

NEVADA AMBER ALERT COMMITTEE
(Statewide Alert System for the Safe Return of Abducted Children)
July 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, 2478 Fairview Dr., Carson City and Nevada Division of Parole & Probation, 215 E. Bonanza, Las Vegas.

Having a quorum, the regular meeting of the Nevada AMBER Alert Review Committee was called to order by Chairperson Stephanie Parker at 10:20 a.m. at the Nevada Division of Emergency Management in Carson City and Nevada Division of Parole & Probation in Las Vegas, NV via video-conferencing.

Committee Members in Attendance: Stephanie Parker (Chair), Denise Stewart (NV Department of Public Safety/ATAC), Sr. Deputy Attorney General Victor Hugo-Schulze, State Child Advocate (NV Office of Attorney General), Peter Ferranti (LVMP), Tracey Teagarden (NV Broadcaster Association), Denise Inda (NDOT), Adrienne Abbott (EAS Chair), Sgt. Zach Burns (LVMPD), Garrett Poinier (Henderson PD), and Gail Powell (NV Div. of Emergency Management).

Others in Attendance: Robert D. Fisher, Dan Mason, Linda DeSantis, Sgt. Peter Ferranti, Aaron Kenneston, and Julie Butler.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome and Introductions. No public comment

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of March 18, 2015 meeting minutes.

Victor Schulze moved to approve the minutes Denise Inda seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. No public comment.

Agenda Item 4 – Member Sgt. Zachary Burns provided an update on the organization of the 2015 Statewide AMBER Alert training and explained that LVMPD has been going through some transition that has caused a delay in the planning. The AMBER Alert training resources offered through Fox Valley Technical College are being reviewed. Sgt. Burns will provide an update soon.

There was no action taken. No public comment.

Agenda Item 5 – Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Emergency Manager, provided a presentation on the status of Common Alerting Protocol implementation and training throughout the State. Member, Victor Hugo-Schulze asked about the benefits of this technology and who is included in the universe of people the technology is geared toward. Mr. Kenneston replied that anyone who is responsible for emergency management, response and public warning and notification to include but not limited to braodcasters/the media, law enforcement, emergency responders, public safety dispatchers, and public information officers.

Mr. Kenneston covered the establishment and collaboration of the Public Warning/Public Information Working Group and the how EAS has ben integrated into the public warning system. The presentation included the benefits of this technology/portal being Internet based so no need for fancy expensive equipment while maintaining security and integrity of the system.

Mr. Kenneston had just finished one of the Regional Workshops the previous day and encouraged agencies to participate in upcoming workshops. The next one is August 4 in Elko. Mr. Kenneston advised that there is funding to send appropriate agency personnel from other agencies to the Elko workshop. There is also a capstone event scheduled December 3 in Reno to show the capability and raise public awareness.

Agenda Item 6 –

Vice-Chairperson Adrienne Abbott lead the discussion on how important it is that jurisdictions transition to using the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), specifically also updating the State AMBER Alert plan and activation procedures for the emergency alert system. The obvious benefits, decreasing the time in notifying the public, the ability to update information more easily and quickly as needed, the ability to share an increased amount of information to the public were just a few of the compelling reasons. The discussion resulted in Vice Chair Abbott making a motion to send correspondence from the AMBER Alert Committee to all law enforcement agencies and communications/dispatch centers to encourage the use of CAP for activations of AMBER Alert and Vice Chair Abbott volunteered to draft and send the communication. Member Vic Schulze seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Vice Chairperson Abbott also announced her resignation and advised that Nevada Broadcasters Association is currently working on her replacement. The Commission expressed regret in losing Vice Chair Abbott in the membership but Vice Chair Abbott pledged to be available as a resource going forward. Vice Chair Abbott was a founding member of this Commission and will be sorely missed.

Member Denise Inda advised the attendees that N.D.O.T. obtained budget approval to purchased updated EAS related equipment to replace outdated equipment in three different districts in Nevada and the NWS staff will be trained for the upgrade in FY16.

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 7 – Member Denise Stewart provided an overview of AB 424 which will allow this Commission to accept funding in a state account to carry-out the purpose of the Commission. Mr. Robert Fisher, the former and first Chairperson of this Committee, provided some examples of current issues the Commission faces with regard to potential legislation in the future that the Commission may want to look at addressing such as the membership make-up and funding. Mr. Fisher offered his services to address issues in a lobbying capacity at no cost to the Commission. No public comment

Agenda Item 8 – Chairperson Parker asked the Commission Members for recommendations for appointments for the Community position of the Committee that can be provided to the Governor's office. Parker explained she is looking for at least 3 recommendations. Chairperson Parker announced that she is also looking to prepare for succession so if anyone is interested she is open to stepping down. Vice Chair Abbott made a motion that Members be given 48 hours to provide name and contact information to Chair Parker of recommendations to forward to the Governor's office. Member Stewart seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. No public comment.

Agenda Item 9 - Public Comment – None

Next meeting is October 21, 2015 at 10 a.m.

No further public comments

Agenda Item 10 - Meeting Adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

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