invite state attorneys next year.
- Major Bernhardt suggests that if the families desire access to political figures, that they and FDLE go to the Capitol on a different day and arrange to meet with legislators.
  - Mr. John Robertson suggests Children's Week, which is in February.
  - GSOM Peoples will look into this.
  - Ms. Sessions explains that she doesn't want FMCD to be a political photo-op and wants it to exist primarily as a day of recognition for the missing. She seconds the suggestion of having a separate day with more political emphasis.
- Ms. Sessions suggests inviting legislators to the FASRO reception instead of the ceremony.
- Ms. Pitta suggests sending a follow-up to those invited who did not attend, saying that they were missed.

## **Newsletter**

- The Fall issue will cover the FMCD letter, so new articles will be needed for the Winter/Spring Newsletter. Articles should be submitted by the November meeting.
- There has been a suggestion to focus this newsletter on human trafficking, missing children, and habitual runaways.
- Dr. Spence, Mr. Robertson, and Dr. Gomez may write articles on their agencies' activities. Mr. Campbell has a contact in an organization that supports human trafficking victims, and they have committed to writing an article.
- GSOM Peoples will reach out to third parties for articles if board members provide their information to her.
- Summer 2026 articles are due at the June in-person meeting.

## **Future Items**

- Virtual Meeting possible dates:
  - Thursday, November 13
  - Thursday, February 12
  - Thursday, April 23

## **Updates & Reminders**

- New Spectrum Alert

- FDLE is currently developing training and other informational resources for the new alert, which goes live in 2026. GSOM Peoples will work with Dr. Spence to source information.
- Reappointment letters and updated contact information
  - Dr. Spence suggests adding Dr. Gomez as a voting member.
  - GSOM Peoples explains that representatives of voting members are added as ad hoc members, who, according to the bylaws, cannot vote. However, the bylaws allow members to be moved from ad hoc to voting members, and it is possible to change the bylaws to allow ad hoc members to vote.
  - Due to board bylaws, FDLE should be notified immediately of member agency changes in command.
  - GSOM Peoples invites members to suggest missing person families that may like to join the board.
  - GSOM Peoples invites board members to submit suggestions for changes to the bylaws by October.
  - Major Hensley asks Dr. Spence for information on where to get a bloodhound; she suggests going through the CARD centers and offers to put him into contact with one.
  - Chairperson Mazzola suggests adding information to the newsletter about the ability to get bloodhounds and training through the CARD centers.
- Travel Reimbursement Forms
  - Members are reminded to turn in their forms.
- MEPIC/CART Update
  - SAS Luke Johnson provides the MEPIC and CART statistics for 2024.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourns at 1:08 PM.