



Yellowstone County DUI Task Force
PO Box 20982
Billings, MT 59104

**Yellowstone County DUI Task Force AOD Symposium Planning Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2026**

Present: Jenna Solomon, Gabby Thompson, Andrew Loken, Kevin Holland, Brandon Ihde, Monty Wallis, Bob Drake, Travis Sylvester, Karen Sylvester, Darla Tyler-McSherry.

Brandon called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM.

The group discussed the possibility of having Jermaine Galloway serve as a keynote for the May 2027 event. The group considered the cost to be a major factor in this consideration. Andrew made a motion to not proceed in trying to secure a contract with Jermaine Galloway for our 2027 event. Kevin seconded the motion. Motion approved.

As we are in the preliminary planning stage, attendees agreed the opening keynote should set the tone and energy for the entire event. We will continue to explore to identify a keynote. Other possibilities for this event include a "State of the State" session featuring a panel of local and statewide experts. People mentioned include Captain O'Donnell, a representative from the Attorney General's office, an epidemiologist, and CEO John Forte from RiverStone Health, among others. The group also discussed the possibility of a victim impact panel.

The Task Force discussed a new networking opportunity on Thursday evening by hosting an After Hours Social. Vinnie Montez was mentioned as a possibility to include in this event and/or in the regular Symposium schedule www.vinniemontez.com. Darla will follow up on pricing and availability information. The group discussed potential venues for an After-Hours Social event-including the Ballroom in the DoubleTree Hilton, where we already have the space secured. Other locations mentioned include the Pub Station and Thirsty Street. It was noted to have this add-on event within walking distance of the DoubleTree.

Other possible topics/presenters include Officer Combs from Billings Police; Dominic Syracuse, and Brandon will reach out to the person who has the enclosed trailer containing the car that was hit by an impaired driver and resulted in the occupants' deaths.

Discussion also included moving funding opportunities away from specific events within the Symposium and more towards a Bronze/Silver/Gold/Platinum level. No amounts were discussed. The group briefly considered potential sponsors to reach out to, including Axiom Body Camera.

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 PM.



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Yellowstone County DUI Task Force Meeting Minutes May 21, 2026

Present: Cameron Farrell-Fox, Gabby Thompson, Andrew Loken, Kent O'Donnell, Jenna Solomon, Monty Wallis, Bob Drake, Shaun Pisk, Brandon Ihde, Kevin Holland, Mike Yakawich, Karen Sylvester, Travis Sylester, Brennen Plucker, Darla Tyler-McSherry.

Excused: Sam Atwood, Brandon Gatlin, Ben Milam, Sam Morris, Haley Swan, Kacy Keith.

Brandon called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM. Members received the April meeting minutes via email. Monty made to approve the April meeting minutes without changes. Bob seconded. Motion approved.

Brandon asked about new Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest. None were reported at this time.

Task Force members received the latest Budget Reports via email prior to the meeting. Darla summarized the one-page Budget and Cash report. No questions were brought forward at this time.

Travis provided the social media report. He noted they have an influx of youth-focused messages as that age group is disproportionately represented in impaired driving crashes. They will utilize messages from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for the "100 Deadliest Days on the Road" and also utilize their messages specifically around Memorial Day and the 4th of July. No questions were brought forward at this time.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the July 1-December 31, 2026, cycle is due June 1. The applications must address the following three (3) criteria: 1) the event/project must take place within Yellowstone County; 2) define the nexus between the project and DUI, whether interdiction, treatment, or prevention; and 3) include a detailed budget. The applications will be reviewed and voted on at the June 18 meeting.

The group discussed having a presence at local 4th of July events. Haley and Gabby will spearhead our presence at the Laurel parade. Captain O'Donnell motioned to support our efforts at these events for up to \$300. Karen seconded. Motion approved.

Darla will send a link to Task Force members to review apparel options through Sanmar. We can order through Kacy. If interested, Task Force members will pay for their own apparel piece(s), and the Task Force will pay for our logo placed on it.

Darla provided a summary of the meeting for the Collective with Impaired Driving Solutions, a division of All Rise, partnering with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Yellowstone County and Gallatin County were selected as two of the sites for this initiative, which is to explore and define best practices for a toolkit for treatment courts for impaired driving offenders. If Task Force members are interested in attending these quarterly meetings, please let Darla know and she will forward your contact information.

Brandon provided a summary of the AOD Symposium Planning Meeting held one hour prior to our regular meeting. The group decided not to bring Jermaine Galloway back for our 2027 event. We discussed different components that we've not had in previous years, including a panel of local and statewide experts to discuss "The State of the State" regarding impaired driving. Other suggestions included a Thursday evening After Hours Social program, with a suggestion to explore having Vinnie Montez (www.vinniemontez.com) as a presenter. Other names also suggested for the Symposium include Rocky Herron and Dominic Syracuse. Brandon is attending the North Dakota Symposium in a couple of weeks and will bring back ideas for presenters and/or topics.

With increasing fuel costs, Brandon asked the Board to consider removing the previously approved cap of \$200 to help support his travel costs to the North Dakota Symposium. Captain O'Donnell made a motion to remove the price caps and reimburse his produced receipts for travel. Karen seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Mike Yakawich presented information on the 27th March Against Drugs and Violence event scheduled for Saturday, July 11. The Task Force will be on the event's t-shirts. Monty motioned to approve the requested \$250 support. Bob seconded. Motion approved. Darla will check with County Finance to see if we can have this come from our Public Relations line. Darla will send Mike our updated logo.

Darla received information that this year's Ales for Trails event will take place one week earlier than its usual early September date, and this year's organizer inquired about the Task Force again having its presence. This year, it will take place at Zoo Montana on Friday, August 28. The Task Force agreed we will have presence. Volunteers include Kevin, Shaun, and Darla. Darla will check with Kacy regarding securing donated bottled water.

Brandon noted the current Sylvestri contract will expire at the end of July. Travis stated he would not seek a price increase. Monty made a motion to renew the Sylvestri Customization contract beginning August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027. Kevin seconded. Motion approved. It is noted that Karen Sylvester abstained from voting on this matter. Brandon will get the contract updated and submitted to the Commissioners for signature.

Andrew noted he will be out of the office with the upcoming birth of his child, and he will have Ryan, the new STEER Court coordinator, attend meetings in his absence.

In June, due to the RFP review and vote, the meetings will take place:

Thursday, June 18 11:00-11:30 AOD Symposium Planning

Thursday, June 18 11:30-1:00 Regular meeting

Lunch will be provided at the Regular Meeting

Sylvestri Customization offered participation incentives through their Facebook engagement. The DUI Task Force won a \$50 Papa John's gift card for our participation. Pizza choices at the June meeting will include Pepperoni, Hawaiian, Supreme, and more.

Brandon asked for a motion to adjourn. Andrew motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jenna seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM.
