



SOUTH CENTRAL SAFE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Pelican Room, South Central Planning and Development Commission
5058 West Main Street, Houma LA 70390

Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, August 18, 2011

In Attendance:

Greg Hood Sr., ADAC
Alicia Touns, ADAC
Jason Kibodeaux, Terrebonne SO
Jamey Fontenot, Thibodaux PD
Craig Poche, St. James SO
Dustin Poche, St. James SO
Earl Geason, St. James SO
Jamie Ainsworth, LHSC
Josephine Rodrigue, MADD
Karin Kreamer, MADD
Craig Jaccuzzo, NSU PD
Steve Tullis, NSU PD
Dwan Bowser, Lutcher PD
Iana Joseph, Lutcher PD

Ray Traigle, Assumption SO
Bobbie O'Bryan, Houma PD
Tina Ledet, Houma PD
Daniel Belanger, Houma PD
Wilburn McDowell, Lafourche SO
Linda Savoie, OPH
Brandy Jarreau, LOSGH
Greg Maurin, St. John DA
Tommy Luke, Houma Resident
Mark Luke, Houma Resident
Hubert Augustine, Breaux Bridge PD
Betsey Tramonte, FHWA
Anthony Galliano, S. L. Driving Sch.
Emery Chauvin III, LADOTD

Lyle LeBlanc, La-DOTD
Dennis Hebert, La-DOTD
Terri Monaghan, La-DOTD
Ron Whittaker, La-DOTD
Floyd Benoit, Lafourche PSB
Marilyn Harris, SCLAHSA
Matt Trahan, LSP Troop C
Darrin Naquin, LSP Troop C
Bryan Zeringue, LSP Troop C
Scott Reed, Wal-Mart
Joshua Manning, SCPDC
Rudynah Capone, SCPDC

1. Call to Order

Chairman Greg Hood called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Opening Prayer

Greg Maurin of St. John District Attorney's Office delivered the opening prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Partnership members then recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Capt. Ray Traigle of Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office.

4. Introductions

G. Hood asked everyone to introduce themselves. Thirty-nine (39) members and partners were present as listed above.

5. Approval of Minutes: February 17, 2011

L. Savoie made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting dated May 19, 2011, seconded by J. Fontenot. Motion carried.

6. Feedback: Previous Events

Before proceeding to the exchange of comments/feedbacks, a slideshow featuring the previous events (CPS checkups, Safety Town, Traffic Summit and ADAC Memorial Run) was played for the members to enjoy viewing. R. Capone encouraged members to applaud J. Manning for creating the slideshow.

FEEDBACK/COMMENTS:

a. Traffic Safety Summit 2011

G. Hood asked everyone to share their feedback on the pros and cons of the Traffic Safety Summit held last July 13 in NSU Cotillion Ballroom. R. Capone announced that there were 95 participants this year and she referred everyone to Tab #6A to view the summit evaluation results. By just looking at the evaluation summary, G. Hood expressed everyone pretty much liked the event. Trooper B. Zeringue suggested that SCSCP should do the next summit during a cool month, say November or December, in order to accommodate the child seat checkup and rollover simulator outdoors. G. Hood also brought up that it was previously mentioned to have the summit alternately held in Terrebonne Parish, not just in Lafourche. It has been held in July due to the fact that school is out at NSU during the summer. So, if another venue is considered, we may do it in a cooler month. Discussion ensued. Then, everybody agreed to try to do it Terrebonne Parish in November 2012.

B. O'Bryan asked about the youth participation during the summit. R. Capone responded that NSU PD Chief C. Jaccuzzo originally planned on bringing in a group of students but unfortunately, the group cancelled for some unknown reason. R. Capone said it was one of the goals of the coalition to get more teen drivers involved in the next summit. L. Savoie encouraged members to invite their youth groups and take the summit as one of the school's official extra-curricular activities to justify their participation. Terrebonne Houma Civic Center was considered as a potential venue. Further discussion followed.

b. Child Seat Checkups at Winn Dixie Gramercy and Wal-Mart LaPlace

D. Poche reported that St. James SO inspected 56 seats and replaced 7 of them during a CPS checkup at Winn Dixie in Gramercy. He thanked Karen Ahmad from Our Lady of the Lake Hospital. He also extended his appreciation to ADAC, Houma PD, Lafourche SO, Trooper Bryan Z. of LSP Troop C, R. Capone of SCPDC and Winn Dixie management, which actually wanted to do another checkup event in the future. At the June 18th checkup in Wal-Mart LaPlace, 14 seats were inspected, two of which were replaced. D. Poche extended a big thanks to Wal-Mart Transportation Safety Manager S. Reed, B. Zeringue and St. John LSU Ag Center. St. John Sheriff's Office didn't have any CPS techs but they had deputies who helped pull off the event.

c. ADAC Memorial Run, Terrebonne Kids Safety Day, 4th of July Impaired Driving Campaign

A. Toups said that the memorial run was successful. ADAC planned to do their next year's run sometime in April, focusing on not just one family. If done in April, it would also be in time for the Alcohol Awareness Month. They would invite families who lost relatives due to alcohol-impaired driving. She specifically thanked Wal-Mart but generally thanked all those extended their help. B. Zeringue said the event really had a good turnout, with families being satisfied and plenty of food served. G. Hood was appreciative of the two doctors from Leonard Chabert Medical Center (Yummy Band) who devoted their time to play some music.

d. Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Bunkie, LA

B. O'Bryan reported that they targeted over 100 teens to participate in the Teen CERT. The event featured all aspects of safety, including teen driving safety awareness. A slideshow was played to showcase the event highlights. B. O'Bryan said that for next year, they hoped to feature more of the highway safety approaches such as mock crash simulation, teen drunk driving, texting & driving, etc.

7. Appointment of Media and Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Coordinator

The coalition wanted to make it official to have an overall SCSCP media and CPS coordinator. G. Hood appointed B. Zeringue, which led to L. Savoie making a motion to officially declare B. Zeringue as the MEDIA and CPS Coordinator of SCSCP's events. It was seconded by J. Fontenot. Motion carried.

8. Appointment of Regional Safety Plan's Emphasis Area (EA) Team Leaders

J. Fontenot volunteered to head the Occupant Protection and he suggested nominating M. Trahan for the Impaired Driving. L. Savoie nominated B. O'Bryan to lead the Young Drivers EA. B. Zeringue expressed his interest to spearhead the same area. Discussion ensued. G. Hood recapped who the appointed persons were, with Linda making a motion that SCSCP officially declared the team leaders as follows: J. Fontenot for Occupant Protection, M. Trahan for Impaired Driving, and both Trooper B. Zeringue & B. O'Bryan for Young Drivers. The motion was seconded by C. Poche. Motion carried.

9. Upcoming Events/Media Campaigns:

a. 2011 National Impaired Driving Prevention Labor Day Weekend (Aug. 19-Sept. 5, 2011)

R. Capone referred everyone to see Tab 9#A to know what the law enforcement agencies have planned for said campaign. She asked the respective agency representatives to reiterate their plans. Troop C Captain D. Naquin said that they'll implement the "No Refusal" Policy in their DWI checkpoints just like how they've done it in the past. R. Traigle (APSO) said they're trying to do a joint jurisdictional checkpoint with Lafourche SO and with Thibodaux PD as well. Four different checkpoints between Assumption and Lafourche areas have been lined up. They'll also enforce the No Refusal. Houma PD will be adding extra officers for their DWI saturation patrols. J. Kibodeaux said that they'll have additional patrols in the bayou areas and a couple of checkpoints prior to Labor Day and on Labor Day Weekend itself. NSU PD Chief C. Jaccuzzo said that this particular campaign doesn't target the university population and that their involvement is not that in the picture. However, they do educate their students on the consequences of drunk driving just prior to the holidays when campaigns like this take place. G. Maurin announced that St. John SO will definitely conduct their DWI checkpoints while D. Poche of St. James SO said they will have their roving DWI patrols which C. Poche also referred to as "Wolf Packs" around Gramercy and Lutcher

b. National Child Passenger Safety Week (Sept. 18-24, 2011) and National Seat Check Day (September 24, 2011)

Campaign materials and press release sample are on Tab #9B of the meeting packet. R. Capone announced that A. Toups and Trooper B. Zeringue are coordinating with our CPS technicians to conduct a Seat Check Saturday in Wal-Mart in East Houma on September 24, 2011. L. Savoie asked how many CPS techs have signed up to help. Around 8 CPS technicians have already confirmed to be at the event, including B. Jarreau and D. Poche.

c. Assumption's Safe Routes to School Project (October 2011)

R. Capone said that the Assumption Police Jury (APJ) reached out to SCSCP to help them do the educational campaign for their Safe Routes to School Project. DOTD has approved funding for the construction of their sidewalks and footbridge along Napoleonville Middle School which connects to Assumption High School. Part of the project is to realize bicycle and pedestrian safety education. A budget of \$2,000 was allocated for this component which would primarily cover safety commodities and educational materials that will be used to implement whatever activity is planned. She suggested that Assumption SO and LSP Troop C might be willing to help. R. Traigle expressed his interest by asking who the contact person for this project was. R. Capone advised him to contact Erin Watson of APJ.

10. SCSCP Sub-grant Status Reports & Reimbursement Claims (Due on Sept. 16, 2011)

R. Capone gave a rundown of agencies that have and have not submitted their claims. NSU PD has given complete paperwork. ADAC and MAC turned in their initial claims but have to submit more to reach their total max amount of funding. Lady of the Sea GH and Assumption Parish School Board have just submitted; reimbursement should be processed upon review. Agencies that have not submitted any claim are the following: St. James SO and St. John DA and Assumption SO. The sub-grantees were reminded that deadline for submission of all claims was on September 16, 2011. If submitted beyond that, funds wouldn't be reimbursed.

11. Parish Reports/Comments from Partners

Before proceeding, G. Hood acknowledged the presence of Tony Galliano who's a retired officer from Troop C years ago. He now runs the South Lafourche Driving School.

Office of Public Health, Linda Savoie, MCH Coordinator

L. Savoie expressed she has been assisting partners with their events (CPS checkups, Safety Town). She asked for help in identifying what the day care centers are doing and not doing when it comes to child passenger safety. She referred to it as the missing link in CPS. She also spoke of her interest on zeroing in to the driver's education instructors in our coalition (Trooper Bryan and T. Galliano) to help her with teaching folks how to get out of submerged vehicle. This aspect of safety awareness was well-taken by participants at the Teen CERT. She taught a class of teenage drivers and gave them the actual tools used to cut seatbelts and smash glasses out to get out of submerged vehicles. She thought it would be a good component in safety driving education as well. She asked if the instructors could incorporate a 30-minute instructional tool in their classes and possibly give away safety tools should funds be available. T. Galliano said he's got a couple of tools but he had a hard time finding them because they're only available during Christmastime. L. Savoie advised to get them from Auto Zone and O' Reileys. She's working with O'Reileys on getting an incentive if we buy more, we get more for free.

St. James SO, Lt. Earl Geason

E. Geason said their team is working on the occupant protection and school zone enforcement besides preparing for the Labor Day Weekend campaign.

Thibodaux Police Department, Capt. Jamey Fontenot

J. Fontenot said they're still doing the underage drinking crackdown on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights. They teamed up with Alcohol and Tobacco Control (ATC) a couple of weeks ago to check every single bar in Thibodaux and they ended up issuing 59 tickets for different violations. They also had two undercover cops getting in the bars to crack down on underage drinkers and those who sold alcohol to age below 21. In the court system of City Court of Thibodaux, the kids will not only get citation to pay a fine but also be sent to class to get education. TBD has also scheduled two DWI checkpoints, one for August and one for September. They have 84 hours left to utilize for occupant protection enforcement. They're partnering with APSO, LSP and LPSO for the Labor Day Weekend campaign, whether it's a checkpoint altogether or a multi-jurisdictional checkpoint. He also mentioned the disadvantage of posting the DWI checkpoint information on social media sites.

Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office, Capt. Ray Traigle

R. Traigle commented on the efficacy of the court system's sending kids to a class and serve community service hours after being cited for underage drinking. He said they're doing their multi-jurisdictional DWI & underage drinking checkpoint with LPSO and TBD. He also gave a short remark on how the social media has affected the statistics of DWI arrests because as soon as folks find out on Facebook that they're doing a checkpoint on LA 1, they change their route. So, their agency plans on doing checkpoints in both Hwy 308 and Hwy 1. He added that they're planning on conducting their first child seat checkup in sometime in October and asked the help of the coalition's CPS techs. APSO only has one CPS technician. L. Savoie expressed that she and the other technicians will help out.

St. John District Attorney's Office, Greg Maurin

G. Maurin said that besides the Labor Day DWI checkpoint on Sept. 3, they have another checkpoint a weekend prior, which is on August 27th.

Houma Police Department, Lt. Bobbie O'Bryan and Sgt. Daniel Belanger

B. O'Bryan said that this summer, not only did they do the Teen CERT in Bunkie but also had a round of highway safety enforcement approach (on speeding, stop signs, handicaps). It was successful and they got a lot of response from the community. They also did two Jude operations which turned out successfully. D. Belanger added that HPD will send two CPS technicians to the September 24th National Seat Check Day. He also tapped TPSO's help in providing a big tent where cars can park under in case the day goes overly hot. They have 88 hours left for their DWI grant with LHSC. They might do a DWI checkpoint along with Troop C on September 1, if not, they'll continue using the said hours for saturation patrols. They wrapped up 4 hours of their speed grant. He remarked on the speed limit of 15-over before they ticket the driver. HPD is also doing two traffic studies. He commented on how we should reach out more to schools and businesses, actually getting them to attend our safety meetings. He suggested that caution lights be placed when traffic gets really congested around Tunnel and twin-span. They've also done child passenger safety enforcement by going out on elevated sections around sidewalks in downtown Houma to catch vehicles without proper child restraints. HPD is taking advantage of free training opportunities offered by the state.

B. O'Bryan also announced that he's also working with R. Whittaker for the training of 89 HPD officers. T. Ledet announced that HPD has set up an account on Facebook to inform the community on what's going on.

LA State Police Troop C, Bryan Zeringue

B. Zeringue reiterated about the September 24th Seat Check in Wal-Mart, East side of Houma. They have a big meeting coming up to revamp the Sudden Impact Program. He's working with Chabert Medical and Terrebonne Parish School Board to do a 90-minute presentation in public schools this year. He also asked for more folks to join the Operation Lifesavers and get with him on how to get certified as presenter because our region is lacking on this end. Troop C is also working on putting together a stick-on which police officers can attach to their ticket books. ATV PowerPoint and Pedestrian PowerPoint materials are also available for everyone's usage. Ascension Parish asked Troop C for assistance for their checkpoint this Saturday, August 20th. Trooper Bryan told whoever was interested to help may contact the Ascension SO or him. He also mentioned that LPSO (through Chief Webber) and Our Lady of the Lake Hospital agreed to help in accommodating folks getting their blood drawn as a result of a DWI citation. Capt. Naquin announced Troop C is now on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Our Lady of the Sea General Hospital, Brandy Jarreau

B. Jarreau suggested that a seat checkup needs to be done in Grand Isle. L. Savoie affirmed to do so.

Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, Jamie Ainsworth

J. Ainsworth said that the federal fiscal year is wrapping up by end of September. She added it's nice to hear about everybody's enforcement plans following along the Labor Day Mobilization campaign. As we enter the new fiscal, it's more important now than ever before to think about effectiveness. With less money in FY 2012, expectations are set higher when it comes to efficiency and it applies to all LHSC grants. It's important to know that as we draw out our Safe Community Action Plan, make sure that it is data-driven and that the data is truly focused and the strategies are focused on what you've accomplished with highway safety grant. LHSC is looking at about 27% budget cut. Until the Congress passes the transportation bill, it is undetermined as to what long term means for the commission.

Nicholls State University Police Department, Chief Craig Jaccuzzo

C. Jaccuzzo said they completed their Fatal Vision Driving Course in their "Think Before You Drink" Program. They also participated in the Teen CERT in Bunkie. Major construction is going on in the campus, thereby having their agency address some traffic concerns. He thanked everyone for choosing Nicholls as a venue for the recently held Traffic Safety Summit. He mentioned about Thibodaux PD's DDACTS report stating that they're having some issues on Audubon Drive, before campus and off campus. He also invited everyone to check out the brand new facilities in the campus that are being offered for public usage. He thanked the coalition for the support of their Think Before You Drink program which enhanced the level of respect for NSU PD in the law enforcement. They have come a long way, he said.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Josephine Rodrigue and Karin Kreamer

J. Rodrigue shared that 74% of our kids ages 8 to 17 said that parents are the leading influence on their decisions about drinking. MADD Louisiana is offering free workshops on evidence-based tools for parents to use in discussing underage drinking with their high school kids. It's a one-hour free training which MADD hopes to bring in to local communities. K. Kreamer said they have facilitator's trainings in Baton Rouge that agencies might want to participate and that they have some safety literature that can be given away to parents during child seat checkup events. They also planned on opening a regional MADD chapter that will serve the South Central Region. R. Traigle asked if MADD could do a little presentation during open houses. K. Kreamer responded it's doable. G. Hood told that he attended the MADD Facilitator's Class and recommended it's a good resource. He offered his assistance to do the class if anyone's interested. Classes are scheduled on August 31 and September 10.

Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, Wilburn McDowell

W. McDowell said their agency didn't have anything specific planned besides their ongoing teen DWI impaired driving enforcement around the high schools. He noted that these teen drivers at high schools confessed they're drinking a lot. They usually conduct the fatal vision driving course at these schools and they let the students wear the fatal vision goggles and ride in the golf carts to get the feel of driving while intoxicated. He also found out that girls can handle driving impaired better than the boys.

Wal-Mart Transportation, Scott Reed

S. Reed announced that September 11-18, 2011 is the National Truck Drivers Appreciation Week to honor the hard work and commitment of truck drivers. He also expressed his interest in putting together a class for Lifesavers Operation with Troop C.

LA Department of Transportation and Development, Lyle LeBlanc

L. LeBlanc reported about DOTD projects on the ground: lighting in the Tunnel next month, with some night closures associated with it; turning lanes on Prescuille intersection as well as near Bourg Elementary and South Terrebonne School on LA24; new traffic signals around Houma; additional turning lanes and traffic control improvements (flashing beacon) on LA 3235; and asphalt pavement elevating the road on LA 315 (Prospect and Main). He stressed that they're always looking for some ways to improve safety in our area.

L. LeBlanc added that on US 90 West, the first Houma exit, they're doing some changes on lanes (block off the left lane and keep traffic coming from Raceland all the way in the right lane). They'll also put delineators. L. Savoie asked if DOTD is going to put out info on the newspaper to let people know the changes. L. LeBlanc ensured that it would be well-marked

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council for South Louisiana (ADAC), Alicia Toups

A lot of ADAC's efforts have mentioned already like the Memorial Run/Walk and Child Passenger Safety checkups. A. Toups mentioned about the Caring Communities Youth Survey that gathers data based on risk and protected factors by parish as well as antisocial behaviors. The data is compared to the national data and could be of use by community planners. She asked whoever is interested to get a copy of the survey could contact her and she'd gladly share the links and materials. J. Ainsworth suggested for A. Toups to share the info with R. Capone so that it could be included in the newsletter. ADAC is using such survey in their efforts. It's parish-specific. G. Hood recommended that everyone who's got anything going on their area should email R. Capone so she can circulate the info around through the press releases or newsletter.

South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority, Marilyn Harris

M. Harris reported that the OAD Prevention Region 3 continues to serve all the students in the parishes of our region. Last fiscal year, they extended prevention services to 4,500 kids. In the coming year, they are looking at serving 5,000 kids, especially from 3rd grade to 8th grade. Their focus is substance abuse control & prevention services, primarily on alcohol.

Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office, Jason Kibodeaux

J. Kibodeaux said that he's working on getting the tent set up for September 24th seat checkup in Wal-Mart East Houma. He also contacted the Fire Department to put out two big fans for said event.

South Lafourche Driving School, Anthony Galliano

A. Galliano reiterated what MADD said. He reported that out of 24 students (age 15) in one of the last two driver's education classes he taught, 23 of them confessed they were drinking. He told that those students. The other class had 26 participants, 20 of them said they drank alcohol. He shared that he would always tell his students that their parents were responsible for them drinking. Parents should be role models. He asked if there was a way to put a line on the centerline to divide traffic on US 90 that L. LeBlanc spoke of earlier. A. Galliano said they did it on Hollywood and Park Avenue. L. LeBlanc responded that they would put a solid center line plus raised delineators. Discussion ensued.

Lutcher Police Department, Chief Dwan Bowser

D. Bowser said they're working with Capt. Poche of St. James in enforcing seatbelt, DWI and underage drinking. G. Hood expressed the pleasure of having Lutcher PD join the coalition meeting.

12. Safety Concerns to refer to LADOTD

G. Hood encouraged all to fill out the yellow sheets if they have any safety concern to refer to DOTD. He then introduced two concerned citizens from Houma, Mark and Tommy Luke, who wanted to express their safety concern on intersection of Grand Caillou Road, Oaklawn Drive and Jean Ellen Avenue. One of them said that there's been an issue with the turning lane between those two streets. One of the poles put out in the north side of Oaklawn is 144 feet from the crosswalk. He pointed it out as a big safety issue. Oaklawn Junior High is a block away but there isn't any signage out there. He said that the way the turning lane is set up is concerning and that the turning lane on Jean Ellen is a safety issue. He thought the intersection could use more lines, signage and lights. G. Hood informed that Sgt. Belanger had emailed R. Capone about this and later asked if a discussion with DOTD has been done. Sgt. Belanger confirmed that he has spoken with the Luke brothers and discussed the issue with DOTD Houma Sub-district engineers D. Hebert and E. Chauvin. Proposed diagrams were presented by the Luke brothers and an offline discussion was done prior to the meeting. He said his major concern is the general safety around the intersection. Discussion further ensued.

G. Hood suggested that they discuss it further with DOTD and report back during the next coalition. L. LeBlanc expressed his thoughts on the concerns and said he would look into the proposed diagrams that the Luke brothers have prepared. L. Savoie also asked about the absence of school signage. G. Hood further told that the Luke brothers should provide a copy of the diagrams to L. LeBlanc. He affirmed how the intersection has been a concern for so many years.

13. Other Business

D. Poche suggested that SCSCP purchase magnetic signage that can be placed on the police cars when they do enforcement activities. B. O'Bryan mentioned about the local enforcement agencies producing safety commercials and if they ever noticed them being aired on HTV. They're pretty catchy. On top of the state highway safety funds, local agencies are using their local funds to produce PSA materials, which is a good thing.

14. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. was made by C. Poche, seconded by R. Traigle. Motion carried.

Next meeting is on November 17, 2011.

Executive Board Meeting is at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Partnership Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

These minutes were approved during the Quarterly Meeting on November 17, 2011 at SCPDC in Houma, LA.