

Safe Communities Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 12, 2009 10:30 - Noon

Present: Jon Karger and Jake Grabow (OTC Sheriff's Department); Pam Ness (Lakes Country Service Cooperative-3); Steve Adams (Fergus Falls Police Department-4); Ryan Cheshire (OTC Attorney's Office – 4); Judy Bradow (Community Representative); Natalie Rund (Lake Region Hospital – 4); Rick West (OTC Engineer-4); and Jane Patrick (Project Coordinator).

1. Jane Patrick began the meeting and welcomed the group.
2. The group reviewed the discussions and content of the large coalition meeting held in July in Ottertail. There was a very good turnout, and the information shared by BNSF Railroad was very informative. The group discussed tentative plans for the training next spring. Jane will work with Brian Nelson from Perham to find a location for the training. The group decided that if there wasn't a space large enough to host the training, it might be possible to host it in Ottertail at the Operations Center. The group also discussed options for accessing funds from BNSF railroad to help support a media campaign in the Perham community regarding railroad safety. Rick indicated that his department had a listing of all railroad crossings and their identification number. Rick said he would get this information to Judy Siggerud at Dispatch to ensure they had the information when responding to 9-1-1 calls.
3. The group discussed updates on the media campaign. Jane indicated that the August billboard was the last one for which sponsorship had been identified. Natalie Rund agreed to check with Lake Region Hospital to see if they would be interested in sponsoring another billboard for the month of September. The group decided to go with the state-wide message of "Start Seeing Motorcycles" since they had covered all other aspects of advertising directly to motorcyclists.
4. The group discussed upcoming Safe and Sober events. Jane ordered and received DWI media materials from the state. Judy will put up and use banners this weekend when her family participates in the Vining Watermelon Days Parade. Jane also agreed to distribute some to Red Horse Ranch arena since they will be hosting a large rodeo event this coming weekend. The group also discussed a "kick off" event for Labor Day and ideas for generating media attention. Tom had sent information to Jane about the state award received by Deputy Scott Wagner for significant DWI arrests. The group decided to request that a formal presentation be made for Deputy Wagner at the next County Board Meeting. Rick West also agreed to share information with the board about the fact that OTC has once again been listed as one of the 13 Deadliest Counties. This is based on the total number of serious injury crashes and not necessarily the number of fatal accidents. Ryan will contact WDAY –TV in Fargo and inform them of the presentation. Jane will also invite someone from the State Patrol to attend and share information on Operation Night Cap which will be starting this coming weekend.
5. Jane shared information with the group about the webpage for the Coalition that has been linked to the Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative site. Jane indicated that various resources developed by the group have been put on the site. The group also requested that the local police departments and other law enforcement links be put on the site. A suggestion was made that the link be put on the websites of the coalition partners.
6. The group discussed the opportunity provided by OTC Public Health to host a car seat clinic and give away free seats that were received as a result of a grant. Approximately 30-40 seats will be made available. The group decided to host a clinic in Pelican Rapids in order to reach out to their community which has a high number of immigrant and refugees. Jane will work with Lutheran Social Services in order to arrange the training. The group also suggested that Jane check on

options for an interpreter to serve non-English speaking families. The group discussed the current laws on child restraints and a question was raised about whether or not there was an exception to the requirement for children to be strapped in if there were more children in a family than where were seats and safety belts. Ryan indicated that he did not believe there was any such exception to the law, but agreed to check on whether or not there was a “Brady Bunch” clause exception.

7. Upon reviewing their FY09 Work Plan, the group discussed how they would meet their goal of implementing a “Dial-A-Ride” service in the county. The group decided they would like to invite all of the OTC bar owners to attend a meeting of the Coalition as part of the FY10 Work Plan. The OTC Auditor’s Office has a list of all bar owners. The group also discussed that they would like to develop a “Safe-Ride Resource Guide” which would be similar to the one created by the At Risk Driver Committee. The group suggested using the same resources, but identifying the times of service for each of those service providers and including it in the brochure. They would also like to add the Safe Ride program for motorcycles. The group discussed topics they would discuss with the bar owners and thought it would be helpful if bartenders would simply ask patrons if they are “riding their bike” tonight as a way of reminding them of the dangers of biking and riding.
8. The group discussed their next large coalition meeting. Rick indicated that he would be willing to give a presentation similar to the one he had given in Fargo recently on the activities of the Minnesota Association of County Highway Engineers for low cost highway safety strategies. Pam Ness offered to host the session at Lakes Country Service Cooperative. The group decided to give the presentation in conjunction with their September 9<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting and provide a luncheon for the guests attending. Jane will draft a flyer and circulate it to all the large coalition partners as well as to the regional Safe Communities Coalition coordinators.
9. Updated included:
  - Toward Zero Deaths Conference (October 28-29) Duluth
  - ATOD Prevention Conference (October 8 & 9) St. Cloud
  - Steve Adams suggested a potential grant application which was offered by Pamida Foundation. The group discussed the possibility of applying for funds to continue their media campaign.
  - Jane noted that the FY10 Safe Communities Grant application was approved! The group will need to begin work on that new work plan in October.
  - Fatal review committee – the group needs to plan a meeting soon. There have been several fatal crashes recently and some which still need to be reviewed from last spring. Jon will check with the State Highway Patrol to see if they would be available during the week of 9/14 to come to Fergus Falls.
10. Adjournment – the next meeting of the Executive Council will be held on Wednesday, September 9th from 10:30 – Noon. A large coalition meeting will follow with a presentation by Rick West.
11. Parking Lot:
  - Dial-A-Ride services in OTC
  - Summer parades and events
  - Multicultural approach to traffic safety
  - FY10 Work Plan activities
  - Pat Hahn motorcycle training for LE in spring of 2010
  - BNSF Railroad Training – May 2010