



SOUTH CENTRAL SAFE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
Executive & Partnership Meetings
Plus
Zero for December Kickoff and MADD Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Squad Room, LA State Police Troop C, 4047 West Park Avenue, Gray, LA 70359

Minutes of the Meeting

In Attendance (37)

Darrin Naquin, LSP-Troop C	Michael Russell, ATC	
Ray Traigle, APSO	Brad McGlothren, LHSC	Bruce Coleman, Troop C Chaplain
Bruce Prejean, APSO	Angel Ledet, MADD	Mike Solet, TPSO
Leo Marretta, SCPDC	Ernest Savoie Jr., MADD	Terri Monaghan, LADOTD
Rudynah Capone, SCPDC	Valerie Cox, MADD	James Newton, Thibodaux PD
Joshua Manning, SCPDC	Ava Fontenot, MADD	Earl Geason, St. James SO
Todd Duplantis, HPD	Mary Kay Tracy, MADD	Craig Poche, St. James SO
Daniel Belanger, HPD	Alicia Touns, ADAC	Greg Maurin, St. John DA
Tina Ledet, HPD	Mark Adams, LPSO	Judy Smart, Gazebo NHW Houma
Lee Lyons, HPD	Mac McDowell, LPSO	Glenn Diedrich, Cycle World
Dennis Bergeron, LSP-Troop C	J.P. deGravelles, LPSO	Nicole Soudelier, OPH
Evan Harrell, LSP-Troop C	Terry Poiencot, LPSO	Jody Ordeneaux, Gramercy PD
Brandy Jarreau, LOSGH	Doug Foreman, LPSO	

Part I - Executive Board Meeting

1. Call to Order

SCSCP Chairman Darrin Naquin called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Review and Approval of:

A. Safe Community FFY 2014 Mini-Grants

Rudynah Capone referred everyone to Page 2A of the meeting packet that contained a spreadsheet of mini-grant applications for FFY 2014, including amount requested and criteria such as meeting attendance rate, program priorities addressed, audience reached and experience. The same set of applications were received as in the Years 2012 and 2013, as follows:

- Regional Child Passenger Safety Initiative thru ADAC - \$3,440
- Our Lady of the Sea General Hospital's Safety Circus - \$4,000
- ADAC's Get In the Zone Program - \$3,500
- St. John DA's DWI and Substance Abuse Classes - \$3,000

She noted that NSU Police Department also submitted, but because of new mini-grant guidelines from LHSC that all law enforcements are ineligible to obtain mini-grant funding. So, it was deemed ineligible, thereby disapproved. LE's can apply directly through LHSC. Budget for Mini-grants is \$13,440, which is split between Occupant Protection and Impaired Driving (\$6,720 for each). Discussion ensued.

All applications were approved but for Regional CPS, the amount was reduced to \$3,080 while LOSGH's Safety Circus was reduced to \$3,640. The other two were approved for the amounts they requested which would leave a leftover amount of \$220 for Impaired Driving. The members unanimously decided to allocate this difference to add \$220 to buy more commodities.

Greg Maurin made a motion to approve the two Occupant Protection mini-grant applications with a condition of reducing the amounts to be awarded as agreed, seconded by Craig Poche. Craig Poche then made another motion to approve the two Alcohol-Impaired Driving mini-grant applications with the exact requested amounts, seconded by Earl Geason. Both motions were carried. Brandy Jarreau shared the Safety Circus 2014 would include the ATV Safety and fatal vision goggle demo, besides the CPS seat check.

B. Safe Commodities to Purchase

R. Capone updated everyone about the commodities that were previously suggested and asked them if they had any additional items in mind. After short exchange of feedbacks, Greg Maurin made a motion to purchase the USB car chargers and the regular ink pens as opposed to stylus pens, seconded by Ray Traigle.

Also, the coalition agreed to pursue the purchase of T-shirts that would contain "I got caught... wearing my seat belt" and iTunes cards that were previously suggested as part of the incentive seat belt program.

C. Safe Community Action Plan 2014, including Training and Travel activities

R. Capone directed all members to take a moment to review the new FFY 2014 Safe Community Action Plan that stipulates the measurable activities that the coalition is supposed to accomplish between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014. She specified that these items are reflective of the ongoing efforts the coalition has been conducting through the years, so compliance to these items wouldn't be an issue.

The coalition unanimously agreed to accept the new Safe Community Action Plan, including travel activities. A comment on where MADD's efforts come in to play was raised. Discussion ensued on the new Intoxilyzer machine, training needs of the region, Lifesavers conference, DDACTS, crash data analysis, etc.

3. Other Business/ Adjournment ... Proceed to Part 2 of the Meeting

G. Maurin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 AM, seconded by R. Traigle. Motion carried.

Part II: Partnership Meeting

1. Call to Order

Chairman/Capt. Naquin called the Partnership Meeting to order at 10:45 AM.

Prayer Brandy Jarreau said the Opening Prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance Lt. Doug Foreman led the coalition in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves individually. A total of 37 partners were present.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from August 15, 2013 Meeting

Everyone took a moment to review the minutes from the previous quarterly meeting. C. Poche made a motion to accept them, seconded by R. Traigle. Motion carried.

3. Event Feedbacks

a. Drive Sober Labor Day 2013 National Mobilization

Law enforcement agencies did their daily daytime and nighttime DWI enforcement in conjunction with this effort. Nobody specifically provided results from the initiative.

b. National Seat Check Saturday Event in Winn Dixie, Gramercy

C. Poche said it was a success despite getting postponed due to bad weather. Consequently, they checked 40 seats, 16 were replaced. He thanked Winn Dixie and all the officers who helped out. A. Toups pointed out that the support from technicians in the area was a huge deal, and she's grateful about that.

c. 2013 National Roadway Safety Awards

Capt. Naquin announced that he, along with Mr. Kevin Belanger (SCPDC CEO) and R. Capone travelled to Washington D.C. last November 6th to accept the National Roadway Safety Award for which the SCSCP coalition was recognized for due to its proactive, data-driven program, the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan. He received the plaque on the coalition's behalf. He thanked the work of everyone for several years and in getting the organization to where it is now.

R. Capone added that was such a privilege to be recognized as one of the 12 awardees across the nation. She commended the collaborative efforts of all partners and noted that the partnership has sustained the momentum, and in fact, now stronger as years pass by.

4. Review FFY 2014 Safe Community Action Plan and Contract Deliverables

R. Capone did a little recap on the new Safe Community Action Plan that was reviewed and accepted during the Executive Board Meeting. She read all the measurable goals stipulated in the plan. She also noted that the region has experienced an increase in seat belt usage rate, from 80.4% in 2012 to 85.5% in 2013. Captain Naquin pointed out that this new number puts us second in rank across the state, right after Lake Charles (which is around 90%).

5. Announcement of Approved Safe Community Mini-Grants for FFY 2014

Captain Naquin announced that the Executive Board has approved the following mini-grants:

1. Lady of Sea's Safety Circus - \$3,640
2. Regional Child Passenger Safety Events - \$3,080
3. ADAC's Get In the Zone - \$3,500
4. St. John DA's DWI & Substance Abuse Classes - \$3,000

Leftover budget from Impaired Driving, which is \$220, would be redirected to add to our Safety Commodities budget.

6. ATV Safety Discussion

Glenn Diedrich from Houma Cycle World did a short presentation on ATV safety and the recent incidents involving ATV's. The stories he has compiled over the years have been a repetition of things that involved kids and old individuals getting killed. He shared an article on "Get serious about ATVs". He also shared a news article about a 75-year-old getting killed on an ATV after having a heart attack. He noted that it certainly can be dangerous for young drivers and kids to be riding ATV's and side-by-sides if they're not operating properly. ATV's are not made for two people.

Glenn continued by sharing another story about breaking the rules on ATV safety. ATV manufacturers like Yamaha, Kawasaki and Honda are addressing these issues. They put together a Manual on Safe Operations for the buyers of ATVs. One of the things they tell the dealers is to make sure that the staff members are familiar with all the rules so they can relay the right information to their customers. He showed a manual that guides consumers on safe operations of ATVs, side by sides and motorcycles. He offered resources that he could share to organizations, and they are available at the store as well. He reached out to everyone to help get the word out about ATV safety. After Glenn's presentation, comments were shared. Discussion ensued.

7. Agency Activity Reports

St. John DA - Greg Maurin shared that routine activities are ongoing.

St. James SO - Capt. Craig Poche told that it's bonfire season. He also said that the rephrasing that LADOTD did on left turn signalization on LA 20 and 3127 has improved the congestion issue. He thanked the coalition's assistance in working with LADOTD to address this.

Assumption SO - Sgt. Bruce Prejean reported that they're still monitoring the sinkhole issues and attending to daily normal enforcement operations.

Thibodaux PD - Sgt. James Newton said it's his first time to be in the quarterly meeting on behalf of Capt. Fontenot and was thankful for the opportunity to meet the partners.

LSP Troop C- Sgt. Bergeron

Lafourche SO - Mac McDowell said they have weekly checkpoints set up in the coming Thanksgiving and Holiday waves. One of the seatbelt checkpoints is set on Nov. 27, 2013. Also, another seatbelt and DWI Checkpoint is scheduled in the South Lafourche area. He also mentioned about the school bus incident on LA 3235. Their agency is getting inventive in enforcing distracted driving. He also mentioned about how the school board is getting enhanced lighting and warning system in school buses. They have a few nighttime checkpoints scheduled as well.

A discussion ensued on how law enforcement agencies that received LHSC safety funding are mandated to conduct nighttime seat belt checkpoints. Capt. Naquin noted that Troop C has been conducting some extra checkpoints for quite a while.

Office of Public Health - Nicole Soudelier said their child passenger safety efforts still continue. She also expressed interest in partnering with other agencies in helping get the word out on ATV safety.

Houma PD - Sgt. Daniel Belanger said they have completed all of their seat belt checkpoints. One of their officers was nominated for issuing the most number of DUI's of the year. He offered assistance to Lafourche SO's upcoming checkpoints. Unfortunately, the average number of fatalities is up for this year. Chief Todd Duplantis added that they have some officers conducting extra patrols particularly addressing ATV safety. They are issuing citations to parents of the offenders also.

Gazebo Houma Neighborhood Watch - Judy Smart gave a comment on ATV and distracted driving. He also share that the Night Out Against Crime activity held at the Southdown Plantation last October went well. She thanked the partners for their participation. Capt. Tina Ledet commented that the one held at the City of Houma had an awesome turnout.

DOTD Houma Sub-district - Dennis Hebert responded to the LA 3127 and LA 20 issue. He's also working different places to address safety concerns. Capt. Naquin noted that hopefully the ITS system will help ease out congestion He mentioned about finally installing the traffic signals on LA 3235 and LA 657, which has been a long battle in the area. Discussion ensued.

Lady of the Sea General Hospital - Brandy Jarreau reported that she's been receiving updates on LA 3235 and that TV Channel 4 did a segment on it. Discussion further ensued. R. Capone said that a few projects like the upgraded signing, rumble strips and Signal Ahead warning sign on this roadway has been let by DOTD. Next step is to do a study on the media openings.

ADAC - Alicia Toups shared that all the car seats from FFY 2013 were distributed except for 10 booster seats. She encouraged other agencies that have some leftover ones to give away to get with her, and she will refurbish a new batch of seats that will be purchased in the upcoming grant cycle.

MADD - Ernest Savoie reported that they held 11 meetings in Terrebonne Parish. They're holding bimonthly meetings in Lafourche. They planned on doing as many awareness activities to continue their advocacy on drunk driving prevention. As for a class in Lockport, they have reduced their number of awareness classes to twice a year. The biggest one they did only had 19 attendees.

DOTD Headquarters - Terri Monaghan announced that the Local Road Safety Program grant cycle for FFY 2014 is due by January 31st.

LHSC - Brad McGlothren reminded all about the LDAA Annual Training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges and other court personnel on January 16, 2014 in Gretna Anyone interested may register online, with a fee of \$10. Also, the DWI Awards Ceremony will be in March 2014. He announced that the LA Crash Data 2012 is now available. In fact, Dr. Helmut Schneider of LSU Highway Safety Research Group did a briefing earlier this month. He encouraged partners to keep up the good work especially the fact the seat belt compliance rate which has increased to 85%, the second in the state after Lake Charles. He also appreciated everyone's hospitality in having him as LEL. Morris Beverly is now back to be the area's LEL again.

8. South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP) Team Leaders' Updates

Young Drivers EA - Evan Harrell told that he's been reaching out to schools for safety presentations; only two responded so far. He'll keep trying to follow up.

Alcohol Impaired EA - Sgt. Dennis Bergeron said Drive Sober campaign continues and that a No Refusal Policy is implemented from Thanksgiving until New Year's. Saturation patrols and checkpoints will be conducted. The BAT Mobile Contract hasn't been in place yet, still to follow up with LADOTD, as per R. Capone.

9. Additional Suggestions for Safety Commodities to Purchase

R. Capone did a recap on the items approved. See Part I, Item 2B of the minutes. She asked for additional suggestions if there's any.

10. Ongoing/Upcoming Events

- a. **Teen Safety Driving Photo and Video Contest** - R. Capone said that there has been no entry received so far. She reached out to all partners to help promote it to high schools.
- b. **Thanksgiving and Holiday Enforcement / Zero for December** - Capt. Naquin said that a couple of extra DWI checkpoints will be done for Zero for December and Holiday Enforcement Wave.
- c. **2014 Lifesavers Conference** - The conference will be on April 27-29, 2014 in Nashville, TN. After a short discussion and a few volunteers expressed interest, all agreed to send Lt. Mark Adams of Lafourche Sheriff's Office. A motion was made by Greg Maurin, which was seconded by Sgt. Bergeron.
- d. **2014 South Central Regional Traffic Safety Summit** - A short discussion took place. Everyone agreed to hold the next summit at the Houma Civic Center this time, since this year was done at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. In that way, our partnership with both jurisdictions is fair. Tentative date is May 15, 2014 as this is the regular scheduled date. R. Capone will check on the availability and draft a letter to reach out to TPCG President for support.
- e. **2014 LA Traffic Safety Summit** - The event is set for March 19-20, 2014 in Baton Rouge. Save the date announced has been sent out.

11. Safety Concerns to Refer to LADOTD

Brandy Jarreau raised a concern on Houma Shortcut Road, if miled markers would be possible. R. Capone suggested that she write it up on the yellow sheet.

12. Other Business / Adjournment ... Proceed to Part 3 of the Meeting

No other business. A motion to adjourn Part 2 of the Meeting was made by Capt. Poche, seconded by Lt. Adams. Motion carried.

Part III: Zero for December Kickoff and MADD Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Call to Order

Trooper Evan Harrell, the official emcee of the ceremony, called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer

LSP Troop C Chaplain Bruce Coleman said the Opening Prayer.

Welcome Remarks

Capt. Darrin Naquin welcomed everyone. He said the event allows all to take a few moments to reflect on some of the problems that impaired driving has affected the community. The Zero for December Campaign is an initiative that aims educate and inform motorists of the dangers of drunk driving with the hopes of going the entire month without a traffic fatality caused by the pressing issue of impaired and unbelted driving.

Naquin noted that the campaign is an opportunity to pledge our commitment to fight against impaired driving and reach the goal of zero deaths. He acknowledged all law enforcement partners, which is indicative of their strong dedication to solve the issue of drunken driving. He announced that six officers from different LE agencies were nominated for ticketing the most DUI's in the region, who all in all issued 200 DWI tickets.

He continued by providing nationwide, statewide and local statistics. During the recent three years in Troop C area, there were 125 total crashes, 72 were alcohol or drug related, which resulted in 82 deaths. To try to reduce these numbers, officers plan to have numerous checkpoints throughout the region. Naquin thanked all who are once again supporting the campaign.

Keynote Messages

Valerie Cox, Volunteer Services Coordinator of MADD, shared a few words. This time of the year, they ask citizens to tie their MADD ribbons to their vehicles as a commitment to pledge not to drive drunk. She thanked law enforcement for the big contribution they've extended to support their advocacy. She said that they remain strong as a group and thankful that the coalition supports them. She specified that MADD's Bayou Region Chapter intended to do more awareness activities in the area in 2014.

Michael Russell, Enforcement Agent from Alcohol and Tobacco Control, spoke on behalf of their commissioner Troy Hebert. He gave emphasis on their mission to educate and prevent access to alcohol and tobacco products. Just recently, ATC has come up with two age-specific presentations at schools to make them aware as far as alcohol consumption and ill effects of consuming controlled substance. They routinely conduct vendor-seller compliance checks across the state. During the summer, they did a total of 1,789 checks all over Louisiana. He encouraged agencies to get in touch with him if interested in conducting compliance checks in Terrebonne, Lafourche, Assumption and Grand Isle. He can be reached at 504-782-9489.

Award for Police Officer with Most # of DUI Arrests in Troop C Area

Valerie Cox awarded Troop C trooper W.J. Powell with an award for making the most DWI arrests in the Tri-parish area in the past year. The local trooper was chosen over six other nominees, which included deputies and officers from Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne SO, and Thibodaux and Houma PD's. All in all, the six nominees combined for more than 200 DWI arrests in the past year. Powell made 57 arrests on his own. Cox thanked Powell for being on the forefront of working overtime to keep the roads safe and keeping drunk drivers off the road.

MADD Advocate's Testimony

Mary Kay Tracy gave a touching testimony of how her daughter was killed due to an ill-fated decision made by a drunk driver last May 29, 1997. She showed pictures of her daughter, who suffered from bipolar disorder and drug and alcohol addiction. Tracy made a commitment to fix her but never got the chance. She expressed how proud she was the night her daughter died because it was found out that she had no alcohol or drugs in her system when the crash happened.

Intermission Number

Mary Kay Tracy and her granddaughter Angel sang a song.

Media Forum

This took place after the ceremony. Reporters from HTV, Daily Comet and Tri-Parish Times conducted their respective interviews. Throughout multiple years of Zero for December initiatives, zero has not been attained yet, but Trooper Harrell said if one life is saved due to just getting the word out, the month-long campaign is all worth it.

Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Along with law enforcement and MADD members, Tracy and Cox did the honors of lighting the Christmas tree decorated with the faces of those who died due to alcohol-related crashes. This is a tribute to remember the victims while also pledging our commitment to continue to fight against this crime so that we can reach our goal of zero deaths, as per Naquin.

Closing Remarks

Capt. Naquin formally closed the event and invited everyone to a luncheon.