

Oklahoma Injury Prevention Advisory Committee
MINUTES

October 2, 2009

Members Present:

Dr. Mark Brandenburg, Chair;
Cyndi Basch, OU Medical Center Trauma Services;
Kevin Behrens, Oklahoma Highway Safety Office;
James Cox, Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police;
Tabitha Garwe for Patrice Greenawalt, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Emergency Systems Division;
Jeff Hamilton, Interfaith Alliance Foundation of Oklahoma;
Jessica Hawkins, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services;
Gayle Jones, Oklahoma State Department of Education;
Tina Johnson, Pottawatomie County Health Department;
Dave Koeneke, Oklahoma Safety Council;
Jim Marks for Teresa Ryan, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Service;
Scott Schaffer, Oklahoma Poison Control Center;
Tim Synder for Chief Jerry Lojka, Midwest City Fire Department;
John Wilguess, Safe Kids Oklahoma;
Dr. Inas Yacoub, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Staff:

Pam Archer, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service;
Regina McCurdy, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service;
Emily Samuel, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service

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Welcome/Introduction

Dr. Mark Brandenburg called the Oklahoma Injury Prevention Advisory Committee meeting to order, and members introduced themselves. Minutes from the previous meeting on May 29, 2009 were approved without changes.

Dr. Brandenburg mentioned that information regarding prescription drug use and the Oklahoma Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) were included in medical newsletters that were distributed to approximately 40,000 doctors.

Legislative Agenda

Dr. Brandenburg opened the floor to discuss the legislative agenda for 2010. Members discussed legislation of interest and discussed legislation the committee should focus on during this year's session.

Members agreed that texting and cell phone use while driving should be a priority issue. Dr. Brandenburg drafted a letter to the Oklahoma Legislature regarding the dangers of texting and cell phone use while driving. Dr. Brandenburg requested that committee members review the letter within the next few days and email revisions and/or suggestions to him. (A copy of the final version of the letter is attached.) Members discussed topics related to texting and cell phone use including:

- Federal workers are prohibited from texting while driving during work hours; signed by President Obama
- National Safety Council campaign - On the Road, Off the Phone; some wireless providers are supporting this cause.
- Other states which have passed cell phone legislation in various degrees; others progressing.
- Agency policies that address this issue.
- "Texting/Cell phone use" – would this include accessing email, internet browsing, use of GPS, etc.; would this be considered "distracted driving"?
- Texting poses a public safety issue; use of seat belts, motorcycle helmets, etc result in personal safety; however, texting affects the safety of others on roadways.
- Handheld vs. hands free devices/Bluetooth; vehicles with integrated Bluetooth. Studies show that use of handheld phone, hands free devices, and drunk driving all have similar levels of distraction for a driver.
- Focus on novice drivers, drivers 18 and younger, or all drivers?
- Exceptions for taxi driver dispatch/delivery dispatch radios, emergency vehicles, special circumstances, two-way motorcycle communication devices, etc.?
- Subpoenas for cell phone records – what if crash occurs after a text has been written, but before it has been sent? What if the driver was in the process of making the call, but the call had not gone through?
- Insurance companies denying coverage if cell phone was in use in the event of a crash.
- Liability for businesses if texting/cell phone use is work-related and results in a crash.
- Devices that disable cell phone connections when vehicle is at driving speeds.

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Safe Communities America

Tina Johnson reported on the following Safe Community America activities for the City of Shawnee:

- Shawnee's application for Safe Communities America has been accepted.
- Certifying representatives from Safe Communities America have scheduled a community site visit on November 5-6, 2009. During this time, they will conduct an assessment of the safety and injury prevention programs in Shawnee. If the site visit is favorable, the community hopes to officially receive designation as a Safe Community next spring and will be the first community in Oklahoma to receive this designation. Ms. Johnson extended her thanks to the Injury Prevention Service staff for their continued support with this project.
- Ms. Johnson encouraged other communities to apply for Safe Communities America designation. She shared that this process has helped the community discover various program areas, increase collaboration among community partners, and strengthen existing programs through community partnerships.

Injury Prevention Service Update

Pam Archer reported on the following Injury Prevention Service (IPS) activities:

Staff

- Retirements: Kathy Middleton (September), Ruth Azeredo (November), Sandy Van Patten (December). The IPS plans to refill at least 2 of these positions; hopefully all three positions will be filled.
- Epidemic Intelligence Service officer Emily Piercefield completed her one year stay at the IPS and returned to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Fire/burn epidemiologist Feng Li resigned; this position was filled by Claire Nguyen.
- Epidemiologist Tracy Wendling will be on maternity leave beginning mid-October.
- The IPS hosted a practicum student this past summer from the College of Public Health and expects to host another student in January for the Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OK-VDRS).

Training

- All epidemiologists went through a two-day training on H1N1 flu in preparation to help with flu activities if needed.
- The Medical Examiner's Office conducted a presentation on cases handled, conducting investigations, and decision-making on manner of death.

Data

- Data collection will be completed on reportable injuries from hospital chart reviews for 2007 this month.
- Oklahoma currently has an inpatient hospital discharge database, but not for emergency departments where many injuries are treated. Preliminary meetings have been held to plan an emergency discharge database (3-5 years).

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Grants

- The Oklahoma Highway Safety Office (OHSO) grant for the Occupant Protection Program has ended. The OHSO used to fund five sites to conduct this program; however, beginning October 1, 2009 they have decided to fund one entity that will coordinate this program statewide. All other sites agreed that Safe Kids should take on this role. Safe Kids Oklahoma will conduct the program for western Oklahoma and Safe Kids Tulsa will cover eastern Oklahoma. County health departments should receive approximately the same amount of child safety seats. The cost of child safety seats will be \$10.00 for clients beginning January 1, 2010; health departments do have the option of providing a seat at no cost to the family if they truly cannot afford to pay.
- Two new grant applications are being prepared: TBI Implementation (HRSA) to enhance the system of care for persons with TBIs, and a supplemental project to link OK-VDRS data to Adult Protective Services data and death data to compare violent and non-violent deaths among persons using Adult Protective Services.

Publications

- *Injury Updates*
Gang-Related Homicides, Oklahoma, 2004-2006
Work-Related Burns Among Roofers, Oklahoma 1988-2006

State Plan Update

Emily Samuel reported on the State Strategic Plan revisions:

- The occupational and residential fires chapters have been completed and drafts have been sent to subcommittee members for review.
- The policy and legislation chapter is a new chapter; the draft has been completed and will be sent to subcommittee members next week.
- The violence chapter is currently being reviewed by the IPS staff. The draft will be sent to subcommittee members after the initial review is completed.
- Chapters on traffic-related injuries and unintentional falls are expected to be completed within the next two weeks. They will also be sent to subcommittee members after the initial review is completed by the IPS staff.
- The plan chapters are due to the CDC by October 31, 2009.

Announcements

- Fire Prevention Month activities and child safety seat checks have been suspended at the Midwest City Fire Department due to the flu scare.
- October 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.: Capitol Interim Study on cell phone use and texting while driving.
- November 6, 2009: Safe and Healthy Schools Conference
- Fall 2009: Safe & Healthy Schools' Monthly Video Conferences (details attached)
- The Oklahoma Suicide Prevention Council strategic plan draft will be sent to committee members for review.

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Upcoming Injury Prevention Advisory Committee Meetings

- To Be Announced

Adjourn

The Oklahoma Injury Prevention Advisory Committee was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.