



YELLOWSTONE COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE
PO BOX 20982
BILLINGS, MT 59104

Yellowstone County DUI Task Force Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

Present: Glenn Gunther, Monty Wallis, Haley Swan, Brandon Ihde, Andrew Loken, Ryan Carroll, Kent O'Donnell, Jenna Solomon, Brandon Gatlin, Andy Beach, Sam Morris, Travis Sylvester, Darla Tyler-McSherry. **Excused:** Kacy Keith, Kevin Holland, Brennen Plucker, Jeannie Martin, Micky Eckart, Bethany Honcoop, Karen Sylvester.

Meeting called to order at 12:06 PM. Members received the November 2023 meeting minutes via email. Monty made a motion to approve these minutes. Andy seconded. Motion approved.

There were no new conflicts of interest to disclose. To date, eighteen members have signed the annual Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest statement. Darla has sent out email reminders to those who need to complete it.

Members received the latest budget reports via email. No questions were brought forward at this time.

Travis provided the social media report. Throughout the holiday season, they ran ads with a strong focus on the holidays. These materials were both customized and from NHTSA. They are continuing with the message of impaired driving that includes alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs. Travs reported they are seeing elevated engagement that is organic that propels our message forward. They are working on a robust mini-series we should see next month that will focus on marijuana and youth. In addition, they will be working on 4/20 campaigns.

Travis inquired about photos for RAIDD coin promotion. Captain O'Donnell will check the Sheriff's Office supply. Coins are still being given out, but new photos are requested. This will be an agenda item for the February meeting.

The Angel Tree/Award of Merit ceremony was well attended. One TV station was there but no one indicated they saw a finished story published. Darla sent out the press release twice to the usual media outlets in the area, and Brandon and Sam were guests on the Breakfast Flakes and Aaron Flynt radio shows. Future plans will be to do Facebook posts of individual recipients. Thank you to Sam for the additional support provided to the recipients.

The Holiday Media campaign report is tabled until February, as Darla is still waiting for final invoices.

Haley reported a good response to the Holiday parade. It was noted the parade was longer in length than normal, and we were mentioned in the live broadcast on Community 7.

We are beginning to receive requests to support local high school graduation parties. Monty made a motion to support this initiative up to \$2,500 to be divided evenly among all schools that submit requests by April 1. Andy seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The discussion continued regarding the idea of providing PPE kits to officers—an idea that came from conversation with the Commissioners at the Symposium after they attended Keith Graves' presentation. Brandon read the list of suggested items and projected costs, compiled by Ryan Carroll on our Task Force and Dave Nordel, Symposium closer, that would be assembled. Andy made a motion to support this pilot project in the amount of \$500. Sam seconded. Motion carried. We will begin with fifty kits and monitor usage and seek input for improvements. It was noted if this is successful, local businesses would most likely be willing to help financially support this project.

The Symposium dates are reserved for April 30-Friday May 2, 2025, at the DoubleTree Hilton. The subcommittee will begin to meet in February one hour prior to the regular monthly meeting. The first meeting will be on Thursday, February 15 at 11:00 in the Commissioners Board Room. Bring ideas for content, speakers, sponsors.

We will have a presence in the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade. Sam made a motion to support this effort in the amount of up to \$300. Kent seconded. Motion approved.

Jenna provided hard copy handouts of alcohol and cannabis fact sheets she and her team are working on at RiverStone Health. Additionally, they are also working on a campaign promoting safe storage of cannabis as there are issues of children and pets being harmed by ingesting cannabis in the home. If you would like more hard copies, please contact Jenna.

Discussion on this topic noted it may be a good topic at the Symposium, as well as on kava and kratom, and general awareness of the drug culture. Bring ideas to the Planning meeting and/or send them to Brandon or Darla if you cannot attend.

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM.