

CASCADE COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2015

Call to Order

DUI Task Force president Barbara Bessette 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 – **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 – **Savannah Hilton**
State of MT Adult Probation & Parole Regional Admin designee: Dawn Handa – **Present**
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 – **Present**
Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. designee: Lisa Meyers – **Present**
Cascade County Commissioner: Jim Larson - **Present**
Great Falls Public Schools designee: Danielle Funseth – **Present**
Airmen Against Drunk Driving designee: Sr. Airman Christopher Almaraz – **Present**
Citizen Members: Jim Whitaker – **Present**; Corin Fisch – **Present**; Mark Hewitt - **Present**
Task Force Coordinator: Jerry Kelley - **Present**

Members of the Public in Attendance

John Hayes, Cascade County Tavern Association
Jeff Newton, Great Falls Police Department
KFBB TV Newsmen

2. Approval of Minutes from March 31, 2015

There being no corrections or additions, **Lisa Meyers motioned to approve the minutes from the March 31, 2015 meeting. Jim Whitaker seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Public Information Committee

Website: Committee members attended a training session to learn how to update the website. They are still in need of DUI related pictures to add to the website. President Bessette asked that DUI Task Force members send them anything relevant. Danielle Funseth will provide a picture of the sticker used for the Sticker Shock campaign.

Student Newspaper Art Contest: Prior to the meeting Jerry Kelley e-mailed DUI Task Force members the art contest submissions to be voted on. Barbara Bessette collected the ballots and will report the results at the next meeting. There were 16 submissions from CMR and 1 from Belt.

Strategic Planning Meeting: Lisa Meyers, Danielle Funseth, Barbara Bessette, and Jerry Kelley met. They discussed the Home Safe program. They became aware that some establishments do not want to use

the program near closing time because it takes too long for the cab to arrive. Jerry Kelley contacted the owner of the cab company and was told that once an individual has been drinking all night they become belligerent and/or get sick in the back seat. It is not a good scenario and not worth it. Jerry Kelley asked the cab owner if there is anything the DUI Task Force could do to make it more desirable for drivers to pick people up after a night of drinking. He responded that money motivates the drivers. DUI Task Force members discussed at length various incentive ideas for the cab drivers servicing the Home Safe Program. Jerry Kelley asked that any suggestions be e-mailed to him. The subject was tabled until the next DUI Task Force meeting.

4. Financials/Budget Performance Report and Requests for Payment/Purchases

DUI Task Force members reviewed the financial reports, and Jim Whitaker reported on the transactions for April. \$8,000 went to the Home Safe program, \$400 for 2015 Project Graduation, \$500 to Shortgrass Web Development, and \$61 for a Tribune ad. The Task Force received \$441 in reimbursement from the Tavern Association for the DUI Checking Guides, leaving a balance of \$38,627.

Jerry Kelley advised that in order for the annual plan to be complete, it must include plans for expenditure of the \$18,000 the DUI Task Force will be receiving in July from the passage of HB 132. Mr. Kelley e-mailed Task Force members asking for suggestions. He received the following:

Cameras for CCSO DUI Processing Room: The Sheriff's Office is in need of an upgraded camera system. Deputy Grove explained that one of the DVD recorders no longer works, and it cannot be replaced. The whole system needs replaced including the cameras. The cost will be between \$5,000 and \$6,000. As part of the discussion, a Task Force member asked how the system would be funded if the Task Force denied the request. Deputy Grove responded that it probably wouldn't get funded this year. Several Task Force members stated the importance of good working cameras, noting that cases have been dismissed due to the poor quality of the video system, and jurors want to see the actual footage rather than just hearing the officer's testimony. **Jim Whitaker motioned to postpone the decision until the next meeting when a finalized figure is available. Daniel Funseth seconded. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

Adult Probation and Parole Overtime: Dawn Handa explained that the request of \$2,000-\$3,000 is to help fund approximately 125 hours of overtime for P&P officers to go out evenings and weekends to perform compliance checks on DUI offenders. Currently there are 120 DUI offenders on probation. P&P has no overtime funding from the legislature. Dawn Handa explained that the paperwork load for officers is increasing, so they are not getting out in the field as much. They would like to be proactive when offenders are more likely to drink and drive which is evenings and weekends. Officers go out in pairs as a safety issue. **Jim Whitaker motioned to donate \$3,000 to Adult Probation and Parole to pay for overtime used to perform compliance checks on DUI offenders. Corrin Fisch seconded. P&P will provide a quarterly report showing violations found, etc. so the DUI Task Force can evaluate its effectiveness. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

Fatal Vision Impairment Goggles: Danielle Funseth advised that she asked the School Resource Officers what they would purchase if they had the funding. She received a response that they would like each middle school and high school to have one pair of impairment goggle for a total of five. The entire cost would be \$784.00. Wearing the goggles impairs one's vision mimicking various levels of alcohol in a person's system. Each SRO would use the goggles to educate students in their respective school the effects of being under the influence. After discussion, **Vince Kyle motioned to table a decision until fall. Tim Shanks seconded. There being no further discussion, the motion carried.**

Passive Alcohol Sensors: This is another need related to Danielle Funseth by the School Resource Officers. Each high school currently has one passive alcohol sensor, but they outdated and large and cumbersome. The students can tell who is carrying them, so it defeats their purpose. Modern passive alcohol sensors are small and can fit in one's pocket. The total cost for two sensors is \$904.95. After discussion, **Tim Shanks motioned to table a decision until fall. Lisa Meyers seconded. Jerry Kelley will include these items on the agenda at that time. The motion carried unanimously.**

Shipping Fees for Alco Sensors: Jerry Kelley stated that at the last meeting the Task Force approved funding for the Sheriff's Office to purchase Alco Sensors. The request did not include the shipping cost of \$40.25. **Vince Kyle motioned and Jim Whitaker seconded to pay the \$40.25 for shipping. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

5. Report from the Task Force Coordinator

2015-2016 Annual Plan: Jerry Kelley reported that Kevin Dusko at the Montana Department of Transportation reviewed the draft and responded that everything looked good except that plans to utilize the \$18,000 from the passage of HB 132 were not included. Jerry Kelley added the suggestions he received from DUI Task Force members and e-mailed the proposed 2015-16 Annual Plan to DUI Task Force members. Mr. Kelley advised that he did not receive any additional input. The Annual Plan will be submitted to the County Commission.

Radio PSA's: Jerry Kelley called Darla Key at Cherry Creek Radio to ask how the Task Force can endorse its own message. Mr. Kelley related to Ms. Key that the Task Force was not aware that its messages would be endorsed by other entities. She responded that the \$1,500 covers the Task Force PSA's, and it would be an additional \$1,500 for the endorsement. Darla Key later contacted Jerry Kelley and notified him that Cherry Creek Radio would allow the DUI Task Force to endorse the PSA's at no extra cost. Barbara Bessette will record new PSA's and write Cherry Creek Radio a thank you letter.

Scholarships Winners: Two winners were from CMR -Serenity McCartney and Serena Palmer. Jerry Kelley presented their scholarships at the ceremony last night. Aaron Hemphill from Paris Gibson was the other recipient, and that ceremony will be June 9th. It will be an informal luncheon from 12:00 to 1:30 at Paris Gibson. Jerry Kelley asked if any Task Force members would like to attend and make the presentation. There were no volunteers, so Jerry Kelley will make the presentation. Lisa Meyers requested pictures.

Law Enforcement Recognition Ceremony: This will be May 26th. Six individuals will be recognized. Jerry Kelley asked for a volunteer to hand out itineraries as people come in and a volunteer to help with the presentations. Jim Whitaker and Lisa Meyers volunteered.

Community Day Event at Holiday Village Mall: Jerry Kelley received an invitation for the DUI Task Force to have a table at this event, free of charge, to promote its purpose. It is May 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Jerry Kelley will be there and asked if anyone else wants to go to talk to people and hand out flyers and gifts. Lisa Meyers volunteered to help.

House and Senate Bills: HB 202 proposing an optional DUI prevention contribution on vehicle registrations is a dead.

HB 132 to allow the disbursement of unspent DUI funds to counties with an established DUI Task Forces was passed.

HB 267 is a bill to end the taxi monopolies was passed. Therefore DD Buddy can legally arrange for rides home.

HB 93 regarding restricted licenses is not dead. It has been transmitted to the governor.

6. DUI Statistics and MIP-A Statistics

DUI Task Force members reviewed the statistical report. It showed there were 31 DUI arrests in March compared to 33 last year and 29 the previous year. The average BAC for March was 0.182 compared to 0.168 last year, and 0.176 the previous year. The Home Safe program provided 117 rides in February and got 160 people home safe. The average cost per ride was \$10.81 for a total of \$1,264.50.

7. Airmen Against Drunk Driving

Senior Airman Christopher Almaraz reported they had 22 saves and 0 DUI's. Barbara Bessette reported that at the strategic planning meeting they talked about the \$5 gas cards and wondered if it would help if they were increased. Airman Almaraz commented that the biggest chatter they hear about is their car and how is it going to get cleaned. A suggestion was made to buy car wash tickets. Airman Almaraz stated that even a free meal at Burger King would help.

8. Kudo Cards

Barbara Bessette stated that the Strategic Planning committee also talked about how the Kudo Card program could be revamped so it is being utilized. Individuals awarded Kudo Cards are given coupon booklets for use at downtown businesses. After a short discussion, President Bessette asked Task Force members to think about ways to improve the program and report to her or Jerry Kelley.

9. Round Robin

Jerry Kelley received an invitation from the Great Falls Police Department to a luncheon in conjunction with Police Week. It will be May 15 from 12:00-1:30 at the Civic Center. Mr. Kelley asked if any DUI Task Force members would like to attend with him to represent the group. Lisa Meyers volunteered.

Barbara Bessette is working on the substance use survey of 18-24 year olds. At last count they had 120 and the goal is 1,000. The results will be available for the DUI Task Force to use. Prevention week is May 17- 23.

Jim Whitaker advised that next month will be his last meeting because his term as a citizen member will expire. He has been a member of the DUI Task Force for 11 years. Jim reminded the Task Force that if it is getting the highway patrol car for the state fair to contact them.

Jeff Newton introduced himself. He is a patrol captain with the Great Falls Police Department. He was previously on the DUI Task Force from 2008-2010.

Tim Shanks announced that this is his last meeting. He is retiring from the Great Falls Police Department at the end of May with 35 years of service. Jeff Newton will take his place on the DUI Task Force. May 11th at 9:00 is the dedication of the Fallen Officer Memorial with a parade at 11:00. Tim will e-mail the information to Jerry Kelley to pass on to everyone.

Savannah Hilton advised that this will be her last meeting for a while. She will be having her baby before the next meeting. She is not sure about getting another person from Victim Witness since there are only two others in the office.

Cassidy Blomgren will be able to attend the Law Enforcement Recognition ceremony in May, but she will be gone June, July, August, and possibly September since she is having a baby. A replacement from her office is not likely but she will try. HB 488 has been transmitted to the governor. It revises the DUI statutes and imposes a \$300 sanction for refusals. Passage of the bill would increase the penalties for DUI's.

Dawn Handa thanked the DUI Task Force for its support to Probation and Parole.

Danielle Funseth commented that her boss is retiring. Katie Nicholls will be taking over the CARE program at Great Falls Public Schools. The school district is in the process of updating its school handbooks because in 2011-2012 anything related to drug and alcohol was inadvertently dropped from them.

Mark Hewitt was recently appointed to the Cascade County DUI Task Force as a citizen member. He will complete the remainder of Kristi Jo Anderson's term which ends June 30 and then will be reappointed for a two year term.

Corin Fisch received permission from an individual that killed two people as a result of drinking and driving to add their testimonial to the DUI Task Force website. Corin needs to clear it with P&P first.

10. Public Comment

John Hayes thanked the DUI Task Force for its help with the Home Safe program both financially and morally.

Adjourn

At 4:43 p.m. Jim Whitaker motioned and J.T. Lute seconded to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion, the motion carried.

The next meeting will be May 26, 2015, at 3:30 p.m. at Great Falls Pre-Release.

Citizen Member Expiration Dates: Jim Whitaker – June 30, 2015 Mark Hewitt – June 30, 2015
Corin Fisch – June 30, 2016

Letters to the Editor 2015:	February – Jerry Kelley	March – Savannah Hilton
April – Jim Whitaker	May – Barb Bessette	June – Lisa Meyers
July – J.T. Lute	August – Corin Fisch	September – Barbara Bessette
October – Lisa Meyers	November – Travis Grove	December – Charles Marino-Franco
January 2016 – Vince Kyle		