

**Minutes from the
Governor's Task Force on Teen Safe Driving
Public Health/Multicultural Health Subcommittee
Minutes (FINAL)
Wednesday, February 27, 2008
3:00 PM
Hill Regional Career High School, New Haven, CT**

Task Force Members Present: Dianne Harnad (CT DMHAS), James Rio (Farmington Police Department), Gillian Mosier (Backus Hospital)

Others present: Lynn Townshend (CT DPH), Angie Byrne (NTHSA), Carol Meredith (CT DMHAS), Marian Storch (CT DPH)

Minutes from the subcommittee's meeting of February 13, 2008 were reviewed; James Rio requested that the following be added to the minutes to clarify his statement regarding the use of identifying stickers:

Chief Rio stated that stickers will assist PDs in identifying those holding graduated licenses.

With the modification, the minutes of the February 13, 2008 meeting were approved.

Chief Rio presented an overview of NTHSA report on teen unsafe driving behaviors from September 2006, which identified four U. S cities used focus groups to talk to teens to get their feedback and input on this issue. Basic screening information placed the teens into one of four classifications for focus group participation: risk taking males, general males, general females, groups of friends, safe driving males.

One conclusion that was drawn from this study is that teens want specific, factual message, as opposed to generic or general messaging, and want to hear in particular about risky behaviors.

Some discussion in this meeting focused on this generation of teens being unique, in they want parents to be around and involved, perhaps as a result of so-called "helicopter" parenting.

Discussion also revolved around the culture of rebuilding older vehicles for high performance, particularly among young (middle & high school) men. Doing focus groups locally was discussed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The subcommittee has drafted three (3) recommendations to bring to the full Governor's Teen Driving Task Force. They are currently worded as follows:

***Create an ongoing interagency state workgroup to examine the broad issues surrounding teen driving and for the purpose of providing ongoing monitoring of data with regard to teen driving injuries, deaths, attitudes and behaviors to have data driven processes to guide future policies and programs to address teen driving issues.

***Create a youth-informed social marketing campaign utilizing youth focus groups and appropriate state and national data.

***Integrate traffic safety messaging into greater wellness programs using a community-based model.

The committee will individually review each recommendation, and send suggested changes directly to Lynn Townshend prior to close of business on Monday, March 10, 2008.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 12, 2008 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at the CT Department of Motor Vehicles, 60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT.