

Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board

Revised November 12, 2003

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending:

Donald Barrett
Frank DeGennaro
Debbie Kogut
John Leo
Monica McCullough*
Glenn Murdock
Phil Politano
Kay Staley-Smith
Shannon Trice
Patricia Wortley*

Organization:

Justice Services InfoNet, Ltd.
NYS Police
Onondaga County Health Department
Onondaga County Dept. of Transportation
Syracuse University
Syracuse Utilities Inc.
Rural Metro
NYS DMV
Syracuse Police
SMTC

**Designee*

Stakeholders Attending:

Kevin Bamerick
Ann Barnett
Joe Benedict
Michael Cronin
Jerry Deitz, Sr.
George Doucette
Jim French
Paul Gottfried
Michael Lefancheck
Irene Scruton
Leo Williams

Organization

Onondaga County Snowmobile Association
Onondaga County Health Department
NYS Thruway Authority – Traffic Safety
NYS Thruway Authority - ATS
Centro
New York State Dept. of Transportation
City of Syracuse DPW
North Syracuse Police
Baldwinsville Police
Safety Council of Upstate NY
Centro

Guests: Alex Taussig, Manlius Pebble Hill School.

Excused: Diana Dibble, AAA; Laura Madelone, Syracuse University; William McAnelly, Syracuse Supply; Linda McKinnon, Ross Limousine; and Mary Rowlands, SMTC.

1. Welcome

Kay Staley-Smith, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. She thanked Sgt. Gottfried for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

2. Acceptance of Minutes

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that since there was not a quorum present action could not be taken on the minutes from the September 9, 2003 meeting.

3. Communications and Reports

Youth: Lt. Trice stated the he recently made a presentation on Operation Prevent at the Safety Conference. The program was very well received. Lt. Trice thanked all those that helped out.

Lights On: Mr. Barrett introduced Manlius Pebble Hill student Alex Taussig. Mr. Taussig will be videotaping the 20th Annual Lights On event on December 6th. The video will be shown at a future OCTSAB meeting. Mr. Politano would also like to use the video at the State Fair next year. Mr. Barrett also shared all the information he has on the event to date.

Nominating: Mr. Deitz stated that a meeting has been set for November 25th at 1:00 p.m. at the DMV. Further discussion will be had under New Business.

Seat Belt Tracking: Mr. Murdock stated that the committee is almost done with their work and that they will need one more meeting. The committee plans to be finished by the end of the year.

Awards: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that they have met to pick the awards. The breakfast will be held on January 6, 2004 at the Genesee Inn. Ms. Staley-Smith is still awaiting information on the top ticket-writing officers for DWI, speeding and seat belt violations from the local police departments. Next year Ms. Staley-Smith would like to solicit more information from OCTSAB members suggesting possible award recipients.

A discussion was held relative to the cost of the breakfast and the funding.

Onondaga County Heath Department Update: Ms. Kogut stated that in the past two months there were eight car seat check events. They received the grant for the car seat program. The Walk Your Child to School event was held at Ed Smith Elementary School in October. They are working on Operation Safe Stop. Ms. Kogut attended the State Highway Safety Conference.

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that people are looking for an upcoming events calendar. Ms. Wortley stated that the website will have an upcoming events section.

4. Old Business

A. Website Follow-Up: Ms. Wortley provided a handout of the draft website to those present. She also noted that she had e-mailed a link to the members and stakeholders for their review. Ms. Wortley stated that comments are due to her by November 19th. Inquiry was made as to whether or not the entire page would be printable as currently the right side text was cut off. Ms. Wortley will check with the Webmaster as that may be a County website problem.

5. New Business

- A. Officers for Next Year: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that it will not be possible to do the normal succession of officers as described in the By-Laws. It has been suggested that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC), act as permanent secretary to the Board. In order to do this the By-Laws would need to be changed. Discussion was had relative to the Board secretary position. Three suggestions came from the discussion: Leave the By-Laws as they are and have Ms. Wortley continue as the recording secretary; or annually, have the Chairperson appoint a secretary after amending the By-Laws; or Amend the By-Laws to permanently appoint the MPO as the secretary to the Board.

At this time, Ms. Staley-Smith will call a meeting of the By-Laws committee prior to the January 13, 2004 regular meeting to discuss the officer options.

- B. Grant Problems: Ms. Staley-Smith that not everyone has received approval for their grants yet. Some of the money for DWI and STEP has not been dispersed yet. Ms. Staley-Smith stated the some funding had been cut without consulting with the Board as to where the cuts would be. Ms. Kogut noted that Congress has not voted yet to give the funding to NHTSA and they will not be voting on that until March. At this time, the State is using reserve funds to pay for this year. Following discussion it was suggested that the Board send a letter to our federal representatives relative to the hold up of the funding. It was suggested that a listing of the projects and programs that are in jeopardy as a result of the delay in funding be included with the letter. A listing of member agencies will be included as well. Additionally, copies of the letter will be sent to our local State representatives.

Ms. Staley-Smith provided copies of a letter from the Onondaga County Health Department relative to budget revision concerns within the Department.

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the Board is looking into becoming it's own charity in order to be able to receive funding for programs. This would allow the Board to receive a grant to the cover some programs as decided by the Grants Committee. Currently, in Onondaga County, the funding was processed through the Health Department. Inquiry was made as to how other counties handle the funding. It was suggested that the County Executive be invited to a future OCTSAB meeting to discuss issues with the grants.

It was further suggested that a letter be sent to the GTSC relative to the changing of the grant without notification to the OCTSAB. It was suggested that the procedure needed to be looked at to ensure the needs of the community are met.

- C. Committee Changes: Ms. Staley-Smith noted that Ms. Dibble would no longer be able to serve as Legislative Committee Chair due to a change in her duties with AAA. Mr. Bamerick volunteered to serve as the new chairperson. Additionally,

Mr. Leo will serve as chairperson of the By-Laws Committee. Further Mr. Barrett will continue as chairperson of Lights On; Mr. Deitz will continue as chair of the Nominating Committee; Lt. Trice will continue as chair of the Youth Committee; Ms. Staley-Smith will continue to chair the Grant Committee; Mr. Murdock will continue as chairperson of the Business and Industry Committee and Ms. McKinnon will continue to chair the Awards Committee. An updated committee listing will be provided.

- D. Donation in Memory of John Harvey: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that Mr. Harvey passed away in July and he had been an active member of the OCTSAB. It was decided that a collection would be taken at the January meeting to be given to his family.

Round Table Discussions:

Ms. Scruton volunteered to host the January 13, 2004 OCTSAB meeting at the Safety Council of Upstate NY offices.

Mr. Politano suggested contacting the new Channel 10 news relative to OCTSAB matters. Mr. Murdock stated that he had been in contact with station representatives.

Mr. Barrett stated that COMNET program would be presented on the last night of the Manlius Pebble Hill driver education program would be on December 11th.

Mr. Murdock shared a driver training presentation that he obtained from the United States Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration. The information presented was a training program that can be used in training sessions as needed. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the CD, "THE INTERACTIVE HIGHWAY SAFETY EXPERIENCE", presentation can visit <http://www.dot.gov/>.

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that Syracuse University recently held pedestrian safety events at the university.

Sgt. Gottfried shared that the NYS Department of Transportation will be putting up "Do Not Drive on Shoulder" on Route 11 between Taft Road and Bear Road.

Mr. Politano complimented the law enforcement agencies on the fact that recent media coverage of accidents has included whether or not the victims were wearing seat belts. Mr. Politano also noted that Rural Metro would be retraining all of their drivers with a 12-hour course.

Reference was made to the Preemptive Devices recently available on the Internet. The device allows a driver to change traffic lights from red to green. Mr. Doucette noted that at this time it is not known for certain whether these devices will work on the OptiCon system used locally.

Mr. Bamerick noted that the snowmobile trails open on December 16th. Additionally, he provided handouts relative to snowmobile operation regulations relative to NYS's .08% BAC.

Capt. DeGennaro stated that Buckle Up New York (BUNY) runs November 17-30, 2003. He welcomed the local police departments to join in the effort. Lt. Trice stated he would notify the Syracuse City Court that the BUNY campaign would be occurring. It was decided that the Board should send a letter to the local magistrates, together with the District Attorney's office, informing them of the same.

Capt. DeGennaro also noted that the State Police are working on increasing the speed limit on State Fair Blvd. due to the number of complaints received after the speed limit was reduced.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, January 13, 2004 – 9:30 a.m.
at
Safety Council of Upstate NY
6315 Fly Road
East Syracuse
(Directions Included)