

CASCADE COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2014

Call to Order

Task Force President Jane Weber called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Pre-Release Center, noting that a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Roll Call

DUI Task Force Members

Cascade County Attorney designee: Ashley Wilkinson – **Present**

Cascade County Sheriff designee: Deputy Travis Grove - **Present**

City of Great Falls Chief of Police designee: Captain Tim Shanks – **Excused Absence**

Great Falls City Attorney designee: Cassidy Blomgren – **Present**

State of Montana Highway Patrol District II Chief designee: Trooper David Baggs - **Absent**

Great Falls Victim-Witness Services designee: Savannah Heaton – **Excused Absence**

State of Montana Adult Probation and Parole Regional Administrator designee:

Wayne Bye – **Excused Absence**

Montana Tavern Association Home Safe Program designee: Vince Kyle - **Present**

Gateway Recovery Center designee: Barbara Bessette - **Present**

Benefis Health Systems, Inc. Chemical Dependency Unit designee: J.T. Lute – **Excused Absence**

Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. designee: Lisa Meyers - **Present**

Great Falls Public Schools designee: Danielle Funseth - **Present**

Airmen Against Drunk Driving designee: Staff Sergeant Charles Marino Franco - **Absent**

Citizen Members: Jim Whitaker – **Present**; Corin Fisch – **Present**; Kristi Jo Anderson – **Present**

Cascade County Commissioner: Jane Weber - **Present**

Task Force Coordinator: Jerry Kelley - **Present**

Members of the Public in Attendance

Kristy Pontet-Stroop

2. Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2014

Lisa Meyers pointed out that her last name was spelled incorrectly, so that will be rectified. **Vince Kyle motioned to accept the minutes dated February 25, 2014, with that correction noted. Jim Whitaker seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Financial/Budget Performance Report and Requests for Payment/Purchases

Ashley Wilkinson and Jerry Kelley reviewed the financial statements with Task Force members.

Payments were made to: CMR and Great Falls High Schools for \$200.00 each for Project Graduation;

Spring Fling Hoop Thing for \$350.00; Licini's Print Shop for \$75 to print the Contracts of Choice; and the

Tribune for \$183.00 for the monthly DUI ads.

Eric Hopkins, the gentleman that introduced the DD Buddy application to the Task Force last month contacted Mr. Kelley regarding the possibility of a cash donation. Barbara Bessette stated that the "app". was supposed to go live by St. Patrick's Day, but there were some technical difficulties. Lisa Meyers commented that she met with Mr. Hopkins and is working with him to add the "app" to the DUI Task Force Facebook page. Jane Weber reminded the Task Force that a motion was passed last month

to support DD Buddy through promotion. Danielle Funseth suggested revisiting the subject of a financial contribution once the “app” is up and running. Task Force members agreed. Barbara Bessette has also been in contact with Mr. Hopkins, so she and Lisa Meyers will report back once it is live, and the Task Force can invite him back to present an update.

4. Report from the Task Force Coordinator

Production of PSA by KFBB: Jerry Kelley reported that he forwarded the initial script for the PSA to Task Force members. The committee, which consists of Jerry Kelley, Barbara Bessette, Lisa Meyers, and J.T. Lute will be meeting with Keith Teske, a producer with KFBB to finalize the script.

PROMise cards: These will be issued with the CMR and Great Falls High prom tickets. Mr. Kelley also delivered cards to Kaufmans Men’s Wear and The Bridal Shop requesting that they be given to their clients along with their bill.

Scholarships: Jerry Kelley reported that he has not received any applications. Mr. Kelley called all 10 schools in the county to remind them that the postdate needs to be no later than April 4, 2014. In addition, there was a notice in the newspaper announcing the scholarship. Danielle Funseth assured the group that students tend to wait until the last minute to apply. Jane Weber asked Mr. Kelley to save the envelopes and staple them to the applications to ensure there is no issue with the postal date. Jerry Kelley will scan the applications along with a scoring sheet and e-mail them to all Task Force members prior to the April DUI Task Force meeting. Ms. Weber asked that everyone bring their completed score sheets to the May DUI Task Force meeting to be tallied. Danielle Funseth asked that she be recused from participating because her child is submitting an application.

Annual Recognition of Law Enforcement: Jerry Kelley reported that he has all but three donations. He has nominees from MHP, CCSO, and P&P, and he will contact GFPD. Mr. Kelley reported that he has been trying to contact Malmstrom law enforcement, but they have not returned his calls. SSGT Charles Marino Franco was unable to help him. Barbara Bessette mentioned that she met an active military woman from Malmstrom that is on a subcommittee with Kristy Jo Anderson. Ms. Bessette reported that the woman is enthusiastic about those meetings and has a lot of experience in the area of substance abuse. Jane Weber advised that the individual would need to be appointed by her commander to serve on the Cascade County DUI Task Force. Ms. Weber asked Jerry Kelley to call Al Recke and ask him the title of the commanding officer the Task Force should be approaching. Jane Weber also asked Barbara Bessette to give Mr. Kelley the name of the woman she has met who is interested in being the MAFB representative.

Community Action Information Board: Jerry Kelley contacted the Public Affairs office at Malmstrom. Mr. Kelley explained that the Community Action Information Board consists of senior officers and non-commissioned officers meeting to discuss topics, trends, and anything going on at the base that would affect their people. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13th, so Jerry Kelley will attend and report back.

Wings Culture of Responsible Choices Board: Jerry Kelley reported that this group is defunct. This item will need to be removed from the DUI Task Force’s plan next year.

5. Report/Decision on combining Contract of Choice and AFY Oath

Jane Weber stated that the Task Force’s annual plan specifies that the Task Force will distribute 500 Contracts of Choice. Danielle Funseth directed Ms. Weber to Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Great Falls Public Schools, to discuss how to distribute the Contracts of Choice. Jane Weber previously suggested including them in the 8th grade enrollment process, but was surprised to find out that 6th graders are already drinking. Tom Moore informed Ms. Weber of Parent’s Quadrant, so she is going to meet with them. This spring Mr. Moore will send the Contracts of Choice to all parents of students entering the 8th grade. Then in the fall, Mr. Moore will distribute them to 7th and 8th grade parents.

Corrin Fisch advised that her addiction and counseling center, Misfits LLC, distributed about 40 Contracts of Choice. Guest, Kristy Pontet-Stroop, representing Alliance For Youth, addressed the Task Force and thanked those that attended the red carpet premier of the Above the Influence movie trailer event at the Carmike Theaters. In addition, Ms. Pontet-Stroop thanked the Task Force for the sponsorship at the Spring Fling Hoop Thing. Ms. Pontet-Stroop explained that Alliance For Youth would like to unify their Above the Influence pledge forms and the DUI Task Force's Contracts of Choice. Ms. Pontet-Stroop met with Tom Moore and discussed blending the two, and he agreed to draft the cover letter to be sent with the contracts. Ms. Pontet-Stroop distributed to Task Force members their Above the Influence pledge sheets. Jane Weber pointed out that AFY's pledge is just for parents, and the Task Force's contract is between the parent and child. Kristy Pontet-Stroop proposed that a unified message would be more powerful than overwhelming parents and students with several different forms. Jane Weber and Kristy Pontet-Stroop discussed either doing the Above the Influence Pledge on one side of the paper and the Contract of Choice on the other side, or the two could be blended in to one contract or pledge. After further discussion, **Corin Fisch motioned to combine AFY's Above the Influence pledge with the DUI Task Force's Contract of Choice. Barbara Bessette seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.** Kristy Pontet-Stroop and Danielle Funseth will inform Tom Moore of the decision to merge the two. Jane Weber will e-mail the draft of the merged document to Task Force members once it is complete. Lisa Meyers can post it on Facebook after it is finalized.

Jane Weber informed Kristy Pontet-Stroop that Task Force members are writing letters to the Editor of the Tribune monthly. Ms. Weber wrote a letter congratulating and naming those that were involved in the Above the Influence film trailer project. The Tribune notified Ms. Weber that they cannot list names of minors without parental permission. Jane Weber asked Kristy Pontet-Stroop if she could help obtain permission from the parents to list their children's names. Kristy Pontet-Stroop departed the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

6. Review of Annual Plan Progress

- 1) Emphasize AADD during holidays and sporting events: SSGT Marino Franco was absent and did not submit a report.
- 2) Public information campaign to intervene on underage drinking: Kristy Pontet-Stroop, Danielle Funseth, and Jane Weber have been working on this with Tom Moore as discussed above.
- 3) Public information program reaching 500 parents of minors regarding alcohol use/abuse and utilize Community Service coordinator to discuss with MIP convictions: Barbara Bessette stated that part of her Town Hall money was used for the Above the Influence movie trailer, so she will get numbers from that project. Ms. Bessette stated that she received a mini grant to reach out to parents and minors about living Above the Influence. They have a prevention week planned in May for National Trails Day. Ms. Bessette will report the number of individuals involved. Jane Weber commented that the Above the Influence movie trailer was really well done and included remarkable images of what happens if one gets involved with drugs and/or alcohol at a young age. Ms. Weber added that it is a youth driven, nationwide program.
- 4) Distribute 500 Contracts of Choice: See Agenda Item 5 above.
- 5) Collaborating with GFPS CARE Office and Alliance for Youth MIP TF: Danielle Funseth clarified that AFY is not involved with this. The Great Falls Public Schools CARE office tracks youth MIP data. Ms. Funseth commented that student use of marijuana is prevalent at school. The trend is to suck on ball point pens that are modified to be filled with tobacco or marijuana. In addition, students are filling water bottles with alcohol and bringing those to school. She mentioned the school district may need to change their policy regarding personal water bottles being allowed in the classrooms.

- 6) Collaborate with Gateway to assist with alcohol and drug education programs: Barbara Bessette has been in contact with Jerry Kelley regarding this.
- 7) Advocate the Social Host message to parents: Jerry Kelley will contact Tim Shanks.
- 8) Write letters to the Editor: Jane Weber wrote a letter in March. Jerry Kelley will write a letter in April.
- 9) Support GFPD when they conduct underage alcohol compliance checks: Cassidy Blomgren is working with Tim Shanks. Ms. Blomgren stated that the police department has started notifying the City Attorney's office prior to doing compliance checks and have asked that anyone cited attend Let's Control It training.
- 10) 15 Let's Control It Trainings/year: Jane Weber asked that Barbara Bessette and Cassidy Blomgren contact the police department to confirm who is facilitating the Let's Control It program.

7. DUI Statistics and MIP-A Statistics

Tim Shanks reviewed the statistics with DUI Task Force members, pointing out that February DUI arrests were up to 25 versus 20 in January. Jane Weber noted that most of the numbers have increased compared to last year. Cassidy Blomgren explained that Judge Luth dismissed some of the MIP's due to age. Ms. Blomgren added that five were dismissed due to plea agreements where the individual had multiple MIP's and plead guilty to one, having the other dismissed. Danielle Funseth commented that if a person gets a deferred MIP and completes community service, etc. then it is taken off their record. Cassidy Blomgren will note those instances in the stats to show how many were dismissed because the individual completed deferred prosecution or the MIP was dismissed for other reasons.

8. February Stats from Airman Against Drunk Driving

SSGT Marino Franco was absent and did not submit a report.

9. Kudo Cards

No Kudo cards were awarded.

10. Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance. President Weber asked Task Force members if they had any comments. Vince Kyle asked why a representative from the Highway Patrol has not been attending, commenting that they used to come to every meeting. Jane Weber responded that Trooper Baggs e-mailed her last month but not this month. Ms. Weber asked Jerry Kelley to call the Highway Patrol. The Task Force discussed the absence of a representative from Malmstrom Air Force Base. Tim Shanks asked Jerry Kelley to ask Al Recke if Sargent Major is a point of contact. After further discussion, Lisa Meyers suggested moving forward with contacting the gal Barbara Bessette mentioned that was interested.

There being no other items to discuss, **Barbara Bessette motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m., seconded by Tim Shanks. The motion carried unanimously.**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 22, 2014, at 3:30 p.m.