

Safe Communities Executive Committee Meeting
Otter Tail Lake Room - Government Service Center - Fergus Falls
May 11, 2011 10:30 – Noon
Minutes

- 1) **Welcome & introductions** - In attendance: Kay Demmer (Lake Region Hospital-3); Steve Adams (FFPD-2); Ray Aafedt (MN Motorcycle Safety Center-34); Judy Bradow (Victim Advocate); Ryan Cheshire (OTC Attorney's Office-3); Tom Kummrow (Office of Traffic Safety); Tria Mann (DWI Court Program-3); and Jane Patrick (Project Coordinator).
- 2) James Bonner from Otter Tail Valley Railroad contacted Steve and Ryan to try and come up with a program to recognize people who stop at railroad crossings within the city of Fergus Falls. The police department would need to be a key partner in this program. Steve would be willing to set up a meeting with him, but the police department isn't necessarily interested in a reward system. Ryan will tell James to set this up with Steve. James is also very interested in a safety campaign of some sort. Jane noted that she has tons of information from our previous discussions about this from BNSF.
- 3) Fatal reviews were discussed. The newspaper reported at least two alcohol related fatal crashes lately. The group discussed a key message: "Alcohol continues to kill in OTC. Drive Sober." The group would like to do a billboard, newspaper ad, and some posters. The message can include the shape of OTC with the logo for the coalition. Jane will see what is available from the sample logos that we received when creating our logo.
- 4) The sober cab project was discussed. A new transportation provider has been identified at the Old Brick Inn in Battle Lake. Monte Hinzman is the owner and would like to get a service started. Jane and Monte visited eight bars in the Battle Lake, Ottertail and Clitherall area. There was a good response from several bars, but no additional follow-up has taken place. A complaint was filed last weekend due to Last Leg Shuttle from Elizabeth delivering people to Fergus Falls without a Fergus Falls taxi license. Jane spoke with Bjorn Ringdahl and he is working with the City of Fergus Falls to see about proper licensing, although there are some gray areas as to why the licensure is needed.
- 5) The motorcycle safety materials compiled and sent out by the Coalition were well received. At least one person commented on how good the materials are and that they were helpful. Jane noted that she has extra packets that should be used up. The police departments and the sheriff's office will give extra packets to the front desk staff to give out to people calling or stopping in to ask about group rides in the county. Jane will also check with Ray as to how the materials can be distributed.
- 6) Chemical health grant updates were discussed. 1) The Fergus Falls Police Department did a controlled drink demonstration at the Kennedy Secondary School in Fergus on May 3rd. 16 people attended and the presentation went well. It definitely provided a good foundation for attendees on the different impairment levels and how it affects their driving ability even at lower impairment levels than .08. 2) There will be a

professional training on June 15th with a parent session the evening of June 14th on parenting teens and helping teens to make good decisions. Jane will be sending out information for both of these events. Coalition partners were asked to please share the information widely; 3) three letters have gone out recently to students from grades 8 – 12 across the county. The first was a letter from the County Attorney's office about underage alcohol use; a second was on the importance of parenting and being informed to help students makes good decisions; the third was a letter and contract from the Coalition with the prom/graduation safe driving contract.

7) Media Wave updates & spring activities:

- Judy Bradow did a presentation to the New York Mills High school on safe driving. It was very well received. The superintendent and students all commented on the impact. Thank you, Judy, for doing this and for representing the coalition and sharing this valuable information!!!
- Work site safety training in Perham on April 26th went well. A big thank you to the Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Center, Ray, the Perham PD, Judy and Mary for helping!!!
- A Graduation Letter to the Editor is being prepared by Tollef. It will go out in the next couple of weeks to local papers.
- The 5th/6th grade seatbelt poster/billboard & posters contest went great! The winners from Fergus Falls and Battle Lake will be recognized in conjunction with the pre-seatbelt wave coming up next week.
- Check us out the "Otter Tail County Safe Communities Coalition" on Facebook and say you "Like" us to help share information and messages!
- Jane will ask Brian to send graduation letter out again to all graduating seniors.

- Radio Interview Schedule

- May 11th @ 10:35 a.m. – pre-seatbelt enforcement (Judge Senyk)
- May 23 @ 10:35 a.m. Graduation/teen driving, etc. (Steve & Fergus Falls PD)
- June 15 @ 10:35 a.m.– motorcycle safety & speed enforcement (Rick West)
- July 7 @ 10:30 with Marion Kershner on Health Matters (Judy Bradow) re: Safe and Sober (speed)
- August 10 @ 10:35 a.m. DWI (Tria/DWI Court program)

- Summer parades and events planning

- Request for volunteers on August 6th in Parkers Prairie – Tom will check to see if his family would drive his old car. A representative from the parade committee also asked about the possibility of the driving simulator. Jane will check on options for this.
- Judy will check to see if her family would be willing to do the parade in Battle Lake again this year. The Vince and Larry Costumes that we obtained from Clay County are available for use.
- Jane will see if her family will do the parade in Henning. The VW Beetle car is no longer available so another vehicle will have to be secured.

- 8) FY12 ideas for next year grants were discussed. The focus areas for next year's grant have not changed since last year. The group would like to pursue the following options/ideas for FY12:
- **High visibility campaign** continuation in conjunction with law enforcement including:
 - 1) The group would like to incorporate 6-12 age group activities and a seatbelt focus for grade schools;
 - 2) multi-media awareness for Safe and Sober events including: responsible cell phone usage; don't distract the driver; speak up;
 - 3) incorporate the prescription abuse problems/impaired driving and awareness since this has also been a key factor in local crashes by supporting and promoting "Take Back" initiatives county-wide.
 - **Collaborations with local employers to explore work site policy change** in one or more entities within the county, (possibly KLN Enterprises);
 - 1) to help promote and support safe ride program (could the company give safe ride certificates to employees?);
 - 2) explore potential for expansion of social host ordinance from Fergus Falls to all of OTC. The first step is to ask the county, starting with David and Brian. The County Board will have the final say in whether or not this could happen.
 - **Support for DWI Court** –
 - 1) work together with them to recognize employers that support participants of the DWI Court;
 - 2) work with alumni of DWI Court to promote traffic safety messages and traffic safety efforts.
 - **Collaborations with liquor establishments** by:
 - 1) enhance information to the bartenders that attend the server training by promoting our display board and pamphlets available at server training;
 - 2) continue collecting information from DWI offenders and mine data to determine needs;
 - 3) when bar owners apply for their annual liquor license coalition to develop packet to give them information about the coalition and our activities and a request they become involved;
 - 4) Controlled drink explore how to have these done for the juniors and seniors at the high schools in conjunction with the FFPD and the Sheriff's Department- (Jon to check with Brian to see if they can partner with this as it relates to good decision making) and explore option for doing this presentation as part of annual licensing requirements for liquor establishments.
 - **Continuation of expansion of Safe Cab** program throughout Otter Tail County.
- 9) DWI Court updates from Tria include the fact that 81 people are scheduled to attend the recovery training set for this week. Participants will be learning about being in recovery and what AA is, how it works, a mock AA meeting; how it fits in with courts; Judge Senyk will take over the DWI Court and Judge Hanson will take over the family court; ignition interlock laws will come into effect as of July 1 and it will require cameras be installed also. We need to learn more about this and it will be on the agenda for a future meeting.
- 10) Next meeting date: June 8th at 10:30 at the Government Service Center in Fergus Falls.