



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/March 21, 2018 – 5:30 pm

Gallatin County Detention Center Community Room

Members Present

Kelley Parker-Wathne, Coordinator
Katy Fritz, Chair
Jon Ogden, Vice-Chair
Richard Gibson, Citizen Member
David Morris, MHP
Chris Burnett, MSU PD
Rick Gale, ADSGC
Ed Hirsch, City Atty's Office
Maureen Exley, Citizen Member
Cathe Felz, Three Forks High School
Jerry Pape, Citizen Member
Lora Kruse, Citizen Member
Grace Anderson, Citizen Member
Dan Deming, Citizen Member

Guests

Teri Gibson, W Yellowstone Citizen
Steve Ette, Court Services
Steven Hamilton, Three Forks
Erin Murphy, Gallatin County Atty's Office

Absent

KariLyn Gifford, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office
Nicholas Grillo, MRDTF
Marty Lambert, County Atty's Office
Jesse Stovall, Belgrade PD
Scott Newell, WYPD
Iralene Osborne, Citizen Member

Task Force Chair, Katy Fritz called the Meeting to order at approximately 5:45 pm.

MISSION MOMENT

- Chair, Katy Fritz read the DUI Task Force Mission Statement.

INTRODUCTIONS

- Members and guests introduced themselves.

CONSENT AGENDA

- November and January Meeting Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

BUSINESS

- Coordinator Parker-Wathne and Chair, Katy Fritz presented an appreciation plaque to outgoing Three Forks citizen member, Steven Hamilton for his years of service.
- Guest speaker, County Attorney Ms. Erin Murphy spoke about how some of the broader changes to laws from the 2017 legislative session caused confusion and have had effects on DUIs. She noted that there are 2 Watch Programs in the state, that the state doesn't have enough Treatment Courts, and that there isn't funding available to create more. She also shared that there is no mandatory jail time for a felony DUI in Montana and therefore, no significant consequence, which presents an interesting challenge. She also mentioned that officers are unable to get search warrants for first offense DUIs and that available treatment programs are at capacity and dealing with staffing and funding issues.
 - Group continued to discuss the above topics with others also commenting on Veteran's Treatment Court, the expungement statute, and how the max time someone can serve with a felony DUI is 5 years (even if it's a 12th DUI).
 - Ms. Murphy noted this was a poorly drafted statute created to deal with overcrowding in the jail by not holding offenders accountable.
 - City Attorney Ed Hirsch noted that Montana is high in repeat DUI offenses and that the current legal structure makes it hard. He pointed out that a first offense in some other states is a big deal and can even be a felony with treatment required.
 - Mr. Richard Gibson stated he believes there needs to be a consequence and that education is key and needs to happen long before a first offense in order for societal change to occur.

- Ms. Murphy said they are fighting changes in regards to sex offenders too and it would help to send people to testify. Mr. Hirsch concurred stating it would help to let Zack Brown (who pushed the expungement statute) know how people feel about it.
- Mr. Hirsch asked if the blood draw program was still functioning at the Gallatin County Detention Center. Vice-chair, Officer Jon Ogden said that it is now under the direction of the Police Department and AMR (American Medical Response).
 - Coordinator Parker-Wathne said she has not heard from Officer Stovall with the Belgrade PD if there had been any progress with implementing the blood draw program there.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne mentioned the Bobcat Brews issue on the MSU campus and Mr. Hirsch asked if the proceeds were funding the INSIGHT Program. Answer to this remains unknown.
- Officer Chris Burnett shared information about the "Think Twice" program created by a fellow from Bozeman who lost some high school and college age friends due to DUI. He said many Washington state and local bars have contracted to begin using the single use breathalyzers. If staff think someone may be too impaired they can provide a breathalyzer with their tab in conjunction with UBER program incentives.
 - Concerns were voiced about whether or not BAC's might be increasing or decreasing. Group agreed it would be best not to endorse with the Task Force logo in order to reduce liability.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne said she is working on the Annual Plan for the 2018-19 fiscal year and will have that ready for approval from Task Force members for the May meeting.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne presented a volunteer survey for members to complete and gathered them at the end of the meeting.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne informed the Task Force members that she is pursuing looking for a wrecked DUI vehicle through Best Rate Towing who apparently has a storage unit full of wrecked cars.
 - Vice-chair Office Ogden explained to new members and guests how the vehicle has been used in the past for education and awareness purposes.
 - Ms. Cathe Felz shared that they have a golf cart that State Farm bought for them that they use to do an obstacle course. Ms. Felz offered that activities and experience add a lot of impact.

P I & E COMMITTEE

Events

- Coordinator Parker-Wathne noted the 3rd Annual Law Enforcement DUI Awards Ceremony was coming up on the evening of Wednesday April 11th and that set up help would be needed.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne shared that there has been no response from authorities in Big Sky in regards to approval for the Task Force to be at the Big Sky Pond Skim.
 - Chair Katy Fritz volunteered to follow up with this.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne noted that Craft Beer Week is coming up on May 5-12 and the Task Force is working with that group to create safe driving posters to put up in each of the bars/breweries.
- BZN Film Festival/Celebration is new this year and will be happening June 7-10. The DUI Task Force has been invited to be part of a panel (along with 3-4 others) to speak after the screening of a film called "The Hungry Heart".

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday/May 16, 2018 – 5:30 pm**

Gallatin County Detention Center Community Room