

## **Nevada AMBER Alert Committee**

(Statewide Alert System for the Safe Return of Abducted Children)

Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2013 at

Nevada Department of Transportation, 1301 Old Hot Springs Rd., Carson City, NV

Regional Transportation Commission, 600 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV

Nevada Department of Transportation, Elko, NV

Having a quorum, the regular meeting of the Governor's AMBER Alert Review Committee was called to order by Chairperson Stephanie Parker at 2:08 PM at the Nevada Department of Transportation in Carson City, Nevada, the Regional Transportation Commission in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Nevada Department of Transportation in Elko, Nevada via video-conferencing.

Committee Members in attendance: Stephanie Parker, (Chair), Adrienne Abbott (Nevada Broadcasters Association), Chief Troy Abney (Nevada Highway Patrol), Lt. Kevin Larson (Nevada Highway Patrol), Gail Powell-Acosta (Department of Public Safety), Deputy Armando Avina (Washoe County Sherriff's Office), Captain Todd Peters (Henderson Police Department), Deputy John Michael Mendoza (Storey County Sherriff's Office), Senior Deputy Attorney General/State Child Advocate Victor Hugo-Schulze (NV Office of the Attorney General), Denise Stewart (Department of Public Safety/ATAC), .

Others in attendance: Linda DeSantis (State of Nevada IT), Roseanna Chambliss (Nevada Highway Patrol), Trooper Jim Stewart (Nevada Highway Patrol), Tori Shumway (DPS/NHP-Elko) and guest Sharon Rafter with Alert ID.

Agenda Item 3 - Mendoza asked for a correction to the January 16 meeting minutes to reflect his agency, Storey County Sheriffs' Office. In addition, Vice Chair Abbott asked for correction to Item# 3 on the January draft meeting minutes, as she was not in attendance and did not make the motion. Chairperson Parker advised that she has the original notes from the January 16, 2013 meeting and will make the corrections requested. Vice Chair Abbott made a motion to approve the January 16, 2013 meeting minutes with those two corrections. Deputy Mendoza made a second and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda Item 4 – Vice-Chair Abbott provided an update on Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) EAS software update. Aaron Kenneston from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office made the software available through MyState USA that enables the Emergency Alert System to be activated. It is Internet based and has the ability to upload attachments for audio and video and can convert text to speech. This feature is more sophisticated than NOAA. This technology is compatible with Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA). All media in Nevada obtained the technology in June of 2012. Currently all law enforcement agencies have access and can contact A. Kenneston for training and access.

The originating agency will have the option of filling out a CAP form to initiate the EAS for their AMBER Alert activation. When using CAP, they will also have to follow procedures to send the form to NCMEC... NCMEC will then send the AMBER Alert to the various wireless entities. Currently half of the US is CAP compliant. Vice-Chair Abbott stated that no agencies have completed training at this point in time. Dispatch centers and call takers will be trained how to operate and activate. Training will be brought to interested centers. Training will take several formats to include webinars, workshops provided by My State.

Agenda Item 5 – Chairperson Parker provided an overview of the NCMEC updated information on Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) and advised that users of most new Smart phones must opt-out and referred cell phone users to their respective cell providers for instructions. Chairperson Parker shared feedback on the new technology in Utah. There was no public comment. No action taken.

Agenda Item 6 - Chairperson Parker advised the Committee that she is working with Kimberly Elliott, the Director, Nevada Department of Administration, Research, Planning and Grant Management on how to facilitate or utilize NRS 432.360, which allows the Committee to accept gifts, grants and donations. The Committee does not have a budget account established, meaning no way to accept financial support for the committee. Financial support will be needed to carry out the coordination and implementation of training for law enforcement, broadcasters and dispatchers. Chairperson Parker advised the Executive Committee looked at some different options such as utilizing an existing non-profit agency as long as it did not jeopardize that entities 501 (c) 3 status due to unrelated program income. This may be the only option in the interim and Vice-Chair Abbott recommended approaching Nevada Broadcasters Association. Vice-Chair Abbott made a motion that the Executive Committee explores mechanisms to receive and disperse potential funding. Sharon Rafter, Alert ID., provided public comment. Ms. Rafter proposed that the Committee set-up a PayPal account to accept donations. Chairperson Parker advised that the Committee is not a 501 (c) 3 and therefore would have tax liabilities potentially. Chairperson Parker noted that the committee is a quasi-government body and would need to become an IRS recognized non-profit entity, which would have an associated cost and would take some time to complete. Chairperson Parker added that the non-profit process would not be an option at this time. The motion was seconded by Member D. Stewart and passed unanimously.

Member Schultz advised the group that any meeting of the Executive Committee needed to be agendaized. Chairperson Parker asked Member Schultz to check into the ability to conduct the meeting telephonically. He advised that we could not have the meeting telephonically from three private offices. Chairperson Parker asked if we could have two locations that the public could attend and ability of EC members calling in if needed. Member Schultz made a motion that a sub-committee could obtain the information then call a meeting. Member D. Stewart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. There was no further public comment.

Agenda Item 7 – Chairperson Parker introduced Sharon Rafter, Marketing Director from Alert ID, guest speaker standing in for Keli Wilson on agenda to provide a briefing on the potential partnership Alert ID is bringing to the Committee. Sharon provided an overview of ALERT ID, provided the website [www.alertid.com](http://www.alertid.com) and invited members to explore the site. The program is free to the public and is more than a family child ID. Member Peters from Henderson PD shared that Henderson PD is a formal partner with ALERT ID and the experience has been positive and of benefit to City of Henderson Police Department and the community. The partnership has been able to address and support public safety initiatives, communication and awareness. Alert ID is offering the ability for the Committee to generate revenue. Alert ID is a national platform internet based and mobile device based. This platform gives push notifications for members about sex offenders, extreme weather conditions and disasters such as earthquakes and is being utilized for public safety notifications. The program started in Northern Nevada and currently 85% of Nevada has Alert ID access to alerts. The technology includes rich text and photos and receives some revenue from advertising. The partnership that will allow the Committee to receive funding is through the Alert ID Royalty partnership. The Committee would receive \$0.25 for any person who joins Alert ID after being referred to the program by the AMBER Review Committee. . Chairperson Parker advised Ken Wiles with Alert ID advised it would be \$1 for each referral. Ms. Rafter advised that Alert ID would provide the earned dividends quarterly. Alert ID would offer to create fliers and a

landing page on the internet. This can be managed or set-up by Alert ID. Chairperson Parker asked if this partnership would also assist in creating collateral for public dissemination about AMBER Alert and Ms. Rafter answered in the affirmative. Ms. Rafter said to do a push notification to existing listserv subscribers would need a CSV or Excel file. Alert ID would create an introductory e-mail approved by the Committee and can send out or the Committee can send out. Vice-Chair Abbott asked about the cost and Ms. Rafter advised would be free. Chairperson Parker reminded the membership that she is an advisory member of Alert ID however receives no compensation whatsoever. Ms. Rafter will confirm that Alert ID is CAP Compatible. Member Peters made a motion that the Committee enter into this partnership to include the ability to generate revenue with Alert ID. Member Powell-Acosta seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Public Comment was entertained about advertising. Linda DeSantis questioned what safeguards are in place concerning advertising. Ms. Rafter advised there is a strict code of conduct to ensure there is not a conflict with state or local law enforcement or state government. All advertising must be family friendly.

Agenda Item 8 – Vice-Chair Abbott provided an overview of the updated changes to the AMBER plan and procedure. Vice-Chair will identify a way for the members to review. The most substantial changes would include the CAP technology and the WEA. She also listed the cosmetic changes and changes to the reporting form until CAP is utilized. Vice-Chair Abbott explained that the last issue to address is the contact numbers in the back of the book. Member D. Stewart advised she can provide confirmations for the out-of-state contacts.

Chairperson Parker asked about the process of notifying Committee members when an AMBER Alert is issued. Vice-Chair Abbott advised that she usually receives a call from the agency that is issuing the AMBER Alert. She makes notes and requests electronic copies of any pictures of the victim or victims and the suspect or suspects as well as any news releases that the agency may have prepared and a contact phone number for the public. She provides that information to Linda DeSantis for the state AMBER Alert website. She remains in contact with the activating agency and Linda to keep the information on the website current for the media. The request that agencies notify the EAS Chair or the AMBER Committee Chair is listed in the AMBER Plan in several places including under Agency Activation Procedures.

Chairperson Parker advised the plan states that activating agencies have to provide information about the alert to the Committee within 30 days of the activation and that has never happened to her knowledge. (The requirement is listed in section IV, LOCAL AGENCY GUIDELINES; subsection C, Staff Functions, and last bullet point.) She asked if that needs to be changed in the plan. Vice-Chair Abbott made motion to change the requirement to have agencies report their AMBER Alert activation information to quarterly. Linda DeSantis advised she could give access to ftp site to upload the plan for the members to review. Chairperson Parker asked about having practices and conducting a mock drill. She explained it is difficult for all members to understand the logistic involved. All in attendance agreed to the Committee Members participating in a mock drill. There is one conducted for emergency in Washoe County, NHP, NDOT and Clark inclusive. All agreed.

Chairperson Parker asked each member to go to his or her agency and ensure his or her agency has an agency AMBER Alert Plan. If not she will provide a template. All member agencies must have an approved plan in place.

Vice-Chair Abbott advised that in 2010 dispatchers received training from Department of Justice. Once we get this plan finalized and when Vice-Chair Abbott gets the training approved by POST, we can see what else is available. Chairperson Parker advised statutory members would be

provided access to the plan. Member Schulze advised it is a public document. If the committee produces it, its public record, the presumption is that it is a public record.

Chairperson Parker made a motion for Member Schulze to find an exclusion for sensitive information such as is in this plan. Member Schulze said no motion is needed, he will look into it. Vice-Chair Abbott advised that if the confidential processes, passwords, and contacts must be included in the document; could there be a separate procedures document, which we can use to contain the sensitive information outside of the plan and not for public access. Member Schulze advised that document would also be a public document.

Member Schulze advised it must be made a public document available to anyone. Chairperson Parker advised the Plan is confidential and to make it available could potentially and likely will harm the integrity of the plan. To provide the access to activate an Emergency Alert or cancel one without authority should be seen as a public safety concern. She also stated she feared that it would jeopardize the voluntary partnership with broadcasters. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 9 – Chairperson Parker advised that she had resource materials from NCMEC available. Resources include information on NCIC, AMBER Alert fact sheet and community collateral. Linda DeSantis has been working on a major overhaul of the website. She provided visual preview of the new site. The ability for users to fill out information on the site for alerts has not been possible in the past due to the firewall. With the new CAP technology, this will be possible. Member Mendoza asked if an interagency link would be available. Linda DeSantis advised once the site is completed, member agencies could use the link on their websites. Those who are registered/subscribed will receive an alert if there is an activation and every couple of hours afterwards. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 10 – Chairperson Parker provided an update on the status of designing the Annual Report. The results of the survey to members about data to track were completed. Primarily recovery statistics and to include clear and concise definitions will be included in the report. Chairperson Parker will be working on the design/layout next. There was no Public Comment. No action taken.

Member Powell-Acosta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:02PM; Member Larsen seconded the motion and was unanimous.

Next Meeting April 17, 2013 at:

Nevada Department of Transportation, 1301 Old Hot Springs Rd., Carson City, NV  
Regional Transportation Commission, 600 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV

Submitted by: Stephanie Parker/Roseanna Chambliss (DPS)