

CASCADE COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

April 22, 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** (arrived at 4:20 p.m.)

Cascade County Sheriff designee: Deputy Travis Grove – **Excused Absence**

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

Great Falls City Attorney designee: Cassidy Blomgren – **Excused Absence**

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

Great Falls Victim-Witness Services designee: Savannah Hilton – **Present** (arrived at 3:33 p.m.)

State of Montana Adult Probation and Parole Regional Administrator designee: Wayne Bye – **Absent**

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

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

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

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

Great Falls Public Schools designee: Danielle Funseth – **Excused Absence**

Airmen Against Drunk Driving designee: Staff Sergeant Charles Marino Franco –

Present (arrived at 3:37 p.m.)

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

Steve Scheer

2. Approval of Minutes from March 25, 2014

Jim Whitaker motioned to accept the minutes dated March 25, 2014. J.T. Lute seconded. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Savannah Hilton arrived at 3:33 p.m.

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

Jerry Kelley reviewed the financial ledger with Task Force members. Expenditures since the last meeting were: \$11.99 for certificate covers for the Annual Recognition Event, \$2.47 for blank thank you cards, and \$61.00 for *Tribune* ads. The Tavern Association reimbursed the Task Force \$745.50 for half of the cost of the ID Checking Guides.

Annual Budget Report: Jane Weber distributed the DUI Task Force projected budget for fiscal year 2014-2015. Ms. Weber explained that the Task Force typically has an annual budget of \$37,000. Currently the Task Force has expended \$35,748.63 with May and June remaining. Carryover from previous years is \$22,380.00. Jane Weber reviewed the 2014 figures along with the proposed allocations for the upcoming fiscal year with Task Force Members.

SSGT Charles Marino Franco joined the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

J.T. Lute motioned to accept the DUI Task Force projected budget for fiscal year 2014-2015. Barbara Bessette seconded the motion. Further discussion confirmed that members feel comfortable with the \$37,000 budget and that carryover money should be put in account 300.390 "Other Purchased Services". Tim Shanks stated that the money can be shifted between accounts at a later date if necessary. Mr. Shanks asked if the Task Force has been receiving its quarterly payments from the State. Jane Weber responded to the affirmative, adding that the year to date revenue is \$20,000. **There being no additional discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

Request for financial assistance for DRE Conference: Tim Shanks introduced Drug Recognition Expert, Officer Steve Scheer who has been with the Great Falls Police Department for 13 years. Officer Scheer explained that his expertise focuses on detecting and aiding in the prosecution of drugged driving, which is becoming prevalent. Officer Scheer explained that he and Officer John Green are certified to teach Advanced Roadside Impairment detection anywhere in the United States. Officer Scheer explained the difficult process to become a DRE, adding that he and Officer Green's ultimate goals are to become experts in court. In order to attain that, there is a required training the end of July in Denver which would expose them to medical doctors and attorneys from around the country. Officer Scheer explained that defense attorneys do not like to compete against a DRE, so if they can testify in court there will be an increased number of convictions. Officers Scheer and Green are requesting funding from the DUI Task Force because the city's training budgets are tight. The police department will allow them the time off to attend the training. Cost for the training is \$1,400 each for a total of \$2,800. President Weber pointed out that if the Task Force approves the request for the \$2,800 they would stay within the \$37,000 budget with \$1,200 remaining in addition to the rollover money. Officer Scheer pointed out the value of the training, noting that he and Officer Green have at least 10 more years with the police department. In addition, they will be able to train others. **Jim Whitaker motioned to donate \$2,800 to the Great Falls Police Department to pay for the Drug Recognition Enforcement conference for Officers Scheer and Green. Lisa Meyers seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.** Steve Scheer thanked the Task Force and exited the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

5. Scholarship Ranking and Selection

Jerry Kelley stated that there were 17 applicants. Mr. Kelley distributed and explained the tabulation sheet indicating that the winners of each of the \$1,000 scholarships are Brianna Conrad and Destiny Butler of Great Falls High and Madisyn Gregoire of C.M. Russell. Jerry Kelley will attend the Great Falls High School ceremony on May 5 at 7:00 p.m. and award those scholarships. Barbara Bessette volunteered to attend the C.M. Russell High School ceremony on May 6 at 7:00 p.m. and award the scholarship to Ms. Gregoire. Jerry Kelley sent letters to the non-winners. Jane Weber read the letter that will go to the winners which specifies they must be enrolled in an accredited institution as a full time student. Once the registrar sends confirmation of the recipient's enrollment to Jerry Kelley, a check will be sent to the institution. Jane Weber asked if any Task Force members had any concerns about the process Mr. Kelley used and suggested that next year a board member could assist.

6. Report/Decision on combining Contract of Choice and letter with GFPS

Jane Weber reported that she and Danielle Funseth met with Tom Moore and Kristy Pontet-Stroop. Task Force members received a copy of the resulting one page combined Contract of Choice. Tom Moore will send the letter and contract to every 8th grader this spring. Next fall he will send them to the 7th and 8th graders.

7. DUI Statistics and MIP-A Statistics

Jim Whitaker reviewed and discussed the stats with the Task Force pointing out that arrests were up for March with 33 versus 29 last year. Tim Shanks confirmed that those who refuse to submit to a Breathalyzer or blood test automatically lose their license.

4. Report from the Task Force Coordinator

Progress for production of PSA by KFBB: Jerry Kelley reported that he, Lisa Meyers, and Barbara Bessette met with KFBB staff, and they are going to modify the script and use their own actors. Lisa Meyers explained that the PSA will portray people in different circumstances showing how impaired driving impacts so many people. Ms. Meyers cited examples, such as someone kneeling in front of a grave with their loved one that died standing behind them. Another scene might show a child with his grandparents at his parents' grave. There will only be images and no speaking. At the end there will be some wording on the screen.

Annual Law Enforcement Recognition: Jerry Kelley stated that he has the awards and donations for the four recipients. Mr. Kelley will have corsages for the spouses that attend. The only remaining item is to send the press release to the *Tribune*. Task Force members agreed that Jerry Kelley should be the master of the ceremony.

Ashley Wilkinson joined the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

8. February/March Stats from Airman Against Drunk Driving

SSGT Charles Marino Franco presented his report, stating they had 10 "saves" in February, 17 in March, and 16 thus far in April. SSGT Marino Franco expressed that a lot of military people take advantage of drivers and do not understand that it is a lot of money and responsibility for the person giving them a ride. The Air Force is trying to instill in them to call a taxi if they have the money. Jim Whitaker asked SSGT Marino Franco if he still has gas cards, and he answered to the affirmative. SSGT Charles Marino Franco recommended purchasing them from the gas station on the base in the future.

SSGT Charles Marino Franco asked Jerry Kelley if he was able to contact anyone from the base's Public Affairs office. Mr. Kelley responded that he left voice mails but has not received any return calls. SSGT Charles Marino Franco explained that he can probably get the name of the person to contact, but he must stay within his chain of command. Jane Webber offered that possibly Tim Shanks could go to the base to speak or anything along those lines that would be helpful.

9. Kudo Cards

None were handed out.

10. Public Comment

There were no public in attendance.

At 4:30 p.m. Tim Shanks moved and JT Lute seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 27, 2014, at 3:30 p.m.

Letters to the Editor

May – Barbara Bessette

June – Wayne Bye

July – Lisa Meyers