

Teen Driving Task Force
Meeting Minutes for December 15, 2011
AmericInn – 10 AM Central
Ft. Pierre, South Dakota

Task Force Members Present: Nancy Allard, Bob Clark, Staci Eggert, John Foster, Cindy Gerber, Representative Peggy Gibson, Captain Steve Haney, Major Randy Hartley, Dr. Susan Randall, Mark Swendsen, and Senator Craig Tieszen. Representative Nick Moser was present via teleconference.

Support staff present: Lee Axdahl, Pat Englehart, Hannah Houdyshell, Secretary Trevor Jones, Jenny Serbousek, and Terry Woster,

Others present: Dick Tieszen, on behalf of Safe and Sound South Dakota

Task Force Members absent: Chief Richard Greenwald, Senator Todd Schlekeway

Call to order

Meeting was called to order and Representative Moser connected via teleconference.

Opening Comments

Secretary Jones made opening statements.

Task Force introduction

Members of the task force introduced themselves in round table.

Introduction of support staff

Axdahl introduced the support staff.

Suggested timeline of task force events, studies, and meetings

Axdahl introduced the initial timeline for the task force.

Motion: Dr. Randall moved to elect a chairperson and nominated Senator Craig Tieszen. Moser seconded the motion.

Conclusion: Motion carried.

Motion: Representative Gibson moved to elect Dr. Randall for vice chair. Swendsen seconded the motion.

Conclusion: Motion carried.

Discussion pertaining to the timeline continued. Representative Gibson mentioned the need for public input in the meetings. It was mentioned that a well-publicized meeting to hear from parents and teens would be informative. Senator Tieszen and Representative Moser suggested Rapid City or Sioux Falls as larger venues for a meeting to be held in the future. Major Hartley and Dr. Randall agreed.

Dr. Randall suggested that the first meetings should be presentations of facts pertaining to the issue.

Round table discussion of potential topics

Senator Tieszen began by asking for a breakdown of statistics by age starting at age 14 and going up to age 18. Foster brought up a current study by Department Of Transportation of Driver's Education. It was mentioned that potential legislation will be sought by Associated School Boards of South Dakota concerning Driver's Education in schools.

Senator Tieszen suggested the task force take ownership of the DOT report for the task force's purposes. Dr. Braunstein, the author of the report, will be asked to present the report at our next meeting, and the report will be made available to task force members as soon as possible.

Representative Gibson mentioned texting, in particular proposed legislation and enforcement of any type of ban. Captain Haney echoed this area of potential study. Gibson also suggested looking into other states' best practices. Dr. Randall agreed. Clark brought up looking into insurance company recommendations. Eggert mentioned a voluntary program being practiced in Michigan that keeps parents informed of their teen drivers' choices.

Mr. Tieszen, on behalf of Safe and Sound South Dakota, mentioned the lack of information and statistics for South Dakota specifically and that Safe and Sound South Dakota is currently gathering information to present to the task force and public in general. Dr. Randall also expressed interest in information and statistics pertaining to crashes involving teen drivers such as where, when, ages of those involved, distractions, etc. Eggert wanted to bring awareness to these statistics in regards to rural versus urban driving and whether alcohol or inexperience were relevant factors in accidents involving teens. Swendsen and Moser relayed a desire to reduce fatalities. Both Haney and Hartley saw education of teens on appropriate driving behavior as beneficial.

Senator Tieszen proposed a mailing list to keep the public informed of the task force meetings. He summed up the specific areas of focus as:

1. Effect of Driver's Education;
2. Distracted driving, including texting and number of passengers;
3. Alcohol and underage drinking;
4. Rural versus urban driving; and
5. Current South Dakota laws regarding teen driving and licensure.

Discussion of agenda for next meeting

Dr. Randall suggested informational presentations, along with data on crashes involving drivers 14 to 17. The other member agreed this would be beneficial.

The report on Driver's Education will be sent to the task force members and presented at the next meeting by Dr. Braunstein if he is available.

Gerber and Hartley will present current laws as they relate to teen drivers.

Safe and Sound South Dakota, along with Mr. Tieszen, will present findings of crash statistics, etc. Clark asked for information to be presented on how distracted driving and driver's education correlates with teen crash statistics.

Location and time were decided upon and a time for public comment set into the agenda. The meeting will be at the AmericInn in Ft. Pierre on January 27, 2012 from 8 am to 4 pm.

Senator Tieszen adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm CST.