

Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant CHSP Emphasis Area Virtual Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 9-11 a.m.



VISION ZERO
zero deaths · zero serious injuries
MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

Attendees:

Alyssa Johnson, EMS Trauma Systems Manager, Dept. of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)

Chad Newman, Law Enforcement Liaison, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), Planning Division- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

David Jacobs, Grants Bureau Chief, Planning Division, MDT

Mary Kay Burns, Cascade County Buckle Up Coordinator

Emily Healy, Occupational Health & Safety Epidemiologist, Department of Labor & Industry (DLI)

Erin Root, Occupation Protection Planner, MDT

Janet Kenny, Emphasis Area Chair & State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS) Supervisor, Planning Division, MDT

Pam Langve-Davis, Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) Coordinator, Planning Division, MDT

Robin Suzor, Emergency Medical Services for Children, EMS & TS, DPHHS

Steve Schmidt, Drive Safe Missoula, Ci-Co Health Department

Tracie Kiesel, Tri-County Buckle Up MT Coordinator & CPS Instructor

Wendy Olson Hansen, Flathead County Buckle Up MT & CPS Instructor

Maureen Ward, Injury Prevention Coordinator, State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) DPHHS

Meeting Purpose – Status Updates on Activities

Tracking of Current Legislative- Janey Kenny

HB 109: Tabled. Provide for a primary enforcement of seatbelt laws, sponsored by Frank Smith; tabled in Judiciary Committee.

SB 150: Tabled. Revise seatbelt regulations, sponsored by Diane Sands, align requirements with recommendations provided by NHTSA and the American Academy of Pediatrics; tabled in Highways & Transportation Committee.

HB 256: Revise child restraint laws, sponsored by Michel Binkley; moving forward, In second house- out of committee. It was noted that passage of bill would require updating educational materials (\$2.7).

Status Updates on Activities

Strategy 1: Laws & Enforcement

To date there have not been any successful Legislation during the 67th Session brought forth to implement a primary seat belt bill or increase the seat belt penalty.

S1.1: Support efforts from safety partners and stakeholders to implement a primary seatbelt law. Leads: Erin Root, Chad Newman

Status Update: Data Inquiries were directed to the MDT 2020 Fact book and the 2020 CHSP at the beginning of the session. Timeline added to Work Plan for next update and distribution is to complete a draft of 2021 fact sheet/speaking bullets in July of 2022, with final and approval to distribute by August 2022, prior to the 2023 Legislative session. Maureen offered to share approved current information from DPHHS with group now.

S1.2: Support increasing the current seat belt penalty of \$25 to be consistent with the \$100 penalty for the child passenger safety restraint law. (MCA 61-13-104)

Status update: If HB256 passes, will look at publications and materials for updates in any language from the bill.

S1.5: Continue to support Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) effort with a focus on ...unrestrained vehicle occupants.- Chad Newman

Annual HSP report has been completed and includes STEP HVE data.

Strategy 2: Communication, Education & Injury Prevention

S2.1: Sustain and grow the community-based Buckle Up Montana program. Lead: Erin Root/ Tracie Kiesel/ Steve Schmidt/ Mary Kay Burns

Tri-County BUMT- Tracie Kiesel is working on March CPS Newsletter and Save the Date for May CPS training and tech update scheduled for May 4-5. Tasks include coordination of two national speakers and certifications of 5 CEUs for CPS course participants. Other tasks include implementing the National Digital Car Seat Check Form (NDCF) in the Tri-County Area and provide Alive at 25 training, working on coordinating a training with Wendy and the Central Valley Fire Dept in the Flathead.

Flathead BUMT- Wendy Olson Hansen working with Tracie for Central Valley Training on May 17-20. Following OP Assessment will review and prepare to implement new training curriculum.

Drive Safe Missoula- Steve Schmidt continues to be available for car seat fittings. Upcoming activities will include looking into possible in-person training activities and checking with CPS techs to keep them certified, or to re-certify.

Cascade Co BUMT – Mary Kay Burns is currently reviewing and looking towards rejuvenating program. Mary Kay is the interim BUMT Coordinator while the new CCHD health nurse is onboarded and is ready to take over BUMT duties.

S2.2 Drive Safe Missoula. Lead: Steve Schmidt

Status update: Steve continues to develop the online course focusing on young drivers funded by State Farm grant. The first video, *Young Drivers in Control*, has been completed. The course was planned to be included in health enhancement courses but has evolved into a video course. Once completed it will be available to teachers, home schools, and courts. will feature videos Potential distribution plans include hard copies, web listing, and social media.

S2.3: Sustain and grow the Safe On All Roads (SOAR) Tribal community program focusing on seat belt and child passenger seat use. Lead: Sheila Cozzie (Janet Kenny for Sheila)

Status update: As reported by Sheila Cozzie in February, the new SOAR teen buckle up campaign rolled out on February 2 and will run through the first part of March. Native students from the communities are participating in poster, billboards, and radio campaigns.

S2.4: Sustain and grow the Teen Traffic Safety Program Lead: Sheila Cozzie

Status Update: Many programs impacted by COVID.

S2.5: Sustain and grow the Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program and inspection stations in Montana with increased focus on high-risk populations.

Erin Root provided a status update of CPS Techs in Montana. There are currently 265 CPS Techs and Instructors throughout the state. MT currently has a 100% recertification rate for calendar year 2021. Survey of current Techs to identify topics of interest and needs. Survey sent to Techs with certification that has expired in the last two years to gauge interest in becoming recertified and interest in a one-day course.

Other tasks to grow and sustain the CPS certification program include,

- Newsletter articles
- Developing a webinar series
- Assessing inspection stations
- Planning tech updates and certification courses throughout the state

S2.6: Continue to support and sustain purchase and distribution of child passenger safety seats.

Status Update: Discussed other efforts from partners to distribute car seats. The new edition of LATCH Manuals has been purchased and are being sent to CPS Techs and will be available for training.

S2.12: Continue to support occupant protection mini-grant funding of community education and outreach. Lead: Erin Root.

Status Update: Will highlight this program in next CPS newsletter and to the Tech Update group. Will compile number that have been distributed in 2019, 2020 and 2021 for work plan. Information on occupant program mini grants can be found at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/planning/OP-MINI-GRANT-Q-A.pdf> Occupant Protection Mini Grants are being accepted through MDT's Webgrant system <https://fundingmt.org/index.do> Registration is required, and the funding opportunity number is: #108078- MDT Occupant Protection Mini-Grant Program.

Strategy 3: Improve Unrestrained Vehicle Occupant Data.

S3.1: Research underlying beliefs and behaviors of high-risk groups to better understand their traffic safety behaviors. Lead(s): Janet Kenny

Status Update: Will consider how the best practices from the research project Traffic Safety Primer can be disseminated.

S3.2: Continue to conduct observational seat belt surveys, local and statewide. Lead(s): Erin Root & Mark Keeffe

Status Update: Local seatbelt observation surveys have been impacted by COVID. Observation sites for the annual statewide observational surveys are required to be reviewed every 5 years. Current sites are under review for 2023.

S3.3: Child Passenger Safety Seat data collection on use and misuse of child safety restraints. Lead(s): Erin Root/Buckle Up MT Coordinators.

Status Update: Tracie secured a AAA grant, part of which she is going to use to assist statewide with updating Techs to the new National Digital Car Seat Check Form (NDCF). Information and the form, in paper format, will be discussed in the April Child Passenger Safety Technician newsletter.

S3.5: Continuing to evaluate existing crash data to determine occupant restraint use, injury, and fatality rate to measure progress. Lead(s): Mark Keeffe & Pam Langve-Davis

Status Update: The 2019 data that includes FARS & Safety Information Management's data has been approved as final. Data analyst Mark Keeffe has updated the 2019 data workbook to the MDT website. https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/docs/chsp/2020/2019_Crash_Data.pdf

S3.7: Continue to evaluate contacts made by law enforcement, including warnings and citations for non-seat belt use, including high visibility enforcement (HVE) conducted through STEP campaigns.

Status Update: Discussed the purpose of this strategy as there does not seem to be a champion for it. Will put on hold, recommend removing from work plan in October.

Announcements

May 10-14, 2021 NHTSA Occupant Protection Assessment. This is a requirement for "low" seat belt use states to qualify for Occupant Protection funding (405b). Erin will be contacting potential panel members for the assessment team to interview. The recommendations of the assessment will be discussed with the group at a future meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 10, at 9-11 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned: Pam Langve-Davis made a motion to adjourn meeting: Tracie Kiesel second the motion.