

SOUTH CENTRAL SAFE COMMUNITY TASK FORCE  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2008

South Central Planning & Development Commission  
Houma, Louisiana

The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer. Those in attendance were:

Steve Tullis, NSU Police  
Philip Poche, LA State Police Troop C  
Antoine Rodrigue, LPSO  
Chris Authement, Terrebonne Parish School Board  
Brandy Jarreau, Lady of the Sea Hospital  
Greg Maurin, St. John District Attorney's Office  
Lanard Robinet, St. John Sheriff's Office  
Craig Poche, St. James Sheriff's Office  
Earl Geason, St. James Sheriff's Office  
Gilbert Dardar, LSP-C  
Jamie Ainsworth, LHSC  
Hadi Shirazi, LA DOTD  
Morris Beverly, LHSC  
Treverse Johnson, Thibodaux PD  
Alicia Toups, ADAC  
Robert Canfield  
Tisa Hill, Lafourche Parish Safe and Drug Free Schools  
Melissa Menuet, SCPDC

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer: Led by Chris Authement

It was moved by Chris Authement, seconded by Philip Poché to approve the minutes of October 23, 2008. Motion carried.

Under new business the first item needing action was the election of officers. Ms. Menuet stated that Greg Maurin is the current Chairman and Philip Poché is the interim Vice Chairman.

It was moved by Antoine Rodrigue, seconded by Chris Authement to appoint Greg Hood as Chairman of the Executive Board. Motion carried.

It was moved by Antoine Rodrigue, seconded by Craig Poche to appoint Philip Poche as Vice Chairman. Motion carried.

The next item was the review of Executive Board appointments.

It was moved by Lanard Robinet, seconded by Gilbert Dardar to approve the new appointments to the Executive Board. Those Executive Board members are:

At Large Members:

Philip Poche, LA State Police Troop C  
Marilyn Harris, Prevention Coordinator  
Alicia Toups, ADAC

Assumption Parish:

Julie Acosta, Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office  
Wade Hernandez, Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office (Alternate)

Lafourche Parish:

Antoine Rodrigue, Jr., Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office  
Treverse Johnson, Thibodaux Police Department  
Steve Tullis, NSU

Terrebonne Parish:

Chris Authement, Terrebonne Parish Schools  
Gilbert Dardar, State Police Troop C  
Capt. Greg Hood, Houma Police Department

St. Charles Parish:

John Pollard, St. Charles Sheriff  
Bill Starr, St. Charles DA's Office  
Jan Troxler, St. Charles Sheriff

(Task Force recommended speaking to these individuals to see if still interest in serving.)

St. James Parish:

Eric Deroche, St. James EOC  
Earl Geason, St. James Sheriff  
Craig Poche, St. James Sheriff

St. John the Baptist Parish:

Greg Maurin, St. John District Attorney  
Lanard Robinet, St. John Sheriff

Motion carried.

Ms. Menuet informed the Task Force of the awards made by the Executive Board prior to the meeting. Those awards were:

St. James Sheriff	\$6,720
Bayou Council	\$ 826
St. John DA	\$1,312
Assumption Sheriff	\$3,800
Lady of the Sea	\$3,582
NSU	\$1,392
ADAC	\$2,368

Under the next item Capt. Greg Maurin presented Robert Canfield with a certificate for his many years of service to the Safe Community Partnership.

The next item on the agenda was the selection of a Task Force member to attend the Lifesavers Conference in Nashville, TN. A cup was passed around and anyone interested in attending put their name in the cup. Names were pulled from the cup by Ms. Ainsworth. The person chosen to attend was Brandy Jarreau of Lady of the Sea Hospital. The alternate was Treverse Johnson of the City of Thibodaux Police Department.

Ms. Menuet discussed NHTSA Campaigns that are part of the 2009 Safe Communities contract. The two targeted NHTSA Campaigns are:

May 2009 Click It or Ticket

September 2009 Drunk Driving: Over the Limit. Under Arrest.

Ms. Menuet asked if press conferences were done in the past and if this was something the group was interested in holding. Capt. Maurin stated that in the past commodities were purchased and publicity was done on a parish by parish basis. Ms. Ainsworth spoke about the campaign planners put out by NHTSA. She said the planners are a great starting point.

Ms. Hill stated that there were two issues that students in Lafourche Parish are interested in working on. She said that they were interested in doing seat belt checks at the high schools. This was something done in the past where T-shirts were given out. Help was provided by State Police and Lafourche Parish Sheriff. The other issue is the cell phone usage by the children driving in and out of the school as well as anytime they are driving. Ms. Hill said these issues are coming from the children. Ms. Ainsworth stated that in regards to teen belts, there is nothing in print yet for LHSC to share, but the two weeks prior to Click It or Ticket Campaign Louisiana is participating as a pilot state for a National teen belt campaign. She said if the Safe Communities is interested in doing something in regards to teen belts to think about doing it during the first two weeks in May. Ms. Hill suggested taking it a step further this time by not only providing T-Shirts but to give them information as well. Capt. Maurin suggested that we do something stating the groups support and possibly take a picture of the group to be sent to the newspapers.

Capt. Maurin stated that Ms. Hill mentioned the problem with cell phone usage but said the Safe Community campaign is focused on Occupant Protection and DWI. He would like to see some commodities with distracted driving but did not want to conflict with the mission of the Coalition. Sgt. Rodrigue suggested that the commodities have a dual message such as a key chain with an occupant protection message on one side and a distracted driving message on the other. Ms. Ainsworth said that is acceptable. She stated that any traffic safety message that the Coalition supports is acceptable but LHSC asks that it be a coalition decision. He stated that he would like the next batch of commodities to address the issue.

Trooper Dardar stated there have been three fatalities to date during the Zero for December campaign. Capt. Poche stated that they had a fatality on the East Bank of the Parish which is not in the Troop C area. Discussion ensued on the problems in the South Lafourche area due to the bridge being out of service. Ms. Hill stated that she notices that there seems to have more accidents on Highway 308 near the Lafourche Parish Water District.

Mr. Shirazi stated that shoulder work on a portion of LA 308 in Lafourche Parish from LA 3185 and LA 20 is scheduled to be let in April 2009. He also stated that shoulder work in Terrebonne Parish on LA 316 is scheduled to be let in April 2009.

Ms. Toups gave a brief report on the ATV Committees progress.

Trooper Dardar spoke of the Behind the Faces Program March 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>. He stated if anyone has a contact at a middle school or high school in the Troop C area to let him know. The program covers suicide prevention, self esteem, bullying issues and takes approximately 50-55 minutes. The program counts as Title IV hours that schools have to reach.

Sgt. Rodrigue stated that LPSO will hold a DWI checkpoint on December 27, 2008.

Ms. Ainsworth stated that she would like an assessment of how this year has worked with those agencies receiving direct contracts not being eligible for funding through the Safe Community Fund. She would like this information at either the February or April meeting.

She said that this is the first year LHSC has done this and would like some feedback for planning future years.

Ms. Menuet asked Ms. Ainsworth about the monthly activity reports on law enforcement and other activities that are required by the contract. Ms. Ainsworth stated that this is anything that has a subcontract and it is only needed when funds are expended.

There being no other business to discuss, it was moved by Craig Poche, seconded by Antoine Rodrigue to adjourn. Motion carried.