

## Impaired Driving Emphasis Area- Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan



Date: November 1, 2023

### Attendees:

Alex Schoening, Region 10 Program Manager, NHTSA  
Barb Reiter, Jefferson County DUI Task Force Coordinator  
Beth Morrison, Prevention Program, Cascade Co-Alliance for Youth  
Brooklyn Johns-Blassic, FARS Data Analyst, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)  
Captain Doug Samuelson, DRE, MHP  
Janet Kenny, Supervisor, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), MDT  
John Westerhold, Deputy Director- Region 10, NHTSA  
Kent Haab, Alcohol Beverage Control Division (ABCD) Education, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
Kevin Dusko, Impaired Driving Program Coordinator, SHTSS, MDT  
Pam Langve-Davis, Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) Manager, MDT  
Natalia Bowser, Crime Control Director, Board of Crime Control  
Lt Patrick Erbacher, Traffic Division, Missoula Police Department  
Sgt. Benjamin Panas, SETT, Montana Highway Patrol (MDT)  
Sgt. Ryan Janes, Traffic Safety Resource Officer (TSRO), MHP  
Spencer Harris, Law Enforcement Liaison, SHTSS, MDT  
Steve Schmidt, Senior Health Lead, Drive Safe Missoula/ DUI Task Force  
Trooper Lucas Herl, Traffic Safety Resource Officer (TRSO), MHP

### Attended:

Patric Burke, Safety Engineer, Traffic & Safety Bureau, MDT  
Scott Gulliford, Traffic & Safety Bureau, MDT  
Courtney Wilson, Safety Data Analyst, Traffic & Safety Engineering Bureau, MDT  
Page Kelly, Business Analyst, ISD, MDT  
David Schnittgen, Urban & Statewide & Urban, MDT

### MEETING PURPOSE

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The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of programs related to the Impaired Driving Emphasis Area strategies and report implementation efforts in reducing impaired driving related fatalities and serious injuries.

### Annual Comprehensive Highway Safety Annual Meeting Recap

Overwhelming response was that Ed Hirsch provided an engaging, educational, and informative review of DUI laws. "More Ed" was the response and will be included for consideration for next year's annual planning. The 2023 Annual Transportation Safety Meetings are posted at [Annual Transportation Safety Planning Meetings | Montana Department of Transportation \(MDT\) \(mt.gov\)](#)

### FARS presentation

Brooklyn Johns-Blassic provided attendees an overview of the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). FARS was developed in 1975 to provide an overall measure of highway safety, to help identify traffic safety problems, recommend countermeasures, and to provide an objective basis to evaluate the effectiveness of motor vehicle standards and highway safety programs. Criteria of a fatal crash is that the crash must involve a motor vehicle travelling on a traffic way open to the public and resulting in the death of at least one person (occupant or non-motorist) within 30 days of the crash. Sources for FARS documentation includes MHP crash report, County Sheriff Departments and City police departments reports, MT Crime Lab Toxicology

results, MT MVD vehicle records, driver licensing records, and driver history; DPHHS death certificates, and out-of-state data provided by other states FARS counterpart.

FARS also collects crash event data commonly found on law enforcement crash reports; trafficway data commonly found on law enforcement reports and MDT roadway inventories; vehicle data commonly found on law enforcement crash reports and in- & out- of state vehicle records and data records; pre-crash environment and road conditions; as well as nonmotorized fatality data.

### **ID EA Work Strategy Updates**

Kevin Dusko, Impaired Driving Program coordinator of the NHTSA funded program provided an overview and correlation between the CHSP emphasis area and the NHTSA funded Impaired Driving workplan. Montana is classified as a high range state for alcohol-impaired driving fatalities. States with a .60 or higher for the average impaired driving fatality rate. Montana is at a .64 as reflected in the 2018-2020 FARS Data.

As a high range state, Montana is required to conduct an Impaired Driving Assessment in 2022, provide the State's response on recommendations, and submit an approved annual Executive Leadership Team Impaired Driving workplan to NHTSA. The Impaired Driving Work Plan aligns with the strategies of the CHSP Emphasis Area and includes NHTSA's Highway Safety Plan Guideline #8: Impaired Driving [Uniform Guidelines for State Highway Safety Programs \(nhtsa.gov\)](https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/2018/08/2018-08-20-nhtsa-releases-highway-safety-plan-guidelines) and the NHTSA's *Countermeasures That Work*, which are the basis of the emphasis area strategies.

### **Strategy 1: Deterrence & Enforcement**

#### **S1.1 Continue to support Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) efforts**

- 22 STEP participants/ 4 DUI & Drug

#### **S1.2 Continue to support Strategic Enforcement Traffic Team (SETT) High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) efforts.**

- Focus on Bozeman area w/ school starting, FB games, and manpower shortage.
- Following meeting Sgt. Panas provided the FFY 2023, 3<sup>rd</sup> Period Recap. Shifts worked: 66, Hours worked: 668, Total Stops: 515.
- FFY 2023, 3<sup>rd</sup> Period Citation/Warnings: DUI &/ or Drug Citations: 15; Safety Belt citations/ warnings:112/8; Speed Citations/Warnings: 108/148; Reckless Driving citations: 3; Suspended license citation: 17; Uninsured driver citation: 52.

#### **S1.4 Continue to support the Law Enforcement Liaison program**

- Continued education: LEL Spencer Harris & EJ Clark plan to attend MADD Conference in Boise on Dec. 13, 2023.

#### **S1.5 Continue to support and promote Law Enforcement Mini-Grant Program**

- 15 mini-grants in FFY 2023. Able to focus on eastern MT, examples: county fairs & other local events

#### **S1.6 Continue to support and maintain the Traffic Safety Resource Officer (TSRO)**

- 2 dedicated MHP/TSRO officers.

#### **S1.7 Sustain and support DUI Police Traffic Safety Pilot Program**

- Pilot projects Helena/Kalispell/ Flathead Co/ Missoula City. Continued to conduct outreach to promote program.

### **Strategy 2: Prevention & Education**

#### **S2.3 Sustain and expand local DUI Task Forces**

- FFY 2024: 36 DUI TF representing 39 counties.
  - Missoula DUI TF: Working on holiday campaign. Any effort to include "Tipsy Tow" or ride share?

- Jefferson County Fair in July, the Traffic Safety event w/ DPHHS grant. Consider future activities be conducted around school and not during July.

After the meeting Sheila Cozzie, Cultural Liaison and program manager of the Safe On All Roads(SOAR) Native American program and Teen traffic Safety reported on strategies 2.5-2.7.

**S2.5 Sustain and grow the Teen Traffic Safety Program focusing on impaired driving (HSP 12.6.1)**

Ended the GHSA grant in April. Applications are currently being accepted for funding for the FFY23/24 school year. Activities will resume throughout the school year and an update is anticipated in March 2024.

**S2.6 Sustain and grow the Safe On All Roads - SOAR - Tribal community traffic safety program (HSP 12.6.1)**

SOAR coordinators are implementing a GHSA/Ford Driving Skills for Life Grant that SHTSS received. The grants specifically focuses on teens. It has been difficult to implement because it was awarded during the summer months and getting teen groups together during those months has been challenging. However, some of the material we did get was” Buckle Up. LIVE to RIDE Again.” created by Northern Cheyenne



**S3.6 Continue to support and expand Tribal DUI Courts (HSP 7.7.1)**

Future efforts include looking to partner with Fort Peck to help fund their DUI Court.

**S2.7 Sustain and support efforts to reduce the over-service of alcohol and prevent underage drinking and driving by supporting mandatory alcohol sales and service training.**

- Kent Haab reported that the Montana Department of Revenue’s **Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (ABCD)** as a member of the **National Alcoholic Beverage Control Association (NABCA)** has received an alcohol education grant from this organization. NABCA’s mission is to support member jurisdictions in their efforts to protect public health and safety and ensure responsible and efficient systems for beverage alcohol distribution and sales. Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (ABCD) is pleased to offer five, one-time, \$2,000 scholarships for seniors graduating from Montana schools in 2024. For more detailed information and the scholarship form please go to the ABCD’s webpage <https://mtrevenue.gov/alcoholic-beverages-control/> and click Learn More About Requirements and FAQs or contact the ABCD Outreach and Education Unit at [dorabcd-o&e@mt.gov](mailto:dorabcd-o&e@mt.gov)

### **Strategy 3- Criminal Justice System**

#### **S3.1 Continue to support implementation and expansion of the Statewide 24/7 Sobriety and Drug Monitoring Program and other DUI Offender monitoring programs.**

- Sgt Lacie Wickam is currently working w/tribal reservations on tribal 24/7 reporting. Currently there are ~27 counties that have twice a day testing. Sites were shut down during COVID and still working to get sites back up. Request everyone to encourage County Sheriffs to promote the 24/7 program. On AG website there is a state map of 24/7 sites and coordinator test sites. [24/7 Sobriety Program - Montana Department of Justice \(dojmt.gov\)](https://dojmt.gov)

#### **S3.3 Sustain and support the Judicial Outreach Liaison (JOL) and continue to sustain and expand DUI Courts and Treatment Court Training for DUI Offenders**

- Total Treatment Courts = 48 (Adult=16/Family=6/Veteran=5/Co-Occurring=2/DUI=7/Juvenile=2/Tribal=10)

#### **S3.4 Support increase of crime lab resources to improve process of DUI test samples.**

- DOJ-Admin is addressing emerging issues. 3 different pieces of testing equipment have been ordered. 2 which will may be added in the next year.

### **Strategy 4 - Communication Program**

#### **S4.1 Participate, and support of National Mobilization Media Campaigns aimed at preventing impaired driving.**

- FFY2024 has begun and holiday media campaign will be rolling out.

#### **2024 Team Update**

Pam will be sending out a notice to those currently listed on 2023 Emphasis Area Team to confirm their continued participation in the coming year. Once confirmed a meeting schedule and calendar notices will be sent out.

**2024 Tentative Meeting Schedule** – to be confirmed, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 9-11 a.m.

If anyone has any concerns about this time frame, please let Pam know.

Feb 8- would include 1<sup>st</sup> quarter FFY 2024 (Oct-Dec)

Apr 4 - (prep for annual work plan)- would cover 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter FFY 2023 (Jan-Mar)

May 2 - (before AC & ELT)

Jun 11 - Team training/ webinar/ TBD (looking for suggestions)

Aug 1- would include 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter FFY 2024 (Apr-Jun)

Sep 5- (annual meeting prep)

Nov 7- would include 4th quarter FFY 2024 (Jul-Sep)