



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, May 17, 2012 at 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

In Attendance: (32)

Greg Hood Sr., ADAC
Cassie Parker, SCPDC
Leo Marretta, SCPDC
Josh Manning, SCPDC
Earl Geason, St. James SO
Steve Tullis, NSU PD
Jason Kibodeaux, TPSO
Alicia Toups, ADAC
Perry Blanchard, TPCG
Josephine Rodrigue, MADD
J.P. Degaravelles, LPSO
Mark Adams, LPSO

Terry Arabie, Lafourche Parish Gov't
Dennis Hebert, LADOTD
Lyle Leblanc, LADOTD
Hadi Shirazi, LADOTD
Mary Jean McAdams, LADOTD
Autumn Goodfellow-Thompson, LADOTD
Jamie Ainsworth, LHSC
Brad McGlothren, LHSC
Morris Beverly, LHSC
Ray Traigle, APSO
Bruce Prejean, APSO
Greg Maurin, St. John DA

Daniel Belanger, Houma PD
Bobbie O'Bryan, Houma PD
Glen Graham, ABMB
Paul Wade Hebert, AARP
Ruth Hebert, AARP
Antoinette Bonvillian, MAC
Michael Hebert, MAC
Floyd Benoit, LPSB
Jason Naquin, Thib. PD

1. Call to Order

Chairman Greg Hood Sr. called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

2-3. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

Lt. Jason Naquin said the Opening Prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Lt. Mark Adams.

4. Introductions

Chairman Hood asked everyone to introduce themselves. Thirty- two (32) partners attended.

5. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Chairman Greg Hood Sr. requested a motion to approve the minutes from previous meetings held on February 16, 2012. Antoinette Bonvillian made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Lt. Bobbie O'Bryan. No discussions. Motion carried.

6. Feedback: Previous Events

a. DOTD Destination Zero Transportation Safety Summit- April 3-4, 2012

Autumn Goodfellow-Thompson informed the Coalition that there were 256 individuals attend the DOTD Destination Zero Transportation Safety Summit. She stated that one of the highlights of the event was the signing of the Transportation Safety Pledge. The pledge was signed by DOTD, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, Federal Motor Carrier, LTAP, Federal Highway Administration, Louisiana State Police, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; these agencies are committed to focus their attention, energy, and resources on the four emphasis areas.

b. Bayou Region Safety Expo (Troop C)- April 21, 2012

No one from Troop C attended the meeting. G. Hood stated that there were numerous law enforcement agencies present; however, the weather had an impact on the number of visitors.

7. CIOT and Buckle Up in Your Truck

Jamie Ainsworth gave a presentation on Buckle Up in Your Truck, which is an extension of the Click It or Ticket Mobilization. She gave each partner a handout of the upcoming enforcement dates. J. Ainsworth also explained that the Highway Safety Commission through NHTSA funding supports and sponsors, through enforcement and media, two national mobilizations each year. The Click It or Ticket Mobilization takes place from May 21st through June 3rd. Then in September, the Impaired Driving Campaign, also known as the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" takes place around the holiday of Labor Day.

J. Ainsworth then shared that, by definition, a high visibility enforcement campaign begins with a media effort in the first week, the second week adds enforcement and overlays the media, then in the third week, media begins to disappear, but enforcement continues. The fourth week of the campaign is dependent on earned media and it is at this time that the evaluation process begins.

She also informs the Coalition that, according to the observational survey done each summer by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, the following Louisiana cities are consistently below the seatbelt usage rate: Lake Charles, Alexandria, and Monroe. J. Ainsworth also stated that Houma and Lafayette have historically been higher than the state average regarding seatbelt usage.

J. Ainsworth then plays a few radio campaigns aimed at the Click It or Ticket Campaign. These radio campaigns are produced by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and are geared towards the target group of low seatbelt use drivers, males 18-34 year old. She continues her presentation by showing a few media campaigns for the Click It or Ticket Campaign. She then informs the partners that the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission has added an extension to the Click It or Ticket Mobilization which is the Buckle up in Your Truck (BUIYT) campaign. The BUIYT campaign will take place June 10th through June 23rd. Before J. Ainsworth closes her presentation, she offers Buckle Up signs, including hardware, for the South Central Safe Community partners to place along their streets.

8. Upcoming Events & Media Campaigns

A. Toups informs the Coalition that ADAC and Troop C have a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) seat check scheduled for June 1, 2012 at the Lafourche Parish Health Unit from 8AM until 3PM. She adds that this event will count as a Click It or Ticket event. She further states that there are two upcoming CPS seat checks, one at the Terrebonne Parish Health Unit on June 6, 2012 from 12:30PM until 3PM, and one will take place on July 11, 2012 at the Vacherie Health Unit from 8AM until 3:30PM. A CPS seat check is still being planned for Galliano at this time. A. Toups welcomed any technicians to join ADAC and Troop C at the events.

M. Hebert with MAC gave the Coalition a brief description of MAC. He explained that all monies go to advertising. Some events that MAC participates include the "bike night out" events and the annual BOO-seum in Thibodaux, LA. He closes by thanking the Coalition for inviting MAC to the meeting.

Lt. B. O'Bryan stated that Teen CERT will take place from June 25th through June 29th. There are currently 150 teens expected to attend the event. He also informed the partners of some of the agencies that are participating in the Teen CERT event are Acadian Ambulance, Troop C ADAC, MADD, and Wal-Mart. The New Orleans Saints and Allstate have also teamed up together to teach the teens the dangers of texting and driving.

Discussion ensued in regards to the Regional Traffic Safety Summit on September 27, 2012. M. Hebert stated that MAC would be interested in participating in the Traffic Safety Summit. B. O'Bryan then suggested the idea of having a motorcycle demonstration, similar to an obstacle course, outside of the event as an "eye catcher". G. Hood asked Lt. O'Bryan if Houma Police Department is interested in spearheading this event. B. O'Bryan stated that he would be interested and also suggested that other law enforcement agencies could also participate, if interested. G. Hood requested that B. O'Bryan and C. Parker coordinate on this effort. It was also suggested to have a course for law enforcement that patrol on bicycle. G. Hood suggested that Houma Police Department could focus their energy on the car and

motorcycle course exhibits, and possibly Thibodaux Police Department and Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office focus on the bicycle component. Another presentation that was suggested is the fatal vision demonstration. It was agreed that B' O'Bryan and S. Tullis would coordinate in on this effort. L. Marretta recommended that DOTD could possibly set up their Work Zone Safety Portable as an outdoor exhibit. Discussion continued regarding outside events for the Regional Traffic Safety Summit.

9. 2012 Safety Commodities

C. Parker informed the Coalition that a 10x20 exhibition tent, bearing the Safe Community logo, was purchased for the Coalition to use for safety events.

10. South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRSTP) Update

T. Arabie gave an update regarding the recent Road Safety Assessment (RSA) which was performed on three streets in Lafourche Parish including Gheens Short Cut Road, Forty Arpent Road and Lefort Bypass Road. He first commended R. Capone and C. Parker for organizing this effort. He then stated that he appreciated Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office for keeping all participants safe by providing an escort to direct traffic at each site visit. T. Arabie also expressed his gratitude for B. O'Bryan and the Houma Police Department for organizing transportation for the participants. South Central Planning and Development Commission were thanked for providing the maps and donuts. Lastly, he thanked L. Leblanc with DOTD, as well as J. Taylor with the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), T. Buckley with Louisiana Transportation Research Center, and R. Whittaker with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for their assistance with conducting the Road Safety Assessments (RSA's). T. Arabie then stated that the participants visited three sites, in which several comments and recommendations were made in regards to the safety issues on the roadways. He further commented that, from his understanding, DOTD was to assist the parish by making recommendations, as well as, providing the necessary signs or posts to correct some of the problems that were identified on the roadway. However, there were certain comments made during the site visits which implied that the local government would be responsible for providing these items. T. Arabie goes further to state that the signs are frequently vandalized. Lastly, he informs the partners that LTAP is currently in the process of compiling the results of the RSA's and creating a report of the findings and recommendations.

11. Parish/Agency Reports and Comments

Houma PD

D. Belanger reported for Houma PD. He informed the Coalition that Houma PD, along with ADAC, conducted a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) activity at Mulberry Elementary School. He also stated that Houma PD is in the process of having one of their officers, M. Toups, trained as a CPS instructor.

D. Belanger also commented on the three recent accidents which occurred. There was an accident, involving an ATV, in which the individual was seriously injured. Unfortunately, the police officers did not have full cooperation with hospital personnel in regards to retrieving a blood sample to test for alcohol or drugs. He informed the partners that the individual did survive and is home. Officer Toups followed up on the incident and it was revealed that this individual wrecked as a result of a wheelie. Furthermore, the individual was not wearing any safety gear and had consumed alcohol. The second accident occurred as a result of an individual driving a motorcycle extremely fast and weaving in and out of traffic. As the driver tried to negotiate a slight curve on Grand Caillou Road in Houma, La, he collided into a utility pole and died on the scene. The third accident involved a vehicle and a motorcycle, in which the drivers were traveling at a high rate of speed. It was later discovered that the driver in the vehicle had consumed alcohol at the ball park prior to the incident. He made a U-turn in front of the motorcycle causing the vehicles to collide (T-bone) and both drivers being ejected. The gentleman died instantly, the passenger was taken to the hospital and later died from her injuries.

On May 29, 2012, HPD plans to do a seatbelt check point, as well as saturation patrol. D. Belanger further explained that Terrebonne Parish does not have a No Refusal Policy at this time; however, he would be on-board, as long as the judges are interested in assisting with this initiative.

B. O'Bryan then requested banners from the partners to display during the Teen CERT event. B. O'Bryan informed the Coalition of the Harley Davidson Rally which will take place on April 4-6, 2013 at the Houma Terrebonne Civic Center. He goes further to suggest that it could be beneficial for the Bayou Region

Safety Expo to be scheduled the same weekend. By combining the events, the amount of people attending the event would increase. Discussion ensued regarding the idea. A comment was made regarding the HOG rules and regulations, and how it could be an issue having the events together.

L. Marretta requested that someone consult with the HOG organization to see if it is appropriate that the Coalition have a presence. A. Bonvillian stated that she would contact the HOG organization.

B. O'Bryan informed the partners that Houma PD has applied for a grant for Teen CERT, as well as, Motorcycle training course for civilians.

Thibodaux PD

Thibodaux PD is using Occupant Protection funds for officers to perform seatbelt patrols. DWI overtime grants have also assisted in officers performing DWI enforcement in 5 hour blocks. He further reported that Thibodaux PD has 96 DWI arrests to date.

G. Hood stated that he went through one of Thibodaux PD's check points and commended the department on their efforts. He stated that the officers were very polite and did an outstanding job.

MADD

J. Rodrigue informed the Coalition that MADD was asked to do a couple of presentations; one was at Central Lafourche High School, in which she was able to speak to 144 students on the effects of drinking and driving. Of the 144 9th grade students, 50 admitted that they had consumed alcohol.

J. Rodrigue also expressed her desire to start a program for the junior high and high schools in Terrebonne Parish. The program is aimed at educating teenagers about the effects of drinking and driving and would be done as part of the health class curriculum. She informed the Coalition that she has spoken to the appropriate individuals, and the program will begin implementation at the following schools: Evergreen Junior High School, Houma Junior High School, Ellender High School, and South Terrebonne High School.

ADAC

A. Toups informed the partners that there was another batch of car seats ordered for any fitting stations that are in need. She also informed everyone that ADAC has organized a Jambalaya cook-off scheduled for June 23, 2012 at the Downtown Houma Courthouse Square. Prior to the cook-off, there will be a 2 mile run/walk. A. Toups invited any agency that would like to form a team and participate to do so, and revealed that the winners will receive \$500.00.

Terrebonne SO

J. Kibodaux stated that Terrebonne Parish SO will increase seatbelt enforcement over the next two weekends. The DWI enforcement will also be staggered more to target the happy hour crowds from 6pm until midnight.

Assumption Parish SO

R. Traigle informed the partners that on April 20, 2012, Assumption Parish SO demonstrated a mock crash at Assumption High School prior to their prom. The original idea was to target the junior and senior classes; however, all of the students were able to attend as a result of the teachers having an election, and the event was a success. Assumption had their prom on April 28, 2012, in which officers were on DWI patrol. To prevent drinking and driving, the Assumption SO also offered to bring those individuals that might have problem getting a ride, home. He goes further to state that the Assumption Parish SO will be concentrating some of their DWI enforcement efforts towards water traffic during the summer months.

R. Traigle announced that a fundraiser, organized to raise money for the American Cancer Society, will take place on June 9, 2012. There will be a "lake bash" on Lake Verret where a barge will be placed in the middle of water. It is expected that 1000 people will attend. Wildlife and Fisheries has committed to have five to six units and will provide a DWI van for the event.

Lafourche SO

J. Degravelles reported that Lafourche Parish SO will continue DWI Enforcement. J. Degravelles stated that LPSO has made 208 DWI arrests to date. He also added that there have been less first time offenders and more repeat offenders. To assist LPSO with their efforts regarding the No Refusal Policy, two Lafourche Parish Sheriff Officers are now certified phlebotomists. He goes further to inform the partners that LPSO also recently began using V Signer, which is a program that is mandated through Louisiana Legislature and allows an officer to have a warrant signed via email. Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office is also in the process of implementing e-tickets to make traffic stops more time efficient.

AARP

P. Hebert stated that AARP offers a course primarily designed for individuals 50 and over, but offered to anyone, which entails video, lecture, and some discussion. The goal of the course is to educate individuals on recovering the effects of aging in regards to driver safety.

LHSC

J. Ainsworth suggests that the Coalition request that N. Broussard speak about the No Refusal Policy at the Regional Safety Summit to assist law enforcement with their efforts.

12. Safety Concerns to Refer to DOTD

No safety concerns were brought up verbally. R. Traigle, E. Geason, and G. Maurin expressed their concerns in written form. (*Refer to yellow sheet.*)

13. Other Business

No other business. Next meeting is on August 16, 2012.

14. Adjournment

Meeting Minutes was approved during the Quarterly Meeting on August 16, 2012.