South Central Regional Safety Coalition

Law Enforcement Workgroup Meeting Notes

Our Mission *is to* reduce the human and economic toll on Louisiana's surface transportation system due to traffic crashes through widespread collaboration and an integrated 4E approach.

Our Vision *is to reach Destination Zero Deaths on Louisiana roadways*

Our Goal *is to halve fatalities by 2030*

February 03, 2021
Held via Zoom

Attendees:

Alyssa Avet	Alyssa.Avet@LA.Gov	MCH- Bureau of Family Health
Andrew Leonards	Andrew.Leonards@la.gov	LSP Applied Tech
Asst. Chief J.P. Henry	jp@townofberwick.org	Berwick PD
Autumn Goodfellow-Thompson	Autumn.Goodfellow-Thompson@LA.GOV	LADOTD
Captain Sennett Wiggins	wiggins@stmaryso.com	St. Mary SO
Cassie Parker	cassie@scpdc.org	SCPDC
Chief Bryan Zeringue	bzeringue@ci.thibodaux.la.us	Thibodaux Police Department
Chief Hal Hutchinson	halh@chitimacha.gov	Chitimacha Tribal PD
Christopher Pulaski	cpulaski@tpcg.org	TPCG
Cully Frisard	cullyf@frisards.com	Frisards Companies
Felicia Van Frank	felicia.vanfrank.czz3@statefarm.com	State Farm
Gary Gisclair	gary.gisclair@la.gov	LADOTD 02
Jessica Bedwell	jessica.bedwell@la.gov	LA Highway Safety Commission
John Warren	warrenjt@lafourchegov.org	Lafourche Parish Gov't
Kenyatta Robertson	KRobertson@crpcla.org	Capital Region Safety Coalition
Lt. Dustin Poche	dustin.poche@stjamessheriff.com	St. James SO
Lt. Jerad Daniel	jdaniel@ebrso.org	East Baton Rouge SO
Pat Gordon	pat@scpdc.org	SCPDC
Sgt. Matt Songy	MSongy@StCharlesSheriff.org	St. Charles SO
Sgt. Clay Landry	clayl@chitimacha.gov	Chitimacha Tribal PD
Sgt. Jason Martin	jbmartin@brla.gov	Baton Rouge PD
Sheriff Leland Falcon	lfalcon@assumptionsheriff.com	Assumption Parish SO
Trooper Jesse LaGrange	jesse.lagrange@la.gov	LA State Police C

SCRSC LE Workgroup Meeting Presentation

C. Parker welcomed law enforcement and safety partners to the first Law Enforcement workgroup meeting for the South Central Regional Safety Coalition. Introductions then took place.

LA Highway Safety Grants

C. Parker regrettably informed the partners that LA Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) Law Enforcement Liaisons, David Landry (Troop C area) and Brad McGlothren (Troop B area) were unable to attend the meeting, but asked that she share information regarding upcoming special wave grants. She shared that LHSC will be offering special wave grants for May Occupant Protection enforcement and August Impaired Driving enforcement, adding that the application period will be in March. She encouraged interested agencies to contact their law enforcement liaison for more information.

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South Central Region's Crash Data

During the meeting, C. Parker shared that preliminary data shows 2020 with more fatalities and suspected serious injuries than previous years for Louisiana. She then provided a brief review of South Central Region's fatal and suspected serious injury changes from 2018 to 2019 in all emphasis areas.

There were increases in fatal injuries in the following emphasis areas: roadway departure, intersection crashes, and impaired driving with decreases in pedestrian, young driver, occupant protection and distracted driving fatalities. In regards to suspected serious injuries, there were increases in all emphasis areas except for pedestrian and distracted driving.

She highlighted that the region ranked highest seat belt usage in Louisiana at 91.3% which was provided by LSU CARTS. She encouraged partners to review the complete LSU CARTS 2019 Data Report and reach out to Jeannine Childers jchilders1@lsu.edu with any questions.

2021 Regional SHSP ENFORCEMENT Action Steps

Back to School (B2S) Distracted Driving Enforcement Discussion

Capital Region Transportation Safety Coalition's law enforcement partners, Lt. Jerad Daniel (East Baton Rouge SO) shared information on how law enforcement agencies implemented their B2S Distracted Driving Enforcement efforts, sharing that 1500 citations were given over a four-day period. K. Robertson, Capital Region's coordinator, added that enforcement took place at 33 schools in that time frame with the joint efforts of LSP A, East Baton Rouge SO and Baton Rouge PD.
J. Daniels stated that this was a new effort for the agency and reminded that officers are in school zones enforcing which allows them to be in close proximity to the vehicles, helping with deciphering GPS application versus texting application. A. Leonards added that in certain instances, using statute 32:58 – not operating the vehicle in a prudent manner may come into factor resulting in a careless operation citation. Discussion continued. C. Parker shared that law enforcement agencies may reach out to Lt. Jerad Daniel (EBRSO) – jdaniel@ebrso.org and/or Sgt. Jason Martin (BRPD) - jbmartin@brla.gov if they would like to speak with them directly.

C. Parker asked the regional partners if their agency would be interested in participating in the Statewide B2S Distracted Driving Enforcement Campaign during the period of September 7-10, 2021. C. Frisard stated that he would be interested in supporting an agency by allowing law enforcement to tag along with his truck driver to spot distracted drivers. He added that the challenge is their trucks run the I-10/I-12 corridor.

3.1 B2S Distracted Driving Campaign Commitments:
M. Song, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, committed to participating. J.P. Henry, Berwick PD and S. Wiggins, St. Mary Sheriff's Office stated that they would do their best to participate if manpower allows.
J. Bedwell thanked the agencies who volunteered to participate and expressed how important distracted driving data is for the state.

2021 Impaired Driving Enforcement Action Steps

3.1 Recruit 2 officers for FREE ADVANCED ROADSIDE IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT (ARIDE) training.
B. Zeringue (Thibodaux PD), C. Landry (Chitimacha Tribal PD), S. Wiggins (St. Mary SO), J.P. Henry (Berwick PD) expressed interest in sending officers to ARIDE training. C. Parker will send an email to Andrew Leonards to request ARIDE training and copy interested agencies.

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4.1 Have 2 LEAs submit responses to the one page No Refusal Survey.

C. Parker requested assistance from law enforcement agencies to submit responses to the Statewide No Refusal survey. J.P. Henry (Berwick PD) stated that they have increased No Refusal efforts. A.Leonards asked fellow partners if they have had any issues with the terminology of the No Refusal e-warrant. C. Vazquez suggested to contact R. Smith, LDAA with these concerns and for guidance. C. Parker stated that she will invite R. Smith to the next law enforcement workgroup meeting. C. Parker will email the No Refusal Survey to all law enforcement partners.

C. Parker asked the law enforcement partners if they would like to keep, modify or delete the regional action steps from 2020.

2.2 Collaborate with Sudden Impact to expand efforts – 1 Mock Crash at high school not currently participating in the program.

J. LaGrange stated that COVID has challenged this initiative, but he feels that it should remain in the 2021 plan for schools that do not currently have a teen program. D. Poche stated that he will connect J. LaGrange with C. Frisard to schedule a meeting with the St. James Parish School District Superintendent. Agencies interested can contact J. LaGrange at jesse.lagrange@la.gov. ***Motion by M. Songy to keep the action step, seconded by D. Poche. Motion passed.***

3.2 Conduct joint DWI checkpoints utilizing South Central Regional DWI Unit.

All law enforcement agencies in the South Central Region are able to utilize the unit for enforcement or an event. To reserve the unit, contact Sgt. Travis Colombel travis.colombel@la.gov. ***Motion by J. P. Henry to keep the action step, seconded by B. Zeringue. Motion passed.***

5.3 Conduct Zero for the Holiday Campaign/Kickoff Event at LSP-C.

C. Parker relayed that F. Besson was unable to attend the meeting due to a meeting conflict. ***B. Zeringue motioned that the coalition keeps this action step, seconded by J. LaGrange. Motion passed.***

1.2 Coordinate with LA Passenger Safety Task Force to increase # of technicians.

C. Parker informed partners that the South Central Region is not scheduled to host a Child Passenger Safety Technician Course in 2021. However, if agencies are interested, they can send an email to cassie@scpdc.org and she will connect them with Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force's Region C Coordinator to discuss further. She added that there must be a minimum of 12 partners committed in order for a course to take place.

3.1 Partner with LA Passenger Safety Task Force and LEA in the enforcement for the Click it or Ticket Voucher Program.

A new statewide and regional action step was created in an effort to educate parents/caregivers on proper child restraint. Vouchers will be provided to agencies that commit to participating in the effort. The voucher will be provided along with the citation to drivers with child seat violation The goal is to have 40% of those cited visit a Certified Fitting Station and receive proper child restraint education. The campaign timeline: May 10–June 17, 2021, with enforcement taking place May 24-June 6, 2021.

M. Songy, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office committed to participating.

The Zoom meeting ended suddenly due to technical issues.

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