

## CASCADE COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2014

### Call to Order

Task Force President Jane Weber called the meeting to order at 3:32 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 – **Absent**

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

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

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

**State of Montana Highway Patrol District II Chief designee:** Trooper David Baggs – **Present**

**Great Falls Victim-Witness Services designee:** Savannah Hilton – **Present**

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

**Montana Tavern Association Home Safe Program designee:** Vince Kyle – **Present @ 3:40**

**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 – **Excused Absence**

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

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

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

#### Members of the Public in Attendance

John Hayes and Trooper Lewis Johnson

### 2. Approval of Minutes from July 29, 2014

Lisa Meyers pointed out an error in the first paragraph on Page 3. Kristi Jo Anderson volunteered to be on the Public Information Committee evaluating and making recommendations on the FY 2015 social media/advertising and was asked to be an administrator of the Facebook page, not Corin Fisch as written. **Lisa Meyers motioned to approve the minutes from July 29, 2014, as amended. JT Lute seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

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

Reimbursement: Jerry Kelley stated that JT Lute transported the crashed vehicle display from Townsend to the fairgrounds and back to Townsend. Mr. Lute submitted a request for mileage reimbursement using the state rate of 56 cents per mile for a total of \$247.47. **Wayne Bye motioned to pay JT Lute \$247.47 for transporting the crashed vehicle display to and from the fairgrounds. Jim Whitaker seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

DRE Conference: Jerry Kelley reported that the actual cost for the two officers that attended the Drug Recognition Expert conference in Denver was \$900 less than anticipated, because the officers chose to stay at a less expensive motel. Reimbursement was made to the Great Falls Police Department in the amount of \$1,902.57. Tim Shanks will invite Officers Scheer and Green to present a 10 minute report on the conference at the beginning of the September Task Force meeting.

Financial Reports: The Task Force reviewed the financial reports. Since the last meeting the Task Force received \$8,570 in DUI Reinstatement fees. Jerry Kelley confirmed that the \$277.50 paid to Charter Media is for the final bill. Jane Weber asked Mr. Kelley to run a query on Charter Media to find out the total paid to them since the consummation of the contract in the fall of 2013.

#### **4. Report from the Task Force Coordinator**

State Fair Display Product Update: Jerry Kelley reported that all of the promotional items the Task Force gave to the troopers to distribute at the State Fair were given away. Mr. Kelley stated there were approximately 250-300 items and he still has a lot left in his office.

Banner: Jerry Kelley mentioned that the banner used on the crashed vehicle display is not the one the Task Force used in the past because it could not be located. Mr. Kelley suggested having a banner made. Note: Vince Kyle joined the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

**JT Lute motioned to have a banner made. Lisa Meyers seconded the motion. There were no comments from the public. The motion passed unanimously.**

Letters to the Editor: Jerry Kelley circulated a letter to the editor written by Lisa Meyers and a letter written by Barbara Bessette, both of which have been published in the *Tribune*. Jerry Kelley also submitted a letter but has not yet received a verification request. Vince Kyle confirmed that he wrote a letter to the editor for August but has not yet submitted it. Travis Grove will write a letter in September. Jane Weber reminded members to send an e-mail notifying Jerry Kelley that a letter was submitted so he can watch for it in the paper. In addition, when submitting letters electronically, a phone number must be provided.

Re-Appoint Citizen Member: Corin Fisch's term as a citizen member of the Task Force expired August 12, 2014. **President Weber re-appointed Corin Fisch as a citizen member of the Cascade County DUI Task Force for an additional two years, ending August 12, 2016.**

Nominations Committee: Jane Weber asked Task Force Members to consider serving in an officer's role, and anyone interested should advise the Nominations Committee. The following volunteered to serve on the Nominations Committee: Vince Kyle, Jim Whitaker, and Tim Shanks. Tim Shanks will chair the committee. Jane Weber advised that the slate of officers should be selected and presented at the December meeting, and the election and changeover of officers will be in January.

Veteran's Treatment Court Request: State Probation and Parole Officer Danny Williams submitted a written request to the Task Force on behalf of the Veterans Treatment Court. Danny Williams was not able to attend today's meeting, so Wayne Bye explained the proposal. The Treatment Court is asking for monetary assistance for alcohol monitoring of participating veterans. Mr. Bye commented that there are a number of homeless veterans and veterans struggling to make ends meet. The Veterans Treatment Court is requesting assistance for costs veterans are required to pay for monitoring tools. SCRAM costs \$10 per day, Sober Link \$7 per day, and the 24/7 program is \$4.00 per day. Jerry Kelley stated there are currently 9 veterans sentenced to Treatment Court. Wayne Bye commented that not all of the veterans will need financial assistance and some will only need it for a short time to get stabilized. Corin Fisch asked whether it would be productive to have the Task Force purchase a SCRAM bracelet that Treatment Court Veterans could use. Wayne Bye responded that even when the bracelet is not in use, the Task Force would be paying for it so it would not be an efficient use of funds. This item will be on the agenda for next month as a decision. Jerry Kelley will invite Danny Williams to attend the meeting.

Public Information Committee: Barbara Bessette reported that she, Lisa Meyers, and Jerry Kelley met twice thus far. Kristi Jo Anderson has not been available to join the committee members when they have met. Jerry Kelley advised that the DUI Task Force paid \$7,610.50 to Charter Media during fiscal year 2014, and the grand total spent on advertising was \$12,896.50 which was \$212.00 less than fiscal year 2013. The Public Information Committee agreed that advertising through Charter would not be justified this coming year and instead would like to focus on building a website and using social media. Lisa Meyers suggested utilizing a Montana based company named Shortgrass Web Development. They charge an initial \$500.00 for setup and \$238.00 per year to maintain the domain name. In addition, the website will be mobile friendly and can be linked to social media sites. The Public Information Committee recommended reducing the stats advertisement in the *Tribune* to quarterly rather than monthly. The team recommended continuing to advertise on billboards and in the school newspapers. The team talked about organizing a contest in each school where students would devise an ad that would run for the entire school year. Task Force members suggested using an incentive for students to participate in the contest. Lisa Meyers voiced that another idea was to have a community contest to come up with a slogan that would be associated with the DUI Task Force. Ms. Meyers cited Nike's "Just Do It" as an example. Task Force members discussed the progress of the DD Buddy app and the possibility of linking it to the Task Force's website. Wayne Bye expressed that it will be necessary to keep the website updated and interesting. Jane Weber requested that the team include in its proposal a plan as to how to keep the website updated. A decision on these items is anticipated at the September meeting.

CMR Stampede: Jerry Kelley stated that he received a contract for advertising in the CMR Stampede. The cost for a ¼ page ad developed by them is \$70.00 per issue, which is the same as last year. They offer a 10% discount for a yearly contract. The first issue will be published September 4<sup>th</sup>; however, President Weber advised that we cannot advertise in that one since this item is listed on the Agenda for discussion and not a decision. JT Lute questioned why Great Falls High advertising is \$1,680.00 compared to the CMR Stampede at \$630.00 and the Belt Valley Voice at \$150.00. Jerry Kelley did not know why there was such a difference.

College Scholarship Payments: Jerry Kelley reported that he spoke with a representative at the University of Montana, who informed him that students must have their tuition paid by August 27<sup>th</sup> to be officially enrolled. Upon confirmation of enrollment of the scholarship winners, Mr. Kelley will disburse the checks.

## **5. DUI Statistics and MIP-A Statistics**

Travis Grove reviewed and discussed the stats with Task Force members. Officer Grove stated that he added another line on the BAC chart indicating the number of DUI drug/search warrant arrests. DUI arrests increased to 329 for fiscal year 2013-14 compared to 297 in fiscal year 2012-13.

## **6. Airmen Against Drunk Driving**

Jerry Kelley reported that Sergeant Franco advised him via e-mail that he could not attend today's meeting and that he is going to try to find an assistant that can come to future meetings when he cannot. There were 13 "saves" so far in August. Jane Weber wondered if Sergeant Franco has historical data for comparison, and if the base keeps a record of DUI's. Ms. Weber asked Jerry Kelley to check into this.

## **7. KUDO Cards**

There were no KUDO cards awarded this past month.

### **8. Round Robin**

Cassidy Blomgren commented that in conjunction with the DRE training the City has two pending cases, so the training the officers received will be beneficial. Officers Scheer and Green are very excited about using their skills.

Tim Shanks announced the Battle of the Badges blood draw this Thursday at the Civic Center. The Red Cross is facilitating the draw and anyone can donate blood.

Trooper David Baggs introduced his cohort in training, Lewis Johnson. Trooper Johnson stated that he will be working in Broadus.

Jane Weber thanked those that were supportive of the Sheriff's Department and Cascade County in the incident that resulted in the death of Officer Dunn. Many law enforcement officials from across the state and western US participated in the memorial services. Commissioner Weber reported that the County also lost one of our volunteer fire chiefs who did not survive from a motor vehicle accident while in route to a fire. Jane Weber and Trooper Baggs testified that wearing seat belts saves lives.

Jim Whitaker commented that he observed an individual at a grocery checkout stand with two carts of groceries, one of which held four 24 packs of beer. Mr. Whitaker added that there was a vehicle crash on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and the drivers of both vehicles were drunk.

Lisa Meyers advocated assisting Alliance for Youth in placing stickers on retail beer when they resume their sticker shock campaign.

### **9. Public Comment**

John Hayes reported that the Department of Revenue's required "Let's Control It" program went into effect three years ago. Servers are required to be trained every three years, so approximately 22,000 servers in the state are due for renewal training. Mr. Hayes stated that he is a certified trainer, so is conducting classes both in the mornings and evenings all week. Eagle Beverage and Gusto Distributing are sponsoring the training. Next month is the Montana Tavern Association convention. They are working on ideas where people can be entertained without getting hurt.

President Weber adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

### **Letters to the Editor**

September – Travis Grove

October – Corin Fisch

November – Jim Whitaker

December – Savannah Hilton or Cassidy Blomgren

### **Citizen Member Expiration Dates**

May 28, 2015 – Jim Whitaker

July 24, 2015 – Kristi Jo Anderson

August 12, 2016 – Corin Fisch

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