

Impaired Driving Crashes
Emphasis Area Meeting
MDT Main Building, Basement Auditorium East
2701 Prospect
Helena, MT 59601
Thursday, December 10, 2015, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Vision Zero- Zero fatalities, zero serious injuries

Attendees:

Chair Audrey Allums, Grants Bureau Chief (MDT)
Kevin Dusko, Impaired Driving Program, Highway Traffic Safety Section (MDT)
Gary Macdonald, Co. Commissioner & DUI Task Force (Roosevelt County)
Pam Langve-Davis, CHSP Program Manager (MDT)
Lisa Scates, Liquor Control Division (DOR)
Patrick McJannet, (DOJ/MVD)
Capt. Art Collins (MHP)
Sgt. Jayson Zander, Helena Police Dept.
Chief EJ Clark, City of Belgrade Police Dept. & past president MT Association of Chiefs & Police
Chad Newman, Law Enforcement Liaison (MDT)
Mark Keeffe, Data Analyst- Highway Traffic Safety Section (MDT)
Roy Peterson, Traffic & Safety Engineering (MDT)
Bobbi Perkins, Bureau Chief, Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (DPHHS)
Sheila Cozzie, Cultural Liaison-Highway Traffic Safety Section (MDT)
Lorraine Wodnik, Deputy Director (DOC)
Sgt. Greg Amundsen, City of Missoula Police Department
Wendy Olson Hansen, DUI Task Force Coordinator (Flathead Co.)
Lonie Hutchison, DUI Task Force Coordinator (Missoula Co.)

The chair, Audrey Allums, opened the meeting with a quick recap of the annual safety meeting and provided an update on the status of the Executive Leadership Team. The Director has spoken with the Governor's Office about the development of such a Team and the need for agency leader representation to guide and support implementation of statewide safety strategies. A letter to agency directors and potential team list has been provided to the Governor's Office. An Executive Leadership Team meeting invitation will be sent out soon for a meeting to be scheduled after January 1, 2016.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide attendees an over view of strategy activities that are currently underway and identify strategy leaders. The role of these leaders is to work with team members to identify the appropriate strategy members, prioritize implementation steps, and track and report activity progress.

Strategy 1: Reduce impaired driving through improved processes and regulations

Status:

Kevin Dusko provided an overview of new laws that came out of the 2015 Legislative Session. He is working on informational handouts for statewide distribution.

E J Clark reported there is a concern regarding HB 195 in that a minor change that judges had no concern over has actuality limited their ability to prosecute DUI offenders. This is an emerging trend of obvious DUIs that are not prosecuted due to pretrial diversions.

Corrections has been tasked to conduct a study of the criminal justice system, The Council of State Governments has been researching various options including looking at the benefits in evidenced based prevention and treatment programs focusing on drunk driving; rather than build more prisons to house offenders.

AMDD- DPHHS is working to determine the inconsistencies of the available different ACT programs (In-state vs out-of-state) that courts are referring. The PRIME for Live program is being evaluated for use for 2nd & 3rd offenders.

Leader: The strategy co-leads have been determined to be Kevin Dusko and Chief EJ Clark.

Strategy 2: Reduce impaired driving through enforcement

Status:

Chad Newman reported the award of the 2017 high visibility enforcement recipients and the requirements of a strong media component to educate the public. Mini grants are being applied in rural areas that help with overtime patrol with one-time events. Mini grants are more appealing because it is for a one-time event and less paperwork.

STEP grants are available for overtime for law enforcement. Law enforcement on team voiced a need for stronger support and /or a more effective plan for coordinated events. A hurdle has been the administrative regulations citing responsibility that impede agencies from working together, i.e. workmen's comp payment and trial testimony in another jurisdiction among others.

There is no reoccurring ARIDE Training or requirement from NHTSA for a refresher. SFST is conducted annually, but is not a required refresher. Both of these trainings are required for DRE training, which an in-depth training requiring out of state travel and continuing education. Lack of refresher courses could be perceived as a hurdle.

Leader: The strategy co-leaders are Collins, Zander, Clark, and Newman

Strategy 3: Reduce impaired users through prevention education

Status:

Lonie Hutchison reported on the alcohol equivalency education that continues to be conducted in Missoula County on the comparison of numbers of shots and number of domestic beers. Locally they are promoting the use of conversation starters among peers of “why do you drink?” as an invention tool.

Audrey Allums reported that information that is gathered should be shared with safety partners to be used in developing education strategies. An example provided was the research conducted by Partner Creative when developing current safety campaign of what media outlets and what type of media campaigns reach and connect with target audiences.

Lisa Scates reported that alcohol sales and service training continues. Educating bartenders on consequences of being the last sale to a drunken driving patron involved in a crash is a priority. Liquor Control Division is willing to speak to local community business groups and organizations on purpose of training, responsibility of servers, and consequences of over service violations.

This strategy includes the overarching strategy element of changing safety culture. While alternative transportation for impaired patrons reduces the number of impaired drivers on the road it may also create a hurdle to changing safety culture of those who may be influenced.

Leader: The strategy co-leaders are Allums, Perkins, and Zander

Strategy 4: Continue to support and build on collaborative partnerships

Status:

Program outreach and communication is ongoing in developing relationships to reduce impaired driving crashes. Many of the implementation steps are in some degree in process. The Team agreed that establishment of an Executive Leadership Team will provide the support and agency staff resources to address safety issues through various programs to reduce fatalities and serious injury crashes as a result of impaired driving.

Leader: The strategy leader has not yet been identified and will be an agenda topic of the next meeting.

Next Steps

- Identify Strategy 4 Leader
- Prioritize strategies and develop strategy teams

Action Items

- Distribution of 2015 Legislative handout to Team- Dusko
- Distribution of HB 195 change to Team- Dusko

Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, Feb 3

Wednesday, April 6

Wednesday, June 1

Wednesday, Aug 3

CHSP, October 12-13

Wednesday, Dec 7