

Safe Communities Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2010 10:30 - Noon

Present: Tria Mann (DWI Court Coordinator); Jon Karger & Jake Grabow (OTC Sheriff's Department-10); Tom Kummrow (Office of Traffic Safety); Mary Phillippe (United Way of OTC-3); Kristin Erickson (OTC Public Health); Ryan Cheshire (OTC Attorney's Office-3); Ray Affedt (Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Coordinator); Steve Adams (FF Police Department-3); Lynn Halmrast (ATOD Coordinator); Mary Matteson (Fergus Falls Public Schools – 3); Judy Bradow (Victim Advocate); and Jane Patrick (Project Coordinator).

1. Jane Patrick began the meeting and welcomed the group.
2. Ray Affedt joined the group to discuss motorcycle safety. The group would like to facilitate a meeting with group riders. There are fund raiser rides moving through Otter Tail County nearly every weekend over the summer months. Ray is working to create a best practices guideline for local group leaders. The coalition would like to gather input from the local law enforcement agencies as to what the issues are with local group rides. The group discussed meeting with the local law enforcement leaders following their upcoming investigator meeting in Parkers Prairie on May 13th. Jane will coordinate a meeting with the law enforcement representatives meeting on that date. The group will then host a meeting with local group ride organizers to share information about the concerns raised. Local law enforcement will be invited to the meeting so the two groups can exchange information. The emphasis of the group rider meeting will be guidelines for safety and best practices.

Issues highlighted by law enforcement at the meeting were:

- Local LE doesn't have the manpower to help out with traffic control.
 - Image problem with large groups drinking and riding.
 - Problems with groups managing their own traffic control which they can't do legally.
 - Sheriff's Department and State Patrol don't support LE being involved with group rides. Jane will check with Brian about this to see what his position is with regard to Otter Tail County deputies assisting with traffic control. Currently some local LE supervisors will approve their involvement when people call in and request assistance.
 - A question was raised about whether or not the Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Center could provide training to group leaders so they could legally direct their own traffic.
3. Jane shared information about the upcoming request for proposals for the continued operation of the Toward Zero Deaths/Safe Communities Grant activities. The local law enforcement representatives shared that they are considering dropping the Safe and Sober grants. Jane indicated that Public Health is willing to coordinate and apply for the continued funding. The group went around the table to discuss their thoughts about future funding and whether or not to continue their work as a coalition. Law enforcement feels that a lot of the work load is put on them. The group decided they would like to continue the Safe Communities Coalition work, with the understanding that more of the work load would be evenly distributed among the partners involved. Goals for the FY11 Grant included:
 - Exploring options with DWI Court alumni to coordinate efforts for awareness and the reduction of drunk driving
 - Distracted driving (texting)
 - Youth Risk decisions and how they affect traffic crashes

- Monitor the pilot safe ride program and look at options for expanding if the pilot program is successful and meeting the needs of the community and achieving our goals.
 - The group discussed how they would effectively measure if the safe ride program was successful. They decided to monitor the number of riders using the service, time of day using the service, and possible reductions in Dirty 13 list for Otter Tail County.
 - The group also requested that the safe ride program consider collecting some basic demographic information about the program usage such as: male/female and age range of those using the service. The group also discussed using a simple anonymous survey tool to ask estimated alcohol use at the time of riding such as buzz level (none, slight, mild, moderate, high, tilt); and whether or not participants felt the service should be expanded; as well as their satisfaction with the service.
4. Because the pilot program is funded privately by three local liquor establishments, Jane raised a question about the safe ride program and whether or not the coalition wanted to support the safe ride program publicly or stay in the back ground. This is specifically for radio and other print advertising which can be obtained cheaper if it is a public service announcement, and if the safe ride component is highlighted. The group agreed that a list of bullet points should be drafted as to why the coalition is supporting this program. Jane will draft a summary of the bullet points of why the coalition helped to develop and is supporting this program to distribute to all the partners in the event that they are contacted about the program. Jane requested that the partners take a formal vote on the decision to use the coalition's name during the advertising. Jane will also check with the state to see if there are any barriers to using the coalition name in advertising. A formal vote was taken at the table with seven members voting for public advertising using the coalition name and four members voting against it. The entire group approved only appropriate advertising with includes responsible reasons for safe ride programs including:
- Many people choose to drink and drive because they have a vehicle at the bar. The group promotes the use of this service because it transports people to and from their homes and promotes the public using planned safe ride options.
 - This service is funded privately as a service by the local bar owners to reduce drinking and driving. The coalition is not providing any funding for the service.
 - With this service, a safe ride home is available at these establishments even if a patron drives to the bar and then becomes intoxicated.
 - This is a pilot program that the coalition hopes will expand throughout Otter Tail County. Plans are currently in place to expand the service if it is successful and if other liquor establishments throughout the county are agreeable to supporting its operation.
 - Local liquor distributors, and well as Safe Ride Minnesota, are also contributing to the development and sustainability of this service.
 - The three bar owners involved with the pilot program are aware of responsible serving and over serving laws. The coalition is in no way promoting over serving and expects that each establishment involved will continue to honor their individual responsibilities with regard to over serving.
5. Judy Bradow recently distributed posters and business cards to local liquor establishments and floral shops to promote safe driving and good decision making by teens. The feedback she has received from communities was primarily positive with the community supporting what we are doing.

6. Jane contacted AAA to request training on their driving simulator. Jane will work with those interested from the coalition and other local coalitions to set this up in May. Once this training is received, the coalition can arrange to offer the simulator at local events.
7. The Fergus Falls High School has agreed to host a mock crash event on April 29th. Shane Thielke, the school's assistant principal, is organizing the event. The Fergus Falls Police Department agreed to locate a crashed car for the event. Steve indicated that the Lakes Radio agreed to air the event live on their local radio station, and requested that coalition members consider being at the event to talk on the air during the event. Superintendent Jerry Ness has agreed to give testimony about his personal tragedy and the loss of his son. Judy Bradow agreed to represent the coalition. Jane will help to organize other speakers for the event.
8. Jane shared quotes for free give away items which can be purchased with the Pamida Foundation Grant funds. The group suggested getting a quote for sunglass clips for the visor with a text message "is it worth dying for?" Playing cards were second choice with a seatbelt message.
9. A request was made for license verifiers. Tom indicated that he had a supply of them which he would give to local law enforcement for distribution.
10. Brian Schlueter has requested that letters be sent out to all graduating seniors and their parents on behalf of the coalition and the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department. The schools have agreed to address the letters and send them out, but do not have postage dollars available for postage. The coalition agreed that if the Sheriff's Department could not provide full funding for the postage, they would agree to use grant monies to help with postage.
11. Lynn Halmrast shared that Rick Moldenhauer is coming to Fergus Falls on April 28th at the Bigwood Event Center to discuss prescription drug abuse trends. This session is primarily for professionals. Jane also shared that Dan Pearson will be speaking on this topic and his personal tragedy of losing a son to prescription drug overdose on April 22nd at the Perham High School for parents and teens. Jane will send the flyer on both events to the coalition.
12. Following the meeting a discussion was held on DWI tracking options for Otter Tail County offenders. Jane explained that the local judges are reluctant to initiate a process for tracking on cases that they hear because of liability issues when learning the results. Tria agreed to discuss options for tracking this through the DWI Court participants. It was recommended that if a tracking process could be established either through Court Administration or judges, the coalition would be responsible for compiling the results, reporting them, and addressing issues and areas of concern
13. Adjournment – the next meeting of the entire coalition and Executive Council will be held on **Wednesday, May 12, 2010 from 10:30 – Noon at the Government Service Center in Fergus.**
14. Parking Lot:
 - Summer parades and events
 - State Highway Safety Plan (Rick will present to the coalition in June.)