



SOUTH CENTRAL SAFE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Partnership Meeting & Annual Review of

Regional Transportation Safety Plan

Thursday, February 20, 2014 @ 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM

South Central Planning and Development Commission, 5058 West Main St., Houma LA 70360

Minutes of the Meeting

In Attendance (33)

Ray Traigle, APSO	Daniel Belanger, HPD	Earl Geason, St. James SO
Rudynah Capone, SCPDC	Bobbie O'Bryan, HPD	Craig Poche, St. James SO
Leo Marretta, SCPDC	Terry Arabie, Lafourche Parish	Greg Maurin, St. John DA
Joshua Manning, SCPDC	Ruby Leblanc, RN LOSGH	Steve Simpson, Shell Oil
Cassie Parker, SCPDC	Mark Adams, LPSO	James Newton, Thib. PD
Alicia Touns, ADAC	Dennis Bergeron, LSP-C	Chris Pulaski, TPCG
Judy Smart, Gazebo NHW	Troy Leonard, LSP-C	Jim Chapman, LADOTD
Jody Orcheneaux, Gramercy PD	Evan Harrell, LSP-C	Morris Beverly, LHSC
Michael Touns, HPD – LPSTF	Ava Fontenot, MADD	Brad McGlothren, LHSC
Lee Lyons, HPD	Marilyn Harris, SCLHSA	Betsey Tramonte, FHWA
Milton Wolfe, HPD	Dustin Poche, St. James SO	John Broemmelsiek, FHWA

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Captain Ray Traigle called the meeting to order at approximately 10 A.M.

Opening Prayer /Pledge of Allegiance

Alicia Touns said the opening prayer and Sgt. Dennis Bergeron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions

Introductions took place. L. Marretta commended the Coalition for their dedication and congratulated them on being recognized by the Roadway Safety Foundation (RSF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan, as well as being the recipient of the American Planning Association (APA) Louisiana Chapter 2014 Excellence Award for Implementation for employing the Louisiana Strategic Highway Safety Plan at the local and regional levels.

2. Approval of the South Central Safe Community Partnership Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2014

Craig Poche made a motion to approve the minutes from the quarterly meeting on February 20, 2014. It was seconded by Dennis Bergeron. Motion passed.

3. Planning for Regional Traffic Safety Summit 2014 – Save the date! May 13, 2014

R. Capone informed the coalition members that she has emailed the save the date notice to all safety partners. She reminded everyone that the event will take place on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at the Houma Civic Center from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM. She indicated that highway safety is the focus from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM, but encouraged everyone to participate from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Forum. Registration will be completed online, but will not be opened until after the DOTD Statewide Safety Summit on March 19, 2014.

She requested that the partners review the proposed topics and updated them on speaker confirmations. She also asked that the Coalition decide on a theme for the Safety Summit. Suggested themes include ***“Sustaining Traffic Safety Efforts towards Zero”*** and ***“Saving Lives, The 4-E Approach”***. The Coalition voted and the theme chosen was ***“Sustaining Traffic Safety Efforts towards Zero”***. R. Capone reviewed and discussed the draft Safety Summit schedule with the partners. She reminded everyone that the breakout sessions must incorporate each of the emphasis areas in order to align with statewide priorities. The following proposed breakout sessions and topics were discussed:

- A. The impaired driving breakout session topics include ***“The New Intoxilyzer 9000 for Evidential Breath Testing”*** and a forum on policies and procedures for DWI Bat Mobile Usage.

L. Marretta informed the Coalition that South Central Planning and Development Commission received a grant that will finance a DWI Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) Mobile for the region.

- B. Occupant Protection breakout session topics include ***“Safety/Belt Use Policy Development”*** and ***“The Saved by the Belt Program”***.
- C. Young Driver proposed topics include ***“Reshaping Attitude to Fight Underage Drinking”*** and ***“Positive Messaging Tools to Amplify Teen Driver Education”***.
- D. Infrastructure and Operations topics include ***“Mitigating Issues on Curves and 4-Way Intersections”*** and the ***“Role of ITS Integration in Saving Lives”***.

R. Capone asked the partners for their comments and/or suggestions with regards to the breakout sessions and topics discussed. Discussion ensued. R. Capone noted comments and suggestions. She mentioned that a display board will be placed by the door for participants to write creative safety messages; it will be referred to as the ***“Safety Message Corner”***. She briefly reviewed the proposed topics for the Bicycle and Pedestrian forum which included ***“The Update of the South Central Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan”*** and ***“Proven Effective Bicycle Safety Media Campaigns”***.

4. Previous Event Feedbacks

- A. Zero for December and Holiday Enforcement

Vice Chairman, Captain R. Traigle asked the partners for feedback on their enforcement efforts with regards to Zero for December and Holiday Enforcement. D. Bergeron, Troop C, informed the committee that there were three fatalities for the month of December. He added that it equaled the amount of fatalities in December of 2012.

- B. MLK Day’s Child Seat Checks in Houma and Morgan City

M. Toups reported that there was very low participation for the Houma event at the Holy Rosary Church, approximately five seats were checked, event. The Morgan City event had a large number of participants.

A. Toups mentioned that an issue encountered often is a language barrier between technicians and participants. She stated that the purchase, if there is available funding, of Spanish materials would be beneficial to the technician, as well as the participant. R. Capone suggested budget the costs of those materials into the next round of Mini-Grant applications.

5. News Articles/Resource Reviews

R. Capone shared recent news articles throughout the region.

6. Agency Activity Reports

- Assumption Sheriff’s Office

Vice Chairman R. Traigle stated that Assumption Parish Sheriff’s Office continues sinkhole efforts. He informed the partners that there are also plans of conducting an Arrive Alive event at the local high school. He explained that Arrive Alive is a virtually interactive program that uses simulations to teach students the dangers of driving.

Impaired driving and distracted driving simulations will be utilized for the Assumption High School students at a cost of \$2,500.00. Vice Chairman R. Traigle informed the committee that Assumption Parish has one Mardi Gras parade scheduled and has offered their support to Thibodaux Police Department to assist with their parades.

LHSC

B. McGlothren commented that LHSC has additional funding available for enforcement efforts during Mardi Gras, well as underage drinking enforcement.

SCLHSA

M. Harris stated that the agency updated their youth survey in 2012; the survey is designed for grade levels 6' 8, 10 and 12, and discusses topics such as substance abuse and suicide.

ADAC

A. Toups mentioned that the "Get in the Zone" program will be conducted for each parade on the Westside. She expressed that the program is a huge undertaking, and she has requested that a deputy be in the zone with the participants because of issues that arise during the parade. She stated that ADAC works with the youth group on Sundays, games and demonstrations take place in the kid friendly area. She informed the partners that the kids decided this year's theme is "Air Your Dirty Laundry". The demonstration will include a clothes line pinned with clothes and tobacco facts on each piece of clothing. She voiced the success of last year's demonstration, where body bags were laid beside a tombstone with a tobacco fact. A. Toups commented that there were many onlookers that stopped to inquire about the body bags and tombstones.

Gazebo Neighborhood Watch (NHW)

J. Smart informed the partners that the National Night out against Crime event is scheduled for October 7th. She commented that a walking trail was implemented in in a portion of the Civic Center and stated that she is interested in any funding that might be available to install call buttons in that section.

Lady of the Sea General Hospital

R. Leblanc stated that the Safety Circus will take place at the Cutoff Youth Center on the first Saturday in May.

MADD

A. Fontenot expressed the need for MADD volunteers and requested that the partners encourage anyone that has been affected by a drunk driver to contact her. She stated that she participates in DWI checkpoints for Lafourche Parish and requested that, if possible, Terrebonne Parish inform her when checkpoints take place in order to participate.

Shell

S. Simpson, Road Transport Safety Manager with Shell, introduced himself to the partners. He explained that Shell's safety program is goal zero and part of that effort is outreach to the local community. Shell has monies allocated to community outreach and would like to utilize those funds on projects that have community impact, especially when the goal is safety.

St. John DA

G. Maurin updated the partners that the Sheriff's Office and St. John DA has plans to increase speed enforcement, preferably on I-10 corridor through St. John Parish. The parish would also like to install better video equipment in units to assist with DWI prosecution.

Houma PD

Sgt. D. Belanger informed the partners that Houma PD partnered up with Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office and Louisiana State Police Troop C to conduct a DWI checkpoint last week, 3 DWI violations were given. The department also conducted a checkpoint on February 19th, of approximately 173 vehicles were checked, 9 violations and one DWI was given. During the Mardi Gras season, the department will implement DWI and underage drinking enforcement during and after the parade.

St. James Sheriff's Office

D. Poche stated that St. James Sheriff's Office is increasing speed enforcement. The Mardi Gras parade will take place in Litcher. Five officers were sent to Southeast Louisiana DWI Task Force for training.

Child Passenger Safety

M. Toups stated that Bridget Gardner would like to implement a "Saved by the Bell" presentation in our region. He added that any agencies within our region are eligible to participate. He explained that the program identifies a person (child, young adult or adult) that was not injured or saved in a crash as a result of wearing their seatbelt. Bridget requested that this program be implemented quarterly and stated that there is funding available for plaques.

FHWA

B. Tramonte stated that FHWA has received a preliminary word that the performance measures with regards to the safety portion of MAP21 will be going through rule making at the end of February.

LSP- Troop C

Sgt. D. Bergeron stated that there is an increase in crashes from 2012 to 2013. There was an approximate one percent (1%) increase in total crashes. He informed the partners that fatal crashes have increased by 27 percent (27%) from 2012 to 2013. Sixty seven percent (67%) of the crashes were alcohol blood related and 48 (48%) percent of the occupants of the vehicles were unrestrained. He reiterated that Troop C partnered with Houma Police Department and Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office in order to conduct a DWI checkpoint. During the checkpoint, there were three DWI's, two drug arrests and eight warrants. He also stated that Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office conducted a DWI checkpoint on LA 1 and LA 308 in South Lafourche, Troop C was asked to assist by providing additional saturation on LA 3235.

LHSC

M. Beverly thanked everyone for their input with regards to the DWI banquet that Ms. Linda Hull put together for March. He stated that she was thrilled by the numbers she received.

Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office

Lt. M. Adams stated that the Sheriff's Office is preparing for Mardi Gras in Lafourche Parish. Enforcement on LA 3235 continues, he informed the partners that DDACTS patrols have been moved there. He also commented that "Operation Safety Blitz," a dual checkpoint was conducted over a period of six hours. During the operation Thibodaux Police officers, in plain clothes, were placed on two bridges down the bayou in Lafourche Parish. Of the 2,763 vehicles checked, 42 summonses were issued; 31 were seatbelt violations, three were child restraints, one fourth offense DWI, and the remainders were traffic violations. As night approached, a DWI checkpoint was conducted on LA 1 and LA 308 with Troop C providing saturation on LA 3235. Of the 538 vehicles checked, five DWI's were issued; four more DWI's were given as a result of patrol.

Thibodaux PD

J. Newton informed the Coalition that Thibodaux Police Department is gearing up for Mardi Gras. Their plans include underage drinking operations and saturation patrols.

7. Safety Commodities & Equipment Updates

R. Capone informed the partners that commodities have arrived and been segregated by agency; she asked that each agency take their commodities after the adjournment of the meeting. She added that two safety banners were also purchased to promote seatbelt use and drive sober.

8. Ongoing/Upcoming Media Campaigns

R. Capone commented that all agencies seem prepared for Mardi Gras Drunk Driving Prevention. She reminded the Coalition that the St. Patrick's Impaired Driving campaign will take place in March and included a sample press release in the meeting packet. She informed the partners that Southdown Trail Bicycle Safety Rodeo will take place at the Houma Civic Center on March 22, 2014 and requested that Chris Pulaski provide more information. C. Pulaski mentioned that Terrebonne Parish's Southdown Loop on Valhi has opened. He also stated

that there will be more trails, on and off road to open soon.

He reiterated that the Bicycle Safety Rodeo will take place at the Houma Civic Center on March 22, 2014 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. While the specific focus is on young children, all riders are invited and encouraged to participate. He stated that HPD, Troop C and the Bayou Country Cyclists have all partnered with the parish for this event. He requested that the Coalition assist with applying for parish co-sponsorship, so that additional funds may be acquired to cover costs such as Civic Center parking lot usage fees and other miscellaneous supplies. R. Capone asked if the partners were interested in co-sponsoring the event.

R. Traigle made a motion for the South Central Safe Community Partnership to apply for parish co-sponsorship for the Bicycle Safety Rodeo taking place on March 22, 2014. It was seconded by M. Toups. Motion passed.

R. Capone enunciated that the Click It or Ticket (CIOT) National Mobilization Campaign will take place in May. She encouraged the agencies to utilize the commodities to promote the mobilization. She informed the Coalition that NHTSA has a webinars scheduled and encouraged interested partners to participate. She also reminded everyone that the deadline to register for the LADOTD Safety Summit is February 28, 2014.

9. Safety Concerns Update by LADOTD

R. Capone directed the partners to review the spreadsheet included in the packet which has updates regarding the safety concerns submitted to LADOTD. She reminded the partners that all concerns submitted are addressed and their progress tracked.

10. South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP) Annual Review by Emphasis Area

A. Alcohol Impaired Driving

R. Capone commented that that it is time for annual review of the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP). She stated that the purpose is to review the goals and strategies of the plan to determine portions that should be continued or focused on, as well as, decide if there are missing elements or elements that should be deleted. Team Leader, D. Bergeron, reviewed the Alcohol Impaired Driving emphasis area strategies and goals extensively with the partners.

11. Capturing Safety Through The Lens *teen safety photo & video contest*

R. Capone stated that there will be a Grand Winner, 1st Runner Up, and a People's Choice for each category: photo and video. All partners are encouraged to participate and judge each entry, because the winner of the Coalition will receive the People's Choice award. A panel of judges will determine the Grand Winner and 1st Runner Up. The panel of judges includes: Evan Harrell, Troop C PIO, Betsey Tramonte, Safety Program Coordinator of FHWA, and judge three was unable to attend but emailed her scores via email. R. Capone informed the partners that criteria for judging both, videos and photos are as follows: Originality 40%, Creativity 30%, and Overall Message 30%. She revealed that the prizes include a trophy and goodies. The grand prize winners will also receive a cash prize sponsored by State Farm totaling \$250.00. R. Capone presented the following submissions for the teen safety photo and video contest:

Video Entries: Assumption Parish High School Student Council, Central Lafourche High School Student Council, H.L. Bourgeois Yearbook Club, and Thibodaux High School Student Council.

Photo Entries: Assumption Parish High School Student Council, H.L. Bourgeois Yearbook Club (submitted 4 photos), and Thibodaux High School Student Council.

Partners and the panel of judges viewed all video and photo entries and scored based on the established criteria. The scores were tabulated and the results are as follows:

The Grand Prize winner for the photo category was H. L. Bourgeois High School Yearbook Club.

The Grand Prize winner for the video category was Assumption Parish High School Student Council.

The 1st Runner Up for the photo category was Thibodaux High School Student Council.

The 1st Runner Up for the video category was Central Lafourche High School Student Council.

The People's Choice Award for the photo category was H.L. Bourgeois Yearbook Club.
The People's Choice Award for the video category was Thibodaux High School Student Council.

12. South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP) Annual Review by Emphasis Area *continued*

B. Occupant Protection

Team Leader, Capt. Jamey Fontenot was unable to attend the meeting, so Vice Chairman R. Traigle reviewed the Occupant Protection emphasis area strategies and goals with the partners. It was suggested to modify the language in action step 1.1.2 and 1.2.1 to promote "Click It or Ticket" branding. Suggested changes will be made to the emphasis area.

C. Young Drivers

Vice Chairman R. Traigle reviewed the Young Drivers emphasis area strategies and goals with the partners. Team Leader, Trooper Evan Harrell, informed the Coalition that Terrebonne General Medical Center and Chabert Medical Center both agreed to participate in the Sudden Impact Program. After the medical staff has been trained, the program will begin. It is expected to begin in the 2014-15 school year unless training is completed prior to the end of the 2013-14 school years.

D. Infrastructures and Operations

Vice Chairman R. Traigle reviewed the Infrastructures and Operations emphasis area strategies and goals with the partners. T. Arabie informed the Coalition that Lafourche Parish has been approved funding through the Local Road Safety Program for Choctaw Road. R. Capone stated that all suggested modifications will be discussed with the Infrastructure and Operations subcommittee.

D. Bergeron made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by M. Toups. Motion passed.