

# State Health Improvement Plan: Motor Vehicle Crashes

June 9, 2020 via GoToMeeting

## Purpose of Meeting:

Discuss several MDT programs related to the objectives of the workgroup. Update on status of Child Passenger Safety subgroup, and update on grant information for local and tribal health departments.

## Action Items:

1. Child Passenger Safety subgroup to continue working on map of critical car seat locations.
2. Review responses to grant survey sent to LLTPHO's about car crash funds.

## Workgroup Lead:

Maureen Ward

## Workgroup Facilitator:

Deb Halliday

## Workgroup Members Present:

- Dusko, Kevin
- Ferriter-Smith, Tara
- Hryszko, Davida
- Huck, Kira
- Johnson, Alyssa
- Morton, Stephanie
- Onwuchekwa, Kalu
- Root, Erin
- Vandjelovic, Jordan
- Ward, Maureen
- Wier, Lora

## Welcome & Introductions

The meeting with Deborah asking for introductions from the participants and for them to answer the question: As the state begins to reopen what is a practice or habit you hope to continue in your personal or work life?

Answers included:

- Take walks during the day
- Continuing to be appreciative of what I have
- Self-care
- Being appreciative of our health
- Continue to slow down and embed creative outlets
- Mindful of interjecting breaks into work

## Update: Kevin Dusko & Erin Root- Highway & Safety Section, Occupant Protection Program

Kevin shared some broad details about the Highway & Safety Section of MDT including contact information for most of the program directors. State Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan revolves around "Vision Zero". The vision is zero fatalities or serious injuries on any public roadway in the state. The overarching guiding document for the Highway Safety Plan lays out "five E's" to help get to Vision Zero:

1. Education
2. Enforcement
3. EMS
4. Engineering
5. Everyone

Fatalities on Montana roads are reported, updated every Monday. Tourism coming up in the summer will begin to increase fatalities. Data is closely monitored to spot trends. Over 50% of fatalities are impaired-driving related, however this number is trending in the right direction.

Occupant Protection Program (Erin Root) They work to educate the public about the importance of wearing a seatbelt and educate caregivers about how to make sure their children are safe in vehicles. Seat belts are the single most effective means of preventing car crash injury. Montana is a secondary enforcement state. There have been efforts for more than a decade to get a primary enforcement law passed, but to no avail. The program tries to educate the public about the importance of buckling up. They have local Buckle-Up Montana coalitions. They work with several programs, some examples:

- Saved by the Belt Award
  - Law enforcement, healthcare professionals and first responders can nominate a crash survivor for this award.
- Alive at 25 Program
  - Developed by the National Safety Council to encourage young drivers to take responsibility for their driving behavior. Issues like speeding, texting while driving, driving while impaired, or failing to buckle up.
  - 52 classes held in 2019
- Child Passenger Safety Program
  - Provides training and certifies technicians throughout the state. Educates the public about proper size, fit and installation of car seats. There are currently 19 certified instructors throughout Montana, 325 certified technicians, 40 permanent inspection station sites which serves roughly 96% of the state's population, and six technicians on the reservations currently. MDT purchases and gives away 500 car seats annually.

The SOAR (Safe On All Roads) program is aimed at Native Americans. There is also a Northern Tribes DUI Task Force. MDT has a wide variety of programs aimed at making the roads more safe across the state.

- Comment from Alyssa: New fourth emphasis area will be coming. "Post crash care" emphasis area. It is being developed with an advisory committee.

- Question from Stephanie: How much of this data is available publicly? Do you guys ever get requests from counties as part of CHIP's?
  - Crash data is owned by Montana Highway Patrol. The detailed data is restricted for privacy reasons, but more broad data could be available.

#### Update: Kira Huck, Stephanie Morton- Child Passenger Safety Subgroup

Various child passenger safety programs that exist across the state are now connected and are now communicating statewide. They are discussing gaps and opportunities to strengthen statewide network and exploring opportunities to work together.

One of the first steps was to identify gaps in relationships and communication.

- Communicate what everyone is currently doing
- Begin to identify gaps.
- What areas are missing across the state?
  - One area that HMHB was able to get seats out was with CFSD.
  - Getting car seats out to law enforcement for scenarios where they may have to transport a child in a patrol car.

At present the program requires that all car seats go directly to families, rather than entities. This is an area that the subgroup is looking to address. Focus on making sure that capacity is increasing, not duplicating. HMHB is working on a statewide map which will show a variety of locations important for car seats, such as:

- HMHB Crib & Car Seat Distribution Site
- CPS Tech Location
- Safe Kids Montana Sites
- Sites to which MDT is providing car seats and Buckle-Up sites

Also hoping to schedule more car seat events. Increased communication is critical. How do they get out the information not only about car seats but about car seat installation? The subgroup has developed a couple quick child passenger safety messages for the summer. Also developing messaging for National Child Passenger Safety Week.

#### Update: Grant for Engaging w/ County & Tribal Health Officials on Motor Vehicle Crashes: Maureen Ward

Got a grant to engage with county and tribal HD's on motor vehicle crash prevention. They put out a survey in March, which was right as everyone headed into lockdown. There were about eight or ten responses from folks who were interested in meeting. There will hopefully be a meeting sometime before Sept. 30 for the purpose of reviewing evidence-based strategies, sharing resources available statewide. In the survey respondents were given the opportunity to rank what they felt were the eight or ten most pressing issues in their areas. The money would need to be spent by the end of September per the grant specifications.

#### Wrapping up:

Deb reminded the group that communication is critical to the success of these SHIP workgroups and that it should continue between the workgroup meetings as well as in them.