



John Bel Edwards
Governor

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DRUG POLICY

Dr. Chaunda Mitchell
Director, Drug Policy &
Executive Director,
Diversity and Inclusion

Kristy Miller
Project Director

DWI TASK FORCE November 29, 2018; 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Lisa Freeman, Chair of the DWI Task Force and Executive Director of the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, called the meeting to order at 10:09 am. She announced that there were 17 members or proxies in attendance which was more than enough for a quorum.

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa asked all attendees to introduce themselves. She began with the members and proxies, and then asked guests to introduce themselves.

New Business

A. Discuss and Approve: Minutes from September meeting

Lisa asked everyone to refer to their packets to review the minutes. After a period of time, Lisa asked if there were any edits or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, she asked if a member would be willing to make a motion to approve them. Representative John Stefanski, LA House of Representatives appointee, moved to approve. Dr. Beau Clark, At-Large member and Coroner for East Baton Rouge Parish seconded the motion. The affirmative vote was unanimous and the minutes were approved.

B. Discuss and Approve: End-of-Year Status Report

Lisa asked Kristy Miller, Project Director for the Office of Drug Policy, to lead the members through a review of the report. Kristy reminded everyone that the Executive Order that created the DWI Task Force requires an annual year-end report detailing the Task Force's major actions and decisions during the year. As this is the first year for the DWI Task Force and only two meetings were held, the report's length is short.

The *Overview* and *Duties* sections serve to outline the purpose and responsibilities of the Task Force as the members have come to understand them. The *Membership* section contains a list of members who have been appointed or designated to date. At the time of the publication of the report, eighteen of the twenty required members have been seated. The *Meetings* section provides a succinct, yet informative description of the Task Force's two meetings.

The *History of Collaboration* section provides some crucial details about the long history of partnership among the state's leading public safety and transportation agencies to address impaired driving such as the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC), and Louisiana State Police (LSP). The *Summary of Resources* section contains a list of reports and guiding documents that have been and will

continue to be used to shape the work of the DWI Task Force. Adriane McRae, Highway Safety Administrator for DOTD, pointed out that the *Louisiana Statewide Impaired Driving Plan* developed and executed by LHSC should be included in this section as a separate and distinct resource. This suggestion led to a brief description by Dortha Cummins, Deputy Director of the LHSC, about how LHSC and DOTD have separate federal requirements to have state-level impaired driving plans so the two agencies collaborate closely to coordinate, and in some respects to replicate, priority strategies across plans. Betsey Tramonte, Safety Transportation Specialist for Federal Highway Administration, and Dan Magri, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Planning for DOTD, echoed Dortha's comments about how innovative and beneficial it is that the LHSC and DOTD/SHSP impaired driving plans are so closely aligned. Betsey shared that she is writing up the experience to be classified and shared as a "best practice" by FHWA. Based on the best practice being led by DOTD and LSHC, it was agreed that a lengthier and more detailed presentation about the partnership between these agencies and their respective federal plan requirements should occur at the next meeting. Many members suggested that, given the close partnership between these agencies and the comprehensive coverage of strategies across their respective plans, they likely can provide a blueprint of strategies for the DWI Task Force to endorse and assist with implementing. A decision was made to have a presentation and vote for the DWI Task Force to endorse the Louisiana Statewide Impaired Driving Plan at the next meeting.

The *Prioritization Process* section described a process by which members of the DWI Task Force identified and presented six priority areas to explore further. The final section of the report labeled *Next Steps* contained a list of four short-term actions for the Task Force to achieve.

Though not specifically about the report, Representative Stefanski asked to make a comment because we were talking about possible legislation. In referencing one of the articles provided in the packet for discussion, Rep. Stefanski challenged the group to support rideshare in Louisiana. He referred to two bills that were presented and killed in the legislature last year to streamline ride share; these bills would have made it easier for ride share to flourish in rural areas, such as Crowley which is the heart of Stefanski's district. He thinks this is a unique way in which highway safety advocates can get involved in supporting legislation. He then referred everyone to the second article provided which focused on ignition interlock devices. He cautioned everyone that the most punitive thing about a DWI is not being able to drive and they are also very expensive which could be cost prohibitive for some members of the public.

At the conclusion of the report review, Lisa asked members for any additional edits or additions to the report. Hearing none, she suggested that the Task Force should vote to approve the report to be submitted to the Governor. Representative Stefanski made a motion to approve. Norma DuBois, LA District Attorneys Association appointee, seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Discuss and Approve: 2019 meeting schedule

Lisa reminded everyone that the Executive Order requires the Task Force to meet a least twice a year. She suggested that the Task Force should be quarterly to maintain momentum. Based on the November date of the final meeting of 2018, Lisa referred everyone to a list of meeting dates following a quarterly schedule for 2019. Sheriff K.P. Gibson, LA Sheriffs Association appointee, motioned to approve the meeting dates. Major Jim McGuane seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Other Business

A. Office of Drug Policy update

Chaunda stated that the HOPE Council, another board under the Drug Policy Board, is working on an end-of-year report which will be presented at its December meeting. Chaunda expressed that we will ensure it is disseminated to DWI Task Force members when finalized and approved.

Secondly, Chaunda announced that Kristy will be attending a meeting of Drug Policy Directors/Advisors from other states which is being hosted by the National Alliance of Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) in Salt Lake City, UT later this month.

B. Member agency updates

Louisiana Highway Safety Commission: Dortha explained that Lyft and the Governors Highway Safety Association have awarded a grant to LHSC to provide ride share services for impaired drivers during the holiday season. The campaign will run from December 31 – January 1, from 6pm-6am each day. The grant funds will pay for credits for Lyft rides. It will be available in all areas where Lyft operates, which are the major cities in the state with the exception of Alexandria. LHSC will be launching a social media campaign as the primary way to promote the services. This will allow the message to reach those who use ride share the most. For example, they are trying to partner with college communities particularly.

Commissioner Juana Lombard, Commissioner for Alcohol & Tobacco Control, asked if there will be a link or video or social media message to share with DWI Task Force. Lisa replied that they do. Jeff Conaway, LA Restaurant Association appointee, offered to promote the service in his restaurants and to connect LHSC with LRA for additional promotional partnerships.

LA State Police Crime Lab and EBR Coroner's Office collaboration: Rebecca Nugent, Chemistry Manager for the LA State Police Crime Lab, reminded everyone that the Highway Safety Research Group at LSU led by Dr. Helmut Schneider is charged with collecting, analyzing, and reporting motor-vehicle crash data. During the annual presentation of the latest crash data, Dr. Schneider announced that for 15% of fatally injured drivers, there were no blood samples or toxicology results available. This equated to 62 individuals around the state. After the presentation, Lisa asked Rebecca if she would be willing and able to investigate further based on her role at the LSP Crime Lab. Rebecca committed to connecting with Dr. Clark to assist with the investigation. Rebecca, Dr. Clark, a representative from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) office at DOTD, and a representative from the LA hospital association convened to discuss. They determined that an 85% reporting rate for cause results of crashes when there is a fatally injured driver is excellent and way ahead of the curve. Apparently, most states are at 60-70%.

However, for the purposes of these 62 individuals representing the 15% not reported, Dr. Clark conducted some deeper examination. He determined these individuals were almost entirely people who had prolonged hospital stays due to the injuries from the crash before they expired. For these individuals, blood taken during the time of admission was retained for the standard protocol of 72 hours and then was disposed. The individuals did not expire until after the 72-hour time frame, and, thus, there was no longer any blood to test. It would be a HIPAA violation to access and test the blood prior to a person expiring. By in large, this is why the state of Louisiana was missing those results.

Dr. Clark commented that considering the circumstances, Louisiana should be very proud of the efforts maintained by all the individuals involved in maintaining such a high rate of reporting for fatally injured drivers. While disappointed in not being able to fill in the blanks for the missing 15%, he felt reassured that the missing data wasn't a failure of the system, but rather, an inability to predict deaths of injured persons after a prolonged period of treatment.

LDH/Office of Behavioral Health: Dr. Leslie Freeman, Director of Prevention Services for the Office of Behavioral Health at the LA Department of Health, announced that OBH was awarded a Partnerships for Success II grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This grant is a five-year grant with \$2.2 million/year and addresses underage drinking. The focus is to implement primary prevention programs, practices, and policies at parish levels to prevent and reduce underage drinking and related consequences. As part of the grant program, ten parishes will receive funds to form community coalitions to do this work. The ten PFS II parishes are Avoyelles, Evangeline, Franklin, Jefferson Davis, Ouachita, Sabine, St. Helena, St. Landry, Tangipahoa, and West Feliciana.

Upcoming Meetings of Other Office of Drug Policy boards

Meeting dates for the Drug Policy Board and all its boards and commissions were provided.

Adjournment

With all business addressed, the meeting was called to a close. Jim motioned to adjourn; Keetsie Gunnels seconded. Approval was unanimous. Adjournment occurred at 11:32am.

DWI TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	In Attendance
Attorney General's Office	Keetsie Gunnels	Yes
Governor's Office of Drug Policy	Dr. Chaunda Mitchell	Yes
House of Representatives member	Rep. John Stefanski	Yes
Office of Behavioral Health	Dr. Leslie Freeman	Yes
Office of Motor Vehicles	Kelly Simmons	Yes
Louisiana District Attorneys Association	Norma DuBois	Yes
Louisiana Highway Safety Commission	Lisa Freeman	Yes
Louisiana Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control	Juana Lombard	Yes
Department of Transportation and Development	Adriane McRae	Yes
Louisiana Sheriffs' Association	Sheriff K.P. Gibson	Yes
Louisiana State Police Crime Lab	Rebecca Nugent	Yes
Louisiana State Police	Major Jim McGuane (for Lt Col Oliphant)	
Property and Casualty Insurance Commission	Julie Freeman (for Tom Travis)	Yes
Senate member	Vacant	
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	Valerie Cox	Yes
Louisiana Restaurant Association	Jeff Conaway	Yes
LA Association of Chiefs of Police	Vacant	
At-Large	Delia Brady	Yes
At-Large	Pat Minor	Yes
At-Large	Dr. Beau Clark	Yes

STAFF

Kristy Miller – Office of Drug Policy

GUESTS

Mike Barron - Louisiana Highway Safety Commission
 Dortha Cummins - Louisiana Highway Safety Commission
 Dan Magri – Department of Transportation and Development
 Bobby Breland – Louisiana Highway Safety Commission
 Michelle Augustine – Alcohol and Tobacco Control
 Betsey Tramonte – Federal Highway Administration
 Jeannine Childers – Highway Safety Research Group at LSU
 David Whitchurch – Highway Safety Research Group at LSU
 Rachel Smith – LA District Attorneys' Association