

Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board

March 9, 2004

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending:

Michael Cronin*
Frank DeGennaro
Michael Davison
M.P. Dickinson*
Paul Gottfried
Glenn Murdock
Phil Politano
Kay Staley-Smith
Shannon Trice
Leo Williams
Patricia Wortley

Organization:

NYS Thruway Authority
NYS Police
Think First
Onondaga County Sheriff's Dept.
North Syracuse Police Department
Syracuse Utilities
Public Safety Training Center/The Politano Group
NYS DMV
Syracuse Police Department
Centro
SMTC

**Designee*

Stakeholders Attending:

Richard DeMott
Mary Ann Field
Debbie Kogut
Michael Lefancheck
William Loucks
William Meyer
Doug Robertson
Mary Tone

Organization

NYS Thruway Authority
University Hospital
Onondaga County Health Department
Baldwinsville Police Department
Retired – West Genesee School District
Onondaga County Legislature
East Syracuse Police Department
DeWitt Police Department

Guests: Danielle Zebley, SMTC.

Excused: Donald Barrett, Justice Services InfoNet, Ltd., Ted Botsford, Onondaga County Sheriff's Department; Warren Darby, Onondaga County Sheriff's Department; Gerald Deitz, Centro; John Leo, Onondaga County Dept. of Transportation; Laura Madelone, Syracuse University; and Lloyd Perkins, Camillus Police Department.

1. Welcome

Lt. Shannon Trice, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. at the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council Lower Level Conference Room, 126 N. Salina St., Syracuse, NY. Lt. Trice stated that some additional items for consideration. Lt. Trice provided copies of a March 1, 2004 letter from GTSC relative to local police departments joining together to receive a block grant for Buckle Up New York (BUNY). Ms. Staley-Smith inquired as to who would administer the monies received. Primarily that duty would fall to the Traffic Safety Board Chair, if the Board was in agreement. Chief Robertson suggested bringing this up at the County Chief of Police meeting on March 18, 2004. Lt. Trice will attend to discuss the option.

Further, Lt. Trice stated that the Sheriff's Department and the Syracuse Police Traffic Division received computer grants for electronic ticketing. Another grant will provide funding for town and village departments.

Additionally, Operation Lifesaver has approached the Governor's Traffic Safety Council (GTSC). The GTSC is greatly in favor of the rehabilitated program. Discussion followed regarding the presentation Operation Lifesaver put on for the Board and how we were not won over by the presentation. Ms. Kogut offered to try a pilot Operation Lifesaver program with one of the nursery schools her department works closely with. She would obtain feedback from the nursery school relative to the program. Lt. Trice will get in touch with Mr. Swartz of GTSC.

2. Acceptance of Minutes

Lt. Trice inquired if there were any changes/corrections to the minutes of January 13, 2004. Mr. Politano moved and Sgt. Gottfried seconded approval of the January 13, 2004 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Communications and Reports

A. Committee Updates:

Business and Industry: Mr. Murdock stated that he and Ms. Staley-Smith are trying to develop some type of training programs. They are looking at ways to get money to support the effort. We will need to check with Onondaga County's legal department relative to the Traffic Safety Board having their own money. Ms. Staley-Smith will also check with the NYS DMV legal department since it falls under Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Legislative: Capt. DeGennaro just received this assignment and will report on new legislative efforts at the next meeting.

Grants: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the committee will meet immediately following this meeting to go over the local grants. Additionally, she has received most of the police departments' reports from last year. Some reports are vague. Ms. Staley-Smith noted that the Town of Clay has expressed an interest in participating in the grants program for the first time.

Finally, all grants are due by April 16, 2004. The committee will review them on April 19th.

Youth: Lt. Trice stated that the Syracuse Police conducted another Operation Prevent raid.

Lt. Trice inquired as to how other police departments are dealing with the alcohol grant. Chief Robertson stated that Mr. Weiss will be at the County Chief's meeting on March 18th. The general impression is that there is no money for equipment. Lt. Trice will need to check with Mr. Weiss.

By-Laws: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the committee needs to meet, as some items in the By-Laws may need to be revised.

Onondaga County Health Department Update: Ms. Kogut provided her report. Highlights include: participating in this year's Auto Show; the Sheriff's Department fitting station kicked off on February 12th; there are two upcoming Child Passenger Safety trainings coming up; the 2nd Annual Spring into Pedestrian Safety event is tentatively scheduled for April 2nd at Lyncourt Elementary School; planning an event for Parkway Sundays in May.

Ms. Kogut noted that she and Ms. Barnett now have new e-mail addresses.

4. Old Business

A. Website Follow-Up: Ms. Wortley stated that the SMTC Webmaster received notice on March 4, 2004 that the OCTSAB site was out there. The location is www.ongov.net/Traffic_Safety/. Ms. Staley-Smith inquired as to when Ms. Kogut and Ms. Barnett would be trained to make changes to the site. Ms. Wortley stated that she has spoken to the SMTC Webmaster and he is preparing instructions.

5. New Business

Round Table Discussions:

Phil Politano: He noted his involvement with the Public Safety Training Center at Onondaga Community College and their Emergency Management degree program. Classes begin August 23, 2004.

Danielle Zebley: Ms. Zebley spoke relative to the SMTC's efforts to promote May as National Bike Month. The SMTC will have a calendar posted on it's website highlighting May events. Anyone interested in adding events to the calendar should contact Ms. Zebley. Ms. Kogut stated that the Health Department could include their helmet sales on the calendar.

Debbie Kogut noted that the Traffic Safety Program will be moving back into the Civic Center. The Sheriff's Department has approached them about sharing space at their Community Relations office on School Road in Salina. Undersheriff Darby will be contacting the Health Department regarding the move. Mr. Davison stated that he believes that the activities of the Traffic Safety Program belong with law enforcement rather than with the Health Department. Discussion followed as to whether the Board supports the move to the Sheriff's Department. No change over could take place at this time as the funding for now is through the Health Department. The other police agencies in the room did not disagree with the move from the Health Department to the Sheriff's Department. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting.

Kay Staley-Smith: Stated that she is still looking into the OCTSAB's ability to apply for their own funding. In the mean time, the Syracuse Police Department has agreed to do another grant to fund the awards breakfast and conference attendance.

Debbie Kogut: A Catered Affair to benefit Think First will be held at the Audi residence on May 26th.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Staley-Smith moved and Mr. Davison moved that the meeting be adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, May 11, 2004 – 9:30 a.m.
at
Camillus Police Department
4600 West Genesee St.