



SOUTH CENTRAL SAFE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
South Central Planning and Development Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

DECEMBER 16, 2010

In Attendance:

Capt. Greg Hood, ADAC
Greg Maurin, St. John DA
Craig Poche, St. James SO
Earl Geason, St. James SO
Ray Traigle, Assumption SO
Jamey Fontenot, Thibodaux PD
Jason Kibodeaux, Terrebonne SO

Steve Tullis, NSU PO
Beryl LeBoeuf, Bayou Region MAC
Linda Savoie, OPH
Ruby LeBlanc, LOSGH
Matt Trahan, LSP
Darrin Naquin, LSP

Terri Monaghan, DOTD
Jamie Ainsworth, LHSC
Morris Beverly, LHSC
Rudynah Capone, SCPDC
Leo Marretta, SCPDC
Ann LeBlanc, SCPDC

Part I EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order

Greg Hood called the meeting to order at approximately around 9:05 a.m. Leo Marretta welcomed everyone and introduced the new Transportation Safety Coordinator/Planner Rudynah Capone. R. Capone, who's had public relations and media background, would primarily handle safety-related tasks. Ann LeBlanc, on the other end, would now focus on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). SCPDC also hired a new Transit Planner, Garrick Rose.

2. By-laws

G. Hood and L. Marretta agreed to review the By-Laws for amendment. Questions and concerns were welcomed.

2.1 Craig Poche raised a question on the Secretary and Treasurer positions, whether or not they should be handled by SCPDC staff. As per the original By-laws, these positions should come from the committee. However, SCPDC staff has taken over the Secretarial and Treasury roles for the past years. If everyone agrees to carry this on, it will be stipulated in the new By-laws.

2.2 Discussion ensued on the schedule of meetings. They are now held quarterly, not monthly. Executive meeting is at 9:00 a.m. immediately followed by the partnership meeting at 9:30 a.m. For 2011, they're slated on February 17, May 19, August 18 and November 17. The committee may call for a special meeting in cases when parish concerns need to be addressed immediately. These changes were noted on Article V and Article VI Section 1.3.

2.3 G. Hood and L. Marretta exchanged thoughts on the term of office for all officers—two years that is. This should be noted on Article VI: Policies and Procedures, Section 1.1.

2.4 It was also stressed and agreed upon that the term "Task Force" be changed to "Partnership". Hence, the group shall now be called the South Central Safe Community Partnership.

2.5 Elections shall be made on the last regularly scheduled meeting of the year, not necessarily December, after a two-year term of officers has lapsed.

2.7 Discussion transpired as to when the next Traffic Summit will be. Tentative date is July 13, 2011. R. Capone reiterated the changes discussed on the By-laws. A motion of amendment was made by Steve Tullis, seconded by Jamey Fontenot. Motion carried.

3. Review of 2011 Sub-grant Applications

G. Hood announced the applicants and proposed budget for 2011 Safe Community Sub-Grant, namely:

- 3.1 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (ADAC), \$8,000 for "Get in the Zone: Don't Drink and Drive"
- 3.2 Nicholls State University, \$8,000 for "Think Before You Drink";
- 3.3 Lady of the Sea General Hospital, \$4,300 for continuation of "Safe Kids Circus"
- 3.4 St. John District Attorney's Office, \$2,500 for "Harold Keller: Get High on Life"

- 3.5 St. James Parish Sheriff's Office, \$9,408 for Occupant Protection Enforcement Campaign
- 3.6 Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office, \$5,000 for DWI Overtime Enforcement
- 3.7 Bayou Region Motorcycle Awareness Campaign, \$4,000 for safety commodities

In conclusion, all applicants proposed a total budget of \$41,208.00, which is within the allocated amount of \$45,000. Extra money can be allocated for commodities for the Traffic Summit. Jamie Ainsworth interjected that as long as an agency doesn't get direct funding from LHSC and its project goals support the grant's yearly action plan, then it's all good for approval. Everyone made a vote on the acceptance of sub-grant applications. Linda Savoie expressed interest in applying for next year's sub-grant for Assumption Parish's bike safety campaign for all Kindergartens. Jamey Fontenot made a motion to accept all sub-grant applications, seconded by C. Poche. Motion carried.

4. Election of Officers

G. Hood opened nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. After a unanimous vote, everyone agreed that G. Hood remained as Chair and C. Poche as Vice Chair. They shall serve for a term of two years. No oppositions arose.

5. Other Business

There was none on the table.

6. Adjournment

G. Hood put a closure to the executive meeting, which immediately led to the partnership meeting.

Part II PARTNERSHIP MEETING

1. Call to Order

G. Hood called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m. All in attendance did a quick introduction.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer

Greg Maurin led the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer.

3. Approval of the Minutes of October 21, 2010 Meeting

C. Poche made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held last October 21, 2010, seconded by Earl Geason. Motion carried.

4. Guest Speakers

There were no particular guest speakers invited to the meeting. However, L. Marretta requested that Terri Monaghan from DOTD and Jamie Ainsworth from LHSC say a short note on their respective department's focus.

4.1 T. Monaghan disclosed that the state has allocated a 30-million grant mostly for road construction geared toward achieving highway/road safety. L. Marretta spoke of the regional strategic safety plan that needs to be outlined and executed in accordance to DOTD's statewide vision. There will be a meeting for the sub-committee to draft the regional plan. Also, there's the reimbursable program called Local Road Safety Program that addresses local roads. Its 2011 funding cycle ends on January 18, 2011. The program's goal is to increase local community participation to develop and implement road safety improvements under parish jurisdiction.

4.2 J. Ainsworth said that both DOTD and LHSC similarly spend Federal-DMT funds. The biggest difference is that DOTD deals with physical construction while LHSC grant aims largely on behavior-focused community programs. Bottom line is that both aim to decrease transportation fatalities. LHSC funds community outreach, media campaigns, educational, law enforcement and occupant protection programs—all geared toward establishing a safer community. In February 2011, application period for 2011-2012 Sub-grants shall be opened.

5. Upcoming Events

- 5.1 Child Passenger Safety Technician Training (January 12-15, 2011 at SCPDC, Houma, LA)
Only 28 slots are funded by LHSC. Registrants beyond 28 shall pay a registration fee of \$75. C. Poche and G. Maurin made arrangements with A. LeBlanc for their participation.
- 5.2 Lifesavers Conference (March 27-29, 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona)
The group appointed three representatives (Troop C, G. Maurin and L. Savoie) for the conference but only one will be chosen as official delegate. To be fair, G. Hood facilitated the selection through drawing of lots. Morris Beverly did the honors of picking. It's G. Maurin who got picked. Troop C and L. Savoie shall serve as substitutes.

6. By-laws

G. Hood announced that changes were made on the By-laws during the executive meeting. R. Capone did a recap on the amendments. G. Hood pointed out that the By-laws should also mention that if an agency has received direct funding from the LHSC, then it is disqualified from receiving sub-grant funding. Also, each agency must have attended 50% of the scheduled meetings to qualify in the sub-grant. G. Maurin made a motion to include these add-on stipulations to the By-Laws, seconded by J. Fontenot. Motion carried.

7. Review of 2011 Sub-grant Applications

G. Hood announced the approval of all seven agencies that applied for 2010-2011 Safe Community Sub-grant. Refer to Agenda 3 of Part I: Executive Meeting. Total amount is \$41, 208. As soon as contracts are signed, the awarded agencies can start implementing their proposed programs. L. Marretta thanked LHSC for the support.

8. Commodities

Ann LeBlanc told everyone that the safety commodities to be distributed in the upcoming year are: 2011 Pocket Planners and Calendars with "Buckle Up, America" on it; Silicone Bracelets with "Drunk Driving: Over the Limit. Under Arrest" on it; and Cellphone holders that say something about texting and driving. Quotes have been requested for the three commodities. We shall order the items as soon as all quotes are in. C. Poche pitched in a commodity idea of having backpacks with drawstrings. The message could either be seatbelt-related or no-texting-while-driving.

9. Media Campaigns

R. Capone expressed that SC Partnership hopes to be more active in publishing press releases. Not many people are aware of what we do for the community. More radio and TV exposures shall be carried on to expand our media reach. The newsletter shall be consistently done every two months; it will be four pages showcasing photos and captions from actual events. G. Maurin suggested that we do a generic press release with our SC Partnership logo. J. Fontenot expressed the possibility of arranging television interviews with HTV so that parish representatives are able to inform the public of how the partnership has affected the community as far as safety is concerned. L. Marretta informed that the staff will do an offline discussion regarding outreach and media campaigns prior to the next scheduled meeting on February 17, 2011. L. Savoie commended our effort of sending out press releases especially that particular article about Florida looking after Louisiana's technique in fighting drunk driving through the "no refusal policy". It's good to have positive exposure.

10. Traffic Summit

The tentative date for the Traffic Summit shall be July 13, 2011. It was suggested that the venue should be booked as soon as possible.

11. Parish Reports/Comments from Partnership Members

- 11.1 C. Poche spoke of St. James Sheriff's Office's seatbelt grant and how they work closely with Troop C to enforce seatbelt usage.

- 11.2 J. Fontenot expressed thanks to LHSC for being pro-active in supporting Thibodaux Police Department's campaigns on DWI Overtime Enforcement, Seatbelt Occupant Protection and Underage Drinking Enforcement (Thursday to Saturday nights). He also added that he'd invite the new Chief of Police to our next scheduled meeting as soon as he's appointed under the new administration.
- 11.3 M. Beverly said that Bridget Gardner, the coordinator for the Child Passenger Safety Training, was concerned that out of 28 registrants, only seven actually come from our area. The whole point of scheduling the January 12-15th training was to get as many participants from the South Central Region. G. Hood responded that such concern has already been addressed with C. Poche (St. James) and G. Maurin (St. John) signing in. Should additional registrants need to pay for the fee of \$75, a portion of the allocated travel funds can cover that, as pointed out by J. Ainsworth.
- 11.4 J. Ainsworth told that LHSC has stepped up with enforcement efforts to fight DWI/Alcohol-Impaired Driving and Seatbelt Occupant Protection. These are this year's funding priorities.
- 11.5 Ruby LeBlanc expressed gratitude in approving their sub-grant application.
- 11.6 L. Savoie shared that their child safety program efforts reflect fairly in the numbers shown on their needs assessment program. The fatalities are down. She's encouraging everyone to participate in the upcoming panel that reviews the deaths of children in the region and address them so that these fatalities don't happen again.
- 11.7 Ray Traigle said they've started doing the "no refusal policy" in Assumption and they got the judge on board with it. They have a little concern with the hospital. So, what they do is check in the patients, get the bills from the hospital and take it as part of the restitution. So, far there's been a positive feedback; there's no refusal in the month of December. Also enforced are the nighttime seatbelt checkpoints. L. Marretta told that WWL had a discussion on the "no refusal policy" and how it's gotten a good over-all response. Some states are even considering it to be mandatory, according to G. Hood.
- 11.8 Capt. Naquin expressed that as far as Troop C is concerned, the numbers are down in all categories of crashes. Enforcement is up. The "Zero for December" campaign was started early this month, and even if the region has had a few fatalities, Troop C is going to keep campaigning for it. They've also implemented the "no refusal policy" troop-wide and started with two of the many nighttime seatbelt checkpoints already. December 29th is the next scheduled checkpoint.
- 11.9 Beryl LeBoeuf declared how Bayou Region MAC is grateful for approving their sub-grant application. The group intends to be more active in the partnership. They want to incorporate texting and driving campaign in their media efforts.

12. Safety Concerns to refer to LaDOTD

Discussion ensued on the cable media barrier. T. Monaghan suggested that everyone should write down their road safety concerns to DOTD on the yellow papers given to them. L. Marretta said that the more we can get our concerns in front of the state's attention, the more actions can be taken.

13. ATV Subcommittee

G. Hood shared that there hasn't been any meeting lately because there's hardly any participation from the members. He said that Glen Dietrich of Cycle World of Houma had asked about it. He mentioned that there used to be a good attendance, so they should start meeting again next year to address ATV concerns.

14. Other Business

There's no other business on the table. G. Hood greeted everyone a Merry Christmas and reminded them not to drink and drive.

The next executive and partnership meetings will be on February 17, 2011 at South Central Planning and Development Commission at 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., respectively.

15. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by G. Maurin, seconded by L. Savoie. Motion carried.