

Safe Communities Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2009, 10:30 - Noon

Present: Jon Karger (OTC Sheriff's Department-3); Pam Ness (Lakes Country Service Cooperative); Ryan Cheshire (OTC Attorney's Office – 4); Judy Bradow (Community Representative); Natalie Rund (Lake Region Hospital – 4); Rick West (OTC Engineer-4); Tom Kummrow & Amy Roggenbuck (Office of Traffic Safety – 200); Judy Moeller (Parkers Prairie School Board – 120); Marion Kershner and Alena Anderson (OTC Public Health – 3); Mary Matteson (Fergus Falls Community Education-5); Lynn Halmrast (Regional ATOD Coordinators- 120); and Jane Patrick (Project Coordinator).

1. Jane Patrick began the meeting and welcomed the group.
2. The group discussed August Safe and Sober events. The media blitz for the pre-Labor Day weekend campaign went well, though the media focused more on the negative "Deadliest 13" news than the positive news of Deputy Wagner's recognition for DWI arrests. KVLV and WDAY – both major news channels for the region – did a story on behalf of the coalition. In addition, a front page article was run by the Fergus Falls Daily Journal. The group discussed their frustration with being back on the Deadliest 13 list. Tom explained that this was due to the number of serious injury crashes and not the number of fatalities, but that serious injuries were up significantly from 275 to well over 350. The group discussed potential causes for the increase. The group would like to track if crashes are occurring more frequently with non-residents versus residents and whether or not this is a factor. The group discussed the fact that there have been fewer deputies on patrol due to staffing challenges, and therefore it is likely that fewer DWI and speed arrests are also being made. There could potentially be problems with one officer making a DWI arrest, which can take 2-3 hours, and then not having backup for the other officers on duty. The group discussed possible strategies to address this challenge including:
 - writing a follow-up letter to the Commissioners regarding our concerns about the lack of law enforcement available
 - writing a letter to the local bar owners making them aware of concerns that patrons are leaving the bars with alcohol (Jon indicated that his office would be willing to do this on behalf of the Sheriff's Department for the bar in question)
 - promote messages which outline the cost for DWIs
 - revisiting the issue of allocating additional funding from compliance check fines to conduct more compliance checks
 - host a large coalition meeting inviting local and regional public officials to make them aware of the recent trends for increased crashes and gather their feedback on what we can do to assist with local policy change.
3. Ryan shared a handout with the statutes for child passenger safety laws. The statute that Ryan shared seemed to have been an older version than the final one published. Ryan agreed to check on this and see if there was more information, but Ryan indicated that his interpretation of the law was that all children riding in a vehicle must be properly buckled in the vehicle in which they are riding as long as the vehicle has safety belts installed. Amy agreed to check and see if there was a requirement for car manufacturers, upon request, to retrofit older vehicles without safety belts. There was also a question about whether or not it should be reported by law enforcement or other mandated reporters when a child is not properly restrained in a safety seat. Jane will check with human services to confirm whether or not this would be considered a child protection issue.
4. Jane shared updates about the September 30th car seat clinic in Pelican Rapids. Flyers will be sent out the local papers and Mary also suggested advertising through Community Education. Jane applied for funding from Pass it Along Ministries in Pelican Rapids to help cover the cost of the

trainer and the interpreter. Since Somali families are most directly involved with refugee services in the Pelican Rapids Community, a Somali interpreter will be provided. If no Somali families register, the group will reconsider opening it up to Spanish speaking families. The trainer has requested that only one language be interpreted since it is very difficult to ensure that families fully understand the training information if there are three different languages being spoken at the same time.

5. The group discussed the recent DUI.Q. Campaign which was promoted by Wright County. The group had questions about whether or not the results of the tool were truly accurate since it seemed to imply that a person could drink quite a bit without being legally impaired. The group felt it was okay to put a link to the site on their webpage, along with a statement that “Buzzed Driving IS Drunk Driving” and to remind people to error on the side of caution when it comes to determining whether or not they are impaired.
6. The group discussed the need for another fatal review session. Jon will check with the State Patrol to find out if we can meet at 8:30 on October 14th prior to our regular coalition meeting. Rick indicated that the group should also look at the statewide crash mapping tool to see if we can gather data specific to Otter Tail County. Rick indicated he thought the program was up to date through 2007. Rick also mentioned that Otter Tail County will be developing a highway safety plan over the next three years. The coalition offered to help organize and plan a focus group session to help provide feedback about highway safety concerns from local residents.
7. The group discussed tentative plans for their FY10 Work Plan.
 - MOTION: To appoint Natalie Rund from the Lake Region Hospital to act as chair for FY10. The group thanked Ryan and Mary for their past contributions as co-chairs. (T. Kummrow/M. Matteson/Carried)
 - Jane shared good news with the group that the Safe Roads Grant name change will NOT impact the name of the coalition. A decision was made at the State level that the grant funding was only a portion of the work and initiatives of the statewide coalitions and that each coalition should decide what name they would like to use in moving forward.
 - The group provided feedback on the Evaluation Prep Work Sheet provided by the state. There were several questions about how their work with motorcycle safety would fit into the work plan. The group decided this initiative would be organized around the Safe and Sober motorcycle safety campaign conducted by law enforcement.
8. Updates included:
 - Reminder of Toward Zero Deaths Conference (October 28-29) Duluth
 - Reminder of ATOD Prevention Conference (October 8 & 9) St. Cloud
 - Lakes Country Service Cooperative has agreed to work with the Coalition on the Pamida Foundation Grant which will be pursued in order to obtain funding to continue the media campaign.
9. Adjournment – the next meeting of the Executive Council will be held on Wednesday, October 14th from 10:30 – Noon.
10. 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
 - Fatal Review policy change requested to ensure blood testing is complete

