

CHSP Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant Emphasis Area Meeting

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9-11 a.m.



Attendees:

Alyssa Johnson, Trauma Systems Manager, EMS & Trauma Systems Section, Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)
Dwight Nelson, Driver Education Director, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
Hannah Yang, Epidemiologist, DPHHS
Janet Kenny, Emphasis Area Chair & State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS) Supervisor, Planning Division, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
Jennifer Wilson, Occupant Protection Program, SHTSS, Planning Division, MDT
John Westerhold, Regional 10 Program Manager, NHTSA
Megan Brunelle, Cascade County Buckle Up MT Coordinator
Pam Langve-Davis, Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan Manager, MDT
Sheila Cozzie, Cultural Liaison/SOAR Program/Teen Program, SHTSS, Planning Division, MDT
Spencer Harris, LE Liaison & EMS Grants, SHTSS, Planning Division, MDT
Steve Schmidt, Drive Safe Missoula, Ci-Co Health Department
Terry Mullins, MES & Trauma Systems Section Supervisor, DPHHS
Tracie Kiesel, Tri-County Buckle Up (L&C, Broadwater & Jefferson) BUMT Coordinator, MT CPS Training Contact and Coordinator
Wendy Olson Hansen, Flathead County Buckle Up Coordinator, Ci-Co Health Department
David Schnittgen, Transportation Planner, MDT

Following welcome and introductions updates were provided and an overview presentation by Tracie Kiesel on the National Digital Car Seat Check Form which is included in Strategy 3.

Legislative Updates – safety partners report there are none to date regarding unrestrained vehicle occupants.

Janet Kenny reports that the Highway Safety Plan (HSP) FFY 2022 Annual Report has been posted.

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/brochures/safety/hsp-report.pdf>

Pam Langve- Davis reports that the CHSP Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant Emphasis Area Workplan for 2023 has been posted <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/plans/docs/chsp/2023/2023-UVO-EA-Workplan.pdf>

Strategy 3: Improve Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant Data

Overview: National Digital Car Seat Check Form (NDCSCF) (S3) - Tracie Kiesel

The National Digital Car Seat Check Form is a free resource available to all certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. Available on paper or an electronic platform, this program walks a technician through a structured car seat check, streamlining data collection so that important information is captured along the way. CPSTs and program managers can easily download their seat check data in a format that reduces reporting burdens, allows for monitoring trends, and tracking car seat distributions. Program partners include National Safety Council, NHTSA, AAA, Tennessee Tech iCube, and Westat

Benefits include-

- Streamlines seat check data collection.
- Eliminated missing data fields.
- Reduces effort to store, manage, clean up records.
- Eliminated need for paper form.
- Check form data immediately.
- Agencies have access to data.
- Targets outreach strategies
- Use data to apply for grants & fulfills reporting requirements.
- Tracks trends and pattern

It will take time for techs to become familiar and comfortable and learn the tips with this platform. Some may only use the digital version at certain times. Some might only be able to use the paper. Some may be

able to do both. Information can be input from paper to digital version. There is less time spent trying to get reports from others when working on funding requests.

Many states require use of NDCSCF for those receiving grants, funding, or car seats.

In other strategy updates, Mark Keeffe is working on updating the NHTSA seat belt observational survey sites. Site updates are required every 5 years and due to NHTSA March 1, 2023.

Progress Updates

Strategy 1: Laws & Enforcement

No impacts to GDL requirements. Driver education numbers for 2022-2023 school year will not be available until after the end of the school year (S1.1).

FFY 2023 1st quarter STEP seat belt citations are not yet available from law enforcement. Anticipated to be reported at April meeting (S1.2).

Strategy 2: Communication, Education & Injury Prevention.

Buckle Up MT and Safe Kids Worldwide coalitions continue to promote the proper use of seat belts and proper installation of child passenger seats.

Flathead County and Tri-County BU MT Coordinators, Wendy Olson Hansen and Tracie Kiesel are surveying CPS techs to help guide and keep CPS techs certified, engaged, and valued. Incentive/ acknowledgement is being considered but will need to identify external safety partners that can provide resource funding for incentive and acknowledgement.

Alive at 25 classes are ongoing. Wendy shared that Flathead County has a class of 25 scheduled in March. Tracie Kiesel reported that two new Alive at 25 trainers have been assigned the Tri-Counties.

Missoula County Senior Health Lead and BUMT coordinator, Steve Schmidt

Continues to work with International Rescue Committee (IRC) to provide foreign language safety resources for refugees settling in Missoula. Recent collaboration includes seat checks with Missoula Co Rural Fire Department. NCSCF was used during this event.

Cascade County Buckle Up NT Coordinator Megan Brunelle reported that car seat checks have increased resulting in dwindling car seats numbers. Any leads on any business or agency partners to help with purchase of seats is appreciated.

Tri-County BU MT coordinator Tracie Kiesel is working on the annual CPS Tech training agenda scheduled in May. Tracie is waiting until April to distribute the CPS Tech newsletter. A survey was distributed to all techs requesting their input on CTE topics, and other needs to be identified that the training team can provide.

Safe On All Roads (SOAR) Native American traffic safety program has been working on and is getting ready to launch sports campaign. The SOAR program was awarded the GHSA-Ford Driving Skills for Life grant for working with teens in the tribal communities on traffic safety issues. The SOAR coordinators will develop the effort in their communities.

The Teen Traffic Safety program continues to work with the FCCLA charters to develop traffic safety messaging. GHSA -GM grant provided FCCLA funding for projects focused on distracted driving. FCCLA reports are due by March 1.

Of the seats currently in this Database, the Misuse rate in Montana is 70.9%

Highest age group with Misuse is 2-3 year olds

Child Passenger Safety Certification Training is scheduled in Great Falls for April 18-21 and in Billings on June 7-10. There are discussions about a hybrid course with details to be worked through including time commitment and the value in comparison of in-person training.

Discussion to increase order of child car safety seats will need to be had to confirm numbers and types before order submittal.

At this time there is not a need to look at developing updated child passenger safety educational materials.

Occupant Protection Mini-Grant Program criteria and information is online
<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/planning/OP-MINI-GRANT-Q-A.pdf>

Saved by the Belt Initiative. This award program needs more visibility. Top level discussions are needed to promote awareness and importance of the program.

Announcements & Trainings

FFY2024 NHTSA Grant opportunity is open for applications January 1- March 1, 2023. Contact SHTSS staff for information. Link information <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/grants/>

Lifesavers: April 1-6, Seattle WA

Annual Transportation Safety Meeting: October 4 &5, Helena MT

Next Meeting - second Tuesday of month @ 9 a.m., March 14

CHSP manager asked for volunteers to provide an overview of their safety program as it related to UVO and agenda topics a week in advance of next meeting.

Adjournment