

Oklahoma Injury Prevention Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2013

Members Present:

Dr. Mark Brandenburg, Chair
David Bates, Area Director, OSHA, US Dept of Labor
Shelly Collins & Marcia Smith, Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Michael Echelle, Administrator, County Health Departments
Laura Gamino, Injury Prevention Coordinator, OU Medical Center, Trauma Services
Young Onuorah for Jessica Hawkins, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Service
Gayle Jones, Independent Contractor
Jeff McKibbin, UCO, Graduate Athletic Training Education Program
Kevin Pipes
Scott Schaeffer, Managing Director, Oklahoma Poison Control Center
Scott Sproat, Director, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Emergency Preparedness and Response Service
Garry Thomas, Director, Oklahoma Highway Safety Office
Dr. Inas Yacoub, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Guest: Dr. Mark Newman, Director, OSDH Office of State and Federal Policy

Staff:

Tracy Wendling, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service
Regina McCurdy, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service
Avy Redus, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service
Gordy Suchy, 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 January 11, 2013, were approved.

Update on 2013 Legislative Priorities

Dr. Brandenburg gave a legislative update on the four bills (HB 1419, 1781, 1782, and 1783) related to prescription drugs that have been signed by the Governor. He also mentioned the current efforts being made to reduce prescription drug abuse in Oklahoma, which include: the development of a state plan, *Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse in Oklahoma*; developing and promoting the adoption of opioid prescribing guidelines for prescribers; and encouraging the advisory committees for Oklahoma Certified Healthy Schools, Communities, Campuses, and Businesses to address prescription drug abuse in their criteria. Dr. Brandenburg also discussed the multiple bills related to texting and cell phone use while driving, which did not get a hearing. We've been unable to get any distracted driving bills passed and Dr. Brandenburg wondered why. However, we were able to get the following four bills related to prescription drugs passed this session:

1. HB 1419 – Directs the OK Bureau of Narcotics to send notification to practitioners about the possibility that a person may be unlawfully obtaining prescription drugs in violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act.

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2. HB1781 – Creates the Anti-Drug Diversion Act allowing the OK Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services and the OK State Department of Health to access key prescription drug use data from the OK Bureau of Narcotics.
3. HB1782 – Allows first responders to administer an opioid antagonist without prescription to individuals who exhibit signs of opioid overdose. Also allows healthcare providers to prescribe an opioid antagonist to an individual to use on a family member experiencing an opioid overdose.
4. HB 1783 – Prohibits automatic refills for any product containing hydrocodone with another active ingredient.

Dr. Brandenburg said the momentum is picking up on opioid abuse in Oklahoma. Committee members were asked if there was another issue that needed to be looked at, such as, sexual assault education, sexual assault in the military, with teachers, teens, etc. Dr. Brandenburg asked the Committee to continue to think about distracted driving and what strategies might be changed next session, and how it might be enforced. Would law enforcement actually enforce the law?

Chuck Mai of AAA sent an e-mail to Regina McCurdy, which she read. Drive Aware Oklahoma has not met since the death of the texting bills. He has spoken with Gov. Mary Fallin about this. He feels we also need to get with the Speaker of the House, T. W. Shannon. If you're interested in a list of what's going on about distracted driving, you can e-mail him.

Policy and Legislation Education

Mark Newman passed out a packet of information, including a legislative update on the four bills Dr. Brandenburg discussed, "How to Meet Face-to-Face with your Elected Official," "How to Speak at a Local Community Group," and a glossary of legislative terms. Dr. Newman discussed the issue of distracted driving/texting. One of the biggest problems with the distracted driving bills for the OK Code Enforcement Association and House Speaker T. W. Shannon was that there is a law already on the books. They say that we need to enforce the laws we have. There was also a lack of consensus support from the local chiefs of police. Although some chiefs were vocal supporters of a texting bill, Dr. Newman said many legislators felt that their local police departments were not on board. Legislators also want statistics on texting-related deaths and injuries. There are no national, state, or local sources of this data. It is very difficult to collect. Efforts to increase education for law enforcement officers on completing related parts of the crash form may help. Garry Thomas said he could bring up the issue with the Traffic Records Council. Another factor that could help legislation is having a consensus among wireless carriers; AT&T has a strong anti-texting campaign, but other major cell phone companies do not. Next year the entire House and half of the Senate will be running for office. One possibility to consider is asking incumbents to sign an anti-texting-while-driving pledge; if they choose not to, consider asking their opponents. This has worked in several other states that have passed legislation.

On "How to Meet with your Elected Official," be sure to be polite, be prepared, and always follow-up with a hand-written thank you note. Also, be grateful to their staff. Remember to know the legislator and something about them, which helps establish rapport. They all have someone who is influential to them and who will help you.

On "How to Speak," make sure the local groups are agreeable with you speaking, provide your information, and be very prepared before you speak.

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The Glossary of Legislative Terms should be very helpful when researching bills, etc. If you want to track legislation, you can set up a free account to track bills through the Legislative Electronic Notification System (LENS). You can go to www.oklegislature.gov, set up an account with a username and password, and then select either House or Senate bills to track. You can also review the session highlights on the Governor's and Legislature's websites, which might help in preparing for the upcoming session.

State Plan to Reduce Prescription Drug Update

Avy Redus spoke about the new state plan, *Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse in Oklahoma*. She passed around a copy, plus handed out the Scope of the Epidemic. The state plan, created by the Prescription Drug Planning Workgroup, which was commissioned by the Oklahoma Prevention Leadership Collaborative (OPLC), has been approved by the Workgroup. Currently, the final draft is being designed by the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and should be completed soon. The workgroup will reconvene on how to distribute the plan. They are already working on education for providers. The Opioid Prescribing Guidelines Workgroup is currently finalizing opioid prescribing guidelines for emergency department/urgent care clinics and office-based practices. The guidelines will provide recommendations on prescribing opioids for acute and chronic pain. Avy has given 13 presentations on prescription drug abuse so far this year. The Injury Prevention Service has developed a brochure on prescription drug abuse in the state that will be available for distribution to community groups, health educators, schools, healthcare settings, and other interested groups. Dr. Brandenburg mentioned the Bama Pies drug policy. Young of OK Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services and Avy are preparing a workshop for the Parent Teacher Association Conference in July. Young mentioned that the ODMSAS is funding select communities to focus on prescription drug abuse prevention. Avy also mentioned that the Oklahoma Certified Healthy Business Program recently added prescription drug abuse/misuse into their application criteria.

Injury Prevention Update

Tracy Wendling announced that one of the big focus areas for the Injury Prevention Service (IPS) is a tornado study, particularly focusing on the May 20th tornado. The study will include a community survey of Moore and south Oklahoma City residents on their experiences during the May 20th tornado; medical record abstractions on all emergency department-treated injuries, inpatients, and fatalities from the May 19, 20, and 31 tornadoes; and a statewide survey of schools assessing tornado plans and preparedness. The IPS is also considering if there is a way to study the events of May 31st, including why so many people left their homes.

The IPS has developed a graduated driver licensing brochure to educate parents on the requirements of the law and recently received an order of approximately 500 car seats for distribution. Dr. Barbara Ball will be speaking at the Expect Respect RPE training at the Oklahoma History Center on July 8th and during the Vision 2020 conference. The IPS has distributed educational materials from the CDC *Heads Up* Program to all athletic directors and youth sports organizations in the state.

Discussion – Texting While Driving

David Bates has been talking to fire chiefs about texting-while-driving. We might be able to go to these groups to get their backing.

The Committee extensively discussed the lack of research on texting and driving. It was mentioned that legislators want specific data on texting and driving in order to support any legislation on this issue. Dr. Brandenburg mentioned the importance of having research that supports the Committee's decisions.

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Dr. Brandenburg mentioned that data-based medicine is now being used and evidence-based decisions are needed.

Mike Echelle asked how difficult would it be to come up with data. If we had the data, we could go to the police departments for support.

Kevin Pipes said that legislators need local data to show.

Scott Schaeffer asked what our baseline data would be for Oklahoma. We need to link distraction to injury/deaths. Also, how would we share data?

Garry Thomas said that there is no data linking texting-while-driving to crashes at this time. The data are not collected in Oklahoma. Crash forms in Oklahoma have a box for them to check about distractions, but often it is not completed or is unknown. He's surprised by the local police chiefs not supporting the legislation. They need to get on the agenda and meet with the chiefs of police association. NHTSA has a website with a list of states with texting-while-driving laws. He feels the police officers need more education. The Traffic Records Council is meeting in July and some of these issues can be addressed through that group.

Dr. Brandenburg asked if we need legislation on collecting data. Another mandate might be too much. Are other states using surveys? He noted that VA Tech, among other, is studying distractive driving. It was noted that the ME's office only gets the tip of the iceberg of information on motor vehicle crash deaths.

Garry Thomas said that NHTSA is working with vehicle manufacturers to help with new data on distracted driving. New technology in the works will probably be the fix. Collecting data is the biggest issue. How can we be proactive? How can we use studies to see if there is a real problem? Reasonable data are really needed to make legislation. He noted that motor vehicle crash rates have gone down a lot in the last few years.

Discussion – Suicide Prevention

Gayle Jones gave an update on the Suicide Prevention grant for universities. She asked why the state isn't promoting the National Suicide Prevention Hotline more. Can the State agencies put the Hotline #1-800-273-talk on all its websites? This number is a 24-7 hotline.

Discussion – Seat Belt/Booster Seat Law

Laura Gamino said that Oklahoma needs to increase the seat belt law penalty. There is money left and the data are there. Oklahoma's seat belt usage rate (85.9%) is below the national average. States with higher penalties have higher usage rates.

She also noted that as a Child Passenger Safety instructor, she sees the need for a better booster seat law in Oklahoma.

Next Meeting

October 11, 2013

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.