



Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board

STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2027



Mission:

Promote the safety of Florida's children and other vulnerable populations.

Vision:

To lead the nation in the education and implementation of effective missing person prevention and recovery strategies.

Mission Objectives

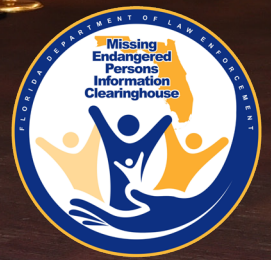
Through Partnership with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)

The Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board (MEPICAB) Strives to Serve Florida's Missing by:

- Ensuring that law enforcement has the information to respond efficiently and effectively to all missing persons incidents.
- Collaborating with governmental agencies, private resources, community groups and other organizations to raise public awareness of missing person topics including personal safety.
- Partnering with the Florida Missing Children's Day Foundation to organize and publicize Florida Missing Children's Day.



How it Began



The Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board (MEPICAB) was created in 1996 to collaborate on missing children's issues with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The Board is comprised of a diverse mix of law enforcement officials, impacted missing person families, government agency representatives, non-profit organizations, private sector stakeholders, and members of the business community with interest in missing person issues.

In 1982 Florida created the first missing children department in the nation and has updated its name to reflect the multiple demographics served. It is now called the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC). MEPIC provides analytical services regarding

missing and unidentified persons to ensure that Florida families can be notified if their loved one is located.

MEPIC assists jurisdictional law enforcement agencies in locating missing persons by issuing AMBER, Missing Child, State Purple, and State Silver Alerts, creating missing persons flyers, collecting and disseminating relevant information, and engaging the public in the search for missing persons. MEPIC also works with other state clearinghouses, Child Abduction Response Teams (CART), the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to exchange information, tips, and leads about missing persons to help provide each missing person with the best chance of recovery.

The MEPICAB meets at least quarterly to work on various topics and projects related to educational safety and awareness, including Florida Missing Children's Day and safety fairs and to distribute information to the public and law enforcement.

This strategic plan represents the priorities and planned actions for the MEPICAB for the three-year period, 2025-2027. The plan also informs partners and stakeholders about the Board's intentions so other organizations can identify areas of participation and implementation.

MEPICAB Projects

PROJECT:

Provide information to law enforcement (through direct communication, conferences, and criminal justice events) for the adoption and implementation of the best missing person practices and procedures.

TASK:

Provide resources to law enforcement on the capture of missing person information, potential challenges in missing person cases, common misconceptions in missing person cases, and other resources that may be available for law enforcement and the public through other organizations and agencies.

TASK:

Raise awareness regarding resources that support missing persons through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to include alert issuance, training, and lab services such as DNA testing.

PROJECT:

Assist the Florida Missing Children's Day Foundation and FDLE with activities associated with Florida Missing Children's Day (FMCD) held the second Monday of September each year per Florida Statute 683.23.

TASK:

Support the organization and developments of FMCD activities and information to include the event itself, contests, awards, event contacts, and other related tasks or activities.

TASK:

Promote participation in FMCD through Board attendance, solicitation of award nominees and event contestants, and distribution of information.



MEPICAB Projects

PROJECT:

Strengthen partnerships to raise awareness of the challenges in missing person and unidentified person cases, child safety prevention methods, resources available for at risk missing populations, and sexual offender/predator identification in communities.

TASK:

Network with local event coordinators to arrange personnel specializing in child safety to attend community engagement events and safety fairs to educate diverse populations.

TASK:

Collaborate with other organizations and agencies that serve as subject matter experts to host, link or distribute, with their permission, non-FDLE published public safety announcements, literature, relevant data analysis, and resources that support the Board's mission.

TASK:

Create and maintain relationships with missing person families associated with Florida Missing Children's Day, subject matter area experts, community representatives, training institutions, private organizations, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies.

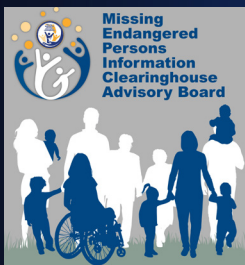
TASK:

Create, maintain, and distribute the Missing & Endangered Newsletter at least three times a year on topics that support the Board's mission.



Chair Karen Mazzola, representing the Florida Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the PTA's President Carolyn Nelson-Goedert, expresses gratitude to the board members who contributed to this plan:

David Bernhardt representing the Florida Highway Patrol and Executive Director Dave Kerner
David Brand representing the Florida Sheriff's Association and Executive Director Steve Casey
Dan Campbell representing impacted missing person families
Fran Carlin-Rogers, private citizen specializing in senior transportation services
Tracy Clark with Tallahassee Police Department
Julie Collins representing the Florida Department of Education and Commissioner Manny Diaz
Bill Corfield representing Target Corporation
Paul Emmons representing the Florida Association of School Resource Officers
Katherine Gomez representing the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and Secretary Eric Hall
Janet Hartman and Stephanie White representing the Florida Public Safety Institute
Jerry Hensley representing the St. Petersburg Police Department, Chief Anthony Holloway and a member of the Florida Police Chief's Association
Jessica Janasiewicz and Geoff Willoughby representing the Florida Association of School Administrators
Emmy Kyllonen representing the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association and President Charlotte Brand-Audie
Darry Lloyd, vice chairperson, with the Florida Office of the State Attorney, 8th Circuit
Terri Lynn and Mark Young representing the Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction
Walt McNeil, Sheriff of Leon County
Brian Moore representing the Florida Association of District School Superintendents and Chief Executive Officer William Montford
Travis Paulk and Kristin Morgan representing the Florida Department of Children and Families and Secretary Shevaun Harris
John and Peggy Pitta, retired law enforcement
John Robertson representing the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services
Hilary Sessions representing impacted missing families
Brandi Manley and Rochelle Kemple representing the Florida Governor's Legal Office
Susan Smith, private citizen specializing in victim and impacted families advocacy and services
Kimberly Spence representing the University of Central Florida's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
Mike Vasilinda, private citizen specializing in media
Frank Williams, retired Assistant United States Attorney



Committed to:

The safety of Florida's children and other vulnerable populations