

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

Meeting Minutes

January 16, 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

The regular meeting of the Governor's AMBER Alert Review Committee was called to order by Chairperson Stephanie Parker at 2:00 PM at the Nevada Department of Transportation in Carson City, Nevada and Regional Transportation Commission in Las Vegas, Nevada via video-conferencing.

Committee Members in attendance: Stephanie Parker, (Chair), Chief Troy Abney (Nevada Highway Patrol), Lt. Kevin Larson (Nevada Highway Patrol), Gail Powell-Acosta (DPS), Trina Dahlin (NV Office of the Attorney General), Rick Nelson (NV Department of Transportation), Deputy Armando Avina (Washoe County Sheriff's Office), Deputy John Michael Mendoza (Washoe County Sheriff's Office), Victor Hugo-Schulze (NV Office of the Attorney General, Sgt. Peter Ferranti (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Dept.), and Chris Roman (Entravision Communications Corporation).

Others in attendance: Roseanna Chambliss (Nevada Highway Patrol), Tracy Teagarden (NV AMBER Alert Resource Member /KXTE), and Ivet Santiago (Nevada Child Seekers).

Agenda Item 2 -The meeting began with welcome and introductions. Deputy Sheriff Avina made a motion to accept the January 17, 2013 agenda, Sgt. Ferranti seconded and the motion was APPROVED unanimously. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Agenda Item 3 - Vice Chairperson Abbott made a motion to approve the October 17, 2012 meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Member Nelson and was APPROVED unanimously. There was no public comment on the October 17, 2012 minutes.

Agenda Item 4 - Chairperson Parker introduced to the committee, Chris Roman representing broadcasters and Entravision Communications Corporation. Sr. Deputy Attorney General Schulze made a motion to accept the representative, Ivet Santiago, as a Resource Member for the Committee as the assigned scribe for minutes at each meeting. The motion was seconded by Deputy Attorney General Dahlin and was APPROVED Unanimously. There was no public comment on the motion.

Agenda Item 5 - Chairperson Parker re-introduced the case review form that was introduced in 2011 by former committee member, Captain James Green (Henderson Police Department). No further questions or revisions to be made. Blank forms will be sent to Las Vegas and Sr. Deputy Attorney General Schulze will take charge in the distribution of the forms. Sr. Deputy Attorney General Schulze made a motion to approve the form and use of the form to review alert activations by the committee and it was seconded by Sgt. Ferranti. The motion was APPROVED unanimously. There was no public comment on the motion.

Agenda Item 6 – Review, Evaluation, and Recommendations of activation requests of the AMBER Alert system: Agenda item 6a was the AMBER Alert activation of February 2012, activation by Caldwell, ID. Representative from respective agency to discuss the activation was not present. Chairperson Parker will extend another invitation to the respective agency to attend our next meeting. The committee proceeded to the next activation.

Agenda item 6b was the AMBER Alert activation of August 31, 2012 by Henderson PD, Nevada. In attendance to discuss the activation was Sgt. David McKenna from Henderson Police Department. A 17-year-old Henderson girl was kidnapped from her home on or about August 31, 2012 and her captors allegedly held her for ransom. Two men knocked on the door of the victims' house, near Warm Springs and Arroyo Grande, at approximately 7:30 a.m. The victim answered the door and was abducted by two men. A neighbor's surveillance camera captured a red 2-door car with a blue fender leaving the scene. According to Sgt. McKenna, it was difficult to activate the alert initially. Vice Chairperson Abbott stated the Las Vegas Local Primary station, KXTE, received the call at approximately 1pm. and the alert was issued at approximately 1:30 p.m. The description of the vehicle was very unique, but information provided was not clear and more descriptive information was needed. The victim was found safe later that evening as a result of the tracking of cell phone and was how law enforcement was able to track and narrow down the abductor's whereabouts. Chairperson Parker reported that the victim as also quoted in a print media article that she had seen the AMBER Alert regarding her abduction and she believed that it (the AMBER Alert) helped and gave her some sense of comfort. Sgt. David McKenna stated the cancellation of the Amber Alert was conducted in a timely manner. There was no public comment on this activation.

Agenda item 7, Chairperson Parker led a discussion on the need to further develop a training program relating to AMBER and missing children issues. The Nevada Emergency Alert System, Part Q: AMBER Alert Child Abduction Plan was handed out for review. Chairperson Parker asked committee members to review the document within the next 10 days and to submit to her with recommendations. Chairperson Parker will compile the suggestions to be provided to the committee at the next meeting in January. The committee members that volunteered to provide

feedback include Lt. Larsen, Sgt. Ferranti, Deputy Sheriff Avina, Rick Nelson, and Tracy Teagarden. Vice Chairperson Abbott reported that she is currently working on updating the Power Point presentation for the training of AMBER Alert.

There was no public comment on the training discussion.

Agenda item 8, Chairperson Parker asked the committee to begin discussion on the need for a regional CART, (Child Abduction Response Team) or state-wide CART to assist jurisdictions that do not have the resources to deal with child abduction cases. The Henderson Police Department had been in the process of establishing a CART. Sgt. David McKenna did not have an update at the time of the meeting but offered to check with Captain Green to see if the plan/committee has been approved by the Henderson Police Department Chief. Sgt. Ferranti stated he would check on the status of the LVMPD CART as well.

There was no public comment on the matter of a regional or state-wide CART.

Agenda item 9, Chairperson Parker provided an update on some minor changes that were requested as a result of the August 31, 2012 Alert to include removing the contact information for the activating agency once the alert is cancelled and to change the appearance of the Listserv subscription link.

There was no public comment on the update.

Agenda item 10, Vice Chairperson Abbott provided an update on future Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) with Emergency Alert Systems (EAS). Vice Chairperson Abbott stated that CAP technology would allow local law enforcement agencies to directly issue their own EAS Activations for AMBER Alerts via the Internet instead of going through the Local Primary stations. This technology would mean that AMBER Alerts could be issued more quickly. CAP technology would also allow agencies to send pictures, maps and videos directly to radio and TV stations and the state AMBER Alert web site. At this present time, Washoe County has a committee in place that will write a grant to fund the CAP EAS technology. The advantage of CAP is that AMBER Alerts can be issued to a variety of sources by one administrator conducting one action. Vice Chairperson Abbott stated that CAP was FEMA's choice for their new national warning policy because it can be used across so many platforms currently in use and has the capability of being expanded to meet future technology. She noted that CAP can be used to issue warnings and information on systems from community sirens to social media as well as broadcast and cable. However she added that at this point neither the state nor any local government agencies have the equipment needed to issue messages in the CAP format.

There was no public comment on the CAP EAS technology.

Agenda item 11, Chairperson Parker asked for community member recommendations to be considered for appointment for the AMBER Committee to be given to her and she will send that

information to the Governor's Office. The recommendations need to be funneled through the committee and can be submitted to Chairperson Parker by end of the week. Chairperson Parker will submit all recommendations to the Office of the Governor for consideration as well as any recommendations to fill the local law enforcement agency vacancies pursuant to statute. There was no public comment on the recommendations for new committee members.

Agenda item 12, Chairperson Parker provided an update on the possibility of changing the AMBER Alert statute verbiage to reduce size of the committee so that fewer members were needed for a quorum. She noted that with the current structure it was difficult to achieve a quorum when there are so many vacancies on the committee and is checking on whether changes to the committee make-up could be made through the legislature. Chairperson Parker reported that although she identified several state boards/committees that had the desirable verbiage, the deadline to submit a Bill Draft Request (BDR) to the legislature is past for the 2013 session. . There was no public comment on the proposed changes to the AMBER Alert statute.

Chairperson Parker then called for public comments and none were offered. Member Powell motioned to adjourn the meeting and Vice Chairperson Abbott seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 PM.

Next Meeting January 16, 2013

Submitted by: Ivet Santiago, Nevada Child Seekers