Minutes from the
Governor's Task Force on Teen Safe Driving
Public Health/Multicultural Health Subcommittee
Minutes (DRAFT)
Wednesday, March 12, 2008
1:00 PM
CT Department of Motor Vehicles, Wethersfield, CT

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

Others present: Ernie Bertothy (CT DMV), Angie Byrne (NTHSA), Carol Meredith (CT DMHAS), Marian Storch (CT DPH)

Minutes from the subcommittee's meeting of February 27, 2008 were reviewed and approved.

Co-chairs from all the subcommittees will be meeting on March 19th. The Public Health Subcommittee has requested that the recommendations from all the subcommittees be circulated among all the co-chairs prior to the meeting on the 19th

The subcommittee discussed the recommendations drafted at the February 27th meeting and the suggested changes that have been submitted. The subcommittee reworded the following four (4) recommendations to bring to the March 19th co-chair meeting. The subcommittee also discussed the importance of embedding public health and multicultural health concepts throughout the Task Force's work and drafted the following overarching recommendation.

Overarching Recommendation all for Governor's Task Force on Teen Driving Subcommittee Recommendations:

All Governor's Task Force on Teen Driving recommendations shall exercise due diligence in addressing the effects of legislation, materials, and all other matters relating to teen driving. Considerations should include, ensuring that all materials are culturally appropriate, widely distributed, consumer informed, and that all approaches are evidence based. Culturally sensitivity to our diverse community and fairness to all are key components to effectively implementing societal changes

Public Health/Multicultural Health Subcommittee Recommendations

Recommendation # 1: Create an ongoing coalition of national, state and local organizations to continue the long term recommendations of the task force, collaborate on grassroots and statewide initiatives, as well as to examine the broader long term issues of teen driving, including, but not limited to, current research on social norms, awareness, attitudes and brain development.

Rational: The long term recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Teen Driving would be well served if they continue to be addressed by all concerned parties.

Recommendation #2: Create an ongoing interagency workgroup to monitor and evaluate teen driving data that includes injuries, deaths, medical outcomes, attitudes, and behaviors.

Rational: State and national data should guide future policies and evidence based programs addressing teen driving issues. Data driven process must be developed and maintained to track baseline and longitudinal data to guide future policies and programs addressing teen driving issues. The work group shall develop a plan to improve interagency data collection and sharing, identify missing relevant data, and provide an annual progress report to the coalition.

Recommendation #3: Create and implement a youth informed culturally appropriate social marketing campaign utilizing youth focus groups, appropriate state and national data and proven social marketing techniques.

Rational: To educate all youth about the risks and responsibilities inherent to operating a motor vehicle in order to make better and safer choices as licensed drivers with the long-term goal of reducing morbidity and mortality rates among teen drivers and passengers.

Monetary: Funding will need to be allocated to accomplish this recommendation.

Recommendation #4: Integrate teen driver safety messaging into existing wellness programs.

Rational: Teen driver safety messages can and should be developed to take full advantage of existing networks of peers and respected adults, including, but not limited to, community and school based health centers, physicians, teachers and youth groups.

NEXT MEETING: The subcommittee will wait until after the co-chair meeting to determine if another meeting of the Public Health/Multicultural Health Subcommittee is needed.