



## **Impaired Driving Emphasis Area Meeting Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan September 6, 2023**

### **Attendees:**

Alyssa Holly, Prevention Program Manager, SUPTRS Block Grant, Behavioral & Developmental Disabilities Division (BHDD), Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)  
Alyssa Johnson, Trauma Systems Manager, DPHHS  
Amanda O'Dell, SUPTRS Program Manager, BHDD, DPHHS  
Sgt. Benjamin Panas, SETT, Montana Highway Patrol (MDT)  
Beth Morrison, Prevention Program, Cascade County  
Brooklyn Johns-Blassic, FARS Data Analyst, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)  
David Schnittgen, Urban & Statewide & Urban, MDT  
Dwight Nelson, Traffic Education Director, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)  
Gina Tracy, Block Grant Manager, BHDD, DPHHS  
Janet Kenny, Supervisor, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), MDT  
John Westerhold, NHTSA Region 10 Program Manager  
Judge Mary Jane Knisely, 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Kent Haab, Alcohol Beverage Control Division (ABCD) Education, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
Kevin Dusko, Impaired Driving Program Coordinator, SHTSS, MDT  
Pam Langve-Davis, Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) Manager, MDT  
Janet Kenny, Supervisor, State Highway Traffic Safety Section, MDT  
Sgt Patrick Erbacher, Traffic Division, Missoula Police Department  
Sgt. Ryan Janes, Traffic Safety Resource Officer (TSRO), MHP  
Spencer Harris, Law Enforcement Liaison, SHTSS, MDT  
Maureen Ward, Injury Prevention Coordinator, DPHHS

### **MEETING GOAL**

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The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of programs related to the Impaired Driving Emphasis Area strategies and report implementation efforts in reducing impaired driving related fatalities and serious injuries.

#### **Program Updates**

##### **Strategy 1: Deterrence and Enforcement**

Sgt. Benjamin Panas, MHP SETT lead, high visibility enforcement (HVE) rolled out this weekend for the first Griz game. Campaign planned for Holidays and Cat-Griz game. HVE campaign efforts looked at past successful areas, under covered areas, and municipalities when determining SETT high visibility patrols.

Spencer Harris discussed STEP activities, the mini-grant program for high visibility patrols and law the law enforcement liaison program.

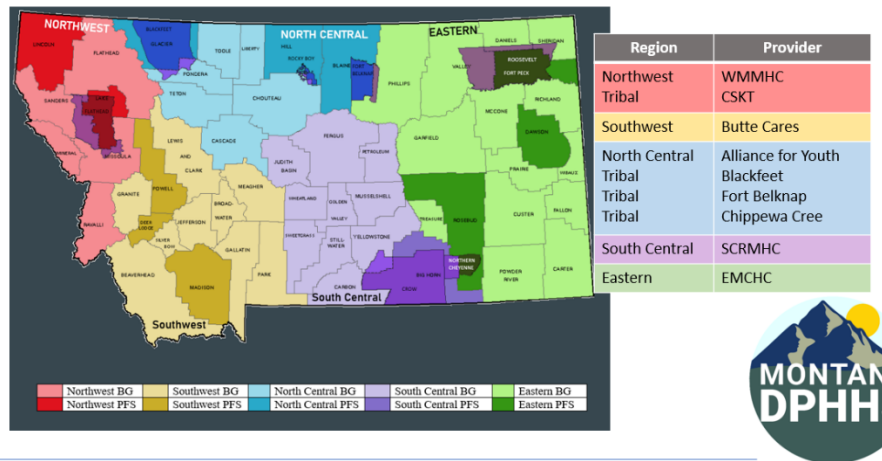
##### **Strategy 2: Prevention & Education**

Montana has a robust Traffic Safety Resource Officer program. Sgt. Ryan Janes MHP, TSRO leads TSRO efforts in proving training to criminal justice professionals across the state. Specifically in the areas of SFST, ARIDE and DRE. There are currently two TSRO's in Montana active yearlong providing TSRO services.

Alyssa Johnson, Trauma Systems Manager, reported the Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium is scheduled September 21-22, 2023 <https://www.umt.edu/ces/conferences/rmrts/> The annual Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium is Montana's leading trauma education symposium for physicians, advanced practitioners, nurses, and emergency medical service personnel working in the RURAL environment. This symposium focuses on the entire trauma system continuum with breakout sessions for both EMS and Hospital staff.



Gina Tracy and Amanda O'Dell, Behavior Health & Disability Division, provided an update on statewide regional prevention specialist and providers, evidence-based programs, and the six strategies for the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, which includes the activities of Screening and Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) which is included in employee assistance programs. Student assistance program, and those driving under the influence/driving while intoxicated education programs. Talked about evidenced based programs. Center for Substance Abuse Programs. Montana Prevention Certification Board: [mtpreventionboard.org](http://mtpreventionboard.org)



Statewide Regional Prevention Specialist and Providers

Amanda O'Dell spoke on Prime for Life updates. Prime for Life classes are going to be offered to new instructors twice per year. The next class will be at the end of October or early November. Prime for life is currently the only state approved class for DUI offenders. [61-8-1009. Driving under influence -- assessment, education, and treatment required, MCA \(mt.gov\)](#)

DPHHS is working towards a new more user-friendly form of reporting and finding a replacement for SAMS. Currently trying to come up with new ways to enhance to use of the treatment Block Grant dollars and expand services.

Maureen Ward, Injury Prevention Coordinator DPHHS, reported training being developed for DUI and traumatic brain injury(TBI). Injury prevention coalition motor vehicle crash prevention hub for information.

Dwight Nelson, Traffic Education Director, (OPI) currently reviewing curriculum. Meeting planned for April, to prepare for next school year curriculum for Traffic Education.

Kent Haab, Alcohol Beverage Control Division (ABCD) Education, Department of Revenue, fourteen (14) town halls conducted across the state of Montana to bring public up to date on Legislative processes on alcohol. Training on not overserving people. Still over 1/2 not certified. Compliance done through local police checks. Part of 1/2 due to license lapses. Also, due to high turnover of employees. Alcohol Beverage Control Division (ABCD) Education is also looking at opportunities to develop a program to support beverage servers and sales which looks at decreasing fake IDs to purchase alcohol.

### Strategy 3- Criminal Justice System

Legislative Interim Committees will be monitored and if any impaired driving related concepts are discussed, Kevin will share with the group.

Counties throughout the state continue operating the 24/7 Sobriety Program. Sergeant Lacie Wickum continues to be the Statewide Coordinator.

Ed Hirsch continues to provide Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Services throughout the State.



The Department of Motor Vehicles recently provided data on implied consent violations (refusals).

Judge Mary Jane Knisely, 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court Judge – 13 graduates from DUI Court and recently hosted a DWI Foundational Tune-up Training.

#### Strategy 4 - Communication Program



Janet Kenny, State Highway Traffic Safety Section, Department of Transportation. Reported working w/ consultant to develop new campaign. Using content influencers, using national company to make commercials. Working with Troy Andersen (NFL) and local athletes that attended state university system. Messaging was used at the Labor Day Rodeo in Dillon. MDTs Highway Safety Improvement program provided funding to extend the media campaign year-round and expand safety messaging to include distracted driving and aggressive driving in addition to the impaired driving and seat belt education and awareness safety campaigns. The recent medica campaign can be found on MDTs YouTube [MontanaDOT - YouTube](#)

Kent Haab - Alcohol Responsibility Matters campaign is under development. Planning for five Billboards across the State. Scholarship program is being developed. Focus is to have local students to design a billboard for their community. More information to be forthcoming.

Prime for Life is looking at developing a Prime for Life 420 to address risks involved with cannabis use including while driving.



#### Program Evaluation & Data

Brooklyn Johns-Blassic, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) Data Analyst. MDT reported on the fatality data. 2022 has not yet been QA/QC and finalized. Currently working with local communities to collect impairment data from within city police jurisdictions.

#### Announcements

2023 Annual Transportation Safety Meeting, October 4 & 5, Helena Delta Colonial. Registration Link: <https://www.eventsquid.com/register/21129>

Next meeting - November 1

#### Adjournment

Minutes: David Schnittgen, Urban & Statewide & Urban, MDT & Pam Langve-Davis, CHSP manager