

Oklahoma Injury Prevention Advisory Committee  
**Meeting Minutes**

October 26, 2012

**Members Present:**

Jorge Delucca for David Bates, Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Dr. Mark Brandenburg, Chair  
Marcia Smith, Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault  
Virgil Green for Phil Cotten, Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police  
Alan Grubb, Cleveland County Board of Health  
Jeff Hamilton, Interfaith Alliance Foundation of Oklahoma  
Gayle Jones, Independent Contractor  
Dave Koeneke, Oklahoma Safety Council  
Jeff McKibbin, UCO, Graduate Athletic Training Education Program  
Kevin Pipes, Independent Contractor  
Toni Short, Caddo Nation  
Lynette Jordan for Scott Sproat, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Emergency Preparedness and Response  
David Teague, OU Medical Center

**Staff:**

Sheryll Brown, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service  
Regina McCurdy, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service

**Welcome/Introduction**

Dr. Mark Brandenburg called the meeting to order, and members introduced themselves. Minutes from the previous meeting on June 1, 2012 were approved.

Unintentional Poisoning

Mark updated the group on the unintentional poisoning state plan. He said that the number of deaths from poisonings had exceeded deaths from motor vehicle crashes. The numbers continues to rise. It is an epidemic. Injury should be seen as a disease not much funding or attention is given to the problem compared to diseases. There are many points and roots to the causes. It is not a simple issue and is the cause of many problems in society. We can quantify the number of deaths and emergency department treatments, but we can't quantify the impact to society such as the disruption of families and associated medical problems.

Pam Archer and Jessica Hawkins were appointed by the Commissioner of Health to lead this effort. The plan is due next month. The OIPAC membership can work on this directly. He suggested that a couple of areas were the Inter-faith group and AAA. It is not easy to reach physicians and providers and faith groups may be able to establish lines of communication to address the problem. Groups interested in traffic safety, such as AAA, may look at traffic wrecks related to drugs.

Solutions that are being looked at include education of medical providers about prescribing medications and using the prescription monitoring program (PMP). Other factors include using the pain scale with patients and customer satisfaction surveys that rate physicians. He suggested that an online CME training could be attached to getting a PMP license, to which, Dr. Teague agreed and said that doctors were used to that.

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Alan Grub asked if the routine drug abuse panel would identify oxycontin and Mark said that it would, but that often the physician can know about abuse without a drug screen. Mark gave an example of how a patient with chronic pain had been given a number of diagnostic tests to determine the cause of the pain. The patient was never given a diagnosis but was prescribed hydrocodone, oxycontin, and the fentanyl patch. He believes there is excessive prescribing by physicians. Gayle Jones asked if there was any education about this in medical school. Mark said there wasn't when he went to medical school, but doesn't know if there is now.

Regina McCurdy asked if the PMP data could be linked with crash data and hospital discharge data. Sheryll Brown said that was not likely to happen. Pam and Jessica will be addressing this issue with the State Plan.

Chuck Mai said he was shocked to hear that poisoning deaths had surpassed motor vehicle deaths. AAA has a tool available online (free to all) which "provides confidential, individualized feedback about users medication side effects and interactions, highlighting how these effects may impact safe driving abilities." It is called Roadwise Rx on SeniorDriving.AAA.com. He said it might be good to have the tool be available on the general website homepage so that drivers of any age could be aware of it and use it. (Chuck sent an email later to say that AAA plans to place this tool on the general AAA.com website homepage.)

Drop boxes were another program that they are looking at in the state plan. Gail said that Veteran's Hospital had a drug take back program with drop boxes. Virgil Green said that the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics drop boxes were located in police and sheriffs' departments. He also said that they had a problem with grandparents having their medications stolen by children in their family. The children then take the drugs to school and distribute them. The grandparents come to the police station and file a report that their drugs were stolen so that they can have their prescriptions refilled.

Mark said the U.S. leads the world in opiate consumption and consumes 80% of all drugs produced. He believes it is a national security issue as well. During Katrina at Camp Gruber, many of the people had to be treated for drug addiction.

Legislation will likely be coming from the state plan and the group will be informed this.

### Distracted Driving

Dave Koenke gave a update on the task force. He said that the task force was formed because legislation had been tried for several years and nothing passed. People think it's ok to text and use their cell phone while driving because it isn't against the law. The main strategy of the task force is education. The Highway Safety Office is behind the effort with the "Stop the Texts, Stop the Wrecks" campaign, and the Ad Council commercials. There are a lot of other programs going on too with ATT, etc. The federal transportation bill has funding for states that pass legislation to prohibit cell phone use among all drivers and among persons less than 18 years of age. This legislation will probably not pass in Oklahoma.

October 22 – 28 was declared Drive Aware Oklahoma week. The governor issued a proclamation and press conferences were held at Edmond Memorial High School and at Tulsa \_\_\_\_\_. There are two ads that will be aired to raise the level of people that know.

All 48 mutable road signs will show the message "Stop the Texts, Stop the Wrecks" during this week. Teen groups have been involved and they have been great. Terri Angier and Cherise Avena, Miss Black Teen Oklahoma, are

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super teen advocates who have been involved. The Family Career and Community Leaders Association (FCCLA) have been very organized behind this effort. GenerationTXT

Marcia Smith mentioned that the Violence Against Women grant required their agency to have a no texting policy to receive funding. Dave said that every employer will need to have these policies because of the liability.

Mark asked if this is something that might be included in driver's education. Chuck said that AAA does have a parent taught program for GDL, but there is no state authorized driver's education. The education could be included in driver's license training. A section could be added to the manual and questions on the written exam. He suggested that Jeff Hankins with the Department of Public Safety would be a person to talk to about this. Mark and Chuck said they would contact him and discuss adding questions to the driver's license exam.

Dave said the Drive Aware Oklahoma group began in June and will continue working on education on this topic. He said this is similar to how seat belt laws were eventually passed. Sheryll said she thought that funding eventually helped get the primary seat belt laws passed. Chuck said it was actually withholding funding that helped get the law passed. Jeff Hamilton said that during 1986-1994 funding was withheld unless motorcycle helmet legislation was passed for persons 18 and older. The legislation never passes was seen as a personal freedom issue. Dave said cell phone and texting may also be seen as a personal freedom issue, but how far can that be taken. Would drinking and driving ever be seen as a personal freedom issue?

#### Announcements/Upcoming Events

Jorge Lucas with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) gave an update on the Oil and Gas Industry Stand Down. Deaths in the oil and gas industry represent 50% of all work-related fatalities in the state. A conference was held in June to address this problem. A total of 500 producers attended. They agreed to inspect every rig in the state. As a result, 1,200 sites were inspected and 2,500 hazards were found and corrected. Nearly 10,000 workers were trained. Additionally, OSHA will sponsor a healthcare worker safety seminar on November 8 at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Marcia Smith with the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault reported that the latest data from the Violence Policy Center showed that Oklahoma had fallen from 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> in the number of women killed by men in single victim single offender homicides. This is an indicator of domestic violence homicides. At one time Oklahoma ranked 4<sup>th</sup> and has been steadily dropping in rank.

Jeff McKibbin with University of Central Oklahoma said he was working on a national document on sports injury. He will be attending a national conference on November 4 and 6 to create a total safety package that addresses many types of sports injuries including cardiac, neurological, and obesity.

Toni Short with Caddo Nation reported that they held 17 Child Passenger Safety classes in their area and trained 17 technicians.

Mark attended the ABC Kids Expo to launch the world's safest cradle manufactured by Baby Bjorn. The cradle was developed to his specifications and it rights itself.

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Meeting Dates for 2013

The room is not available next year on the fourth Friday of the month. The room was reserved for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, but some committee members cannot attend on that day. Regina and Sheryll will look into scheduling the room on the first or second Friday and send the information out to members.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.