

**Virtual Meeting**

**March 28, 2024 @ 1:00 PM to 2:01 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

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

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

**FDLE Attendees:**

Ashley Bullard, Kandace Zachary, Heather Faulkner, Reneé Strickland, Mehgen Peoples, Quentin Harris, Kelly Ibarra

**Board Member Attendees:**

Chairperson Karen Mazzola, Pro Tem Chairman Brian Moore, Dan Campbell, Hilary Sessions, Bill Corfield, Janet Hartman, Jessica Janasiewicz, John Pitta, Peggy Pitta, Dr. Kim Spence, Mark Young, Terri Lynn, Fran Carlin-Rogers, Major Jerry Hensley, Brandi Smith, Major Tracy Clark, Cpt. Peter Bergstresser, Travis Paulk, Kristin Morgan

**Organizations and Individuals Represented:**

Florida PTA, Florida Association of District School Superintendents, impacted missing families, Target Corporation, Florida Public Safety Institute, Florida Association of School Administrators, UCF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, The Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction, St. Petersburg Police Department, Florida Governor’s Legal Office, Tallahassee Police Department, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Department of Children and Families, and private citizens

1. **Call Meeting to Order at 1:15pm**
2. **Welcome and Roll Call**

Roll Call was conducted by FDLE. Quorum was not initially obtained. Chairperson was not in attendance at the start of the meeting and a Pro Tem Chairman was needed, FDLE requested a vote, Brian Moore volunteered. Chairperson joined late and unable to run meeting, deferred control of meeting to Moore for whole meeting.

1. **Approval for 2/8/2024 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes will be sent out through a survey monkey.

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

**Virtual Meeting Dates:**

Thursday, May 9th at the Same time 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**In Person Meeting Date:**

Friday, June 7th, 2024– status is pending a meeting with the hotel to view the meeting room.

The in-person meeting will not be at Staybridge Suites this time. The Drury Hotel has a meeting room available for June 7th and is willing to let FDLE borrow it. Due to this, the June meeting tentative the viewing of the layout of the meeting room.

The Drury Hotel is a new hotel that was built off I-10 and Capitol Circle and only opened in January 2024. If you are driving West to Tallahassee on I-10, it is the exit after Staybridge’s exit. Additional, information will be provided in an email.

1. **Upcoming Dates:**

**Please push the below information to your agencies/organizations**

National Anthem Contest is due May 1st. Information may be obtained on MEPIC website or the Florida Missing Children’s Day Foundation website.

FMCD Nomination Forms, due May 17th and are also on the above websites.

FDLE advised nomination categories like the Young Hero Award, Citizen of the Year Award and the School Bus Operator of the Year Award are typically difficult to fill. Please start reaching out to possible contacts for these categories to encourage submissions. Members advised they will push to their contacts; specifically Broward schools and the transportation director’s office were referenced.

1. **2024 Spring/Summer Newsletter**

Members provided positive feedback on the design of the Spring Newsletter. Asked for clarification on direct recovery language on alert statistics.

FDLE advised that once issue is approved, summer articles will be needed for the new issue. Articles will need to be sent in by May 1st.

1. **Strategic Plan**

FDLE received some comments on the strategic plan and they are incorporated on the plan already shown at this meeting. Design will be changed in the future as well. For now, the language is what is generally being reviewed for changes.

Members approved first page.

FDLE advised the language was changed to be more generic “Missing People” instead of missing children on the second page. A member advised that the first “bullet” should stay as it is. The other bullets that coincide with it should be moved under it.

Other comments that were clarified:

Should the plan reference “supporting families” in addition to law enforcement?

FDLE -FDLE does not provide family resources. Resources for families are generally provided by local offices. MEPIC analytical and investigative services are provided to law enforcement agencies.

Change all language that has victim families to impacted missing families.

Should specific government agencies or other agencies be listed on the plan such as Department of Transportation (DOT) when they work on specific projects?

FDLE- generic language because at any given time we have multiple agencies working with MEPIC like DOT, Department of Education, Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice, etc.

The rest of the members approved of the strategic plan general content. FDLE will restructure it again for the next meeting. Any changes/updates need to be sent to FDLE ASAP.

**FDLE Update**

**General Updates**

Legislative updates were filed and put on Governor’s desk for approval.

Explanation requested for the Purple Alert law change regarding vehicles and state alerts. FDLE staff advised that the purple alert is currently for activation for people on foot and in a vehicle. The new changes allow local law enforcement to issue a local purple alert if they are on foot and MEPIC will only issue a state alert if they are in a vehicle.

MEPIC Supervisor Zachary provided alert statistics

January 1-March 27, 122 total alerts;

4 Amber Alerts issued, 4 resolved

15 Missing Children Alerts issued, 12 resolved

1. Purple Alerts issued, 43 resolved

57 Silver Alert issued, 55 resolved

Question arose regarding data on alerts. Is it possible to track from when the alert is issued to when it is resolved?

FDLE-This information is not usually tracked as it has the potential to provide false data. Data would depend on the local agency to call and request FDLE MEPIC Assistance to issue the alert itself. Do you track from that first phone call? There are times that the agency does not have information on the missing person yet to put together an alert and is missing other essential information. The agency would have to call back. It also relies on the agency contacting MEPIC immediately after the alert is resolved and provide recovery details. This is not always done in a timely manner and sometimes specific recovery information is not provided to MEPIC. That particular statistic has the potential to spread misinformation and not be accurate, so it is not something we do at this time.

**Additional Items Discussed**

FDOT’s Life for Coalition, is working on a flow cart with details on Silver Alerts. FDLE advised that a MEPIC supervisor was already in communication with them regarding this matter.

FDLE will be redoing their webpage in the next year hopefully for missing persons. Board would like to see links to partnering agencies in the future.

FMCD Foundation already has some links to partnering agencies, more will hopefully be added at a later time.

FDLE was requested to provide Board dates and times for the whole year. Due to the flow, this is difficult to accommodate. FDLE will provide expected dates for meetings until FMCD via email.

**Adjournment**

Pro Tem Chairman Brian adjourned the meeting at 2:07.