

South Central Safe Community Partnership

Editor: Rudynah Capone



LHSC Sub-grants Awarded to Seven Agencies

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) gladly announced that seven agencies were awarded with sub-grants funded by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC).

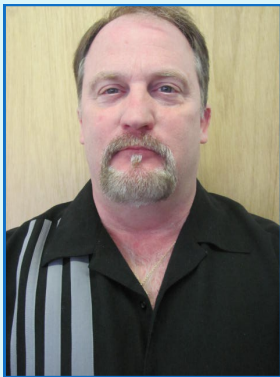
The seven agencies with their corresponding budget and programs are:

1. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council for South Louisiana (ADAC), \$8,000 for "Get in The Zone: Don't Drink and Drive";
2. Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office (APSO), \$5,000 for DWI Overtime Enforcement;
3. Nicholls State University's (NSU) Police Department, \$8,000 for "Think Before You Drink";
4. Our Lady of the Sea General Hospital (LOSGH), \$4,300 for Kids Safety Circus;
5. St. James Parish Sheriff's Office, \$9,408 for "Occupant Protection Enforcement";

6. St. John District Attorney's Office, \$2,500 for "Get High On Life" DWI/ Substance Abuse Classes; and
7. Bayou Region Motorcycle Awareness Campaign (MAC), \$4,000 for safety commodities at motorcycle awareness events.

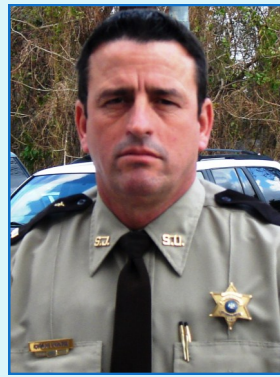
As per LHSC's requirement, the sub-grantees are expected to implement their approved programs between January 3, 2011 and September 16, 2011. Sub-grant contracts have been fully executed between South Central Planning & Development Commission (SCPDC) and the respective agencies.

SCSCP and LHSC feel strongly about these community-based efforts as being able to improve the behavior of drivers and general public, thereby reducing the number of road crashes. ✦



CHAIR Greg Hood

**Safe
Community
Partnership
re-elects
Chair
and
Vice Chair**



VICE CHAIR Craig Poche

After holding the same position for two years, Retired Captain Greg Hood was re-elected as Chair of the SC Partnership. Hood just retired from the Houma PD after 30 years of service. He has been with the Safe Communities for 8 years. He also sits on ATV subcommittee and ADAC for South Louisiana.

Also re-elected is Vice Chair Captain Craig Poche, who actually heads the Uniform Patrol Division of St. James Parish Sheriff's Office. Besides establishing the closest relationships between the public and the law enforcement community, his vigilant team of officers is normally the first to arrive on an accident scene.

The election was done during the SC Partnership meeting last December 16, 2010 at SCPDC office in Houma.

MEETING NOTICE

The Safe Community Partnership meets on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the Pelican Room of SCPDC Building.

Safe Community Partnership Action Plan for 2011

The Safe Community Partnership has outlined the following action plan and goals for Year 2011:



IMPAIRED DRIVING

- Expand education, prevention and awareness efforts in community outreach or campus-based programs
- Address issues concerning Alcohol-Impaired Driving at the Traffic Summit 2011
- Establish an alcohol-and-drug-free area or limit alcohol consumption and drug use at a local event
- Enforce DWI Checkpoint
- Collaborate with Bayou Region Motorcycle Awareness Campaign (MAC) to promote motorcycle awareness to the motoring public

OCCUPANT PROTECTION

- Expand technical knowledge on child passenger safety
- Improve seat belt compliance through education and enforcement
- Address issues concerning Occupant Protection at the Traffic Summit 2011
- Incorporate seatbelt use in media campaigns/outreach program

YOUNG DRIVERS

- Educate college students on alcohol-and-drug use prevention
- Encourage youth involvement in campaigning against drunk driving and no texting while driving

With this plan, SCSCP is guided in achieving its goals and objectives. At the end of the funding cycle, results of approved sub-grants are expected to address one or more of the stipulations in the Action Plan. ✦

Safety Reminder:

Don't get distracted while driving to your romantic date on Valentine's Day or green-themed party on St. Patrick's Day.

Be responsible. Don't text and drive.



**APRIL 2011 is
National Distracted Driving
Awareness Month**



Pro-active Approach is the Key Toward a Sustainable Future

In this year's Louisiana Transportation Conference held last January 9-12, 2011 at the Baton Rouge River Center, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) Secretary Sherri LeBas addressed the participants that the only way to achieve our transportation goals is through a pro-active approach and continuous collaboration among all partners.

With the theme "Transportation: A Key to a Sustainable Future", the conference was hosted by LADOTD and Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC). Secretary LeBas encouraged everyone to continue developing strategic and sustainable strategies to address concerns on roads, railways and runways.

To keep up with programs, strategies and methods to address transportation concerns, the staff of South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) and Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO) attended the said conference. MPO Administrator Leo Marretta, Transportation Safety Coordinator Rudynah Capone, Transportation Planner II Joshua Manning and Transit Planner Garrick Rose attended important sessions on planning and programming, highway safety, data collection and transportation demand management, and many more relevant topics. ✦



In photo are (from left) Joshua Manning, Garrick Rose and Leo Marretta.

Be a Hero, Designate a Driver

With both football and Mardi Gras fever stirring the region up, the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) and the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) are in joint forces to remind football fans and party goers that if their celebration includes some alcohol, they must make the right decision in having a designated driver before kicking the party off.

This local message complements the national campaign "Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk" supported by the National Football League (NFL), the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Mothers Against Driving (MADD), the HERO Campaign and Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) Coalition.

SCSCP Chair Greg Hood Sr., who is a Retired Captain of Houma Police Department, agrees to campaign for designated drivers. "Be on the winning team and have designated driver if you must drink. I believe it would be much more enjoyable to be a fan so you will be able to remember the super fun you and the other fans had when watching the Super Bowl," he encouraged.

SCSCP is asking all party hosts as well as restaurant and bar business owners to take extra good care of designated drivers this year. Designated drivers are the unsung heroes, so to say. They make everyone get home safely. Spread the word, folks! ✦



South Central's Strategic Highway Safety Plan

The South Central Regional Safety Coalition Task Force is currently drafting its Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) that contains the regional action plans based on four emphasis areas, namely: Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, Young Drivers and Roadway Departure. This five-year plan summarizes the measurable goals for each of the emphasis areas with their corresponding performance measures, methods, strategies, timeline and budget. The Task Force (or referred as Subcommittee) will meet right after the SC Partnership meeting on February 17, 2011 to agree on the initial draft of the plan. ✦

Child Passenger Safety Training in Houma a success

During the National Certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Training Course conducted last January 12-15, 2011 at the South Central Planning and Development Commission's (SCPDC) office, 28 participants were awarded with CPS certification by the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force (LPSTF).

Fourteen out of 28 are representatives from active member agencies of the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP). They are: Alicia Touns and Brittany Solet from Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council for South Louisiana (ADAC); Gail Richard from Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office (APSO); Corey Brunet, Brian Harding, Jesse LeGrange, Christopher Mason and Keith Redmond from LA State Police (LSP) Troop C; Renee Almaraz from LSU-Medical Center; Kelly Guidry of Leonard J. Medical Center; Anthony Joseph and Dustin Poche from St. James Parish Sheriff's Office; Jason Kibodeaux from Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office; and Murphy Melancon from Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office. The rest of the participants are from agencies in New Orleans, Hammond and Springfield.

The four-day training was sponsored by the Interim LSU Level 1 Trauma Center in New Orleans and the Louisiana Highway



(1) Classroom training
(2) Checkup event on Target's parking lot
(3) Newly certified CPS technicians in action
(4) Jason Kibodeaux from TPSO.

Safety Commission (LHSC). It was done in line with LHSC's prioritized campaign on occupant protection and part of the 40-hour National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Seat Technical Program.

LPSTF's CPS trainers headed by Lt. Julie Lewis from LSP gave the participants a series of classroom instruction, written quizzes, practical tests and actual child safety checkup event (at Target's parking lot on

Martin Luther King Blvd.) before official certifications were awarded. The team checked 56 seats.

With such a good response on SCSCP's end, there is no doubt that more drivers will be educated on proper installation of car restraints according to age, weight and height limitations. For more info on the CPS training, contact Bridget Gardner at (504) 903-3181 or email bgardn@lsuhsc.edu. ✦



BAYOU REGION MAC EXPANDS MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

Bayou Region MAC participated the "National Night Out Against Crime" last August 3, 2010 in Thibodaux. Coloring books, colors, rulers and various school supplies were given to children in attendance. Hand fans, bumper stickers, yard signs and MAC literature were all distributed to the general public and motorcyclists alike.

Did You Know?

In 2009, nearly 5,500 people died and half a million were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver.

Helpful Links

- * NHTSA: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/safecommunities
- * <http://www.dotd.la.gov>
- * Louisiana Highway Safety: <http://www.lahighwaysafety.org>
- * <http://distraction.gov>
- * National Center for Safe Routes to School: www.saferoutesinfo.org

EVENTS, etc.



SAFETY KIDS CIRCUS

May 7, 2011

Our Lady of the Sea General Hospital is once again holding its biggest health and safety event called "Safety Circus" on May 7, 2011, 9 a.m. to noontime at the Cut Off Youth Center. Themed as "Get Into the Game", this yearly event is aimed at improving seatbelt compliance rates and expanding awareness on proper use of child safety seats. Highlights of the event are child safety seat inspection, finger printing demos, safety game stations and face painting. Photos show last year's Safety Circus with Ms. Mable Breaux helping a child to place a safety belt properly (left) and a kid gladly getting free safety commodity sponsored by LHSC. (right).

MOTORCYCLE OPERATOR TRAINING COURSES 2011



The Bayou Region Motorcycle Awareness Campaign (MAC) partners with the Department of Public Safety to offer the Motorcycle Operator Training Courses. Classes are held at Nicholls State University's parking lot on January 7-9, February 4-6, March 18-20, April 8-10, May 13-15 and June 3-5, 2011.

The instructor is Antoine Rodrigue, who is a retired Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Deputy. For more information, contact Bayou Region Mac Secretary Beryl LeBoeuf at (985) 859-3434 or email bayouregionmac@bellsouth.net.

May 2011 is Motorcycle & Bicycle Safety Awareness Month



Cops are cracking down all over the South Central Region to strictly enforce the "No Refusal Policy" where suspected drunk drivers do not have the right to refuse a Breathalyzer test. In photo, Lafourche Sheriff Craig Webre (right) and Sgt. Roland Guillot (left) are seen campaigning for the said program.



Photo courtesy of Houma Today

Traffic Summit 2011

It's official!

The Traffic Summit is booked for July 13, 2011 at the Cotillion Ballroom of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. Specific topics and resource speakers will be determined later.



HOW TO REACH US:

If you want to get involved in future partnership meetings and projects, you may contact SCPDC's Transportation Safety Coordinator Rudynah Capone at (985) 851-2900 or email her at rudynah@scpd.org.

South Central Safe Community Partnership

South Central Planning & Development Commission

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