

Yellowstone County DUI Task Force
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2012

Present: Monty Wallis, Sharmon Brougham, Jeannie Martin, Chris Thompson, Roger Gordon, Barry Wilson, Rod Wilson, Kevin Holland, Jade Freiboth, Rod Souza, Kristin Lundgren. Excused: David Carter, Darla Tyler-McSherry

The meeting called to order.

April 22-24 is the Montana Traffic Educators Conference at the Billings Hotel and Conference Center. The DUI Task Force time slot is from 9:10 – 10:00. Chris from MT National Guard will have SYDE go cart; Darla will try to have Trooper Haynes car on display. We will also have the BUI video playing. There will also be 50 videos produced so they can be handed out to whoever wants them along with the instruction sheet you would use in a classroom setting. Many of the items used in the classroom setting will be set up and there will be a live demonstration. If you can attend do so to represent the task force.

Billings PD RFP request for K9 support which was tabled at the last meeting and is a carry over from that meeting. The request was to help purchase another dog. The request was for \$5,000. The BPD may have already received some significant support from a fundraiser at the Yellowstone County Brewery Company and from the Billings Exchange Club. The money would come from contract services and we have approximately \$11,000 that account which is not committed. If we want to give an amount to the Billings PD it would probably be a smaller amount and we should not give money if the cost of the dog has already been covered. A question that might be raised is what is the nexus. With the number of impaired drivers we have, as a result of prescription drugs and marijuana, meth, and other drugs there seems to be a sufficient nexus. We see more and more cases of the drug possession cases with a DUI. stop and arrest. During a DUI stop if there appears to be some other evidence of drugs they may call the canine unit to bring the dog to the scene. The officer processes the DUI and the drug unit will be notified and they may obtain a search warrant. If drugs are found the DUI and drug charges will be filed together.

A motion was made to fund \$2,000 on the contingency that if the BPD does not already have the funding in place, we provide \$2,000 towards the purchase of the dog. Motion seconded and approved.

Graduation Party Memorial Day media campaign. We have \$1,800 committed to the graduation parties at the schools. In the past we usually have a media blitz around that

time to encourage students not to drink and drive. We usually dedicate money to advertise on the various radio stations. We have \$3,000 available. Monty mentioned that this is a little different year because this is a political year. June will be filled with political advertising and rates can be higher during this time. Monty recommended waiting until after the November election and the Holiday Campaign. Kristin made a suggestion to look into facebook for advertising as it is much cheaper and it is a good medium for high school students. The process is to buy an ad similar to an ad you would buy on radio or television. A target demographic can be used for the ad. Jade will look into face book advertising, including the cost.

A forum for Legislators prior to the upcoming session. In 2010, The Dui task force and the Montana Crime Prevention association hosted a forum for Legislators and the general public. The forum was held after the primary but before the general election. Monty suggested a possible speaker could be Rebecca Sturdevant. There were suggestions on what we might do differently from last time. During the previous forum, the Attorney General presented. The attorney had the 24/7 campaign and it was a good vehicle for him to do so. Unfortunately, it took the entire hour. It was a three hour program we tried to do in an hour and it did not work. There was no time for questions and answers. The forum was well attended and something we should try to do again. We also need to request RSVP's. The 6th Annual Crime Prevention Conference will be held in Billings at the Billings Hotel and Conference Center from October 23-26, 2012. The conference has law enforcement, educators, from all over the State. A suggestion was made to have the forum at the Crime Prevention Conference and to ask Rebecca Sturdevant to be a guest speaker. A suggestion was also made to have a person or two who were arrested for DUI to talk about their story of how DUI's affected them. Perhaps someone who graduated from the impaired driving Court that has gone through treatment and has stayed clean and sober and how the DUI has impacted their life, their family's lives and others lives. Sometimes we forget that these are people who have families, lives and jobs and have gone through treatment and moved on with their life. Monty and Sharmon will look into the feasibility of having the forum at the Billings Hotel during the conference and a possible agenda including Rebecca Studevant and a DUI offender and his story.

A question was raised about whether the community is aware of the 24/7 law. Rod said it is effective. Currently, there are 106 people in the program with 50 or 60 actively testing. The Under Sheriff is at the Legislature testifying before the Law and Justice Interim Committee about 24/7. Dave Carter will also be available to talk about the impact of the search warrant bill. One of the items the Montana County Attorneys Office will try to do is clean up the language in the previous 24/7 bill. There were a couple of loop holes that were taken advantage of which caused issues in the 24/7. Overall, it is an effective program. The success rate is apparently 99.9%. The biggest problem is no-shows which creates most of the warrants for not showing up rather than for testing positive. Originally, the Judges were sentencing the first time DUI offenders to the program and that is why the numbers were higher in the beginning. Probation and Parole offenders are also counted in those numbers. The big impact has been the search warrant bill. The current turn around time with the crime lab is 60 to 90 days. The numbers are confirming what was suspected. Most of the blood results are above a 1.5. Many are above 2. Law

enforcement and the prosecutors are in a better position to force people into the watch program. The real serious offenders are going to prison. Rod thinks the search warrant bill has been outstanding.

During the next Legislative Session there has been discussions about using twitter to update people and provide legislators a forum for what is going on with DUI legislation. Also we may want to have a face book account. The goal is the get information out to people.

What is effective to get messages to the Legislators? Rod will talk with Dave and Darla to see if this is realistic as part of our contract. A suggestion was to look at a student intern or volunteers.

Lonnie Hutching has as goal to have 4 regional meetings between June-September. June and July are already booked. Is this something we want to take on? Darla said we don't have the man power to put something like this on especially since we are looking at hosting another forum. A suggestion as made to hold the meeting during the Crime Prevention Conference in October. We would not have to host it. The meeting could be conducted during the conference. Time and manpower is the concern for us putting it on and we need to focus on the forum. If the goal is regional information sharing about what we are doing maybe we could come up with a list we could share and we have a skype meeting and maybe we don't have to come together for one big regional meeting. We could share information in another way and we could call it our meeting.

Meeting adjourned.