



Gallatin County DUI Task Force

DUI Task Force Purpose:

- Reduce Impaired Driving Traffic Incidents
- Educate Public on Dangers of DUI
- Prevent DUI

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday/January 17, 2018 – 5:30 pm

Gallatin County Detention Center Community Room

Members Present

Kelley Parker-Wathne, Coordinator
Adrian Massey, Chair
Lora Kruse, Treasurer
Jesse Stovall, Belgrade PD
Anthony Kearney, WYPD
Sabrah Van Leeuwen, WYPD
Doug Lieurance, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office
Rick Gale, ADSGC
Jerry Pape, Citizen Member
Maureen Exley, Citizen Member
Katy Fritz, Citizen Member
Dan Deming, Citizen Member
Iralene Osborne, Citizen Member
Richard Gibson, Citizen Member
Ed Hirsch, City Atty's Office
Chris Burnett, MSU PD

Guests

Chris Harris, Bozeman Attorney
Becky Sturdevant, Zero DUI Deaths Coalition
Matt Caires, MSU
Arlene Wylie, Outgoing Citizen Member
KariLyn Gifford, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office
Nicholas Grillo, MRDTF

Absent

Grace Anderson, Citizen Member
Jon Ogden, Vice-Chair
Austin Owens, Manhattan PD
Marty Lambert, County Atty's Office
David Morris, MHP
Boyd Dressler, Citizen Member

Task Force Chair Adrian Massey called the Meeting to order at approximately 5:45 pm.

MISSION MOMENT

- Chair Adrian Massey read the DUI Task Force Mission Statement.

INTRODUCTIONS

- Members and guests introduced themselves.

BUSINESS

- Coordinator Parker-Wathne and Chairman Massey presented appreciation plaques to the following outgoing members Matt Caires, Arlene Wylie, and Doug Lieurance.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne presented appreciation plaque to outgoing member and Chair, Adrian Massey.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne explained that the Policy Committee would be resuming on Wednesday, January 24 for those who would like to attend.
 - Mr. Hirsch encouraged anyone with ideas for the Policy meetings to email them to Coordinator Parker-Wathne if they can't make the meetings.
- Guest, Mr. Chris Harris spoke about some of the bills he introduced as a Montana State Legislator, and a bit about the legislative process. He said the laws fall into 4 or 5 categories: 1) Get Tougher – there's not a lot of evidence this makes enough difference, 2) Rehab – help reintegrate users into society, 3) Think Outside the Box – come up with new ideas, 4) Tough on Taverns – enforce owner liability, 5) DUI Fines – fund groups like the DUI Task Forces. He stated that he is pessimistic that legislation itself will solve the problem and thinks educating the next generation for cultural change is the key. He said it is important to think about the opposition and the ways their arguments can shoot down proposals, warning that there are a lot of "nit pickers".
 - Mr. Gale shared that he had to "reboot" his thinking when he came to Montana from California, as California's laws are much stricter. He said they frequently used roadblocks and checkpoints there and they were a great educational tool. He asked if anyone had any thoughts on the fact that Utah's legal limit is now .05, and shared that MADD ranked Montana very poorly at .5 out of 5 in regards to DUI.
 - Mr. Harris shared that one piece of legislation wanted mandatory prison at 3 DUI's but was vetoed due to the fiscal impact on the State and in prisons. He noted that sponsors need to defend their proposals fiscally and also said while people are running out of creative ideas he thinks a hit on insurance is a great idea.

- Mr. Hirsch noted that people can apply for (& be granted) a driver's license in Montana even though their driving privileges are suspended in other states.
- Guest, Ms. Becky Sturdevant stated that she agrees about cultural change and said that she has seen some in the last 10 years. She shared that there is a brilliant speech on you tube by someone named Hale (she'll send the link). She also noted the laws in Montana allow underage DUI to start over at age 21.
 - Mr. Hirsch noted that some jurisdictions amend them to a "baby DUI" (.02 or more) when under 21 and then the numbers don't stack.
 - Ms. Sturdevant pointed out that there is a lot of opposition to holding young people accountable and there are fewer DUI convictions statewide now than in the past. This is also negatively affecting DUI Task Force funding.
 - Mr. Hirsch agreed and noted that Montana laws have changed over time to favor the defense. He also noted that there seem to be a proliferation of defense "experts" who don't know what they're talking about. He said it seems to be culture before legislature, before the law.
 - Mr. Richard Gibson inquired about the possibility of continuing education for law enforcement and defense attorneys. He suggested prosecutors and law enforcement work together to firm up DUI reports as far as what is needed, noting that attorneys can often easily spin information.
 - Deputy KariLyn Gifford said law enforcement doesn't hear back from attorneys in regards to what's done right or not on the DUI reports.
 - Officer Jesse Stovall said DRE's are consistently shot down and that Sergeant Sager of the Highway Patrol wants to educate and talk to everyone he can but can't get funding to do so.
 - Mr. Gibson encouraged sharing information publicly on what's going wrong and stated that educating officers and prosecutors would save money in the long run.
- According to Ms. Sturdevant, people need to be communicating with legislators, noting there was a bill last session to reinstate open containers and only one person spoke out against it. She there needs to be discussion about what works and has proven to improve the DUI situation. She distributed information regarding the new ignition interlocks noting that they are much more effective than the old ones.
 - Mr. Hirsch noted that part of the problem is refusals receive a suspended license, then are almost immediately granted a probationary license. He said he thinks there needs to be stipulations "with teeth".
 - Mr. Harris offered a "strong suggestion" to invite legislative candidates to our DUI Task Force meetings and let them listen to what we have to say. He said there is power behind this group and they will hear and respond to our intensity.
 - Chair Massey said we need a public education blitz about bills coming up so people know and can talk to legislators.

- Mr. Gale asked where MADD stood in all this, noting that they need to be more involved with prevention rather than just supporting victims.
 - Ms. Sturdevant suggested writing to MADD to tell them that and that last year they supported Senate Bill 280. She said if they see something consistent with their mission they will support it.
- Ms. Sturdevant noted the Montana Common Sense Coalition's name has changed to Zero DUI Deaths. She mentioned that Bozeman hosts the Annual "Rooney Run" in honor of Annie Rooney who was a local attorney killed by a drunk driver years ago, and added that "Annie's Law" (requiring ignition interlocks) recently passed in Ohio.

ELECTIONS

- Chair Massey oversaw final elections for those nominated for the Executive Board positions for the coming year.
 - The nominees (Maureen Exley, Jon Ogden, and Katy Fritz) were voted on individually and were each unanimously approved by the members of the Task Force. Since Officer Ogden was unable to be at the meeting, their names were written on individual pieces of paper and drawn anonymously for positions. Ms. Fritz was drawn for Chair, Ms. Exley for Vice-chair, and Officer Ogden for Secretary/Treasurer.

BUDGET

- Coordinator Parker-Wathne distributed copies of a current budget report and reviewed the numbers with the Task Force members. She noted that the budget is on track for the half way mark through the fiscal year.

P I & E COMMITTEE

Events

- Coordinator Parker-Wathne distributed a preliminary Events Calendar for the coming Calendar year and asked the Task Force members to please be thinking about what events they'd like to help with.
- Mr. Gibson asked if the Task Force could do something other than the yellow cups that we distributed at the MSU Football games for promotional items. He was concerned that the cups could be perceived as a challenge to young people. He suggested license plate frames or stickers for the backs of patrol cars that say: "Smile, I could be behind you."
 - Coordinator Parker-Wathne shared that she is always open to new ideas and that the cups were actually MSU's idea. She shared that MSU paid for the majority of the cups' production with our logo on them.

- Deputy Gifford noted that she pulled over 40 people on New Year's Eve and there were no DUI's. She asked if it would be possible to share promotional items with law enforcement for them to give to designated drivers.
 - Group agreed this would be a good idea.
- Mr. Burnett initiated conversation around people providing free rides for the Super Bowl and other known "party" holidays (such as St. Patrick's Day). Many different ideas were discussed including car dealerships, churches, and MSU students.
 - Coordinator Parker-Wathne noted this would need approval from the County Commissioners as there may be potential liability for the County.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 pm.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday/March 21, 2018 – 5:30 pm**

Gallatin County Detention Center Community Room